Nathaniel Bowditch Encyclopedia Article

Nathaniel Bowditch

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Nathaniel Bowditch

1773-1838

American mathematician and astronomer best known for his 1802 work, *The New American Practical Navigator,* a theoretical and practical guide to navigation at sea that is still in use today. Bowditch is also remembered for his translation of Pierre Laplace's *Celestial Mechanics.* The four volumes of this translation, appearing between 1829 and 1839, included extensive commentary making the very difficult text more accessible to English-speaking scientists.