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We hope you enjoy reading these books as much as we've enjoyed producing them.

Royal Museums Greenwich Publishing team

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Spotlight books are short, accessible and highly illustrated introductions to objects in the collection of Royal Museums Greenwich, written by the Museum's curators and experts.

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Coming in 2025

Royal Observatory Greenwich A History in Objects (title tbc)

When King Charles II signed the royal warrant that led to the founding of the Royal Observatory in 1675, it was to ensure that Britain was not left behind other European nations as they pursued global trade and resources. Now, in its 350th year, the 'small observatory within our park at Greenwich' is perhaps the most famous such institution in the world, home to the historic Prime Meridian of the World and 0° longitude.

The objects contained within the pages of this book highlight the many people, ideas and technologies that contributed to 'perfecting the art of navigation' and mapping the stars. Instruments, photographs, plans and archival documents tell the story of the Royal Observatory from its early days as Britain's first state-funded purpose-built scientific institution, through periods of rapid scientific and social change, all the way to its twilight years at the forefront of astronomical research in the first few decades of the twentieth century.

Today, the Observatory is once more a working observing site but also a heritage centre and home to London's only planetarium, seeking to inform and inspire with stories of discovery, innovation and wonder.



Louise Devoy is Senior Curator, Royal Observatory at Royal Museums Greenwich. She has a background in astrophysics and the history of science and has worked at various museums in the UK and abroad. Her research interests encompass astronomical instruments, women in astronomy and networks of knowledge exchange between historic observatories.



October 2025 Hardback ISBN 978-1-906367-91-6 £30.00/\$45.00 250 × 178mm (tbc) 256/272pp Thema codes: PDX, NHTM, WNX



Royal Museums Greenwich Handbook

The Royal Museums Greenwich Handbook is the perfect companion guide for every young explorer of Greenwich. This book is packed full of activities, quizzes, stickers and puzzles to complete on your adventure around Greenwich Park, the National Maritime Museum, the Queen's House, the Royal Observatory and as you climb aboard Cutty Sark.

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The Art of Naval Portraiture

This lavishly illustrated book explores the richness and variety of naval portraiture through key examples in the Museum's collection. It charts the historical evolution of the Royal Navy's image – explaining the meaning of naval symbolism, exploring the stories of specific artists, sitters and collectors, and considering the places where portraits were made and displayed, from private homes to public exhibitions.

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- Dr Sara Caputo, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge



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Royal Observatory Greenwich Illuminates series

Royal Observatory Greenwich Illuminates is the brilliant astronomy series from experts at the renowned home of time and space. The Observatory's very own team of astronomers has written a whole host of accessible guides to everything in the cosmos, from stars and planets to the exploration of space! The full series of ten books is now available in paperback and ebook.

witty and so readable making a difficult subject accessible. It makes you want to continue through the chapters and never leaves you feeling out of your depth. As a first step into the mysteries of the universe (or one aspect of it!) this is a must.'

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Mars



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