

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE MAIN MARITIME DISCOVERIES AND EXPLORATIONS

by

HENRI BENCKER.

PREAMBLE.

This list of the main maritime discoveries and explorations was compiled on the occasion of a lecture on the development of the World's Hydrography given at Monaco on the 5th of April 1943 by the technical secretary of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

The term "discovery" as used here is, of course, purely conventional: it applies to supposed first investigations recorded by certain nationals in some parts of the world so far unexplored or visited by them.

So that the list given hereafter may be subject to the most vehement and justified criticisms.

We trust, however, that the data which have been collected in chronological order will enable the reader to place and follow the development of the store of general hydrographic and nautical knowledge accumulated by navigators in the course of centuries.

It is in this spirit that this summary has been drawn up. Our International Organisation will be grateful for any correction or remark relevant to the dates indicated which may be open to controversy.

We have confined ourselves, in the following pages, to arrange in chronological order but perhaps in a somewhat impromptu and wandering manner from a geographical stand point, the main facts recorded in the nautical archives and publications issued by the various Hydrographic Offices of the member and non-member States of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

H. B.

ABBREVIATIONS AND MARKS.

In the chronological list hereafter the various items have been distinguished by the following indices:—

N for arctic polar explorations.

S for antarctic polar explorations.

N.W. for expeditions for the research of the North-West passage.

PN and *PS* for attempts to reach the North pole and the South pole respectively.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I. — From the origins to the end of the xvth Century.....	131
CHAPTER II. — xvth Century	134
CHAPTER III. — xvith Century	140
CHAPTER IV. — xviiith Century	145
CHAPTER V. — xixth Century	152
CHAPTER VI. — xxth Century up to our time.....	163
Alphabetical index of the names of localities.....	170