Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi; et eorum ad naturales ipsorum numeros habitudines; una cum appendice, de aliâ eâque præstantiore logarithmorum specie contenda. Quibus accessere propositiones ad triangla sphærica faciliore calculo resolvenda: Unà cum annotationibus aliquoot doctissimi D. Henrici Briggii, in eas & memoratam appendicem.

Year: 1619 Place: Edinburgh Publisher: Andrew Hart Edition: 1st Language: Latin Figures: added collective title page Binding: 18th-century English half-leather over marbled paper boards; gilt spine; red leather label; red edges Pagination: 67, [1] Collation: A–H⁴I² Size: 180x130 mm Reference: Henderson, James; Bibliotheca Tabularum Mathematicarum. Being a descriptive catalogue of Mathematical tables. Part I, Logarithmic tables (A. Logarithms of numbers), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1926, #6.0, p. 29; Glaisher, James Whitbread Lee; et al.; Report of the Committee on Mathematical Tables, London, Taylor & Francis, 1873, p. 156; Horblit, Harrison D.; Collector's Choice: A selection of books and manuscripts given by Harrison D. Horblit to the Harvard College Library, The Houghton Library, Cambridge, MA, 1983, #37, p. 33; Horblit, Harrison D.; One Hundred Books Famous in Science, New York, Grolier, 1964, #77b

Notes on John Napier and the book

John Napier was born into a leading, prominent family of Scottish lairds (wealthy landowners). The family surname is seen in early documents as Napeir, Nepair, Nepeir, Neper, Napare, Naper, Naipper and the present-day Napier. Little is known about John Napier's childhood and youth. He enrolled at St. Andrews University at the age of thirteen, but there is no record that he ever graduated. Napier later wrote that his fervent interest in theology was kindled at St. Andrews. It is probable that he left St. Andrews to study in Europe, and it must have been there that he acquired his knowledge of higher mathematics and his taste for classical literature.

In 1572, just about the time of his marriage, Napier received title to the family estates. When time permitted from the daily running of his estates, John Napier played an active role in the Scottish Protestant reform movement. What time he had left he used to study mathematics. He is best known today for his invention of logarithms, but in his own time he was best known for his religious commentaries.

Napier's first book on logarithms was one of the most influential mathematical books ever published. It introduced the world to the concept of logarithms and their use. By simplifying arduous calculation, that is, by reducing multiplication and division to addition and subtraction, logarithms became the fundamental principle

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

behind most of the methods of, and aides to, computation prior to the invention of the electronic computer. They also proved to be a fundamental component of many mathematical systems.

After Napier had published the description (see Napier, John; *Mirifici logarithmorum canonis descriptio*, 1614) and the table of his logarithms, his intention was to publish a book describing how they had been calculated. He died before he could complete the task, but his son Robert Napier completed and published it in 1619. Napier's 1614 publication is always referred to as the *Descriptio*, and the 1619 volume as the *Constructio*.

While the *Descriptio* was reprinted many times, the *Constructio*, lacking any tables of logarithms, was of interest only to mathematicians and table makers and thus had far less attention paid to it. The *Descriptio* was translated into other languages almost as soon as it appeared, while the *Constructio* had to wait until 1889 before an English version was produced (see Napier, John [William Rae Macdonald, translator]; *The construction of the wonderful canon of logarithms...*, 1889). The notes on individual pages presented here are based largely on the English translation by Macdonald.

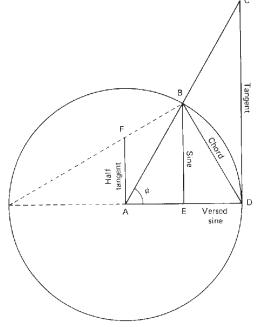
A detailed description of Napier's methods of calculating logarithms can be found in the paper: Carslaw, H. S., "The discovery of logarithms by Napier," *Mathematical Gazette*, Vol. VIII, 1915-1916, pp. 76-84, 115-119.

This work was issued in a confusing manner. It contains a collective title page very similar to that of the *Descriptio* (but without any *Descriptio* text) followed by the title page of the *Constructio*.

Notes on the old forms of trigonometric functions

At the time of this publication, trigonometric values (chords, secants, sines, versed sines (cosines), tangents, half tangents and so on) were not usually defined as they are today (in which the functions, such as the sine, are ratios of the length of two sides of a triangle).

The above figure shows a circle and an angle (ϕ) marked off along the circumference. With respect to the



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

given radius, the various trigonometric functions were defined as the lengths of specific lines, for example:

- chord of ϕ was the length of the line BD,
- sine of ϕ was the length of the line BE,
- \bullet versed sine of ϕ was the length of the line DE,
- tangent of ϕ was the length of the line DC,

• half tangent of ϕ was the length of the line AF (the half tangent is really the tangent of half the angle),

and

- secant of ϕ was the length of the line AC

General notes on the condition of older books

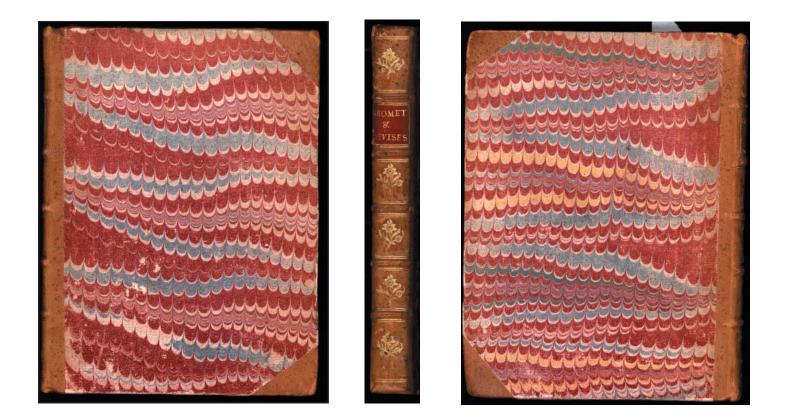
Books as old as this usually suffer from some problems just because of the wear they have been subjected to over the many years of their existence. One usually noticeable condition item is known as *browning* or *foxing* of the paper - usually brown or yellow areas due to the chemical action of a micro-organism on the paper. This can vary dramatically from page to page, often depending on such variables as the contents of the paper used, the composition of the ink used by the printer, and the dampness (or lack of) that the work has been exposed to over the years. Where these images were badly foxed, some slight manipulation of the intensity of the colors has been done to ease the reading of the foxed page. Any other notable condition problem will be commented upon near the image concerned.

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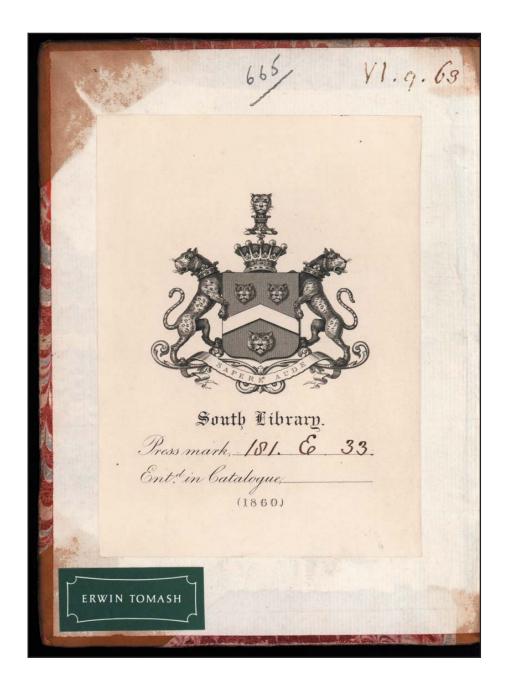
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Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



The front cover, spine and rear cover of this volume. The binding dates from the 18th century.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



This book was purchased for the Tomash Library from the fourth Sotheby's sale of the Macclesfield library in November of 2004. The large bookplate denotes the Macclesfield South Library and their shelf mark *181. E. 33*.

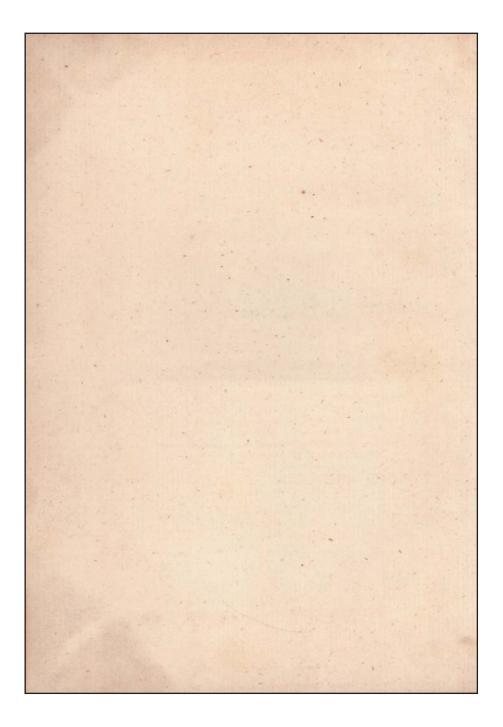
This paste-down endpaper also contains the label of the Tomash Library.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

Presil Baronie Mercheolomi 19 rithmorum Canonis Constructio Comeburgi. 1619. bola Quadratura. Patavii 1664 making & ch las 33

This volume is a sammelband (the binding together of different works into one volume) of three works that are listed on the recto of the free endpaper. Only the work by Napier (*Constructio*) in included in this file.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



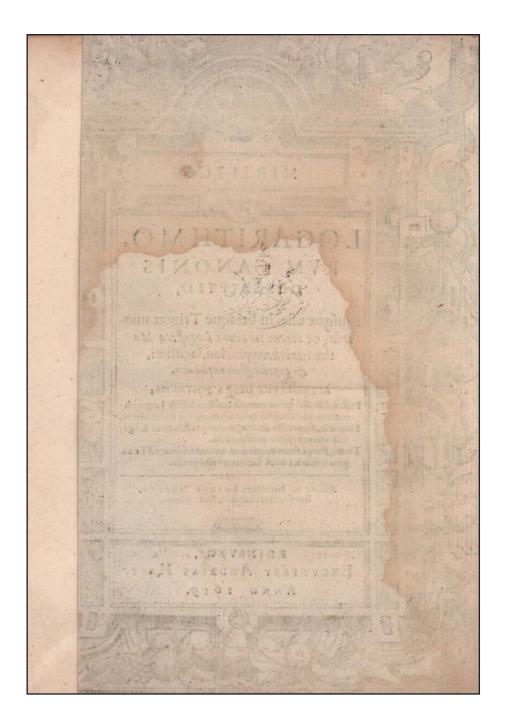
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Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



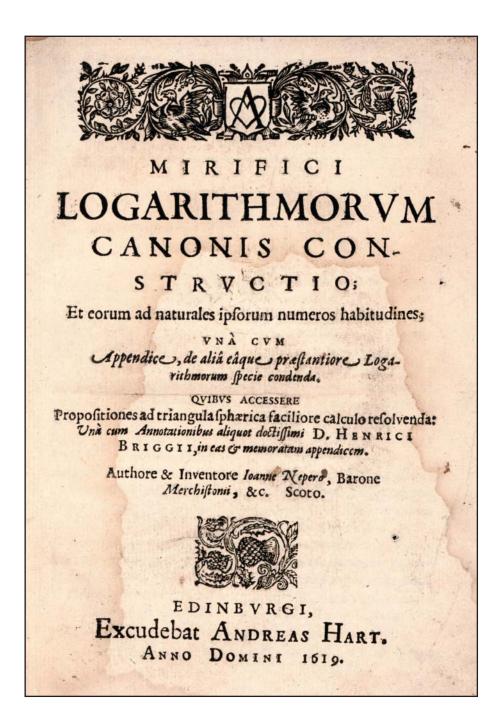
While this title page appears to be that of the *Descriptio*, it is actually the collective title page mentioned in the introductory notes.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



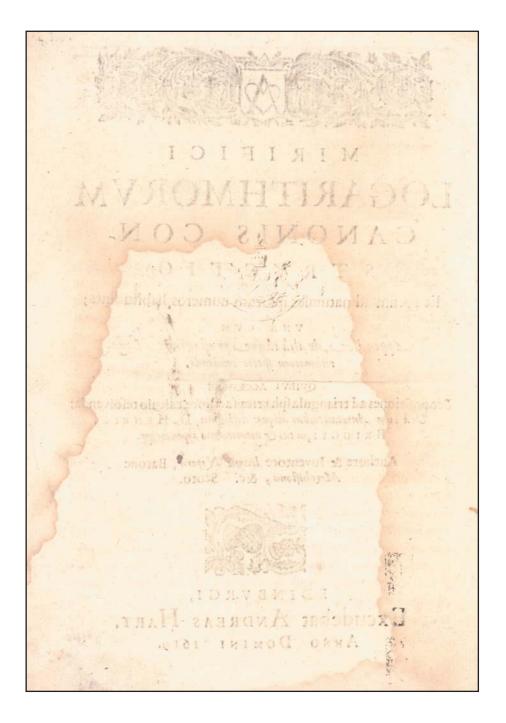
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Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

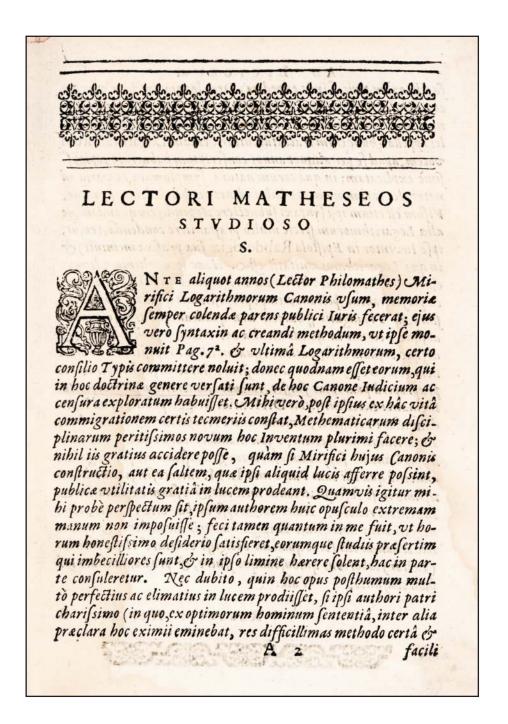


The title page of this volume: Construction of the wonderful table of logarithms; and their relation to their natural numbers; with an appendix on the making of another and better type of logarithm. In addition to which are propositions for solving spherical triangles. Together with notes by Henry Briggs. By the author and inventor John Napier, Baron of Merchiston, etc. a Scot. Printed by Andrew Hart, Edinburgh, 1619.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Robert Napier writes a preface. It reminds readers that his Father had published his book on logarithms several years earlier and, in it, he mentioned that he would write another explaining how they were calculated if the mathematicians thought them worthy of his efforts. Robert indicated that his father died before finishing this book and he has taken up the task of completing and publishing it. It seemed reasonable to add to Napier's work an appendix explaining a new kind of logarithm that he had mentioned in the introduction to his book Rabdologiae (the logarithms that he and Briggs had agreed were better - those to base 10). He has also included an appendix by Henry Briggs that comments on the new logarithms and the rules Napier had set down for solving trigonometric problems in spherical triangles.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

AD LECTOREM.

facili, quam pauci (simis expedire) Deus longiorem vita v (uram concessifet. Habes igitur (Lector benevole) in hoc libello doctrinam.constructionis Logarithmorum (quos hic numeros artificiales appellat: hunc enim tractatu, ante inventam Logarithmorum vocem, apud (e per aliquot annos con (criptum habuerat) copiosifsime explicatam; in qua corum natura, symptomata, ac varia ad naturales eorum numeros babitudines perspicue demonstrantur. Visum est etiam ipsi (yntaxi subnectere Appendicem quandam, de alia Logarithmorum specie multo prestantiore condenda, (cujus, ipse Iuventor in Epistola Rabdologiæ sua prasixa meminit) & in qua Logarithmus vnitatis eft o. Hanc loco vltimo vltimus ejus labor excipit, ad vlteriorem Trigonometria fue Logarithmica perfectionem spectans; nempe propositiones quedam eminentifsime in Triangulis phericis non quadrantalibus resolvendis. ablque corum in quadrantalia aut rectangula divisione. 6 ab (que ca fuum observatione : quas quidem Propositiones in ordi. nem redigere, & ordine demonstrare statuerat, nisi nobis morte prapropera prareptus fuisset. Lucubrationes etiam aliquot, Mathematici excellentisimi D. Henrici Briggii publici apud Londinenses Professoris, in memoratas Propositiones, & novam hanc Logarithmorum speciem, Typis mandari curavimus; qui novi hujus Canonis supputandi laborem gravisimum, pro singulari amicitia que illi cum Patre meo L. M. intercessit, animo libentisimo in se susceptiscreandi methodo, & vsuum explanatione Inventori relictis. Nunc autem ipfo ex hac vita evocato, totius. negotii onus doctifsimi Briggii humeris incumbere, & Sparta hac ornanda illi forte quadam obtigiffe videtur. Hifce interim (Lector) laboribus quibuscunque fruere, & pro.humanitate. tua: bani consulita. Vale.

ROBERTVS NEPERVS, R.

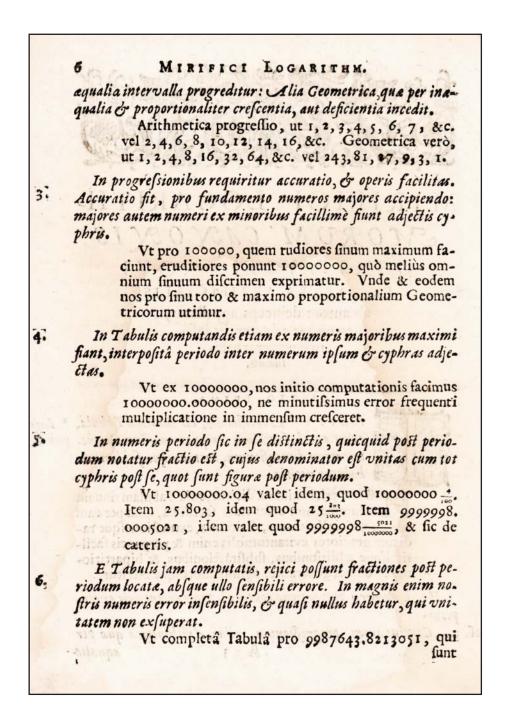
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Napier's work consists of 59 propositions which describe everything from a logarithm table to its final construction.

Proposition 1: A table of logarithms (Napier refers it as a table of "artificial numbers" as this was the term he first used to describe them) is small, but with it one can do multiplication, division, and extraction of roots.

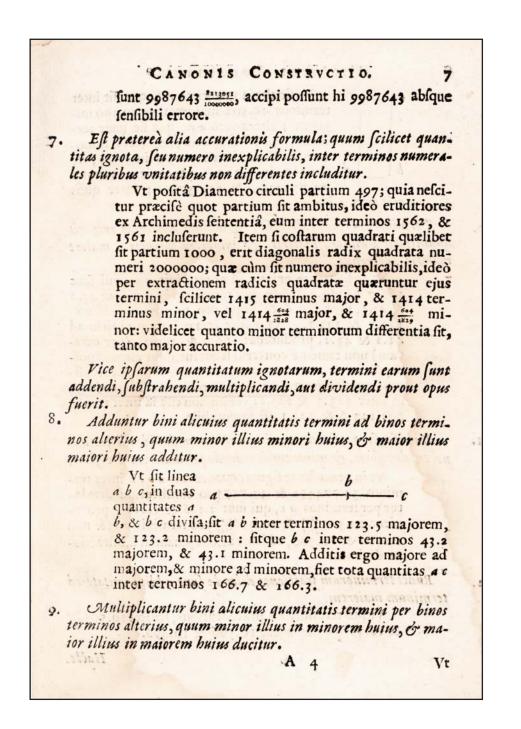
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 2: Progressions of numbers of are two types: arithmetic and geometric. Arithmetic progressions are ones with equal intervals between entries (e.g., 1, 2, 3... or 2, 4, 6,...) while geometric progressions are those with increasing or decreasing intervals (a constant being used as a multiplier) (e.g., 1,2,4,8,... or 243, 81, 27, 9, 3, 1).

Propositions 2 - 6: If you start with a big number as the radius of the defining circle, your table of sines will be more accurate than if you start with a smaller number. You can use decimal fractions to add more digits (#5 describes decimal fractions which were then a quite new concept). After calculating the table you can remove any decimal fractional digits as the error made in so doing is negligible.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

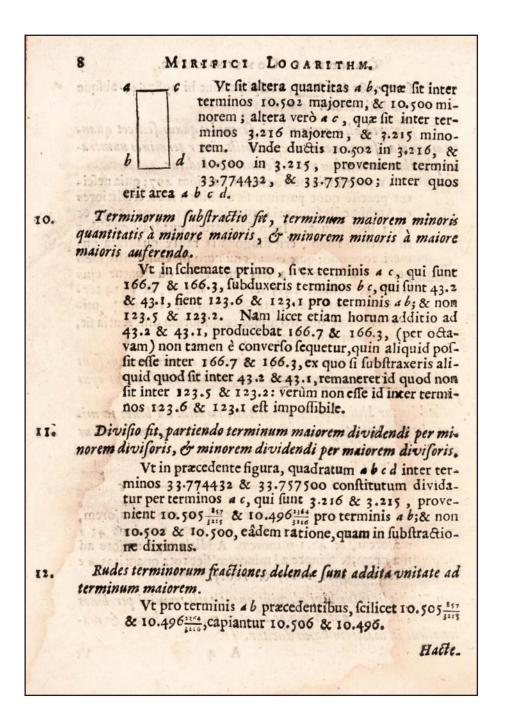


Proposition 7: If a number is unknowable (e.g. a repeating decimal like the square root of 2) then you can assign a lower bound (l) and an upper bound (u) and perform the operations on these bounds rather than on the number itself.

Proposition 8: If doing an addition with two numbers (A and B) that have lower and upper bounds Al, Au, Bl, Bu, then the result will be between Al + Bl and Au + Bu.

Proposition 9: If multiplying two numbers with bounds, the result will be between $Al \times Bl$ and $Au \times Bu$

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

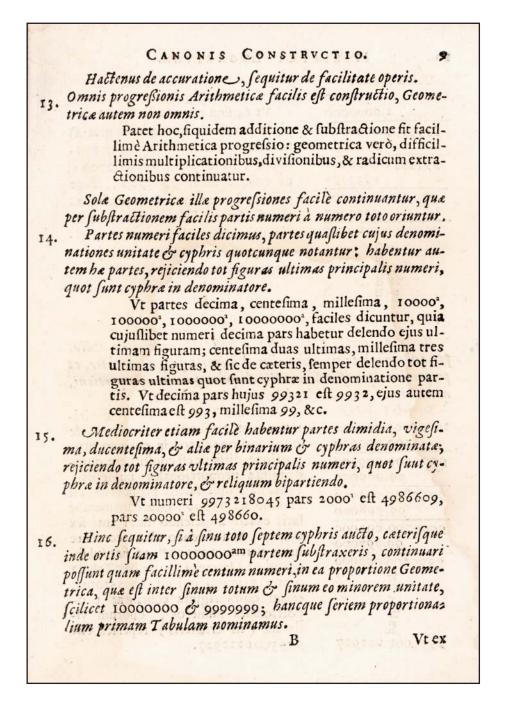


Proposition 10: Subtraction of two bounded numbers will yield a result between (assuming A < B) Bl - Au and Bu - Al.

Proposition 11: In division the bounds for A/B will be between Au/Bl and Al/Bu

Proposition 12: In limits, the fractional parts of both the lower and upper limits may be removed if 1 is added to the upper limit.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



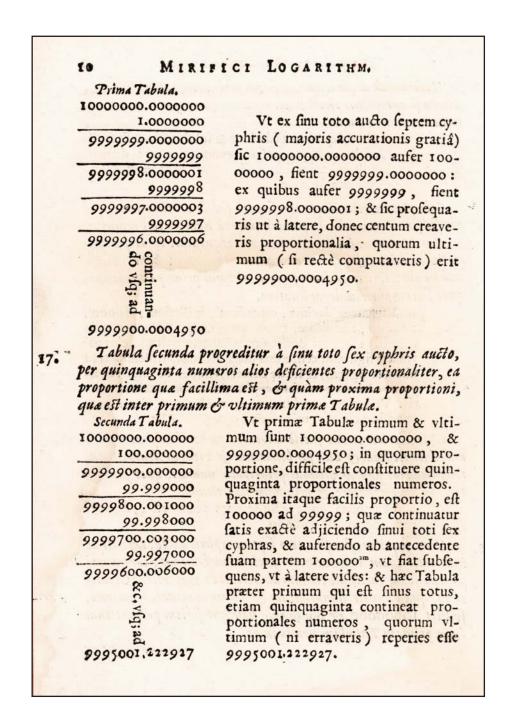
Proposition 13: The construction of an arithmetic series is easy, geometrical series are not always easy.

Proposition 14: To find the tenth, hundredth, thousandth, etc. part of a number, simply remove the last 1, 2, 3, etc. digits.

Proposition 15: A half, twentieth, two-hundredth, etc. part of a number is easily found by removing as many least significant digits are there are zeros in the divisor and then dividing the remaining number by 2.

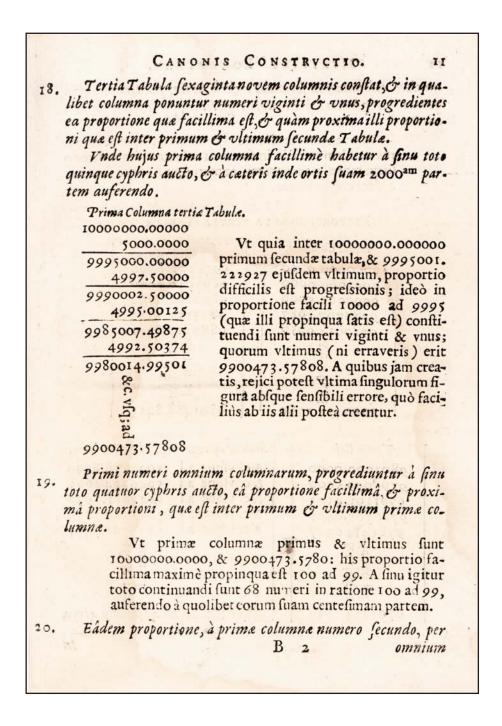
Proposition 16: A table (the "first table") of 100 numbers begins with 10,000,000.0000000 and subsequent entries can be found by, at each stage, subtracting its 10,000,000 part (i.e., the first entry is 10,000,000; second entry is that number minus 1 = 9,999,999; third entry is 9,999,999 minus 0.9999999 = 9999998.0000001, etc. as shown on the next page. The last of the 100 entries should be 9,999,900.0004950.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 17: The second table is constructed much the same as the first, except there are only 6 positions to the right of the decimal point in the starting number, there will be only 50 numbers in this table and the last number must be as close as possible to the last entry in the first table. This can be done by subtracting the 100,000th part of each entry to obtain the next. The last line on this page says that the final entry in the second table should be 9995001.222927 (this is incorrect - it should have been 9995001.224804 - see the Macdonald translation mentioned in the introductory notes for an extensive discussion of how this error propagated through all of Napier's logarithm tables).

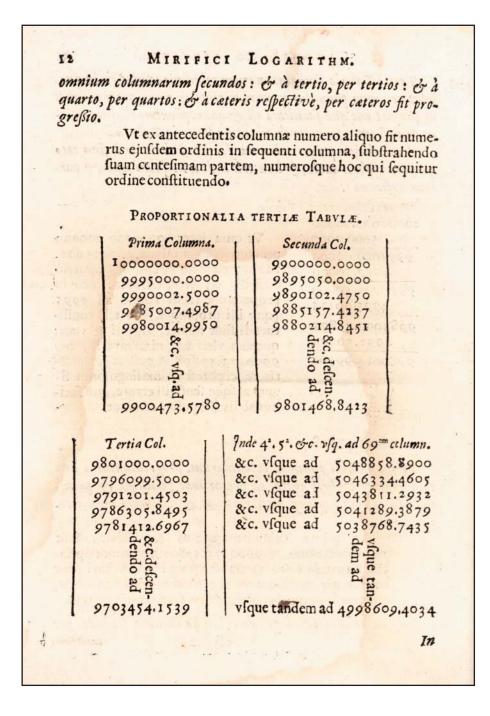
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 18: A third table is to be constructed of 69 columns. Each column contains 21 entries constructed much like those in the first and second tables. The first column begins with 10,000,000,000.00000 (i.e., 5 digits to the right of the decimal point) and subsequent numbers are found by subtracting the 2,000th of the previous entry as shown.

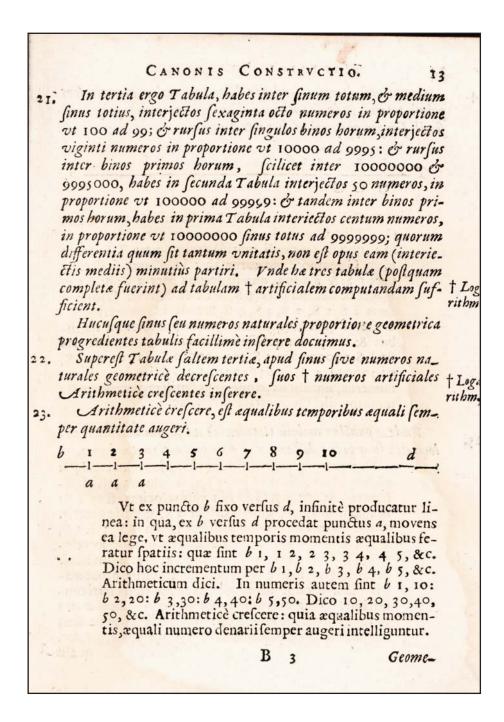
Once the last entry has been found it should be recorded but then (in subsequent steps) you may disregard any of the least significant digits so that your calculations will be easier.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 19: The first and last entries in column 1 are 10,000,000 and 9,900,473 and the ratio between them is very close to the ratio of 100 to 99. Use this ratio (starting at the first column) to fill in the first entry of each column from 2 to 69, each entry being 0.01 less than the previous one. Similarly, fill in the second entries of each column by making it 0.01 less than the entry in the previous column.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

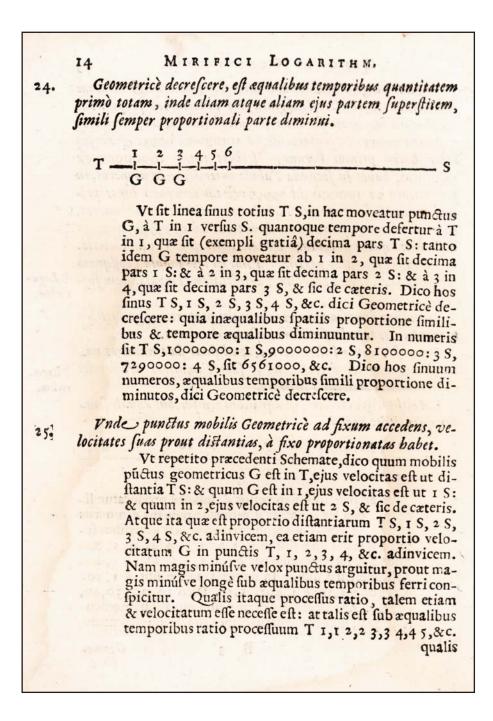


Proposition 21: The third table now contains numbers from the initial radius of the circle defining the sines (10,000,000,000) to half that value. The numbers in the columns are interpolated in that range by the ratio 100 to 99. Between each value at the head of the columns there are now 21 other values (down the column) in the ratio of 10,000 to 9,995. Similarly for the first and second tables. These three table can be used to produce a table of logarithms.

Proposition 22: The third table contains numbers that decrease geometrically. Now the logarithms of these numbers must be added in arithmetically increasing sequence.

Proposition 23: This defines an arithmetic sequence (see proposition 2)

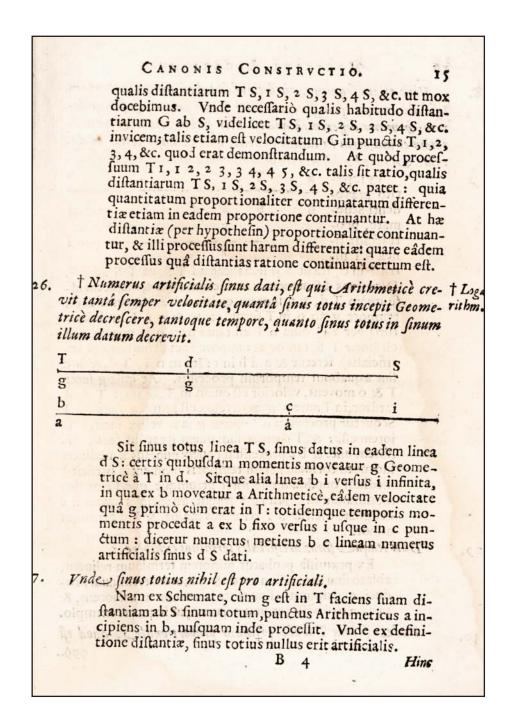
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 24: This defines a decreasing geometric sequence (see proposition 2)

Proposition 25: Defines a line (illustrated in Proposition 24) and a point moving from T to S with ever decreasing velocity. The velocity decreases in the ratio of the distance remaining to S to the whole distance of the line.

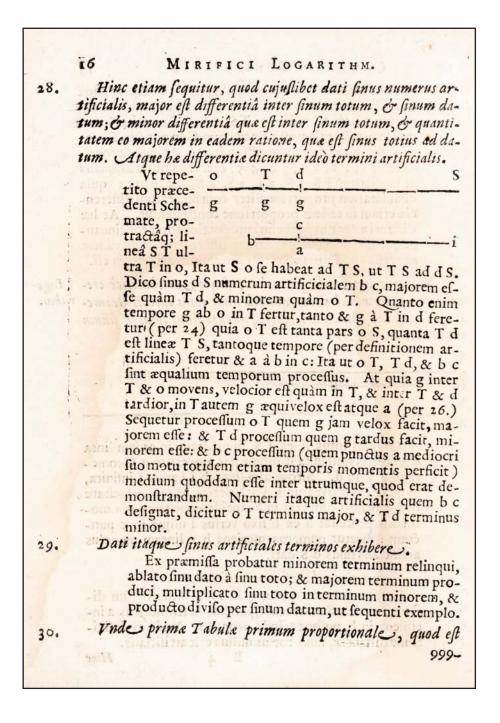
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 26: The line TS is the radius of the defining circle for the sine function, so T is assumed to be the whole sine (10,000,000,000) and S is assumed to be the sine of zero degrees (i.e., zero). TS has a point, d, moving down it with decreasing velocity (a decreasing geometric series) while the line bi has a point moving down it with constant velocity (and increasing arithmetic series). The logarithm of the sine dS is the number measuring the line bc.

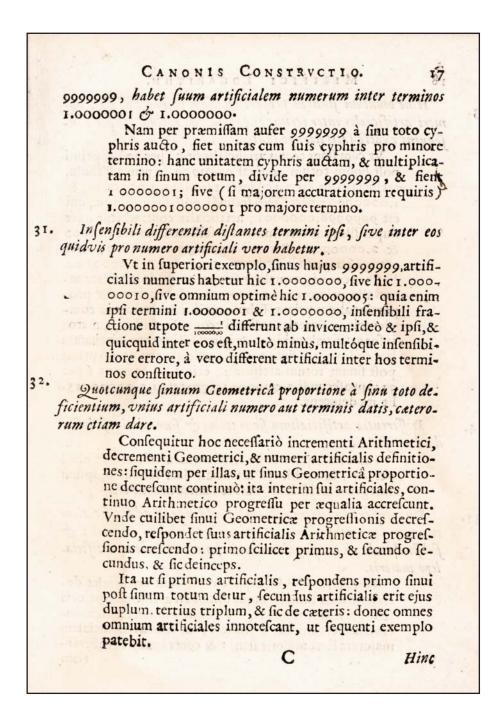
Proposition 27: The logarithm of the whole sine is zero.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



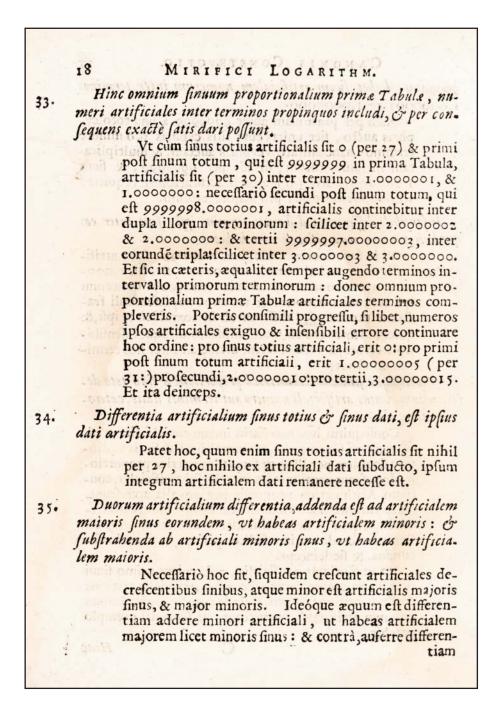
Proposition 28: The logarithm of a sine will always be bounded by an upper and lower limit which can be determined by the geometry of these lines and points (see the translation by Macdonald for details). Proposition 29 and 30: These explain, and give an example, of how to find the limits between which any given logarithm must fall.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



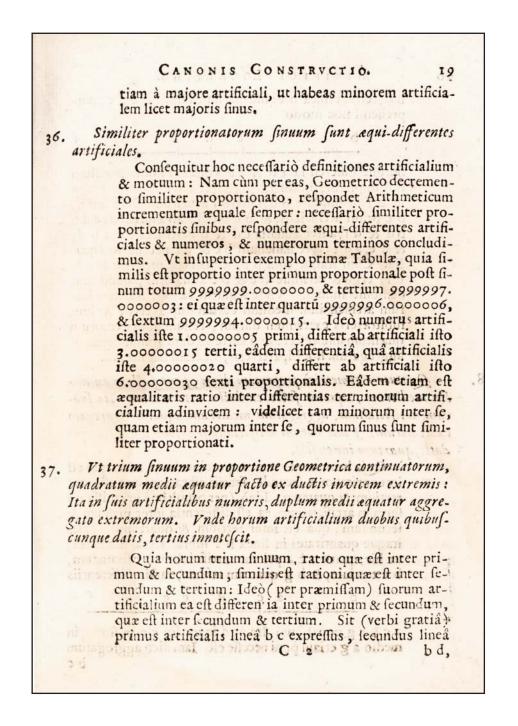
Proposition 31: If the upper and lower limits of a logarithm are very close together, then either of these numbers (or a number between them) may be taken as the logarithm with very little effect on any resulting computation. Proposition 32: In a table of logarithms, if the first one in the table after the radius itself is known, then the others may be found from it simply because they will be part of a uniformly increasing arithmetic sequence. If the second logarithm in the table in *x* then the third will be 2x, the next 3x etc.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 33: Napier shows that the limits on second logarithm in the table (for the sine 9,999,999) must be the numbers 1.0000000 and 1.0000001 (the true logarithm for this second sign must be between these two numbers). This means that the logarithm for the third sine (9,999,998.0000001) must be between 2.0000000 and 2.0000002, the logarithm for the fourth sine (9999997.0000003) must be between 3.0000000 and 3.0000003, etc. Proposition 34: Because the logarithm of the radius is zero, the difference between the logarithms of any other sine and the logarithm of the radius must have the value of the logarithm of that sine (i.e., x - 0 = x). Proposition 35: As the sines get smaller the logarithms get bigger, thus for two sines A and B (A>B) if log(B) - log (A) = x then log(B) = log(A) + x and log(A) = log(B) - x. Note that this takes some thought for the modern reader as Napier's logarithms were, in some ways, the reverse of modern base 10 logarithms.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

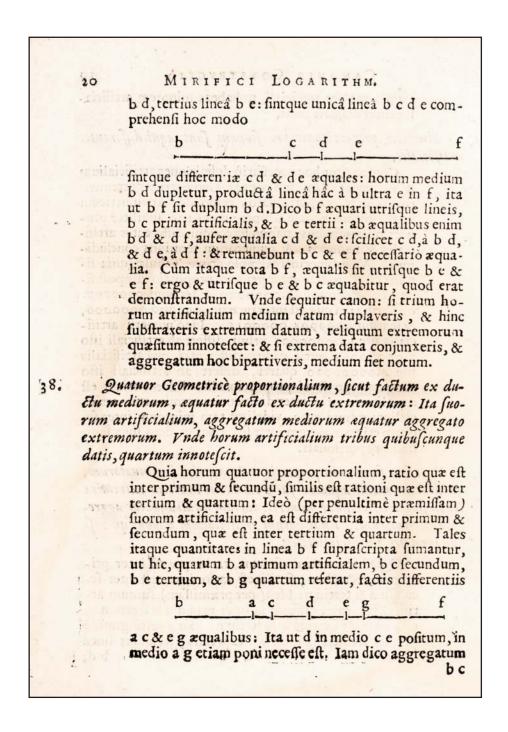


Proposition 36: If sines are in the same ratio (i.e., A/B and C/D are the same) then the logarithms of A and B and the logarithms of C and D are the same when subtracted.

Proposition 37: If three numbers (Napier says three sines which amounts to the same thing) A, B and C are in geometric progression, then it is known that $B^2=A*C$ and thus $\log(B)*2 = \log(A) + \log(C)$.

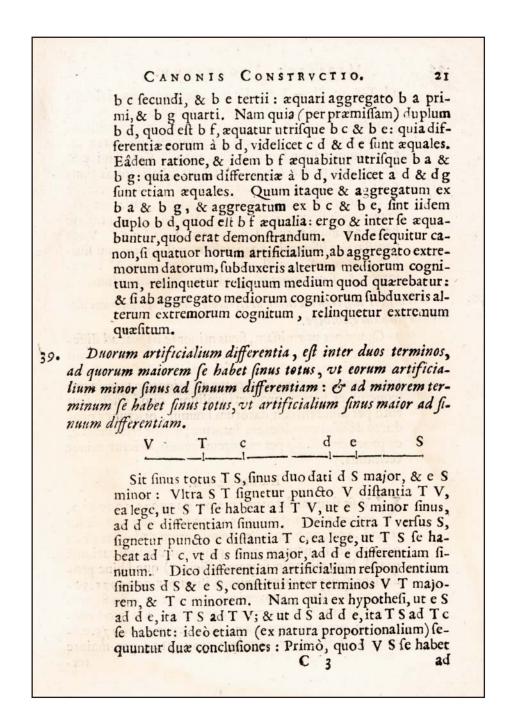
Napier, of course, did not use this modern notation but expressed the relationship in words, as was the custom at the time.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 38: If any four numbers A, B, C, and D are in some geometric progression, then $B^*C = A^*D$ and thus log(B) + Log(C) = log(A) + Log(D).

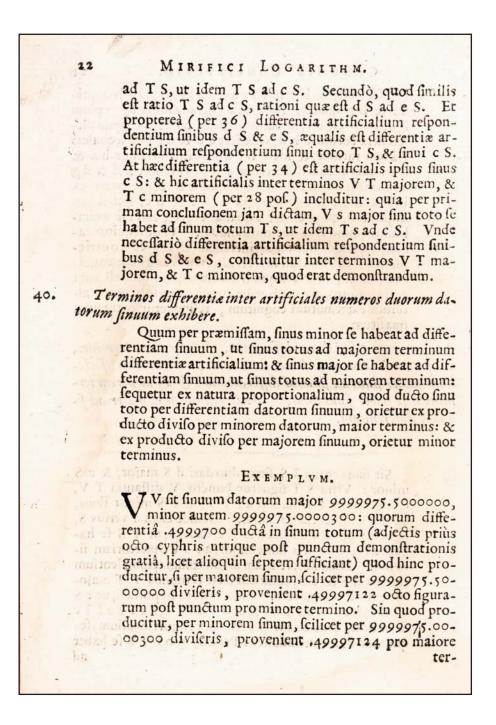
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



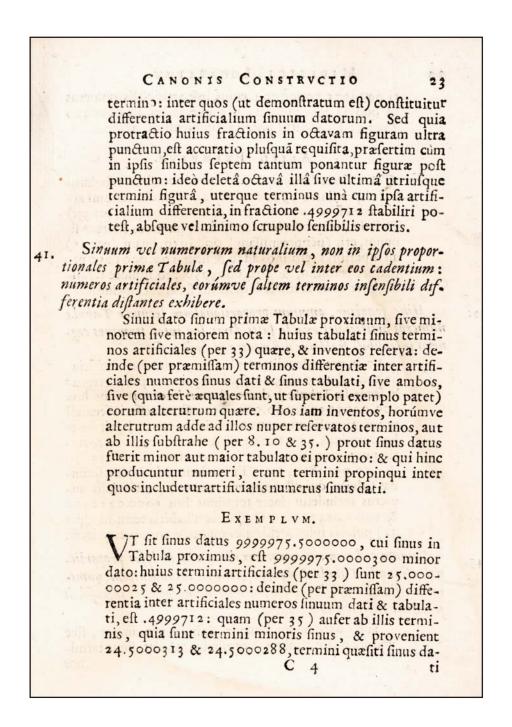
Propositions 39 and 40 show that the difference between the logarithms of two sines lies between a lower and upper limit and that these limits can be so close that their difference can be ignored, thus giving you the logarithm of the difference between two logarithms of sines. This is simply to say that if you know the logarithms of two sines (A and B), you can easily find the logarithm of A/B.

Details of the exact process can be found in the English translation by Macdonald mentioned in the introductory notes.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

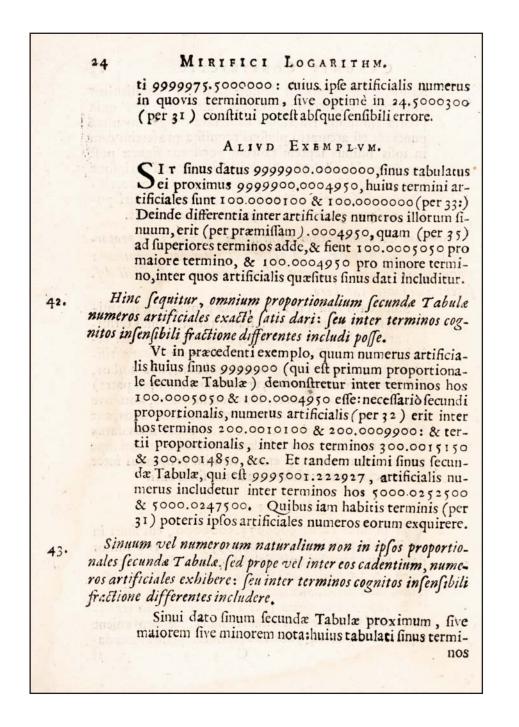


Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 41: This instructs the user that, should they want to find a logarithm of a sine (or natural number) not in the tables, then they can use the process of the last few propositions to determine the value.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 42: The logarithms not actually listed in the second table may, from methods demonstrated in proposition 41, be found.

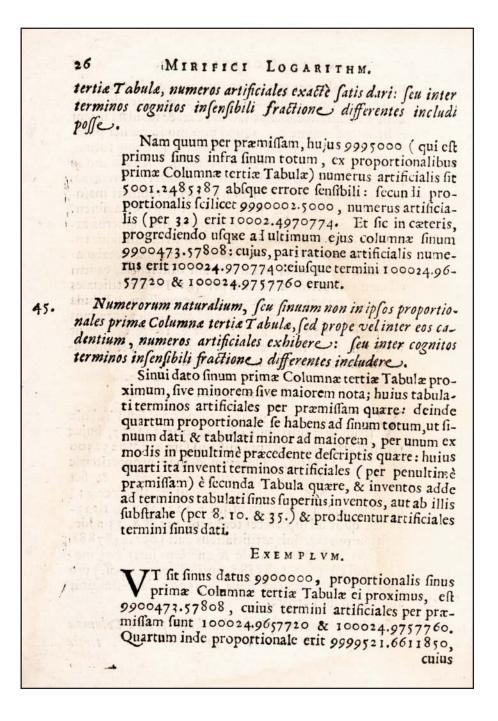
Proposition 43 provides an example of the process.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



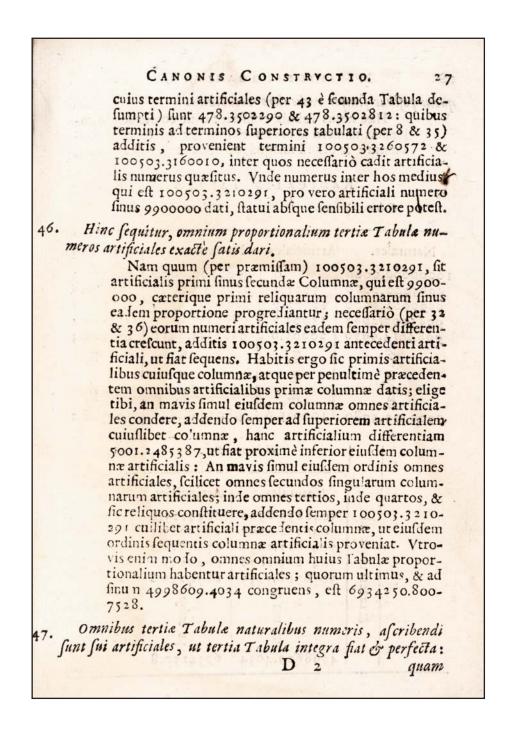
Propositions 44 and 45 show that logarithms for numbers not actually listed in the third table may be determined by following the processes similar to those for the earlier tables.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



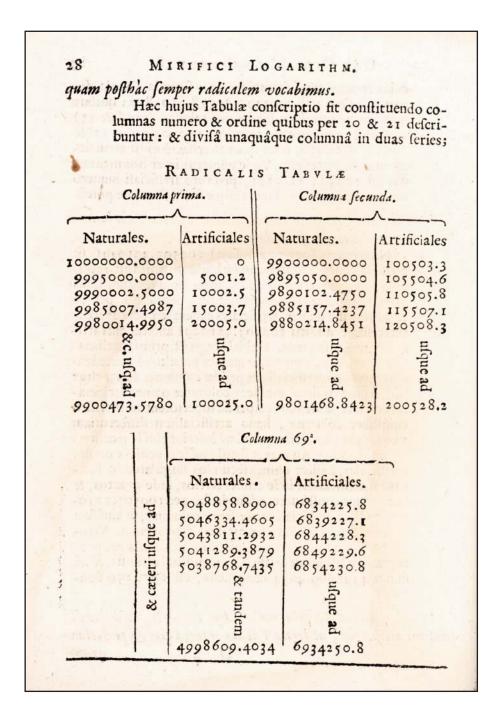
Proposition 45 provides an example of the process described in proposition 44.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



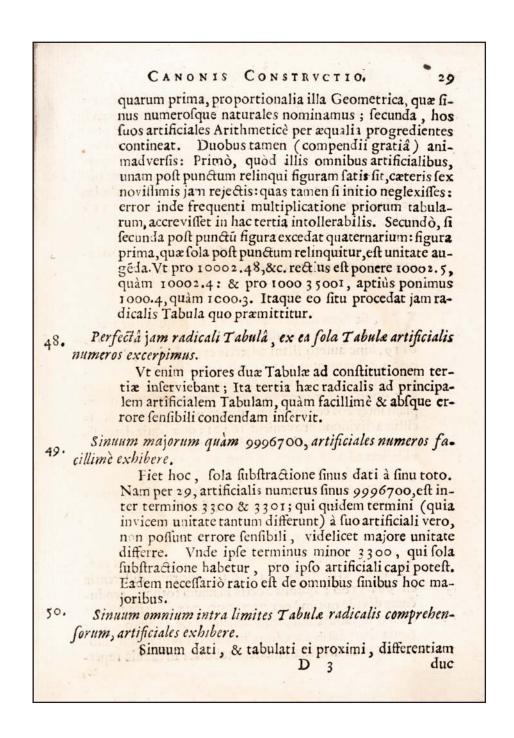
Proposition 46: This indicates that all logarithms for the numbers in the third table may be found with sufficient accuracy to not be a factor in any subsequent calculation.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



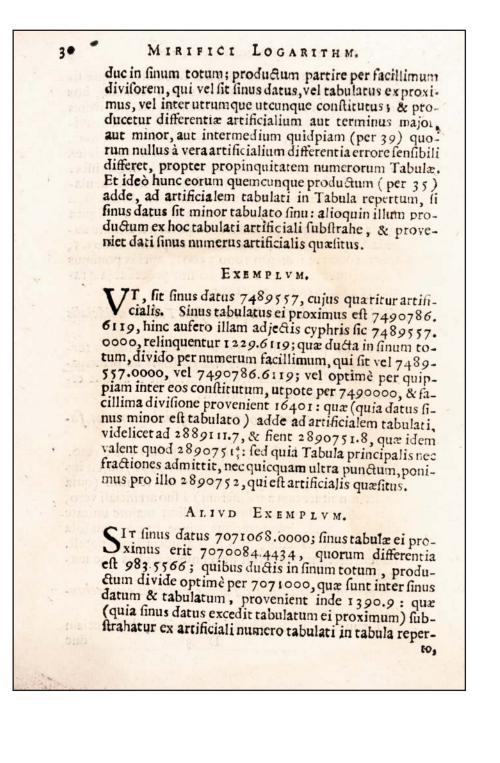
Proposition 47: Add the logarithms (artificial numbers) to the third table (he now terms this the *radical table*) and gives examples of what the first, second and last column will contain.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

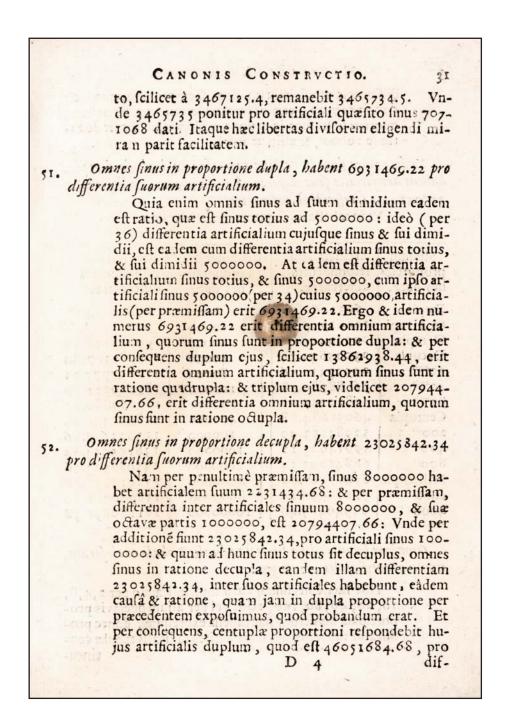


Proposition 48: Now that the radical table is finished we can take the logarithms of numbers (or sines) from it alone.

Proposition 49: To find logarithms of sines greater than 9996700 simply subtract it from the radius because (by proposition 29) log(9996700) must be between 3300 and 3301 and thus we can take the lower limit (3300) as the required logarithm. The process works for all sines greater than this example.



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Propositions 51 to 52 are comments on the methods of interpolating between values in the third table.

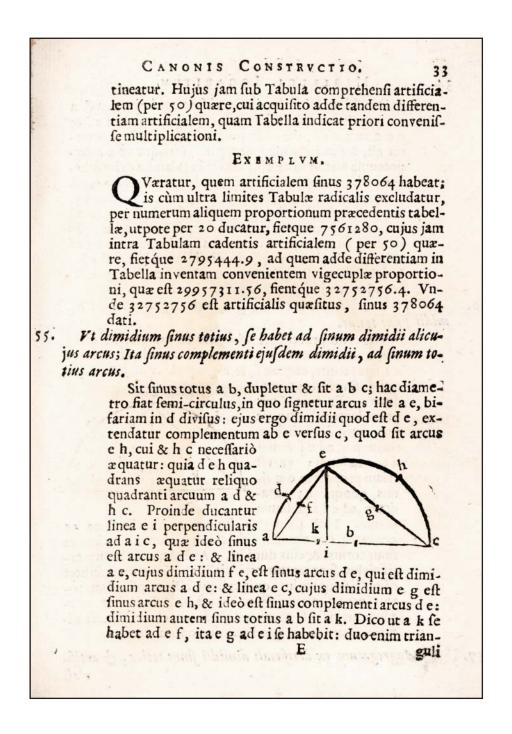
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

	32 MIRIFICI LOGARITHM. differentiz artificialium : Et ejusdem triplum, quod est						
	69077527.02, erit differentia omnium artificialium quorum finus funt in ratione millecupla. Et fic de ra- tione 10000 ³ , & aliis, ut infrà.						
3.	Vnde omnes finus in ratione composita ex duplo & decuplo habent artificiales suos differentià 6931469.22, & differentia 23025842.34 respective differentes. Vt in tabella subsequenti conspicere licet.						
	Sinuum proportic- nes datæ.	Artificialium respondentes differentiæ.	Sinaum proportio- nes datæ.	Artificialium respondentes differentiæ.			
	Dupla	6931469.22	\$000 ^{pla}	89871934.68			
	Quadrupla	13862938.44	10000 ^{pla}	92103369.36			
	Octupla	20794407.66	20000 ^{pla}	99034838.58			
	Decupla	23025842.34	40000 ^{pla}	105966307.80			
	2 O ^{cupla}	29957311.56	80000 ^{pla}	112897777.02			
	40 ^{cupla} 80 ^{cupla}	36888780.78	1000001	115129211.70			
		43820250.00	200000 ^{pla}	122060680.92			
	Centupla 200 ^{pla}	46051684.68	400000 ^{pla}	128992150.14			
	400 ^{pla}	52983153.90	800000 ^{pla}	135923619.30			
÷	800 ^{pla}	59914623 12	1000000 ^{pla}	138155054.04			
	Millecupla	66846092.34	2000000 ^{pli}	145086523.26			
	2000 ^{pla}	69077527.02 76008996.24	4000000 ^{pla} 8000000 ^{pla}	152017992.48			
	4000 ^{pl2}	82940465.46	10000000 ^{pla}	158949461.70 161180896.38			
4.	numeros ar H 10, por	finuum ultra lim tificiales inveftiga loc facile fit, finu 20, 40, 80, 100, tionis numerum h atur numerus, qui	rre. n datŭ multipli 200: vel per ali ac tabella expref	bula exclusorum, cando per 2,4,8, um quemvis pro- lum, donec pro-			

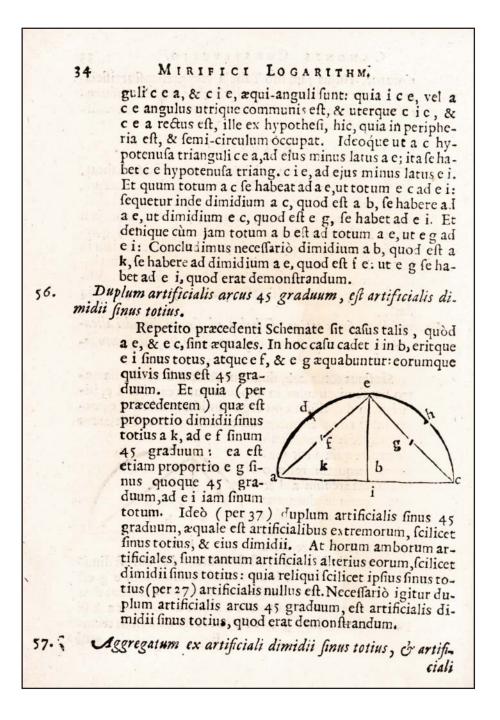
Napier constructs another table contain logarithms that can be used in the process described in Proposition 54.

Proposition 54: if a sine falls outside the limits of the radical table, then multiply it be 2, 4, 8, 10, 20 etc (the numbers from the first and third columns of the table in the previous proposition) until it falls within the limits of the radical table numbers. Select the logarithm of the resulting number (or the nearest one to it) from the radical table and add the logarithm (columns 2 and 4) from the table.

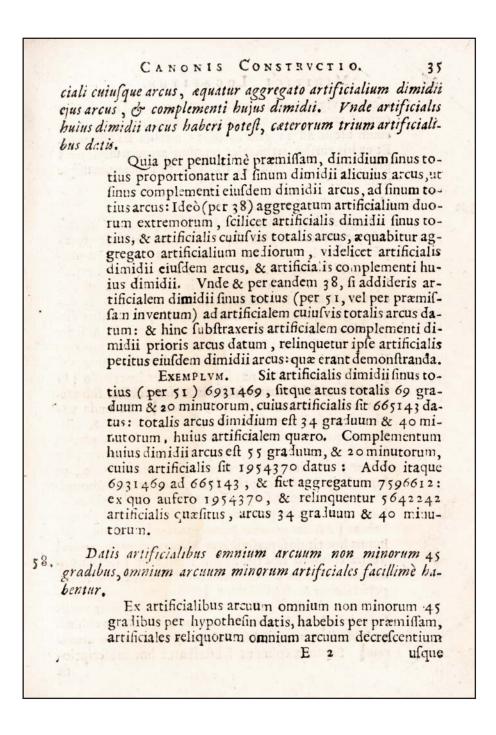
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Propositions 55, 56 and 57 provide some trigonometric identities that can help simplify the calculations to find a logarithm of certain sines.

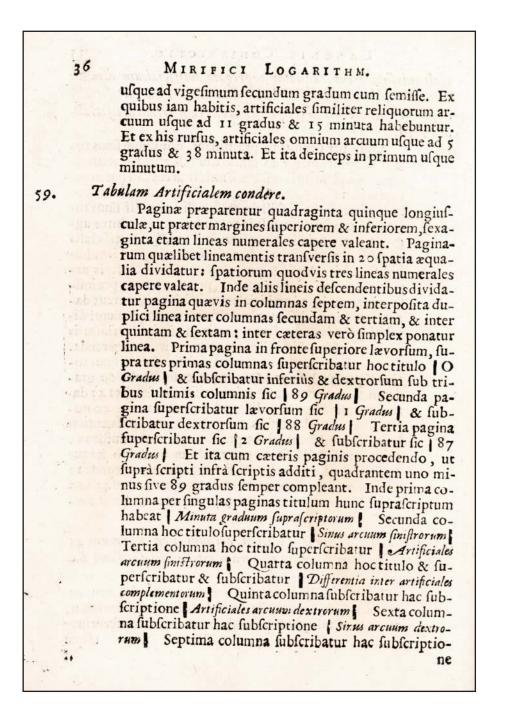


Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



Proposition 58: Once the logarithms of sines greater than 45 degrees are know then the ones less than 45 degrees are easy to find. Using proposition 57 it is possible to find all the logarithms for sines down to 22 degrees 30 minutes, and from these down to 11 degrees 15 minutes, etc.

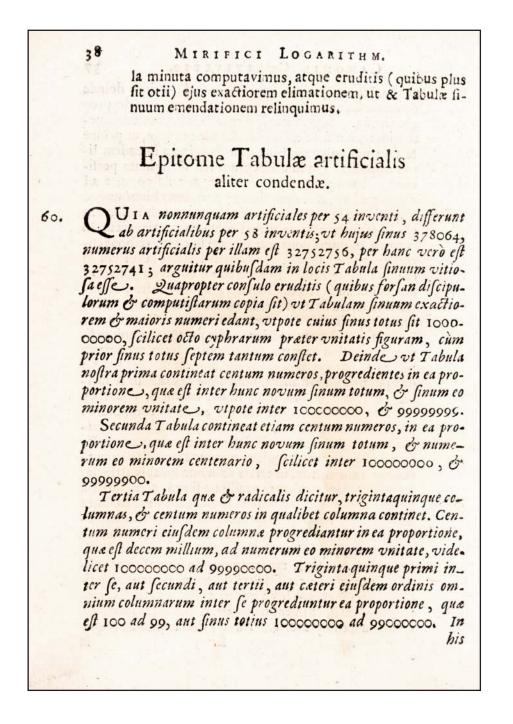
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



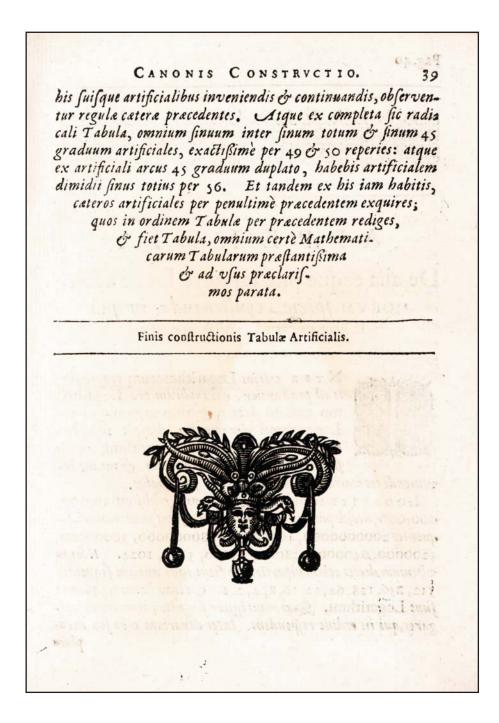
Proposition 59: Napier describes the layout of the tables in his *Descriptio* (see the file of that publication for an example).



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



After finishing his 59 propositions, Napier points out that, because there are two different processes that could be used (propositions 54 and 58) to calculate a logarithm, they might differ slightly (which, in fact they do). He suggests that, if you start with a table of sines that are more accurate than his (he suggests using a radius of 100,000,000,000 rather than his radius of 10,000,000,000) the problem will be eliminated.



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



This appendix is the one in which Napier describes the base 10 logarithms that were developed by he and Henry Briggs. In this (base 10) system he proposes that the log(1) = 0 and log(10) = 10,000,000,000. Once again the English translation by Macdonald mentioned in the introductory notes should be consulted for the details of the creation of this new form of logarithms.

Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

APPENDIX.

41

plum 10 atque unitatem (auctos calculi gratia quot vis cyphris, vtpote duodenis) capiantur quatuor media proportionalia, seu potins (per extractionem radicis supersolida) eorundem minimum, quod sit doctrine gratia A. Inter A & unitatem, capiatur similiter ex quatuor proportionalibus minimum me. dium, quod fit B. Inter B & unitatem, capiatur medium quartum seu minimum, quod sit C. Et ita progredere per extractionem supersolida radicis, dividendo intervallum inter recens inventum & vnitatem, in quinque intervalla proportionalia seu in quatuor media; quorum omnium quartum seu minimum semper notetur, v que dum ad decimum medium minimum perveneris: qua his notis signentur D, E, F, G, H, I, K. Computatis jam exacte hisce proportionalibus, perge, & inter K & vnitatem quare medium proportionale, quod fit L. Sic inter L& unitatem cape medium proportionale, quod fit M. Sic simile medium inter M & vnitatem, quod sit N. Eodem artificio (per extractionem quadratam) creentur inter quemque recentem numerum & vnitatem, reliqua intermedia proportionalia, his notis fignanda O, P, Q, R, S, T, V: Quorum proportionalium cuilibet, respondet ordine sus Logarithmus superioris seriei. Vnde vnitas erit Logarithmus numeri V, quicunque is fuerit; & 2 erit Logarithmus numeri T, & 4 nu. meri S, & 8 numeri R, 16 numeri Q. 32 numeri P, 64 numeri O, 128 numeri N, 256 numeri M, 512 numeri L, 1024 numeri K: Que omnia ex superiore constructione patent. Ex his autem jam constructis, construi possunt aliorum tum Logarithmorum proportionalia, tum proportionalium Logarithmi. Nam sicuti in staticis ex additione ponderum vnitatis, binarii, quaternarii, 811, & aliorum pariter parium numerorum, omnis creari potest ponderum numerus, qui apud nos jam Logarithmi funt: Ita ex proportionalibus V, T, S, R, Gc. que illis respondent, & ex cateris ctiam duplicata ratione creandis, con-(tituz



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

APPENDIX.

Logarithmis inveniendis; qui hac sequenti arte generali inveniuntur.

Adomnes Logarithmos inveniendos. oportet duorum aliquorum vulgarium numerorum Logarithmos dari, aut faltem affumi pro fundamento operis, vt in fuperiore prima confiruetione, o feu cyphra affumebatur pro Logarithmo vulgaris vnitatis, & 10,000,000 000 pro Logarithmo denarii feu 10. His itaque datis, quaratur quinarii (qui primus numerus est) Logarithmus hoc modo. Inter 10 & I quaratur medium proportionale, quod est 3161276617. Sic inter 10 000,000,000 & 0 quaratur medium Arithmeticum, quod est 5 000,000,000 Deinde inter 10 & 3161276617 capiatur medium Geometricum, quod est 5161418157. Et fimiliter inter 5,000,000,000 & 0 capiatur medium Arithmeticum, quod est 7500000000.

In continuè proportionalibus vniversis.

V T summa mediorum & alterutrius extremi, ad eundem extremum; sic differentia extremorum, ad differentiam extremi ejusdem & medii proximi.

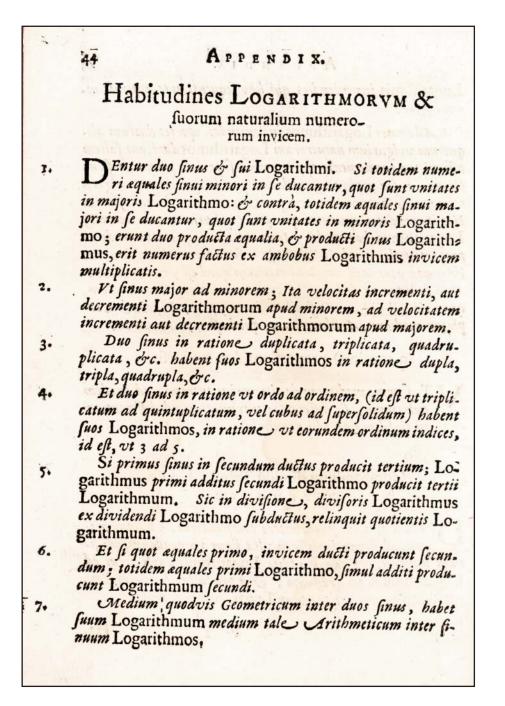
> Compendium dimidii Tabulæ LogA. RITHMORVM.

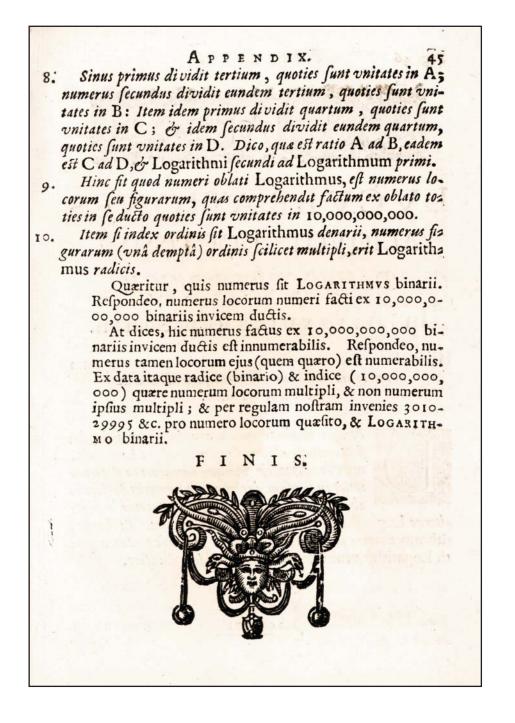
D'orum arcuum quadrantem complentium, vt sinus majoris, ad sinum dupli arcus; Ita sinus 30 graduum, ad sinum minoris. Vnde addito Logarithmo dupli arcus ad Logarithmum 30 graduum; & à producto, subducto Logarithmo majoris, relinquitur Logarithmus minoris.

2

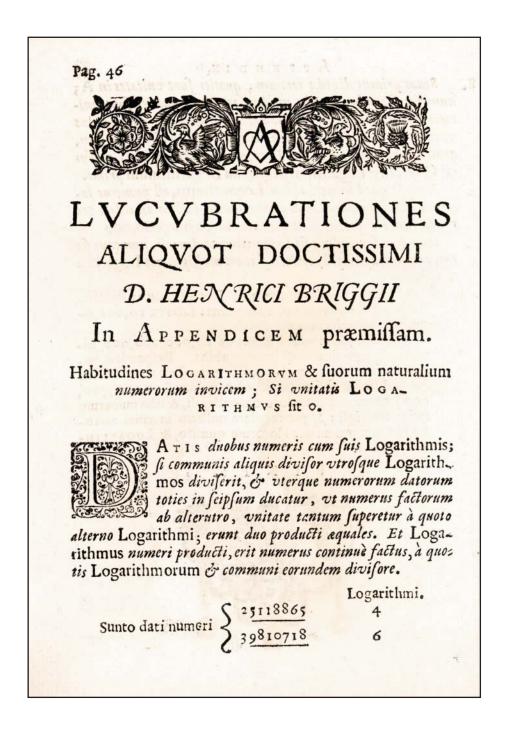
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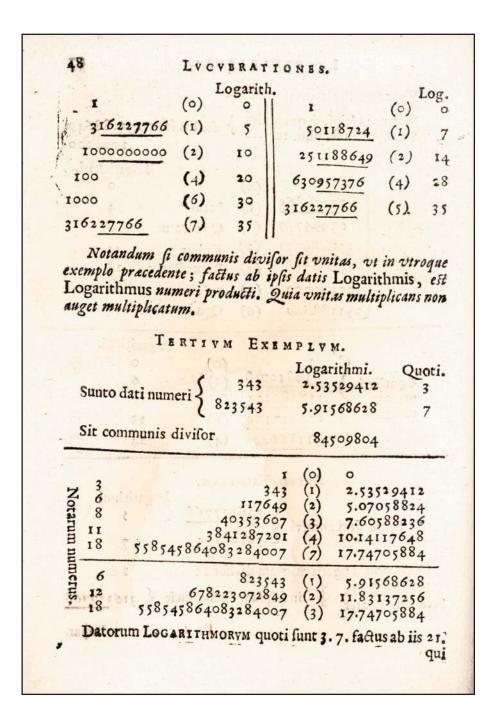


Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



In this section Henry Briggs adds notes about the base 10 logarithms. They are rather obscure points, but would have been useful in calculating a table of the base 10 logarithms.

Sit con	Sit communis divisor vnitas.					
Primus i	n feipfum quinq	nies	2			
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				Logarithmi		
[T	(0)		0		
1996	25118865	(1)	Latus	4		
Conti-	63095737	(2)	Quadrat	us 8		
nuè pro- <	158489331	(3)	Cubus	12		
portio- nales	39810718	(4)	Biquadr	atus 16		
males	00000000	(5)	Solidus	20		
i	251188649	(6)	Quadr.	cubus 24		
	Logarithmi.					
. · · ·	C I		(0)	0		
Continu			(1)	6		
propor- tionales	2 158489		(2)	12		
cionales	1 630957		(3)	18		
	(2511886	49	(4)	24		
	ALIVD	EXEM	DI VM			
14113978		LACIN		Logarithmi.		
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Sunto	dati numeri Z	1102	8724	7		
18820751	17 (7) 174	1000	the states	15015		
	Logarithmoru	m divi	for fit	1 9		
Primus sex		ofum d	Iu&us faci	t { 31621776		
	ori fiste fa		F 4	Loga		



Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

LYCYBRATIONES.

qui ductus in communem divisorem 84509804 facit 17. 74705884 LOGARITHMVM numeri producti.

Notandum quod Cubus secundi numeri, eique aqualis septimus siguratus primi; (quem aliqui appellant secundum solidum) scribitur notis octodecim: idcirco ejus Logarithmus in fronte gerit 17. prater notas subsequentes, qua exprimunt Logarithmum numeri, qui iisdem notis scribitur: sed ejus prima tantum nota versus sinistram, denotat nobis integras voitates quinque, reliqua nota subsequentes, exprimunt partes, integris bisce adjiciendas. Sic subsequences, & cuius Logarithmus 74705884.

Quod si quatuor loci relinquantur integris, ponenda erit in fronte Logarithmi, nota 3. Sic 5585 454400, Grc. cujus Logarithmus 3.74705884.

Hinc poterimus datis duobus Logarithmis Inu primi, invenire sinum secundi.

Sumatur communis aliquis Logarithmorum divisor (qui quò major fuerit eò commodior erit) is dividat vtrumque: deinde primus sinus seipsum multiplicet, & suos factos: donec numerus factorum vnitate tantum superetur à quoto secundi Logarithmi: vel donec procreetur siguratus, cognominis quoto secundi Logarithmi. Idem numerus produceretur, si secundus sinus quasitus, seipsum multiplicaret, dones sieret siguratus, cognominis quoto primi Logarithmi. Vt patet per pracedentem propositionem. Huius itaque sigurati, à primi quoto des nominati latus quaeratur: quod, vbi inventum fuerit, erit sinus secundus quasitus. Eritque continue factus à quotis, & comp muni divisore, ipsius sigurati Logarithmus.

Vt sunto dati LOGARITHMI 8, 14, & sit sinus primi 3 com-G mu-

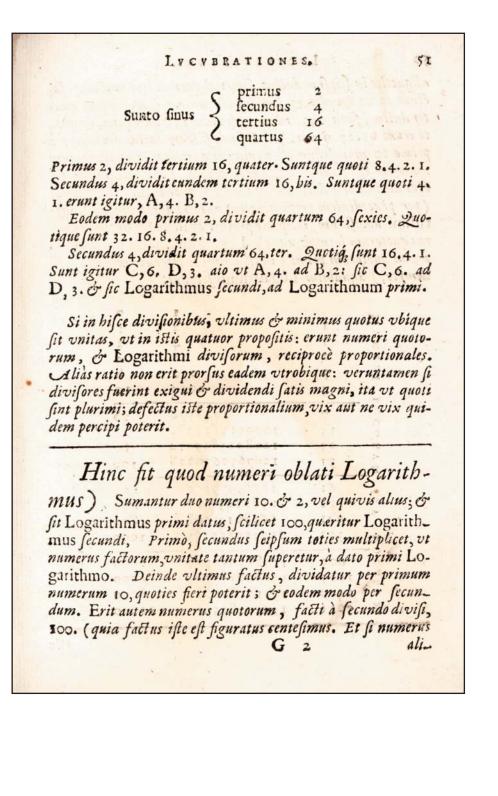
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

timu mode conti quart	nuè pro nuè cuju	us figures latus	tinuè prop abit; & in ararus. Io nalium fer $6\frac{238511}{1000000}$ eff	t, proveniet 218 portionalium ab t de dici poterit r dem numerus 21 ie, est ab unitat finus secundus qu	initate, fe non incor 87, in a re figurat uælitus.
Hivif	orem 2 f	acit 56	LOGARI	8. qui ductus in c тнмvм figurati 2	187.
Conti- nuè pro• portio- nales	I 3 9 27 81 243 729 2187	(0) (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	Logar. 0 8 16 24 32 40 48 56	I 6 <u>83 852 I</u> 46 <u>765372</u> 31 <u>980598</u> 2187	Lo (0) (1) I (2) 2 (3) 4 (4) 5
tem conve	niunt, q	uod vt thmi	ropositioni robique L corundem	iver fos effe ab ii s adhibebantur; ogarithmus vni numerorum vel fe.	in hoc an

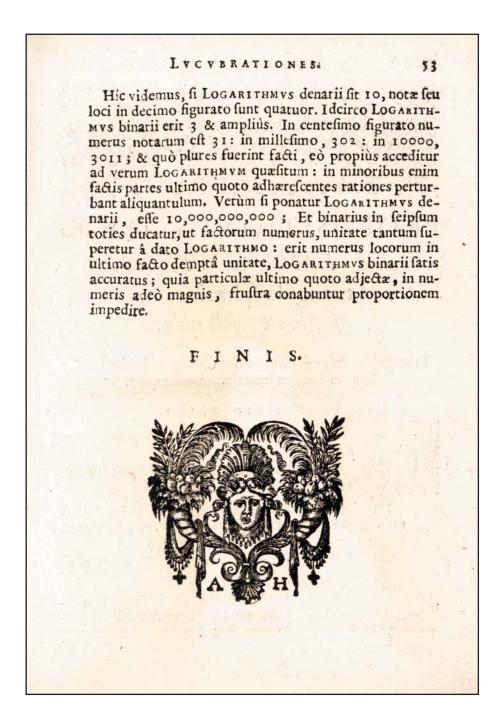
tum quemitoet, quoties poterit, donce quotus vltimus sit minor divisore. Deinde divisionum harum numerus notetur, non autem quoti alicuius quantitas, (nisi forte minimi, de quo mox plura dicemus) eodem modo secundus, eundem tertium ejusque quotos dividat. Ita etiam dividatur ab vtroque quartus. Vt

- 1310

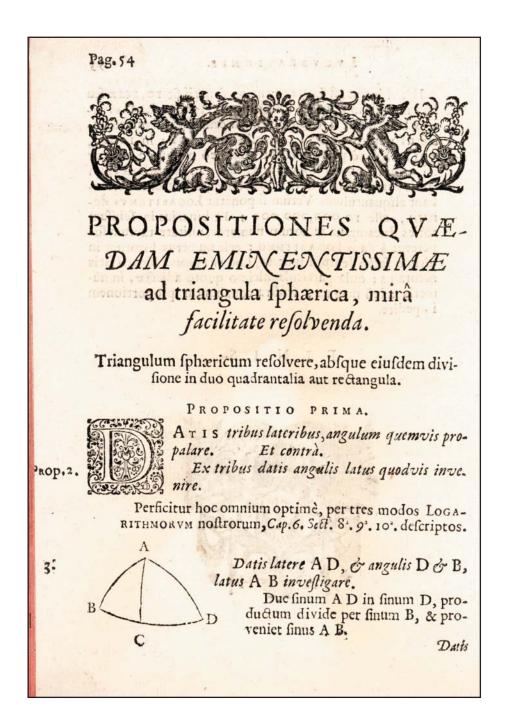
Sunto



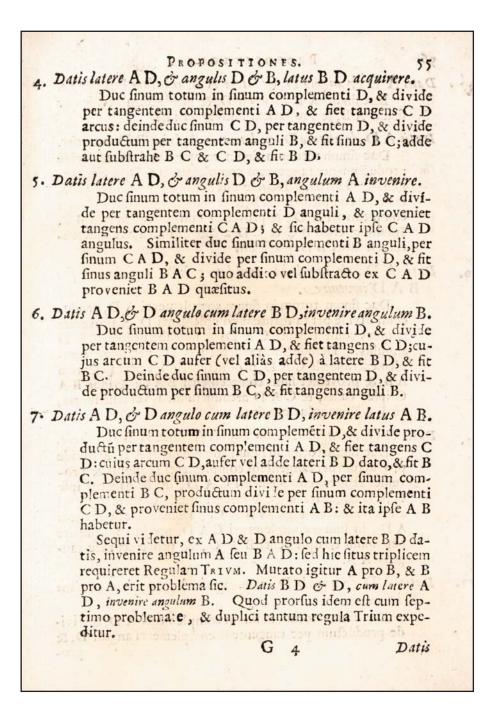
Etum totie	s dividet.	ductus, faciet aliquem: & femel vlteriùs. vt	3 in feipfum	ns, ng
ter ductus,	facit 243	. idem 3, dividit 243	quinquies, C	rg
ti erunt 8.	1.27.9.3.	1.) Deinde si idem j	factus divid	atu
primo 10,1	manifestur	n ejt, numerum quotorum	m, vnitate t	ant
		locorum in diviso. Ide		
		s duobus numeris, quotie		
rithmi di	uilarum pr	opositionem) numeri qu	EA autem	20
rus auntor	um lecund	eciproce proportionales.	primi · ideis	icà
merus aug	torum bris	, aqualis Logarithmo ni (id est numerus loco	rum in fact	0
dempto)	aauabitur	Logarithmo secundi.	in juit	2
	a graditat	Logaritatio Jerman		
	in the second	The second second second	0	
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~	31	1267650600228	100	
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, V	121	25822 496318 66680131608	400 800	
- 10 - 540.	24I 302	107150835165	1000	
NO				
H	603	114813014767	2000	
AA	1205	131820283599	4000	
	2409	17316587168 19950583591	10000	
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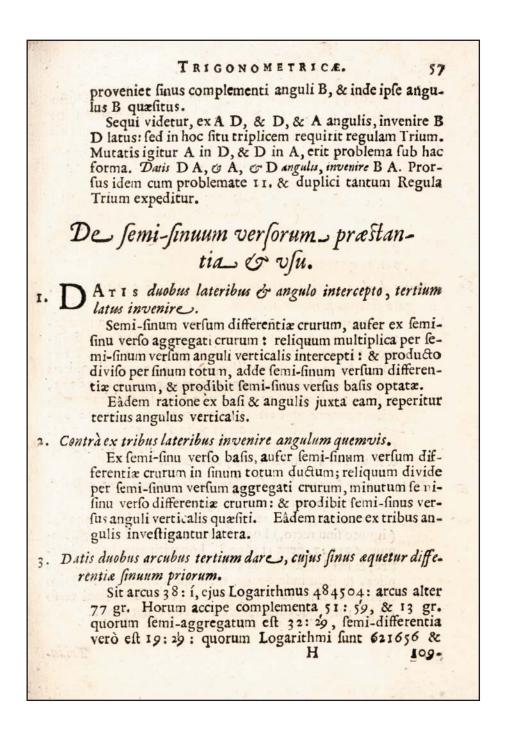


This section is devoted to problems involving spherical triangles. These were most often encountered in navigation and astronomy and proved a major stumbling block to many engaged in those professions. The method normally used for solving for the various sides and angles of a triangle drawn on a sphere was to subdivide the triangle with a line (such as AC above) which would create two triangles with at least one 90 degree angle. The various rules for the solution of these right angles spherical triangles were the ones usually used in solving problems. Napier presents a list of 12 formula for solving these problems without subdividing the spherical triangle. These formula were, as Napier notes, previously published in the *Descriptio*.



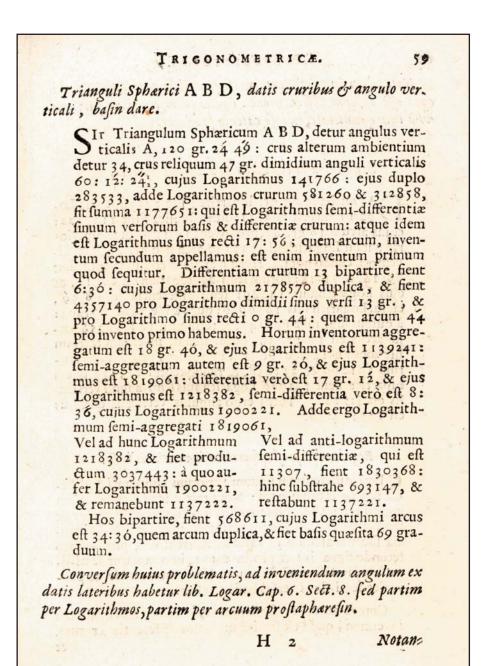
i fin	56	PROP	OSITIONE	s .	
à.	1	D & angulo D.	Glatere A B,	angulum B invenin roductum divide r	re. per
9.	proc gens in fir com Ipfu	Juctum per tangen s C D arcus. Do num complementi	n finum complementem complementem complementementementementementementementemen	latus B D invenin lementi D, & divi enti A D, & fiet ta n complementi C I tum partire per find is complementi B fumma, vel differe	ide in- D,
104	BAI D ctum tang angu plem AB, C ip eft B	D inventre. Duc finum totum i a divide per tange ens complementi alus. Deinde du henti anguli CA] & proveniet finu ofe: cujus, & CA A D angulus qu	n finum complem ntem complem C A D; & fic c tangentem A D, productum c s complementi D arcuum fur æfitus.	B, angulum A f ementi A D, produ enti D, & proveni habetur ipfe C A D, per finum com livide per tangente B A C; & inde B nma, vel differenti	u- D n- M A
11.	prod venic C A aliàs A D per f	ucum per tangen et tangens comple D angulus: cujus fumma) eft angulu , in finum compl	tem complement menti C A D , & integri ang as B A C. Do ementi C A D	atus A B exquirer nenti A D, & divio nti D anguli, & pro & fic habetur ip uli A differentia, (v cinde duc tangenter , productum partin proveniet inde tan	de o- ofe el m
12.	D inve	ue finum totum i	n finum comple	, angulum tertius ementi A D, & div lementi anguli D, & pro	i- &
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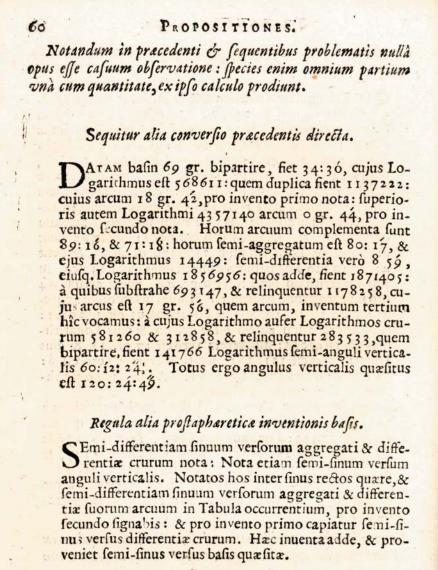


Napier now adds a few more rules using half versed sines (essentially the cosine of half the angle - see the introductory notes on the definition of trigonometric functions).

4.	 58 PROPOSITIONES. 1098014; quos adde, fient 1719670; à quo producto fubfirahe 693147, & remanebit 1026523 Logarithmus 21 gr. vel idcirca. Dico finum rectum 21 gr., qui eft 358368, æqualem effe differentiæ finuum arcuum 77, & 38: 1; qui finus funt 974370, & 615891 plús minús. Dato arcu, dare Logarithmum ejus finus verfi. Sit arcus 13 gr., cujus dimidium 6: 36; ejus Logarithmus 2178570, cujus duplum eft 4357140: à quo aufer 693147, & remanebit 3663993, cujus arcus eft 1:28; & numerus inter finus pofitus eft 25595: atque is eft finus verfus quæfitus 13 gr.
)	Datis duobus arcubus tertium dare, cujus finus aquetur aggre-
	gato finuum priorum arcuum. Sit unus arcus 38:1, alter arcus 1:28: eorum aggrega- tum eft 39:29, & eorum differentia eft 36:33 : femi-ag- gregatum autem eft 19:44', femi-differentia verò eft 18: 16'. Adde ergo Logarithmum femi-aggregati, qui eft 1085655, ad Logarithmum differentix, qui eft 518313, & fit productum 1603968:à quo aufer Logarithmum fe- mi-differentix, qui eft 1160177, remanent 443791 Lo- garithmustcui respondet arcus 39:56, finus verò 641896. Qui quidem finus æquatur utriq. finui 38:1, qui eft 615661: & finui 1:28, qui eft 25595 aut juxtà.
6.	Dato arcu & Logarithmo sui sinus recti ; arcum dare, cujus si-
	nus versus sit priori sinui recto aqualis. Sit arcus 39:56, cui respondet Logarithmus 443791 (ignoto sinu recto,) Logarithmo 443791 adde Logarith- mum 693147, sient 1136938. Logarithmum hunc bipar- tire, & siet Logarithmus 568469: cujus arcum 34: 36 du- plica, & sient inde 69 gr. arcus qui quærebatur. Dico enim quod sinus rectus 39 gr. & 56, est æqualis sinui verso 69 gr. : uterque enim sinus est 641800, aut propě.
	-çot H Trian-

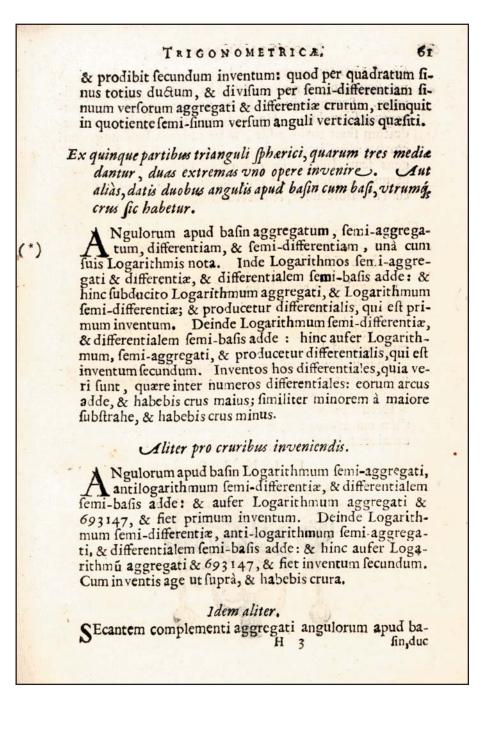


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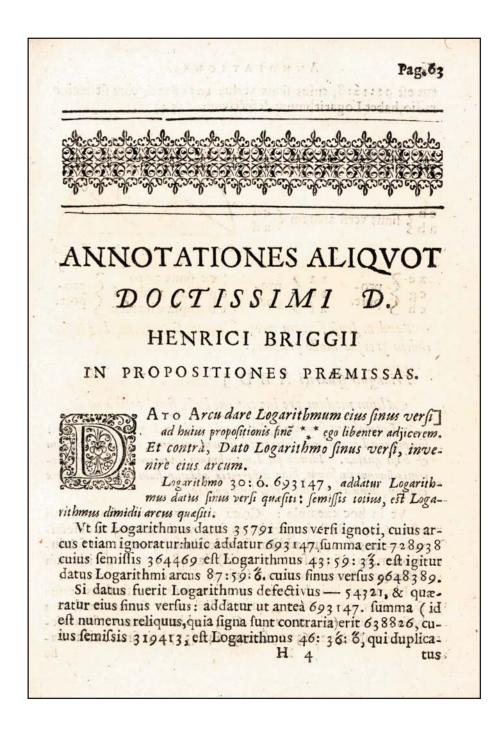
Contrà autem ex semi-sinu verso basis, aufer primum inventum, quod est semi-sinus versus differentiæ crurum,

80

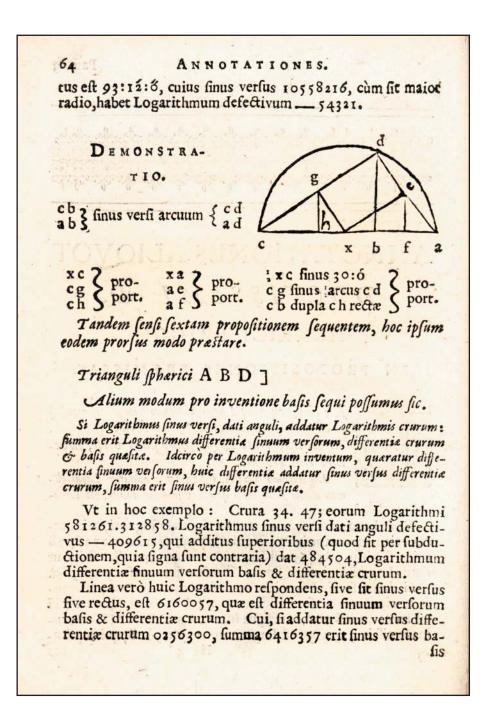


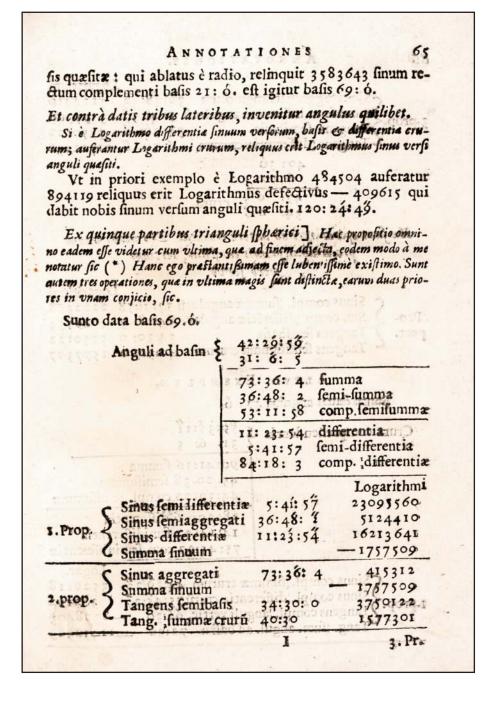


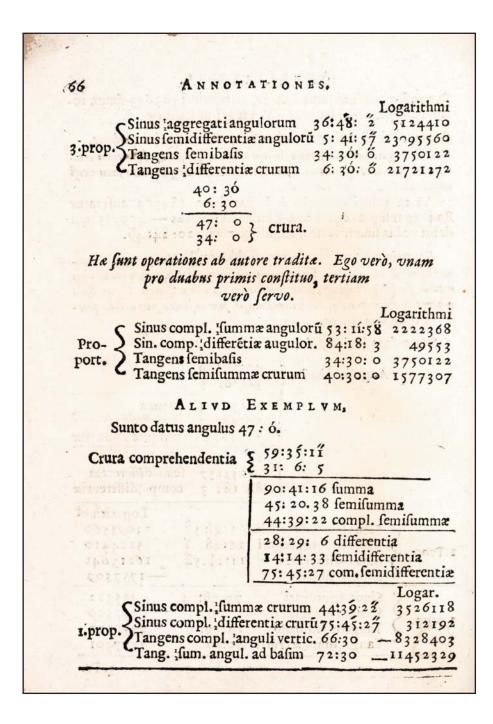
Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh



In this section Henry Briggs adds his remarks to the previous discussion of spherical triangles and related problems.







Napier, John, Mirifici logarithmorum canonis constructi, 1619, Edinburgh

ANNOTATIONES. 67 Logar. CSinus femifummæ laterum 45:263'8 3406418 2. prop. Sinus femidifferentiælaterum 14:14:33 14023154 Tangens com semiang. vert. 66:30: 0 - 8328403 CTang. femidiff. ang. ad basim 38:30 2288333 72:30 $\begin{array}{c} 38:30\\ 111:0\\ 34:0\end{array}$ Anguli ad bafim Atque hæc omnia constantissime servantur, five dati fuerint duo anguli, cum latere interiecto: five duo crura, cum angulo comprehenso. Hoc tantum interest, quod tertium proportionis locum, in utraque operatione : illic, Tangens semibasis occupat : hic, Tangens compl. semissis anguli verticalis. In his exemplis, fi Tangens vel fumma finuum, fit maior Radio circulari: Logarithmus eft defectivus, & habet virgulam præcedentem fic - 8328403. Idem aliter] Hos ergo inventos divisos per quadratum finus totius adde) Ego fic potins feriberem, quo res effet manifestior. Horum ergo inventorum, per quadratum finus totius diviforum, quotos adde, & fiet Tangens, &c. Hac propositio verisima est, vt & proxime antecedens; sed illa per Logarithmos commodissime expedietur, hac tota, vix poterit Logarithmorum operationes admittere; quia quoti funt addendi & auferendi, vt Tangentes inveniantur. Logarithmorum autem v us cernitur in proportios nalibus, & idcirco in multiplicatione & divisione: non autem in additione aut subductione. FINIS. orden contractories