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Rupert Thomas Gould : The marine chronometer;: Its history and development before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The marine chronometer;: Its history and development*:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. 'The Marine Chronometer' by Cmdr Gould (RN) - AvailabilityBy PaulN(UPDATED 19 Aug 2013)(The recently released reprint of 'The Marine Chronometer' rendered my previous review out-of-date.)At long last the (almost 'mystical') rumors about 'The Marine Chronometer', by Cmdr. Gould, being reprinted have come-to-pass.If you find the old mechanical marine chronometers fascinating then you need a copy of this book (get one before it drops out-of-print again).(concluding thoughts)If you have never actually had the opportunity to look at the internal mechanism of a mechanical marine chronometer let me suggest that you make the effort. Although electronic precision timekeeping devices long ago surpassed the mechanical marine chronometer for accuracy the sheer beauty of a marine chronometer is inspiring. Marine chronometers were designed and built in a time when the lives of ship's crews, and the survival of the ships, could easily depend on the accuracy of the marine chronometer(s) they carried on board so their navigators could make accurate positional calculations based on celestial navigation. In a time when people were feeding hay to their prime mode of transportation marine chronometers were being built that even now show them to be the technical tour-de-force that they were.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I Can Hear Rupert SingingBy Ron DiGiovanniI just received this book 30 minutes ago.When I pushed the "Place Your Order" button I thought I must have been crazy. At 120 balloons, I came to think that I must certainly be a closet Gould fan. I now know why I paid so much.This book is gorgeous!I wasn't expecting either hardbound or glossy paper, but here it is, almost as pretty as H4.As far as literary quality and depth of knowledge, I almost don't

even have to read it. If I want, I can just put it down on the coffee table. History has already spoken here. Congratulations to the publishers. Great job! Ron DiGiovanni, Easton, PA. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. detailed drawings of the many chronometer movements - In this sense the book is excellent. However, I wanted this book primarily for the great, detailed drawings of the many chronometer movements - In this sense the book is excellent. However, I found the book overall a big disappointment --- Gould's original text was fine. An edited version (some judicious use of his revisions) would have been fine. To publish what is in essence an editor's markup sheet is a mistake.

First published in 1923, this long-awaited edition of the definitive reference work on the marine chronometer contains additional photographs and many of Rupert Gould's later revisions and corrections. It deals comprehensively with the chronometer's history and the earliest attempts to measure longitude while including exhaustive discussions and diagrams of the various mechanisms employed with details of their inventors. It is an extraordinary fact that the first machines capable of accurately determining a ship's longitude, a measurement the great Sir Isaac Newton considered to be a mechanical impossibility, were invented and built by an obscure Yorkshire carpenter named John Harrison (1693-1783). Amazingly, the latter was entirely self-educated and had never served a day's apprenticeship to any clockmaker. The *Marine Chronometer* relates the remarkable story of John Harrison's marine timekeepers which eventually won him a £20,000 reward offered by the British Government for any method of determining

Ten years short of the original publication's centenary, one of the greatest books on a horological sub-genre has attained Second Edition status. First published in 1923, Gould's masterpiece covers the topic of marine chronometers from its natural starting point: the need for the discovery of longitude. But even before you reach this stage in the book, the illuminating introduction by Jonathan Betts MBE warns you that the journey through its 400-plus pages will prove rewarding and frustrating in equal measure. How so? Because, this long-awaited second edition includes Gould's own amendments and additions from his original annotated manuscripts. Here's where the bibliophile in me starts salivating, for this is two books in one: the original, plus the 'outtakes.' What it does not do is rewrite Gould's work in light of all that has been discovered since 1923, the editor preferring instead to provide ample annotation. It is an ideal way of updating a work that has earned the honour of being a subject's definitive study, because the reader can savour the original as it appeared, while benefitting from superlative editing and sympathetic, respectful treatment. This is, though highly readable, an intensely technical work, certainly suitable for researchers or scholars. But do not be deterred: this book is an absolute joy. And be glad we didn't have to wait until its centenary for this 're-boot.' (Ken Kessler QP Magazine, April 15, 2013) No book is a more complete history of the marine chronometer, even after nearly a century, and many, Jonathan Betts and Rudyard Kipling among them, consider this the finest horological work of the twentieth century. (David Rachlin, reference librarian, James E. Shepard Memorial Library, North Carolina Central University Reference Services, Volume 28, Number 1, 2014 Edition) About the Author Rupert Thomas Gould (1890-1948) was not a professional horologist, yet he researched and wrote 'The Marine Chronometer' in just four years, between the ages of 29 and 33. A true English eccentric and a veritable polymath, Gould made important contributions in an extraordinary range of subject areas, from early typewriters to the Loch Ness Monster, from antiquarian horology to the history and rules of the game of tennis. He was an early broadcaster on radio, giving weekly talks on the BBC's 'Children's Hour' throughout the 1930s; as a member of the 1940s discussion programme 'The Brains Trust' he amazed a national audience with his wide learning and photographic memory. Yet, his greatest achievements were horological: his restoration of the great Harrison timekeepers and his authorship of so many fine texts on the history of horology are his true legacy.