

2010

On the Cover

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Recommended Citation

(2010) "On the Cover," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 64 : Iss. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol64/iss3/1>

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SciTech News

The Official Bulletin for the Chemistry, Engineering, and Science-Technology Divisions and the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association



Volume 64, Number 3 (2010)

ISSN 0036-8059

SciTech News

Ellis Mount, Editor Emeritus



On the Cover



In 1759, John Smeaton successfully completed the erection of a lighthouse on the Eddystone rocks in the English channel. There had been two previous lighthouses on the site, but one washed away, and the other burned down. Smeaton's lighthouse was built of Portland stone, with all the stone blocks dovetailed with each other and with the supporting rock below. The completed structure survived for 130 years, until the rock beneath began to erode away. The fourth and still-standing Eddystone Light was built in 1882 on a nearby rock. The illustration is from a large folio that Smeaton published on the project, *A Narrative of the Building and a Description of the Construction of the Eddystone Lighthouse* (London, 1791; photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology.)

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Copy Deadline

Issue Number 1Feb 1
 Issue Number 2 April 1
 Issue Number 3 Aug 1
 Issue Number 4 Nov 1

SciTech News

Volume 64, Number 3 (2010)

ISSN 0036-8059

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SCITECH NEWS (ISSN 0036-8059) is published quarterly (March, May, September, December) by the Chemistry, Engineering, and the Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association, University of Louisville, LL38 Ekstrom Library, 2301 S. Third Street, Louisville, KY 40292, (502) 852-8731.

Publication Policy: *SciTech News* is the official bulletin of the Chemistry, Engineering, Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association. The contents of articles and editorials are not to be construed as being or representing the official position of the sponsoring divisions.

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Manuscripts: The Editor solicits papers of interest to the community of science and technology-oriented special libraries. Manuscripts of articles should be sent via E-mail (Microsoft Word or Plain Text format) to james.manasco@louisville.edu or sent by FAX to: (502)852-8714.

Subscriptions: Special Libraries Association members in the Chemistry, Engineering, Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division automatically receive subscriptions to *SciTech News*. Their annual subscription fee of \$3.50 is paid from their annual dues to the Special Libraries Association.

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