

2010

On the Cover

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SciTech News

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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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