

EXPLANATORY NOTE RESPECTING THE HOUR MERIDIANS AND HOUR ZONES.

For other reasons than those referred to in the report, the Hour Meridians should be distinguished by numbers in the order indicated.

1. The twenty-four hour meridians take their origin from the recognized zero of time, which is diurnally determined by the solar passage on the anti-prime meridian; it is therefore natural that if they are to be known by numbers, the series of numbers should begin at the anti-prime meridian as zero.

2. If we commence to observe the passage of time at the instant of zero, in the lapse of an hour the earth will have revolved on its axis fifteen degrees and brought the first hour meridian west of the anti-prime meridian under the sun. What more appropriate designation for this hour meridian than number one? (*unus*), at the end of the second hour the earth will have revolved another fifteen degrees and brought under the sun the second hour meridian west of the anti-prime meridian. With equal propriety this may be termed hour meridian number two (*duo*), similarly the third, fourth and every one of the twenty-four hour meridians may be numbered in consecutive order.



If this mode of distinguishing the hour meridians is characterised by simplicity, it will likewise be found to be convenient. Referring to the accompanying projection of the northern hemisphere, the figures around the circumference indicate the hour meridians numbered on this principle: These figures likewise indicate the twenty-four hours into which the world's standard unit measure of time is divided. The motion of the earth on its axis brings each hour meridians in succession to its solar passage, and by numbering them as described a complete coincidence is obtained between the hour meridians and the hours of the world's standard. For example when the solar passage is on hour meridian number twelve it will be 12 o'clock —when on hour meridian number seventeen it will be 17 o'clock and so on for every meridian. Thus we realize the conception