

A892 Abbe Nicolas Louis DE LA CAILLE, 1713-1762 (Astronomer)

Notebook relating to the measurements of the Cape Arc of Meridian by de la Caille

1 1 Abbe Nicolas Louis DE LA CAILLE's Working Notebook, 1746-1754

172 pages (38 blank), Holograph

Bound in 18th century suede, this 16,5 x 21,5 cm notebook contains observations made by De la Caille at the Cape and elsewhere; a list of expenses in connection with his observatory at St. Martin (Paris); and details of the mathematical basis for his calculations, including lists of formulae and trigonometrical proofs, used as an aide-memoire during his travels. There are calculations of some star coordinates, apparently made at the Cape, and, most important of all, a calculation of the difference in latitude between the Cape and Klipfontein for his determination of an arc of the meridian.