

His Majesty's Nautical Almanac (HMNAO) History

This page provides a summary of historical information about His Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office (HMNAO). A few useful links give you a historical overview of The Nautical Almanac, HMNAO and its Superintendents covering the period 1767 to the post-war era. For further information about HMNAO, see [HM Nautical Almanac Office - Wikipedia](#).

A summarised version of the personal memoirs of Dr. D.H. Sadler, former Superintendent of HMNAO from 1936 to 1971, can be accessed at [Dr D. H. Sadler, OBE](#). HMNAO wishes to thank Dr. George Wilkins for making these memoirs available to us and editing the original manuscripts.

Further information can be found at [The Superintendent posts](#) and at [Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office records | The National Archives](#). These highlight the history of the Nautical Almanac Office, which has had the responsibility of producing almanacs and other related services since the 18th Century. Today, *The Nautical Almanac*, used to find one's position from observations made using a marine sextant, and *The Astronomical Almanac*, the replacement of *The Astronomical Ephemeris* are joint publications of HMNAO and the Almanac Office of the U.S. Naval Observatory.

History for the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux Castle, 1948-1990 by Dr. G.A. Wilkins, former Superintendent of HMNAO from 1971 to 1989, is now available via this link [Royal Greenwich Observatory Archives | Cambridge University Library](#) of Cambridge University Library.

The UKHO's archive also hosts a wealth of digital information about the Nautical Almanac and HMNAO's history, together with past editions of HMNAO publications going back as far as 1767. Researchers may contact UKHO via email at customerservices@ukho.gov.uk.

