

OTHER HISTORY

Paine's Footnote on the Transit of Venus

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Robert Havlik, Librarian Emeritus, University of Notre Dame



Thomas Paine (1737 -1809) was an English-born American political figure, philosopher, and author of Footnote on the Transit of Venus. The works of Thomas Paine are said to have influenced many of the founders of the United States. Paine's The Age of Reason: Being an Investigation of True and Fabulous Theology, 1794-96, was the results of Paine's years of study and reflection on the place of religion in society. It was very popular and controversial in its time. It also touches on Paine's interest in science and astronomy. The work is still in print.

The excerpt below is part of Paine's introduction to his theories on the plurality of worlds. In it he describes the planetary system, as known at the time, in terms of Kepler's Laws. He then uses the observation of the Transit of Venus as a practical application of the laws. **Paine's footnote #11** is presented below in **BOLD** for emphasis.

[Read more: Paine's Footnote on the Transit of Venus](#)

Miscellaneous ToV Items

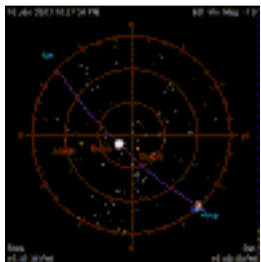
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A hodge-podge of material is related to the transit of Venus. Some of it is grand; some is trivial. Feel free to send us any links.

Note: This content may later be relocated within website.

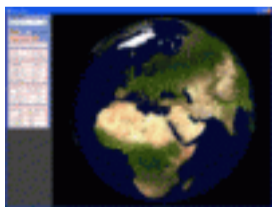
<http://www.phys.uu.nl/~vgent/venus/venustransitbib.htm>

Extensive bibliography of original sources relating to transits of Venus, with links to many of the original publications; from R.H. van Gent.



<http://iss-transit.sourceforge.net/>

Thomas Fly offers a way for observers to predict when the International Space Station (ISS) will pass in front of the sun or moon from their respective observing sites. The **Transit Alert** service will ideally send notices of predicted transits of the ISS..



<http://iss-transit.sourceforge.net/IssVenusTransit.html>

Trying to predict where the International Space Station (ISS) will be during the transit of Venus, and the possibility of seeing ISS transit the sun concurrently with Venus; from Thomas Fly.



<http://sio.midco.net/dansmapstamps/jamescook.htm>

Collection of stamps pertaining to Captain James Cook, including some specific to the 1769 transit of Venus.

[Read more: Miscellaneous ToV Items](#)



Images: Chuck Bueter

On the A59 road, the 'Hoole' church whose duties are thought to have interrupted Horrocks' observing. There is a large sun-dial on the side in memory of Horrocks and a memorial stained glass window depicting Horrocks observing. With the church locked, if you want to see inside you will have to contact the vicar/rector in advance.



<http://www.hoolechurch.org.uk/main.htm>

The *Hoole C.E. Church* website features Jeremiah Horrocks, St. Michael Church, and the events commemorating and celebrating the transit, with Sir Patrick Moore serving as the Honorary Patron.

[Read more: Hoole and Other Destinations in England](#)