

An Explanation of the Gnomonic Projection of the Sphere: And of Such Points of Astronomy as Are Most Necessary in the Use of Astronomical Maps; Being ... Smaller Maps of the Stars; As Also of the Six

Augustus de Morgan

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Excerpt from An Explanation of the Gnomonic Projection of the Sphere: And of Such Points of Astronomy as Are Most Necessary in the Use of Astronomical Maps; Being a Description of the Construction and Use of the Larger and Smaller Maps of the Stars; As Also of the Six Maps of the Earth

This Treatise, though particularly intended for those who use either of the maps mentioned in the title-page, will, I hope, be found useful to all who wish to acquire a distinct idea of the connexion between projections in general, and the surface of the sphere which they represent. The leading principles derived from an accurate consideration of any one instance, are those which apply to every other hitherto used, with the exception only of what is called Mercator's Projection. But of all the methods in question, I should decidedly prefer the Gnomonic Projection for any purpose of general instruction, on account of its superior simplicity, and the ease with which the transition may be made from the sphere to its inclosing cube.

Simple as a globe may be in its principle, there are many facilities afforded by a map; and on the other hand, there are some points in which the former has decided advantages over the latter. A map may be considered either as a catalogue for the practical astronomer, or as a picture of the heavens for a learner.

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