

The Meridian Arc Measurement in Peru 1735 – 1745

Jim R. SMITH, United Kingdom

Key words: Peru. Meridian. Arc. Triangulation.

ABSTRACT:

In the early 18th century the earth was recognised as having some ellipsoidal shape rather than a true sphere. Experts differed as to whether the ellipsoid was flattened at the Poles or the Equator. The French Academy of Sciences decided to settle the argument once and for all by sending one expedition to Lapland- as near to the Pole as possible; and another to Peru- as near to the Equator as possible. The result supported the view held by Newton in England rather than that of the Cassinis in Paris.

CONTACT

Jim R. Smith,
Secretary to International Institution for
History of Surveying & Measurement
24 Woodbury Ave, Petersfield
Hants GU32 2EE
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. & fax + 44 1730 262 619
E-mail: 101765.332@compuserve.com
Website: <http://www.ddl.org/figtree/hsm/index.htm>