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'The Navigation of 1985 Trans-Indian Ocean Canoe Voyage'

The Author Replies

With reference to the comments made by John M. Luykx,¹ there is no known direct link between the instruments used on the Trans-Indian Ocean Canoe Voyage and any instruments which may have been used by Viking navigators.

The shadow stick is reputed to have been in use by Greek ship captains at least as early as the first millenium B.C. although it is thought that they went ashore at solar noon to make their observations from a stable base.

The steering board was the simplest device we could construct to make use of the link between the altitude of a celestial body and its direction. No early examples are known. However, neither the board nor its shape nor the peg itself are critical for we often used shadows from the rigging when the sails shaded the area around the helmsman.

In both cases, it is the astronomical principle that is critical. This is likely to have been exploited by ancient navigators through simple devices of many differing designs, some of which may well have been similar to those which we constructed and used.

REFERENCE

- ¹ Luykx, J. M. (1989). Some notes on the navigation of 1985 trans-Indian ocean canoe voyage. This *Journal* 42, 309.