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LENSES FOR SHIPS' LIGHTS

COMMUNICATION

BY

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M. Inst. C. E., F. R. S. E.

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The author has had successful practice in designing, for glass manufacturers, lenses for ships' mast-head and side lights, and lights for beacons, made of moulded glass and cut and polished, and proposes in this paper to give some account of the method he has adopted.

There are always certain data supplied to the designer by the glass manufacturer, the lamp maker and their customers which have to be worked to; such as the outside dimensions of the lens, the internal radius of the cylinder of glass, the thickness of the glass, the number of the prisms above and below the central zone, and the projection of the prisms beyond this zone.

The degree of divergence of the rays on emergence from the lens is fixed by the Board of Trade regulations as, in all, 20° viz. 10° above and 10° below the horizontal plane. The rays being supposed to diverge uniformly from the centre of the light and lens, or focus, and on emergence to diverge from a virtual focus which is found from the degrees of divergence prescribed.

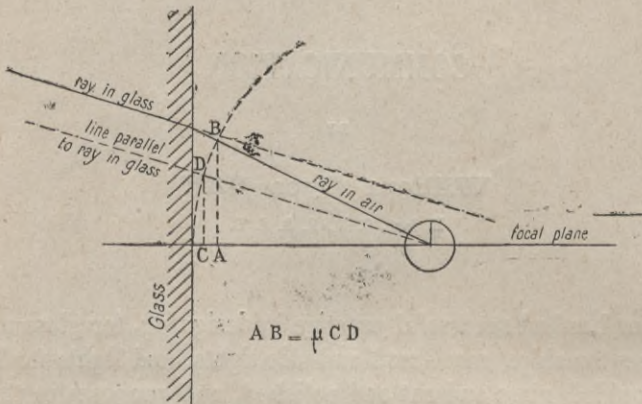
The projection of the prisms beyond the central zone is not fixed more than that a straight edge placed vertically against the lens must not touch the zone.

The problem then is to find the correct curvature of the outer surface of the zone and of the facets of the prisms, also the direction of the radial or return planes of the latter.

These can be found by trigonometrical calculation but having regard to the difficulty of plotting the results with absolute accuracy, it is found

that the best plan is to find them in a graphic way by drawing out the lens full size, and finding the angles of refraction by means of a proportional compass, adjusted to the proportion « μ » of the sine of the angle of incidence to that of the angle of refraction of the quality of the glass used.

The general dimensions of the lens being firstly plotted and the foci laid down, the outline of the outer surface is drawn in from previous practice as a first approximation, a sufficient number of rays are then drawn from the focus to the inner cylindrical surface of the lens, and are carried through the glass by the use of the proportional compass.



The ray is produced to the outer surface of the glass, whence its direction on emergence is fixed by the virtual focus from which it must diverge.

The position of the normal to the outer surface which gives this desired direction on refraction can be found graphically as above by the aid of the compass, or it may be found trigonometrically from the consideration, that if α be the angle between the normal and the ray in air, and γ the angle between the ray in air and the ray in glass

$$\tan \alpha = \frac{\mu \sin \gamma}{\mu \cos \gamma - 1}.$$

From the intersection of these normals are obtained the centres and the radii of the outer surfaces of the lens, which can now be redrawn with more accuracy, and this can be all repeated until the work responds to the required conditions.

With regard to the radial or return planes of the prisms, it is desirable not to lose light by reflection from their surfaces; the light at the focus is assumed to be a globe 1 inch diameter, and a ray tangent to its outer surface on the same side of the focal plane as the prism under con-

sideration is drawn to the bottom of the groove between the prisms, and the radial plane of the prism is made parallel to the course this ray takes in its passage through the glass. It is evident that all other rays from the 4 inch globe reaching this corner or bottom of the groove will continue in the glass until its outer surface, while rays emerging from the next adjoining prism have sufficient convergence to clear it.

Edimbourg, 1900.

TRADUCTION FRANÇAISE

LENTILLES POUR FEUX DE NAVIRES

L'auteur ayant dessiné avec succès, pour des fabricants de verres, des projets de lentilles en verre moulé, taillé et poli pour feux de tête de mât, feux de position et feux de balises, se propose de donner ici un aperçu de la méthode qu'il a employée.

Il y a toujours certaines données fournies au dessinateur par le fabricant de verres, par le constructeur de la lampe et par leurs clients; ces données sont par exemple les dimensions extérieures de la lentille, le rayon intérieur du cylindre de verre, l'épaisseur du verre, le nombre des prismes ou échelons au-dessus et au-dessous de la zone centrale et la projection des prismes au delà de cette zone.

Le degré de divergence des rayons émergeant de la lentille est fixé par les règlements du *Board of Trade* à 20° , soit 10° au-dessus et 10° au-dessous du plan horizontal. On suppose que les rayons divergent uniformément du centre du feu et de la lentille, ou foyer, et qu'en émergeant ils divergent d'un foyer virtuel qu'on trouve à l'aide du degré de divergence prescrit.

La projection des prismes au delà de la zone centrale n'est soumise qu'à une condition obligatoire, savoir, qu'une règle droite placée verticalement contre la lentille ne doit pas toucher cette zone.

Le problème consiste alors à trouver la courbure exacte de la surface extérieure de la zone centrale et des facettes courbes des prismes, ainsi que la direction des faces planes rayonnantes, ou de retour, de ces derniers.

On peut les trouver par des calculs trigonométriques; mais, vu la difficulté d'en rapporter les résultats avec une exactitude absolue, on préfère les trouver graphiquement en reproduisant la lentille en vraie grandeur et en trouvant les angles de réfraction au moyen d'un compas de propor-

déré, est tiré jusqu'au fond de la rainure correspondante ; la face plane rayonnante du prisme est placée parallèlement à la route suivie par ce rayon pendant son passage à travers le verre. Il est évident que tous les autres rayons émanant du globe de 1 pouce, qui atteignent cet angle ou fond de rainure, continueront leur route dans le verre jusqu'à la surface extérieure de la lentille tandis que des rayons émergeant du prisme immédiatement voisin ont une convergence suffisante pour se dégager.

(Flaissière, traducteur juré, Paris).

