

**THE WHIP OF THE SUN: THE RHETORIC OF SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT-FUNDING DEPLOYED DURING THE ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH EXPEDITION TO VIEW THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1860 IN SPAIN**

DANIEL BELTEKI

When are imperial interests, scientific rigour, professional credibility and amateur interest deployed in the organisation of eclipse expeditions? And what purposes do the deployment of such terms play in the management and running of an eclipse expedition? To answer these questions, this paper investigates the treasure trove of archival materials related to the organisation of the British expedition in 1860 to view the solar eclipse from Spain. More specifically, it focuses on the letters and interactions between the main organiser of the expedition, George Airy, and the extensive network of individuals involved in the expedition. By revisiting these archival documents, the paper demonstrates that the expedition was an ever-changing project before, during, and after its occurrence. It will illuminate this ever-changing nature, by paying specific attention to the deployment of rhetorical devices to justify imperial interests and inclusion in/exclusion from scientific communities. By doing so, the paper aims to highlight how the expedition was designed to embed George Airy's vision for a successful scientific project that integrated the distinct interests and requirements of imperial infrastructures, industrial networks, professional astronomers, and wealthy amateurs.