

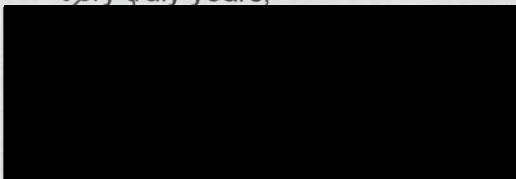
Mr. Brian Lamb  
*Booknotes*  
C-Span  
400 North Capitol Street N.W.  
Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Just in case you ever wonder whether *Booknotes* sells books, I have enclosed a copy of my letter to Ms Sobel.

Here is some input from flyover country: let's have a little more on technology like *Longitude*, is there anyone out there doing any research on the development of threaded fasteners like screws, nuts, bolts?

Very truly yours,



Tulsa, OK 74133

14 March 1999

O-BK

[REDACTED]  
East Hampton, NY 11937

Dear Ms Sobel:

After we saw you on *Booknotes* we bought three copies of *Longitude*, gave one to an aerospace engineer who loves history and engineering, saved one for the upcoming birthday of our son at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, and kept the other for me. I just finished reading it! I want you to know that I enjoyed it and I am amazed that you could research so much detail, and I am also impressed with your ability to discuss something so mathematical without ever having to use any words tougher than *diameter*, I wish some of my old engineering professors could have done half as well.

Our son, who is very scholarly for his age, came bounding in the other day on spring break from Annapolis and casually posed this question: 'I wonder just when we developed timepieces accurate enough to be useful in navigation?' '1754' I replied without hesitation. He made it clear that I was not allowed to know things like that so I just said, 'go look at the book on the coffee table'.

I feel some empathy with John Harrison because I find a similarity in our lives. You see, I have built an Atkinson cycle engine that would save us all about 10% on automotive fuel and cause less pollution too. Unfortunately there is an erroneous idea out there in academia and industry that such a device would need to be huge. This notion is so pervasive that it even appears in some graduate level engineering text books! This has made it difficult for me to have an intelligent exchange with anyone in the engine establishment. I note that John Harrison eventually did prevail and that is encouraging.

Thank your for a wonderful book.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]  
Tulsa, OK 74133

14 March 1999

cc: Brian Lamb