

MARITIME LABOUR HISTORY WORKING GROUP (EUROPEAN LABOR HISTORY NETWORK)

Newsletter No 5, 2 December 2016.

CONFERENCES

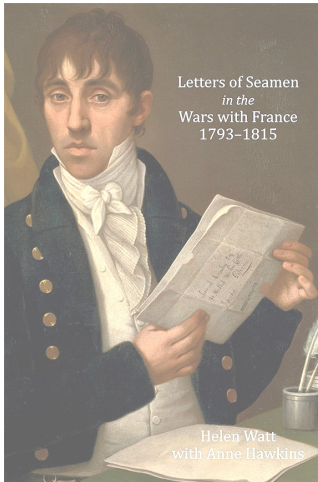
2nd European Labour History Network Conference, 2017. We already have a date: we will meet at Paris on 2-3-4 November 2017. Please keep in mind that our aim is to organize maritime sessions as we did in Turin, so we will send you soon a call for papers for it.

3rd International Conference in Economic and Social History "Labour History: production, markets, relations, policies" (from the late Middle ages to the early 21st century). 24-27 May 2017. University of Ioannina, Ioannina. Our proposal for a maritime session has been accepted, with the following papers: *From Guilds to Póritos: Decay, Evolution and Reorganization of Cantabrig Fishermen's Associations. 1833-1918*, by Paz Iver; *The Long Road to Recognition: the Profession of Ship Engineer in the Spanish Merchant Marine (1877-1980)*, by Enric Garcia; *Jews and Thessalonikian-Greeks in a Common Struggle in the Docks Against the Influx of Greek Refugees (1922-1925)*, by Shai Srougo; *Port of Thessaloniki, from the Thessaloniki Free Zone of the 1920s to the Thessaloniki Port Authority of the 1970s*, by Christos Mais and Kostas Paloukis; *Workers Attitudes to the Mechanisation of Unloading Coal in the Port of Barcelona, 1896-1922*, by Jordi Ibarz; *Port workers in Marseille*, by Anna Mahera.

Maritime Masculinities, 1815-1940. Oxford, UK. It's still possible to register for the conference at Oxford Brookes University, Dec 18-20, 2016. <https://maritimemasculinities.wordpress.com/>

BOOKS

Letters of Seamen in the Wars with France 1793-1815 by Helen Watts and Anne Hawkins, Boydell & Brewer, 2016. This review below is from



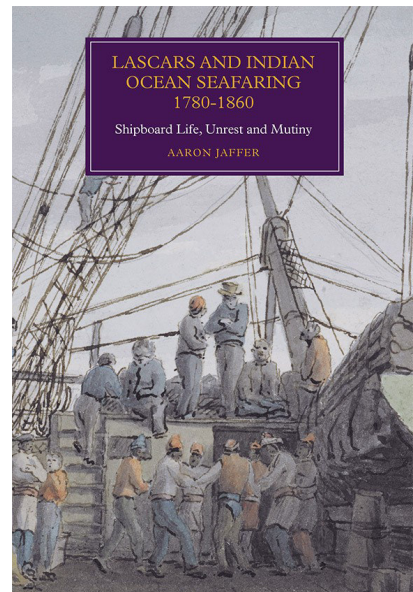
<https://julianstockwin.com/2016/08/16/bookpick-letters-of-seamen-in-the-wars-with-france/>

‘Letters of seamen below the rank of commissioned officer are rare, both in original form and in print. This edited (but not abridged) collection of hundreds of letters, written by seamen in the British Navy and their correspondents between 1793 and 1815, gives voice to a group of men whose lives and thoughts are otherwise mostly unknown ... ‘Of particular interest to me was Appendix 1: Biographies. Each entry gives the rate of every seaman mentioned in the text

and a brief overview of his career to provide insight into the service background of the letter.... It is undoubtedly a monumental pillar of scholarship but behind the words laid out, emerges picture after picture of the warmth, yearnings and hopes of the often unlettered men who laboured by mess-deck glims to reach out to their loved ones in the midst of the titanic struggle of the war at sea.’

Lascars and Indian Ocean Seafaring, 1780-1860: Shipboard life, unrest and mutiny, by A. Jaffer. The Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 2015.

This is a new contribution on the non-European crews on board British merchant ships, a topic that opens questions and discussions. It focuses on the cases of mutiny but the aim is to shed new light on shipboard power relations. By providing us with a non-European lens the author succeeds in making a worthwhile, but somewhat limited, contribution to lascar historiography. You can find the complete review by Derek Massarella at The Mariner’s Mirror, vol. 102:4, November 2016, pp 481-482.



PAST AND CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

For those of you that can be interested on the on-line information, catalogues, or to contact with the organizers, we enclose some information about exhibitions that could be of your interest and available on the net.

The Ultimate Sailor: Under Construction. Netherlands. Amsterdam's Het Scheepvaartmuseum - The National Maritime Museum at: <http://www.bjp-online.com/2016/06/the-ultimate-sailor-under-construction/>. Marie-José Jongerius, and Aisha Zeijpveld demonstrate their vision of the sailor of today. The exhibition showed three diverse photographic series and a video installation that explores how the sailor and pirate diverge from modern perceptions.



Indian Ocean Seafarers, a new mini display on this topic at the National Maritime Museum, London, available at <http://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/we-recommend/attractions/compass-lounge>

Wives and Sweethearts: the Sailor's Farewell. Cook Museum, Whitby, at <http://www.cookmuseumwhitby.co.uk/whats-on/2016-exhibition>. Women's emotional and domestic labour is the labour, often in ports, behind the maritime labour. 'Behind every ship sent exploring to the Pacific were all the wives and sweethearts left ashore ... [e.g. Elizabeth Cook, Elizabeth Bligh... 'Our exhibition shine[s] a light on the varied lives and loves of voyagers' wives, their pastimes and networks, as well as some of their personal tragedies. And then there were some whose 'Returning Hopes' of their promised sweethearts were dashed by broken promises, one example being Sir Joseph Banks!' See picture below.

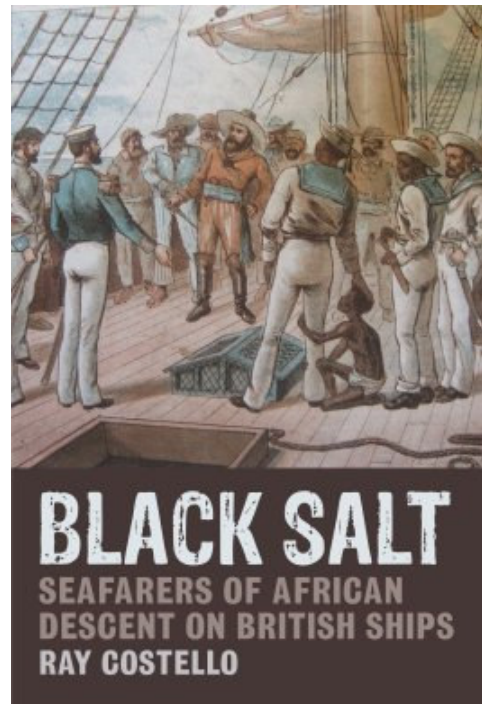


Women and the sea, Untzi Museoa Donostia / Museo Naval, San Sebastián, at <http://untzimuseoa.eus/es/exposiciones/actuales/665-las-mujeres-y-el-mar>. José M^a Unsain and Soco Romano are the responsables of the exhibit, with the help of Dr. Olga Macías, profesor at the Basque Country University (UPV). Among other things, the exhibit shows the role of female labour in maritime industries in the Basque Country. You can also find a selected bibliography on this topic at <http://untzimuseoa.eus/es/publicaciones/gente-de-mar/754-las-mujeres-y-el-mar>.

Sailors and Daughters, at <http://indian-ocean.africa.si.edu/>. ‘Sailors and Daughters is an online exhibition curated by Erin Haney, Ph.D. It is part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art's *Connecting the Gems of the Indian Ocean: From Oman to East Africa* project. ‘*Sailors and Daughters* reveals the expansive maritime societies of Zanzibar, the east African coast, and beyond. From the 1840s, cameras traced the international migrations of traders, sailors, sons, and daughters through Indian Ocean ports, continuing trade that dates back over five millennia. East African cities flourished as hubs of both land and sea trade routes, which extended to the central African interior, Horn of Africa, Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean islands, western India and the Far East ... By gathering images from scarce and little-known collections of early photographs, lithographs, postcards, and private albums, this exhibition focuses attention on a diverse cross-section of the region’s people and their cosmopolitan cities by the sea.’”

ONCOMING EXHIBITIONS (2017)

* **Black Salt.** Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool (29 September 2017 to August 2018). The exhibition will tell the story of Black seafarers working on British ships. Sailors of African descent have been part of crews sailing from the United Kingdom for at least 500 years, but their contribution to the country’s maritime identity is often marginalised. Generations faced not only the challenges of racial discrimination on board ships, but also ashore through government legislation. Based on Dr Ray Costello’s book, *Black Salt, Seafarers of African Descent on British Ships* (Liverpool University Press, 2012) the exhibition shows the significant contribution made by Black seafarers to Britain’s maritime industry, including their role during the World Wars, and the impact of civil rights.



* *Pioneers to Professionals: Women and the Royal Navy*. This is a centenary exhibition to focus on role of women in the Royal Navy National. At the Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth.

ARTS

Billy Budd. Opera North has a new production of *Billy Budd*, starring for the first time a mixed race Billy Budd, Welsh-Jamaican Roderick Williams. Touring UK until 3 December. It's based, of course, on Herman Melville's novel of maritime labour in the 1790s: *Billy Budd, Sailor*, 1924. Gay desire and repressive hierarchy are among its sub-themes. Maritime labour historians could very interestingly read it now alongside texts about the ship as total institution, heterotopia, queer space and liminal zone.

RESEARCH ON THE WEB

Homeward Bound: A Liverpool-West Africa Maritime Heritage. At Liverpool John Moores University: The project is creating an online resource of memories and experiences of the former staff of Elder Dempster Lines (EDL). It is a collaboration between the EDL Pensioners Association, Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Liverpool, together with local history and community groups, the Centre for Port and Maritime History, and the Merseyside Maritime Museum. The major part of the work is the recording of oral history interviews. In collecting and making these memories and experiences publicly accessible the intention is to preserve and promote the rich and diverse heritage of the company and the people who worked for it. It will also enhance public understanding of the interlinked maritime heritage of Liverpool and West Africa. Details of the project are at <http://www.elderdempster.org/heritage.htm>.

***MOST OF THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY OUR COLLEAGUE
JO STANLEY. WE THANK HER VERY MUCH FOR HER DECISIVE
CONTRIBUTION***

***PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT BOOKS, RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES OR ANY SUBJECT THAT MIGHT
BE OF INTEREST FOR THE GROUP. NEW INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED
IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER***

***IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND AN
E-MAIL TO US AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WILL BE DELETED FROM THE
LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.***

Enric Garcia, garciade@telefonica.net
Jordi Ibarz: jordi.ibarz@ub.edu