



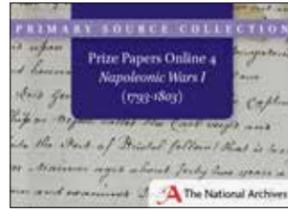
Prize Papers Online 3

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Prize Papers Online 3 contains approximately 4,000 interrogations of members of the crew of ships taken during the First, Second and Third Anglo-Dutch Wars (ca. 1652-1674) and the War of the Spanish Succession (ca. 1701-1733). The Anglo-Dutch Wars (First: 1652-1654; Second: 1665-1667; Third: 1672-1674) were a series of wars fought between the English (later British) and the Dutch in the 17th and 18th centuries for control over the seas and trade routes. The Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780-1784) is part of *PPO 1*.

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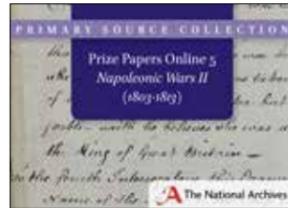
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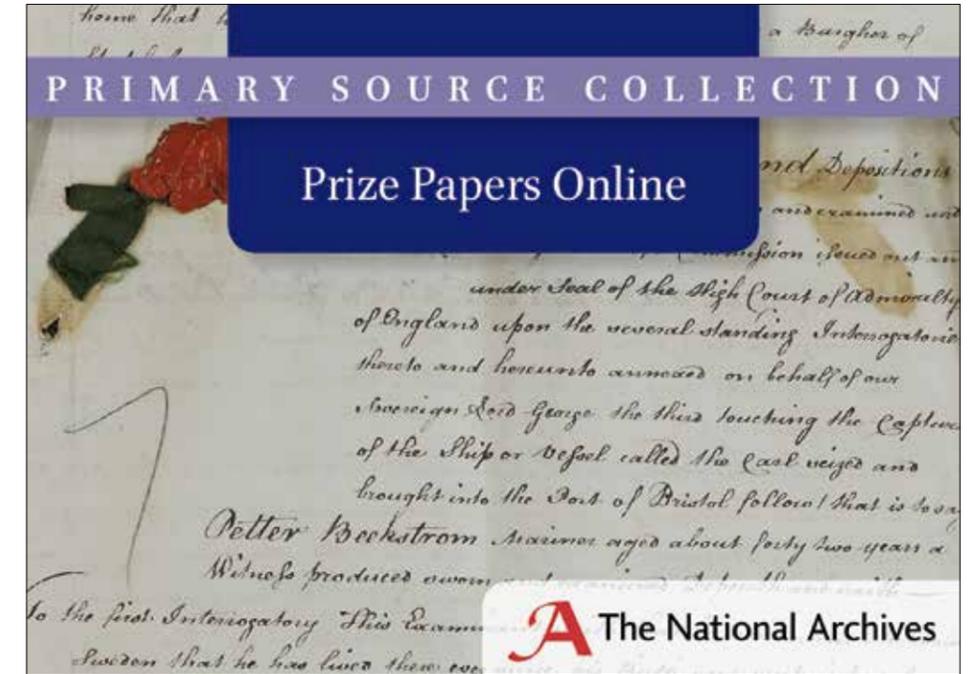
ONLINE

Prize Papers Online

Researching the Maritime Sector in the Early Modern Atlantic

Editorial advisors: **Jelle van Lottum**, University of Birmingham, UK, and **Charles R. Foy**, Eastern Illinois University, USA

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It's hard to underestimate the richness and value of the Prize Papers archive, part of the archive of the High Court of Admiralty, kept in The National Archives in Kew (UK). The British fought many naval wars, and during these wars they seized enemy ships. Documents pertaining to tens of thousands of these seized ships ("prizes") have been preserved.

The Prize Papers are commonly regarded as one of the most valuable archives in the field of maritime history. It is evident though that this huge collection is of interest to social, economic, political and cultural historians too.

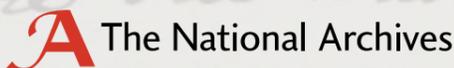
As the Prize Papers are international in nature, they enable comparisons between different maritime nations. Next to cargo lists, journals, booklets, customs papers, bills of lading, private letters etc., all of them

in the language of the ship's origin, every ship's file contains at least one document in English: the interrogations by the Prize Courts of the captain and a number of other crew members of ships taken as lawful prizes. The English authorities enquired about the origin, the route and planned destination, tonnage, freight and crew members, about citizenship, national allegiance, and the personal migration history of the interrogated crew members. The answers were interpreted into English, and written down by professional secretaries. This results in a wealth of information, standardized in its presentation, always in English, and thus accessible to many.

Prize Papers Online offers these interrogations in digital form, enriched with a searchable database with the answers to the fourteen most researched questions transcribed, and authorized names of places.

The National Archives

The National Archives in Kew is the official archive and guardian of some of Great Britain's most iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years. The National Archives' collection of over 11 million historical government and public records is one of the largest in the world. From Domesday Book to modern government papers and digital files, the collection includes paper and parchment, electronic records and websites, photographs, posters, maps, drawings and paintings.



The High Court of Admiralty

Included in the National Archives' collection, is the archives of the High Court of Admiralty (HCA 32). The British fought many naval wars, and during these wars they seized enemy ships. It was the task of the High Court of Admiralty's Prize Court to determine whether the ship seized was a good prize, i.e. whether its seizure was legally justified. Many times privateers would get their proceeds, although there were also cases in which the conquered ship was returned to its owner. To reach a verdict, evidence had to be presented to the Prize Court. Documents pertaining to tens of thousands of these seized ships ("prizes") – Dutch and French, Spanish and Portuguese, but also Danish, Swedish, German, Italian and American – have been preserved and are part of the archives of the High Court of Admiralty.



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Searchable
/Ship tonnage

Searchable
/Name of the prize ship

Searchable
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Studying the Prize Papers in Kew is very labor intensive, and not many researchers are able to make an extensive use of this time-consuming and underutilized source. That is why Brill has digitized the interrogations, and made them available to researchers all over the world, 24/7 accessible on their computers.

Invaluable historic insights

The Prize Papers archive is commonly regarded as one of the most valuable archives in maritime history. It is evident that this huge collection is of interest to maritime historians as well as social, economic, migration, political, and cultural historians.

Highly informative, accessible and standardized content

The English authorities used a set list of questions, the answers were interpreted into English and written down. This results in a wealth of information, standardized in its presentation, always in English, and thus accessible to many. As the Prize Papers are international by nature, they also enable comparisons between maritime nations.

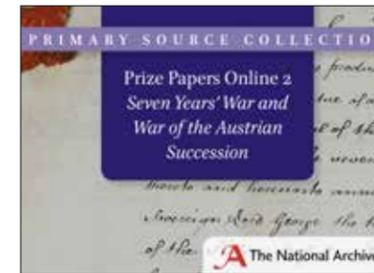
Searchable material

Prize Papers Online provides images of each interrogation (of two, three, sometimes even six or more pages), while the answers to the fourteen most researched questions have been transcribed and stored in a searchable database. These answers include information relating to the interrogated crew member (name, occupation, place of birth and nationality), the seized ship (name of ship, colors under which it sailed, origin and destination, tonnage, cargo and date of seizing), the privateering ship (name of ship and name of master/commander) and the place of interrogation. In addition to this, authorized names of countries and cities have been added to improve search results.

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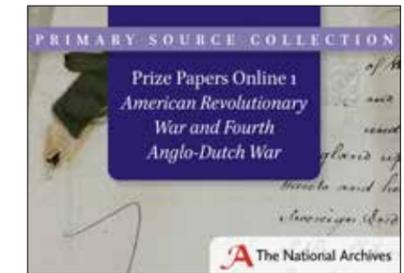


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Prize Papers Online Atlas

Prize Papers Online: Atlas offers the possibility to investigate a **sample** of the *Prize Papers'* interrogations. Providing a wide variety of information about ships and their crews, the interrogations constitute a crucial section of the *Prize Paper Archive*, which gives an unprecedented insight in the workings of the maritime sector during the Age of Sail. The map tool allows you to search the data and create your own maps. The *Prize Papers Online: Atlas* also provides an insight in potential research possibilities. It gives some interesting



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Prize Papers Online 1

American Revolutionary War and Fourth Anglo-Dutch War

Prize Papers Online 1 contains approximately 7,000 interrogations of members of the crew of ships taken during the American Revolutionary War and Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (ca. 1775-1784). The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), began as a war between the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Thirteen Colonies, but gradually grew into a war between Britain on one side and the newly formed United States, France, and its allies the Dutch Republic, and Spain, on the other. The Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780-1784) was a conflict between the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Dutch Republic. The war, tangentially related to the American Revolutionary War, broke out over British and Dutch disagreements on the legality and conduct of Dutch trade with Britain's enemies in that war.

background stories to individuals that can be found in the interrogations and **shows examples of existing research** based on the *Prize Papers*. A selection of high-quality scans of the original interrogations are also shown. The website is based on two databases: *Prize Papers Online* (Brill) and the database created by the ESRC-funded project led by Dr. Jelle van Lottum (University of Birmingham, UK). The data available on *Prize Papers Online: Atlas* covers the period between 1775 and 1783.