



Discussion Papers In Economics And Business

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A Case Study of Higher-Value Probate Inventories**

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Abstract

Anyone studying the eighteenth-century probate inventories of Bristol soon notices that the largest occupation group was mariner. However, as an occupation, mariner is exceedingly difficult to define and understand. The purpose of this paper is to reveal what the job of a mariner was by examining the real lives of wealthy mariners and the people who supported the maritime economy of Bristol in the eighteenth century.

There were many 'wage due' inventories in which the deceased or their family described themselves as mariners. Even though there were 1,486 of these inventories in the BRO for the eighteenth century, there are only 25 mariners' inventories in the higher-value range of more than £50. Because there were no other names of higher-status marine occupations, except captain, the word 'mariner' was used not only by sailors, but also by people with significant personal property, meaning master mariners. Thus, the word 'mariner' covered a very wide of range of social statuses.

From the four case studies of these mariners from probate inventories in Ecclesiastical Cause Papers, we can see their real lives. They all had many goods and chattels, as well as money owing. All the mariners selected in this paper spent their everyday lives surrounded by many consumer goods. Although one was more enthusiastic than the others, all of them were interested in improving their quality of life through consumer items such as tea and kitchenware.

Two inventories included navigation equipment, proof and symbols of a master mariner. The credits show that James Owens had wide range of business, and also Thomas Smith's inventory shows commercial relationships with business partners, indicating that they were not wage workers but wealthy traders.

JEL Classification: N33, N63, N93.

Key words: Probate inventories, Bristol, mariner, eighteenth century, economic history.

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The Life of a Mariner in Eighteenth-Century Bristol: A Case Study of Higher-Value Probate Inventories

The people behind the maritime economy of Bristol

Anyone studying the eighteenth-century probate inventories of Bristol soon notices that the largest occupation group was mariner. However, as an occupation, mariner is exceedingly difficult to define and understand. The purpose of this paper is to reveal what the job of a mariner was by examining the real lives of wealthy mariners and the people who supported the maritime economy of Bristol in the eighteenth century.

Before we show life of mariner of Bristol, it will be useful to discuss maritime economy of Bristol by Patrick McGrath works. His many prominent researches are to reveal the many aspects and realities of Bristol as a port city between the seventeenth and eighteenth century¹. The works of Walter Minchinton also show us the details of trade of Bristol during the eighteenth century².

Recent decades have seen the publication of many works about the maritime economy of Bristol. For example, Evan Jones has examined how merchants maintained their illegal trades by bribing customs officers in the sixteenth century.³ Madge Dresser has shown some new aspects of the slave trade during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; her approach includes not only economic history but also social and cultural factors and how the slave trade affected Bristol society.⁴ Studies about Slave trade by Kenneth Morgan is also suggested why Bristol overtook other English ports as a slaving port in the first half of eighteenth century.⁵

There are also some works that have edited and transcribed original documents from Bristol; for example, Jonathan Harlow has edited the account book of Thomas Speed, a member of the Society of Merchant Ventures in the seventeenth century.⁶ The work of Nicholas Rogers has shed new light on a particularly unclear aspect of Bristol's marine society, namely, impressment.⁷

There is still some uncertainty about the number of men who engaged in maritime work in Bristol, however, despite all this impressive research. Jonathan Press found from Muster Rolls that 2,838 men signed on for voyages from Bristol in 1787.⁸ Marcus

¹ McGrath, P. (1952) *Records Relating to the Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol in the 17th Century*, Bristol Record Society. McGrath, P. (1955) *Merchants and Merchandise in Seventeenth-Century Bristol*, Bristol Record Society. McGrath, P. (1975) *The Merchant Venturers of Bristol: A History of the Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol from its origin to the present day*, The Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol.

² Minchinton, W. E. (1955) *The Trade of Bristol in the Eighteenth Century*, Bristol Record Society.

³ Jones, E. (2012) *Inside the Illicit Economy: Reconstructing the Smugglers' Trade of Sixteenth Century Bristol*, Ashgate.

⁴ Dresser, M. (2001) *Slavery Obscured: The Social History of the Slave Trade in Bristol*, Redcliffe Press Ltd.

⁵ Morgan, K. (2007) *Slavery and the British Empire: From Africa to America*, Oxford University Press.

⁶ Harlow, J. (2011) *The Ledger of Thomas Speed, 1681–1690*, Bristol Record Society's Publication Vol. 63.

⁷ Rogers, N. (2007) *The Press Gang: Naval Impressment and Its Opponents in Georgian Britain*, Continuum.

⁸ Press, J. (1976) *The Merchant Seaman of Bristol 1747–1789*, Bristol Branch of the

Rediker's estimate is that approximately 2,000 sailors lived in the city centre in 1740.⁹

The occupation of 'mariner' is an unclear one. There are many 'wage due' inventories of mariners in Bristol Record Office(BRO). They died during their service at sea on H. M. Ship and these documents were made purpose to serve to safeguard their dependents by the Navy Office¹⁰. As Jonathan Barry has pointed out, 'wage due' inventories of mariners, which mainly recorded only the name, date, wage and name of ship, show 1,486 mariners during the eighteenth century.¹¹ An examination of mariners' probate inventories surviving in the BRO from 1675, of which there are 657, reveals that the highest value is between £10 and £19. There are 614 inventories of between £1 and £9, so about 76% were not high-value inventories.¹² Almost all wage due inventories of mariners were not of a high value, even inventories of mariners who were very wealthy. Moreover, the number of sailors' inventories, including seamen and seafarers, amount to no more than 47 in the BRO, a very small number which suggests that inventories appraised under the name of mariner included a wide range of incomes and social statuses.

One way of investigating and discovering details about mariners is to find a description of a 'master mariner'. In 1775, Sketchley's Bristol Directory recorded 45 mariners.¹³ It is possible that not only the author of the directory but also the individuals recorded regarded themselves as master mariners because this kind of commercial directory mainly selected merchants and traders and never considered the category of seamen and sailors. Matthews's New Bristol Directory for 1793–1794 also recorded 39 mariners.¹⁴ In this directory, mariners were included in the category of 'Merchants, Traders', along with many other trading occupations.¹⁵ Following the research of Rogers, if seamen were listed in a directory, press gangs easily found and impressed them, so the mariners who are mentioned in directories had no fear of impressment and can thus be assumed to be of higher status in Bristol. Some of the descriptions in the directories suggest that the individuals described ran businesses as traders. For example, James Langley in Castle-street was a 'mariner & cheesemonger'.¹⁶ Some examples show how businesses were simultaneously connected to the maritime economy. William Bird in Princess-street was a 'mariner and victualler'¹⁷ and James Strickland in Back-street was a 'victualler and mariner'.¹⁸ The job of victualler, which involved selling liquor to ships and running a tavern, was one of largest occupations in Bristol through the eighteenth century. Edward Long was

Historical Association, p. 11.

⁹ Rediker, M. (1989) *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Merchant Seamen, Pirates and the Anglo-American Maritime World, 1700–1750*, Cambridge University Press, p. 43.

¹⁰ George, E. and S. Guide of the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery of the Diocese of Bristol, xii.

¹¹ Barry, J. 'Introduction' in E. and S. George (2008) *Bristol Probate Inventories Part III: 1690–1804*, Bristol Record Society's Publication Vol. 60, x.

¹² Okabe, Y. (2012) 'Mariners in Bristol in the seventeenth and eighteen centuries: An analysis based on probate inventories', Discussion Papers in Economics And Business, Osaka University.

¹³ Sketchley, J. (1775) *Sketchley's Bristol Directory: Including Clifton, Bedminster, and the Out-Parishes of St. James and St. Philip*, James Sketchley.

¹⁴ Matthews, W. (1793–94) *Matthews's Bristol Directory for the year, 1793–4*, William Matthews.

¹⁵ Matthews, *Matthews's Bristol Directory*, p. 8.

¹⁶ Sketchley, *Sketchley's Bristol Directory*, p. 57.

¹⁷ Sketchley, *Sketchley's Bristol Directory*, p. 8.

¹⁸ Sketchley, *Sketchley's Bristol Directory*, p. 93.

'cooper and mariner'.¹⁹ Coopers, who made and repaired barrels, were also indispensable to any port.

If the description of master mariner can be found in probate inventories, we can easily find out about higher-status mariners. There are only a few specified in the probate inventories of the BRO, but these inventories do refer to captains or master mariners. For example, George Walker's inventory, appraised on May 29, 1772, in the city of Bristol, recorded many goods and credits amounting to around £767.²⁰ His inventory has a long list that includes not only goods and chattels but debts owed to him. As indicated in this long inventory, his status is described as 'Master' of a ship named *Jane*. However, he is a rare example of the higher-value group in probate inventories of the BRO investigated by this paper, which constitutes a small step forward in our understanding of what a mariner was in Bristol.

This paper also investigates as case studies four mariners' inventories from the original manuscripts in the Ecclesiastical Cause Papers in the BRO. These case studies are selected from inventories identical in terms and conditions. They are the most suitable samples for finding out about the living circumstances of high-status mariners and will reveal what kind of people mariners were in terms of their everyday lives.

Distribution of probate inventories in Bristol

There is a survey about probate inventories by Barry, and as he has pointed out, one of the pioneers of research using the probate inventories of Bristol was John Moore. In his two volumes, Moore transcribed 660 inventories from the Bristol rural area.²¹ The work of Carl Estabrook is a typical study that makes effective use of the probate inventories of Bristol.²² His comparative study of urban and rural areas showed how probate inventories could be used for a wide range of research in social and economic history, not only with regard to consumption and material culture, but also the structure of spaces and life in suburbia, for instance. Of course, among the most important works are the publications of Edwin and Stella George, specifically the three volumes of transcription of probate inventories in the BRO and their *Guide*.²³ This *Guide* can be used as a sub-index in addition to the official index of the BRO. The *Guide* shows us the total number of probate inventories in the BRO and also provides quick access to information about each inventory, such as name of the deceased, parish or area, occupation or status, and value.

It is difficult to know for certain all the details of the existing or surviving probate inventories in one area. One reason for this is that the inventories of rich and wealthy people tended to undergo probate in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), the

¹⁹ Sketchley, *Sketchley's Bristol Directory*, p. 60.

²⁰ George, E. and S., with the assistance of Fleming, P. (2008) *Bristol Probate Inventories Part III*, Bristol Record Society's Publication Vol. 60, pp. 195–200.

²¹ Moore, J. (1976) *Goods and Chattels of Our Forefathers: Frampton Cotterell and District Probate Inventories 1539–1804*, Philimore & Co. Ltd. Moore, J. (1981) *Clifton and Westbury Probate Inventories 1609–1761*, Avon Local History Association.

²² Estabrook, C. (1998) *Urbane and Rustic England: Cultural ties and social spheres in the provinces 1660–1780*, Manchester University Press.

²³ E. and S. George, *Bristol Probate Inventories Part III*. George, E. and S. with the assistance of P. Fleming (2005) *Bristol Probate Inventories: 1657–1689*, Bristol Record Society's Publication Vol. 57. George, E. and S. with the assistance of P. Fleming (2002) *Bristol Probate Inventories Part I: 1542–1650*, Bristol Record Society's Publication Vol. 54. George, E. and S. (1988) *Guide to the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery of the Diocese of Bristol (1542–1804)*, Bristol Record Society.

most prestigious probate court in England. If someone had personal property in more than one diocese, he should go through the PCC²⁴, because the Bishop of Bristol would have no jurisdiction in the Diocese of Gloucester. Thus, in order to obtain complete information on the number of inventories for each year, it would be necessary to research not only local records but also the probate records of the PCC in the National Archives. Barry, who recognised the importance of the probate records of the PCC, estimated that 3,370 Bristol inventories survive for the period 1620–1769.²⁵

Moore's recent database of probate inventories from the PCC covered Bristol city parish and related areas, so now it is possible to produce a more accurate distribution than before.²⁶ Figure 1 shows the distribution of probate inventories in Bristol. The total number is 7,430. The oldest inventory in Bristol dates back to 1488. From the 1600s, the number of inventories increased, peaking in the 1630s, although in 1638 the number dropped to zero. Inventory picked up again in 1639, which sees 118 inventories listed, and the numbers continued to increase rapidly. The number dropped to zero yet again in 1645 because the outbreak of the Puritan Revolution required people to probate their inventories in the PCC. Later numbers rose again, reaching a new peak between the 1730s and 1750s. The last inventory was recorded in 1817.

The distribution of mariners' probate inventories shows a different tendency, however. The total number is 1,721. There were only 223 inventories before the eighteenth century, but numbers rapidly increased after 1700. There were 1,452 between 1700 and 1785, with almost all inventories concentrated between 1707 and 1766. One reason for this was the impact of several wars at sea.²⁷ E. and S. George argue that these inventories were made by mariners on H. M. ships of war for the purpose of safeguarding their dependents.²⁸

The distribution reveals something else about the word 'mariner,' however. When compared with the total distribution, mariners' inventories clearly and suddenly emerged only after 1700. Some guides and researchers have pointed out that the description of occupations in probate records were slightly fluid,²⁹ so it can be assumed that, for example, sailors and the families of the deceased assigned the status of mariner themselves. We can see 'mariner' identified as an occupation with the establishment of the guild of mariners in 1445,³⁰ but it is possible that the English word 'mariner' was not commonly used to describe a specific daily occupation before the eighteenth century or that it only came to be used after that period, as evidenced by the distribution. Thus, the occupation of mariner may include a wide range of marine workers, so we need to proceed carefully when investigating the value of inventories. For example, in the eighteenth century, the year 1748 showed the greatest number of inventories (66), of which the lowest value was £4 and highest was £20. Usually, the range of values was not this wide, even when a large number of

²⁴ Scott, M. (1997) *Prerogative Court of Canterbury: Wills and Other Probate Records*, PRO Publications, x.

²⁵ Barry, 'Introduction', in E. and S. George, x.

²⁶ Moore, J. (2013) Bristol Inventories among the Prerogative Court of Canterbury Probate Series in TNA, unpublished.

²⁷ George, E. and S. *Guide of the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery of the Diocese of Bristol*, p. 270.

²⁸ George, E. and S. *Guide of the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery of the Diocese of Bristol*, xii.

²⁹ Grannum, K. and Taylor, N. (2009) *Wills & Probate Records, a Guide for Family Historians*, the National Archives, p. 61.

³⁰ McGrath, P. (1975) *The Merchant Venturers of Bristol*, The Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of Bristol, p. 6.

inventories existed, but then there were also many higher-value inventories, which this paper will discuss later.

Probate inventories in Ecclesiastical Cause Papers

Barry argued for the importance of PCC records,³¹ because richer and wealthy people were probated in the PCC, the most prestigious ecclesiastical court in England. Some higher-value inventories were also probated in each parish and exist there as copies too; for example, the case of James Benjamin, a mariner probated in 1680.³² Almost identical inventories for him were probated in Bristol city parish and the PCC, surviving in both the BRO and PCC records of the National Archives.

Almost all probate inventories in the BRO have been recorded on microfilm, but as E. and S. George have pointed out, only 'distinguished inventories' are included in the Ecclesiastical Cause Papers; there are 67 of them.³³ These inventories are not included on microfilm and only 11 are transcribed and published in the Georges' three volumes. When some inventories were required for proceedings in the consistory court, they remained in the annual collection of Ecclesiastical Cause Papers.³⁴ Many of them are high-value inventories with long lists of goods and chattels, some of them with credits. These inventories are ideal samples to examine the real lives of the wealthier folk in Bristol, like the PCC records. In this paper, we will also investigate as case studies four examples of mariners' original inventories from the Ecclesiastical Cause Papers.

Table 1 is a list of probate inventories in the Ecclesiastical Cause Papers. They were written on approx. 16.5 in. (42 cm) x 13.4 in. (34 cm) sheets of paper placed horizontally, folded to the size of approx. 8.3 in. (21 cm) x 3.1 in. (8 cm). Almost all of them were same size, even if they were probated in different parishes, so the inventories of the Bristol area met the same size standard. There are many guides about probate inventories but very little on what kind of format or standards there were to make them.

Seven inventories of the BRO from the period between 1684 and 1692 could not be examined because of the bad condition of the papers.³⁵ Eleven inventories were transcribed and published in three volumes. The lowest in value is for £2, and the highest is £2,621. Fifty-one inventories are for over £50, 34 inventories are over £100 in value, and four inventories are for over £1,000. It is very rare to find so many high-value probate inventories in one sample group. Thirty-one inventories are preserved with accounts, and eight inventories are accompanied by accounts and wills. A will, inventory and account comprises the complete set of probate records for one person, so these are good examples for the comparison of documents in order to see how the deceased's goods were recorded and divided up amongst heirs and creditors.

Thirty-seven names of occupations are included, and some of them are very rare and interesting jobs, such as teaman³⁶ and lighterman,³⁷ which appear only once each in all the probate inventories of the BRO. There are five victuallers,³⁸ an occupation that had a close relationship with the maritime economy, because not only did

³¹ Barry, 'Introduction', in E. and S. George, x–xii

³² PROB 4/10, TNA. E. and S. George, *Bristol Probate Inventories: 1657–1689*, pp. 113–115.

³³ EP/J/2/1684–1804, BRO.

³⁴ George, E. and S. *Guide of the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery of the Diocese of Bristol*, xv.

³⁵ EP/J/2/1684, EP/J/2/1685, EP/J/2/1786, EP/J/2/1787, EP/J/2/1789, EP/J/2/1792, BRO.

³⁶ EP/J/2/1776, BRO.

³⁷ EP/J/2/1781, BRO.

³⁸ EP/J/2/1762, EP/J/2/1768, EP/J/2/1772, EP/J/2/1773, EP/J/2/1783, BRO.

victuallers provide provisions and beverages for voyages, they also sold liquor to mariners and ran taverns. The jobs of shipwright³⁹ and hooper⁴⁰ were also essential in the port because shipwrights repaired or rigged ships, and hoopers made not only hoops of barrels for the transport of liquids, but made up and breaking down barrels to save the place. It seems that other occupations were not related directly to the maritime economy of Bristol, but 57 inventories came from city parishes and wards, whereas only seven came from rural parishes or areas, and most of the inventories came from commercial occupations, so it is likely these people had some connections with the maritime economy. In inventories from city parishes and wards, three merchants are included. John Duval was a wine merchant;⁴¹ his inventory amounted £2,621, the largest in value of 67 inventories. He appears to have been involved in the wine trade in the port of Bristol. A number of other occupations related to the maritime economy can also be found in the wealthy group; for example, the inventory of Reece Lewis, fishmonger, was appraised at £423, fifteenth largest of 67 inventories. Although Bristol became the second-largest commercial port in Britain in the seventeenth century,⁴² after London, only two fishmonger inventories have survived in the BRO. They are thus valuable samples in helping us find out details about this occupation. The inventory of John Dunn in 1624 was also of a high value, £551, so it seems that they were wealthy traders.

Of the 67 examples, there are seven mariners' inventories.⁴³ Five of these are over £50 and are in the higher-value group of mariners. They have long lists not only of goods and chattels but also credits. Through an analysis of them, we can know the details of the real lives of wealthy mariners in Bristol.

Case studies of high-value mariners' probate inventories

Table 2 lists the mariners' probate inventories valued at over £50 in the eighteenth century in the BRO. There are 25 inventories.

As in the research of Wetherill and Overton, frequency of ownership in probate inventories is often analysed.⁴⁴ Some have opined that probate inventories are unreliable historical documents owing to content inaccuracy. For example, Spufford identifies a number of problems with them, such as omission of goods, unconfirmed numbers and so on.⁴⁵ Even so, many of them include a great variety of information about possession, so they are suitable for case studies. There are no other historical materials that reveal the daily lives of people better than probate inventories; when case studies are selected, however, the process should be done under rigid conditions.

Almost all inventories of mariners in Bristol are 'wage due'; that is, they have no lists of goods and chattels, just recorded wage and name of ship, information provided by the Navy officers. However, almost all examples of over £50 in value have long lists,

³⁹ EP/J/2/1764, BRO.

⁴⁰ EP/J/2/1778, BRO.

⁴¹ EP/J/2/1729, BRO.

⁴² Minchinton, W. 'The port of Bristol in the Eighteenth Century', in McGrath, P. ed., *Bristol in the 18th Century*, David & Charles, 1972, p. 128.

⁴³ EP/J/2/1742, EP/J/2/1751, EP/J/2/1763, EP/J/2/1764, EP/J/2/1772, EP/J/2/1773, EP/J/2/1783, BRO.

⁴⁴ Weatherill, L. (1996) *Consumer Behaviour & Material Culture in Britain 1660–1760*, Routledge. Overton, M., Whittle, J., Dean, D., and Hann, A. (2004) *Production and Consumption in English Households, 1600–1750*, Routledge.

⁴⁵ Spufford, M. (1990) 'The limitations of the probate inventory', in J. Chartres ed., *English Rural Society, 1500–1800: Essays in Honour of Joan Thirsk*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 139–174.

so they are for a different type of mariner to the lower-value mariners who left 'wage due' inventories. Only five mariners' inventories exist in the Ecclesiastical Cause Papers and they were all made in the 18th century. One inventory, that of George Walker, has already been transcribed in E. and S. George. The four remaining inventories—those of James Owen, Stephen Rogers, John Collins and Thomas Smith—are transcribed in this paper and are described as case studies. They have been selected from distinguished inventories of identical terms and conditions, for example, they were picked from the Ecclesiastical Cause Papers and belong to the higher-value group of inventories. They are therefore the most suitable samples to examine the real lives of higher-status mariners.

These four inventories have some common points, but each is unique. A common feature is that they all have long lists. In addition, the initial heading of each inventory is almost the same, indicating that there were some standards or format for probate documents. In terms of their differences, it was usual for probate inventories to be appraised by rooms and places, but three of these inventories appraised the goods in simple order. Only James Owens's inventory followed the norm. The simple order style was not common in eighteenth-century inventories. Below I will describe each case study and comment on them.

1. Probate inventory of James Owens, 1763

In James Owens's case, his inventory was appraised in 1763.⁴⁶ This inventory has provision for charge and discharge and was made carefully and accurately. It should be noted that it is difficult to discern the actual structure of houses from probate inventories, because there were not many goods in rooms, so appraisers did not record rooms in some cases.⁴⁷ Nine rooms are recorded in this case, however, so we can infer that Owens had an imposing house.

The inventory provides not just a list of goods but also identifies some as damaged, such as broken chairs and tables, evidence that the appraiser was trying to provide accurate information. Like other probate inventories in England, bedclothes are elaborately appraised. For the back room on the second floor, an old bedstead, an old Flock bed and a bolster with rug and blanket are recorded. Five pairs of linen sheets are also recorded, so it seems that sleeping conditions were an important feature of daily life for English people in the eighteenth century.

The 'Fore room First Story' was well decorated, with many high-quality consumer goods. It contained a feather bed on the bedstead, blue furniture, and two pillows. Around an oak table, there were eight wooden bottomed chairs. Looking glasses, which are to say, mirrors, were for the purpose of checking one's appearance, which means that the appraiser recognised that Owens's family was fashionable. There was a stove grate and brass fender in front of the fireplace and an eight-day clock on top of it. There were four old pictures, drinking utensils made of various materials, such as china, brass, delft, copper and pewter. We know that Owens or his family loved to drink coffee using these wares, because they had coffee mill.

In the 'fore Kitchen', only a few cooking utensils are appraised even in this large house. This is not unusual because until the mid-19th century, open-fire roasting was common for cooking and the kitchen was not separated from other rooms,⁴⁸ so there is

⁴⁶ EP/J/2/1763, BRO.

⁴⁷ Moore, *Clifton and Westbury Probate Inventories 1609–1761*, xv. Moore, *Goods and Chattels of Our Forefathers*, p. 2.

⁴⁸ Eveleigh., D (1990–91) 'Put Down to a Clear Bright Fire': The English Tradition of Open-fire Roasting, W. S. Maney & Sons, Limited (Reprinted from *Folk Life*, Vol. 29, 1990–91), p. 6.

the possibility that sometimes rooms with fireplaces were identified as kitchens by appraisers, and sometimes cooking utensils and wares were appraised in other rooms.

Owens's inventory was fifth highest of the 25 higher-value inventories, because he had money due from 45 people in addition many personal belongings. This is one of the longest lists of debtors in ECP. It suggests they were clients or trade partners, and his business had broad connections.

Generally, the category of 'the Discharged' in accounts also includes a lot of information about the deceased.⁴⁹ After funeral items, there are some bills to be paid to a doctor, shoemaker, barber, baker and malster. Some taxes are also recorded, such as a window tax, and 'watch money' and 'water money' are listed, charges for public services of some description. Owens paid six shilling six pennies in window tax, not a high amount, but his house was large, which suggests the blocked some windows to avoid having to pay tax on them.

2. Probate inventories of Stephen Rogers, 1764

In Stephen Rogers's case, his inventory was appraised in 1764.⁵⁰ The value was around £74, a quarter of the value of Owens's, but this inventory was appraised in 1764, the year after Owens's, so it provides a useful comparison.

Damaged goods, such as an old broken table and a mahogany desk, are recorded, so it seems that this appraiser also intended to make the inventory as accurate as possible. We cannot see generate much of an idea about Rogers's house because his property was not appraised by room but in simple order. Although it is of a lower value than Owens's, just as many daily necessities and consumer goods are appraised in it; even the details of the bed and bedclothes are recorded, as in Owens's case. An eight-day clock, appraised at £4 14s 6d, is more expensive than Owens's, because of its japanned case.

It is clear that Rogers's house was well decorated by many kinds of plates and cups made from many materials, such as pewter and china. Perhaps the tea chest and painted sugar canister were placed on the japanned tea board or mahogany tea board, a luxurious combination. Beside them, the brass and iron candlesticks might have been placed. The oval table was covered by the tablecloths for tea taken in one of six china cups and saucers. Six prints framed and glazed were hung on the walls, and curtains were hung over the windows. It looks like Rogers had the habit of taking snuff. He spent his daily life surrounded by many consumer items and he preferred a very well decorated house. Even though the value of his inventory was lower than Owens's he still enjoyed a high quality of life.

Some mariners' inventories recorded navigation equipment, such as the compass and quadrant listed here, but they do not appear in many, and never in those of lower value, so we can infer that these instruments are proof and symbolic of a master mariner like Rogers.

This inventory also has a good deal of information in the 'discharged' category. The sum of fees for the appraiser was ten shillings. Rogers did not own his house because his wife, Elizabeth Rogers, paid £5 for rent due for the deceased's dwelling house. A further £6 6s were paid to a mariner named Richard Stephens as wages and 11s to another mariner named Joseph Hone. In Hone's case, there is no mention of a wage, so it is possible that some kind of bill was overdue, but the mention of wages for Stephens also proves Rogers's master mariner status, as someone able to hire other 'mariners'.

⁴⁹ For example; Erickson, A. 'Using Probate Accounts', in Arkell, T., Evans, N., and Goose, N., eds., *When Death Do Us Part*.

⁵⁰ EP/J/2/1764, BRO.

3. Probate inventories of John Collins, 1783

In John Collins's case, his inventory was appraised in 1783⁵¹ and valued at around £66. It was appraised in simple order, like Rogers's above. For the most part, it was the deceased's personal belongings that were appraised, ranging from bedclothes to kitchen wares.

Though Collins's inventory is only £8 lower in value than Rogers's, it suggests a modest life style. Collins's inventory is composed of simple items, almost all of them daily necessities. However, he did possess kitchenware made from various materials, such as china, glass and tin. At first sight, his daily life looks humble, but he or his family must have had some interest in quality of life in order to have had such wares.

4. Probate inventories of Thomas Smith, 1773

In Thomas Smith's case, his inventory was appraised in 1773⁵² and valued at around £57. It was also appraised in simple order.

Smith's case is unique, not only as a mariner's inventory but because it enables us to see his stylish daily life. It is clear that Smith was a sophisticated, fashionable man. He had six coats, six waistcoats and more than ten pairs of breeches. His coats were brown and yellow colour, and his breeches were white and black. He also owned four pairs of 'White Dimmety Breeches'.⁵³ Jackets were more varied in colour: blue, green and red. It seems that Smith had a liking for striped clothes, because he had four pairs of striped trousers and two checked shirts. He also had 26 handkerchiefs.

After bedclothes, which are detailed according to their materials, many silver goods were appraised. Three different kinds of buckle were recorded. Two pairs of silver shoe buckles are mentioned and a pair of stone knee buckles, set in silver, as well as a decorative breast buckle. Smith's fashionable attire shows that he was not an ordinary sailor or seaman but a wealthy mariner.

Before the detailed list of apparels, the name of the appraiser, David Cherry, appears, as does the information 'Plate and Ivory appraised by Thomas Wigan'. In probate inventories, cases may be appraised by more than one person, including a professional. Two professionals helped to make this inventory, meaning it was more carefully done than others.

Some records show the details of Smith's business. The 'neat proceed (net profit) of Twenty Six Elephant's Teeth', belonged 'in partnership with W. Simons'. There was also recorded 'a Balance due to Thomas Smith from the Owners of the Ship 'Betsey''. These information suggest Smith had a direct trade to west Africa.

This inventory also recorded navigation equipment, evidence of Smith's status as a master mariner. It even has the detail that he possessed a Hadley's Quadrant, invented in 1731.

Conclusion

Although 'mariner' was a very common word around ports and harbours, the real image of mariners has been ambiguous. Probate inventories in Bristol are one of the best historical materials to find out details about mariners, not just because huge numbers survived, but also because they contain a large amount of information.

⁵¹ EP/J/2/1783, BRO.

⁵² EP/J/2/1773, BRO.

⁵³ Dimmety, or dimmity, is the same as dimity or dimoth: 'stout cotton cloth with raised stripes and fancy figures, used mainly for hanging and bed curtains'. Milward, R. A *Glossary of Household, Farming and Trade Terms from Probate Inventories*, Derbyshire Record Society Occasional Paper No. 1, p. 21.

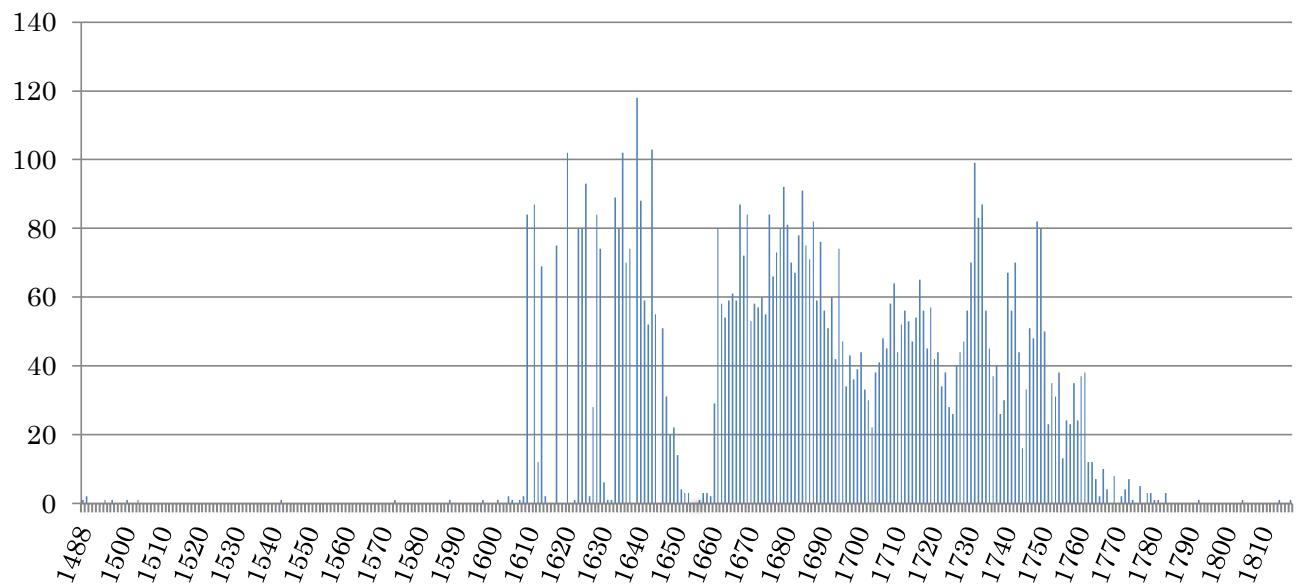
There were many ‘wage due’ inventories in which the deceased or their family described themselves as mariners. Even though there were 1,486 of these inventories in the BRO for the eighteenth century, there are only 25 mariners’ inventories in the higher-value range of more than £50. Because there were no other names of higher-status marine occupations, except captain,⁵⁴ the word ‘mariner’ was used not only by sailors, but also by people with significant personal property, meaning master mariners. Thus, the word ‘mariner’ covered a very wide range of social statuses.

Those named in Table 2 were mariners who had significant personal property and high status. From the four case studies of these mariners from probate inventories in Ecclesiastical Cause Papers, we can see their real lives. They all had many goods and chattels, as well as money owing. Two inventories included navigation equipment, proof and symbols of a master mariner. The credits show that James Owens had wide range of business, and also Thomas Smith’s inventory shows commercial relationships with business partners, indicating that they were not wage workers but wealthy traders.

All the mariners selected in this paper spent their everyday lives surrounded by many consumer goods. Although one was more enthusiastic than the others, all of them were interested in improving their quality of life through consumer items such as tea and kitchenware. Thomas Smith must have been one of the local fashion leaders around Bristol, one of the most flourishing ports in the eighteenth century.

⁵⁴ Okabe, ‘Mariners in Bristol in the seventeenth and eighteen centuries’, p. 10.

FIGURE I
Distribution of Probate Inventories in Bristol

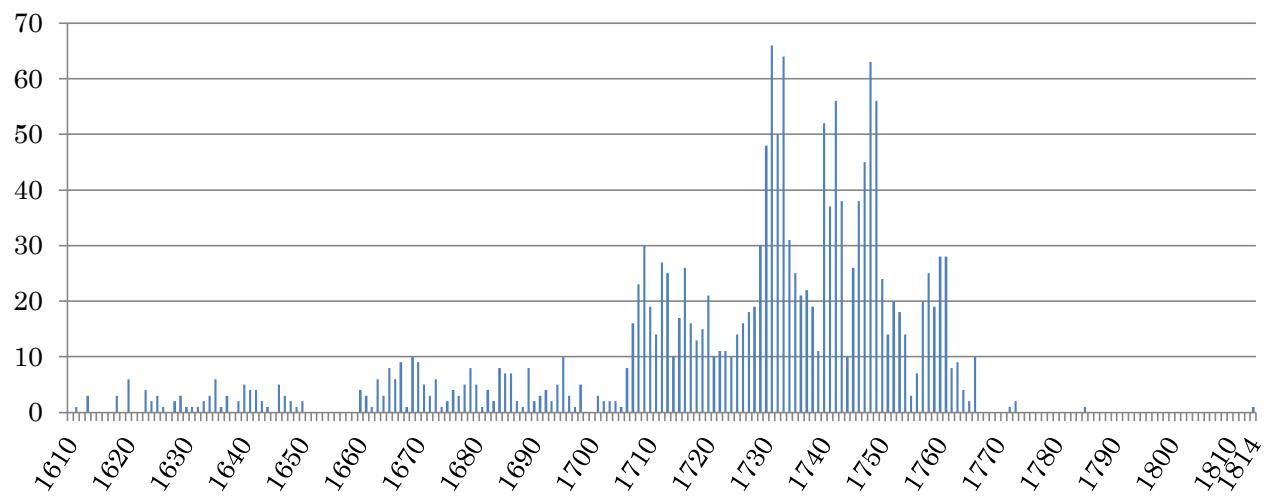


Source: E. and S. George, *Guide to the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery*.

Moore, Bristol Inventories among the Prerogative Court of Canterbury
Probate Series in TNA, unpublished.

FIGURE II

Distribution of Mariners' Probate Inventories



Source: E. and S. George, *Guide to the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery*.

Moore, Bristol Inventories among the Prerogative Court of Canterbury
Probate Series in TNA, unpublished

Table I
Probate Inventories in Ecclesiastical Cause Papers

Year	Name	Occupation	Parish	Value	Note
1684	Stoakes, George		St. Stephen	223	account only
1685	Gagg, John	Soapmaker	CB	50	inv. & account and compare 1680/25
1685	Thomas, Mellinie	Widow	CB	33	account only
1686	Jackson Elizabeth	Widow	St. Augustine	466	acct: will 1681 inv. 1682/24
1687	Brittaine, Thomas		CB	21	account only
1689	Cumberpatch, John	Horner		666	account only
1692	Wedmore, William	Butcher	CB	52	acct; will 1688 inv. 1688/50
1694	Wright, John	Merchant	CB	9	inv. & account
1695	Rocke, Richard	Cordwainer	CB	56	
1695	Webmore, William	Butcher	CB	52	
1728	Brown, Thomas	Hosier		354	
1729	Duval, John	Wine-merchant	CB	2621	
1730	Edwards, Joan	Widow	Henbury	538	
1731	Bennett, Mary	Widow		478	also 2nd copy
1741	Johns, Walter	Tailor	St. James	27	
1742	Deplant, John	Mariner	CB	10	Duplant, in will
1748	Lloyd Sarah		13 Mangotsfiel (Downend)	290	inv. & account

1748	Neady, Margaret	Widow	CB	2	inv. & account
1751	Windburn, Close	Mariner	CB	6	
1762	Milsome, Jacob	Victualler	Temple	88	inv. & account
1762	Nutt, Thomas	Butcher	SS. Philip & Jacob	43	inv. & account
1763	Owen, James	Mariner	CB	281	
1763	Putham, Mary	Widow	CB	747	inv. & account
1764	Crane Edward	Coarch-painter	CB	692	inv. & account
1764	Maggs, John	Butcher	St. Nicholas	83	inv. & account
1764	Matthews, Thomas and Jane	Shipwright	St. Mary Redcliffe	43	inv. & account will 1757
1764	Rogers, Stephen	Mariner	St. Stephen	74	inv. & account
1766	Bolt, Thomas	Sexon	St. Augustine	327	inv. & account
1767	Phipps, Abraham	Coal-miner	St. George	26	widow's will
1767	Rudge, John	Presser & Packer	CB	56	
1768	Bastable, Nancy	Widow	CB	169	
1768	Gerrish, Charles	Basket-maker	CB	114	inv. & account
1768	Hewett, John	Victualler	Alveston	359	
1768	Hopkins, Peter	Hatter	Christchurch	17	inv. & account will 1762
1768	Huish, James	Tobacconist	St. Mary Redcliffe	470	inv. & account
1768	Seabrook,	Silversmith	CB	17	inv. & account

	James				
1768	Touffi, William	Millwright	SS. Philip & Jacob	265	
1771	Sherman, Thomas	Yeoman	Stapleton	4	inv. & account
1772	Walker, George	Mariner (Master)	St. Mary Redcliffe	767	inv. & account
1772	Waters, James	Millwright	St. George (Glos)	179	
1772	Westcott, Samuel	Collar-maker	CB	41	inv. & account
1772	Wright, Thomas	Victualler	SS. Philip & Jacob	87	inv. & account 1760 will 1760
1773	Badger, Daniel	Tailor	CB	44	
1773	Foot, Hannah	Victualler	CB	242	inv. & account
1773	Jayne, Ann	Widow	Henbury	144	inv. & account
1773	Moxham, Thomas	Grocer	SS. Philip & Jacob	34	inv. & account will 1768
1773	Porter, Ann	Widow	Abbot's Leigh	143	
1773	Shepherd, Joseph	Saddler	CB	230	inv. & account will 1770
1773	Smith, Thomas	Mariner	St. Augustine	57	inv. & account
1774	Lewis, Reece	Fishmonger	CB	423	
1776	Smith, Samuel & Mary		CB	1718	Mary's will 1775
1776	Cadell, Philip	Teaman	CB	123	inv. & account
1776	Dando, Edward	Yeoman	Winterbourne(Whatley's End)	351	
1776	Deere, John	Inn-holder	St. Michael	71	

1776	Jones, Thomas	Schoolmaster	St. James	111	inv. & account will 1770
1778	Deverell, John	Millwright	CB	67	inv. & account
1778	Jenlins, Thomas	Hooper	CB	677	account only will 1769
1778	Poole, William	Malster	SS. Philip & Jacob	1447	inv. & account
1779	Clarke, Susannah	Widow	CB	68	
1779	Keate, Benjamin	Carpenter	CB	305	account only
1779	Morgan, William	Corn-factor	CB	518	account only
1780	James, John	Butter merchant	CB	257	inv. & account
1781	Pell, John	Lighterman	Castle Precinct		no goods to hand'
1783	Collins, John	Mariner	CB	66	also 2nd copy
1783	Jacques, Francis	Baker	CB	1250	inv. & account will 1779
1783	Saunders, John	Victualler	CB	97	inv. & account
1804	Ring, Joseph	Potter	Temple	887	inv. & account

Source: E. and S. George, *Guide to the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery*.

EP/J/2/1695, 1706, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1737, 1741, 1742, 1748, 1751, 1752,
1762, 1763, 1764, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1776, 1778,
1779, 1780, 1781, 1783, 1804,

TABLE II
Mariners Valued at Over £50 in Probate Inventories

	Name	Parish or area	Year	Value
1	Payne, Timothy	C.B.	1707	£975
2	Walker, George	St. Mary Redcliffe	1772	£767
3	Pinny, Alexander	C.B.	1707	£524
4	King, Samuel	C.B.	1713	£421
5	Owen, James	C.B.	1763	£281
6	Weaver, John	C.B.	1725	£209
7	White, John	C.B.	1717	£207
8	Edwards, Joshua	C.B.	1717	£171
9	Mercer, Alexander	S S Philip & Jacob	1714	£143
10	Seaborne, Nicholas	C.B.	1725	£125
11	Shawe, George	C.B.	1711	£117
12	Paine, Timothy	C.B.	1710	£92
13	Taylor, Thomas	C.B.	1711	£79
14	Rogers, Stephen	St. Stephen	1764	£74
15	Campbell, Patrick	C.B.	1751	£71
16	Tregoe, James	C.B.	1703	£69
17	Lewis, George	C.B.	1704	£64
18	Collins, John	C.B.	1783	£66
19	Saunders, Abraham	Westbury on Trym	1710	£66
20	Cross, William	Westbury on Trym	1729	£63
21	Roberts, Issac	C.B.	1714	£59
22	Smith, Thomas	St. Augustine	1773	£57
23	Finlay, John	C.B.	1764	£53
24	Hearne, George	C.B.	1702	£52
25	Tombes, Daniel	C.B.	1742	£50

Source: E. and S. George (1988) *Guide to the Probate Inventories of the Bristol Deanery*.

Note: C.B. denotes 'City of Bristol'.

Probate Inventories of Mariners in Ecclesiastical Cause Papers

1) Owens, James. Mariner. City of Bristol. 1763

A true and perfect Inventory of all and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of James Owens late of the City and Diocese of Bristol Mariner deceased which since his Death have come to the Hand Possession or Knowledge of Betty Owens his Widow Relict and Administratrix (now the Wife of William Matcott of the same City Mariner) as followeth and by her exhibited into the Registry of the Episcopal Court of Bristol this

Twenty Sixth day of May One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Three

These Household Goods hereinafter mentioned were taken valued and appraised by James Pearse and Edward Savage at the several Rates and prices following (to wit)

In the fore Garrett

	£	s	d
Three old rush bottom Chairs	0	0	2

In back Garrett

One old Bed and Bedstead worth	0	0	0
--------------------------------	---	---	---

In the back Room 2d Story

One old Bedstead with old Yellow furniture	0	10	0
One old Flock bed, one Bolster, one Rugg, one Blankett, & two old Sheets	0	12	6
Five old broken Chairs	0	1	0
To one old broken Table	0	1	0
One small looking Glass	0	1	6

Fore room 2d Story

One Bedstead with Green furniture	2	} 0	0
One Feather Bed Bolster, one Rugg, & 2 Blankets	2		0
One Bedstead with Yellow Furniture	2	} 0	0
One Feather Bed Bolster, one Rugg, 2 Old Blanketts, and 2 old Sheets	2		0
Eight broken Chairs	0	1	0
One Iron Grate	0	3	6

One old dressing Table	0	0	6
One small looking Glass	0	5	0
	carried	£5 :	16 : 2
	over		
		5:	16: 2
		Brought over	

Fore room First Story

One Bedstead with Blue furniture, One			
Feather Bed, One bolster, Two pillows, One	3	10	0
Pair of old Sheets, One pair of Blanketts, and one old Quilt			
Two old oak Tables	0	15	0
One round Oak Table	0	2	0
One old base of Drawers	0	5	0
Eight old Wooden-bottom Chairs	0	8	0
One two-armed Chair	0	1	6
Two old-fashioned looking Glasses	1	1	0
One old Eight-day Clock	2	0	0
One Stove Grate, one Brass Fender,			
and one Iron Tongs	1	1	0
Four old Pictures	0	1	0
One China Bowl	0	1	6
A parcell of delft ware and some			
broken Glasses	0	2	6
Six old brass Candlesticks (different sorts)	0	4	6
One old Copper Coffee pot one Copper pott and one Cover	0	2	6
One old warming pan full of Holes	0	0	6
Ten pewter dishes wt. 28 Lb.	0	15	0
Eighteen Pewter old plates	0	10	0

In the middle Room one Story

One large deal Chest	0	5	0
One small Chest	0	2	6

One old Bedstead, one old flock Bed, one pillow, Two old Sheets, Two old Quilts	0	10	0
--	---	----	---

Linnen

Three pair of Sheets	1	2	6
Two pair of old Sheets	0	10	0
Six old Table Cloths	0	15	0
Six pillow Cases	0	6	0
Four Napkins	0	6	0
Cloths & wearing apparel			
One Suit of brown Cloths	1	10	0
	£22	4	2

Carried over

22: 4: 2

Brought over

Two old Coats Four Waiscoats, One pair of old Breeches	0	10	0
--	---	----	---

Fore Kitchen

Two old Settles	0	4	0
One old deal Table	0	2	0
Five reed-bottom Chairs	0	3	6
One Iron Grate Slice Poker & Tongs	0	8	0

Little Fore Room

One old Coffee mill	0	0	9
One Oak Oval Table	0	2	6
Four wooden bottom Chairs	0	5	0
Six old prints	0	1	6

Little Back Room

Two old Tables & Five old rotten Chairs	0	2	0
Three Copper Potts, one Kettle, and Two old Saucepans	0	7	6
One old frying pan, one old Gridiron, one Iron Stand and one old Tin dripping Pan	0	2	6
Three Coolers	1	1	0

1 Meshing Tub	0	15	0
One long deal Table	0	7	6
One old Iron Grate	0	4	0
One deal Press	0	2	6
Nine Beer Barrels	2	14	0
Three Kilderkins	0	12	0
Twelve old Tubs	1	4	0
One Cooler	0	5	0
Sundry old Things in the Cellar	0	10	0
Plate wt 84 03: 1/2 @ 5 ^s /	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
	£53:	10:	11

Elizabeth Matcott

An Account of Moneys received for Goods sold and delivered and also for sundry Debts due to the said deceased at the time of his Death from the several Persons hereafter mentioned (to wit)

recd of John Teatt	10	5	0
recd of Mr. Quinell	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
	£15:	10:	0

carried over

15: 10: 0

Brt over

Recd of Mr Hoben 3 3 0

The Stock of Ale in the Cellar 12 Barrells, being in the Summer
made

little of it some was sold for Three half pence the Quart

and of great deal of it made nothing 5 0 0

£23: 13: 0

Debts due and owing from the several persons hereunder mentioned which this
Exhibitant believes to be desperate therefore the protests against been charged with the

same or any part thereof until she shall receive the same (to wit)

From Joseph Holmes	3	17	4
From William Wittey	3	6	10
From John Howlder	4	8	7
From Luke Dwyer	3	16	5
From Mr. Faguson	0	9	1
From David Commings	3	2	10
From Adam Anderson	1	10	0
From Hugh Logan	0	9	0
From Mr. Maxam	1	8	4 1/2
From William Scott	0	9	3
From Griffy Smith	0	6	8 1/2
From John Morris	0	13	6
From John Jenkins	2	7	7 1/2
From Michael Whelin	3	11	10
From John Deneson by the Ball of the accounts	1	11	7 1/2
From Mr. Rowe	4	4	4
From Mr. Kelly	2	11	6
From Mark Cross	0	10	5
From Mrs. Walton	1	16	2
From Luke Dwyer	15	13	2
From Mr. Pope	7	9	11 1/2
From George Elliott	2	9	10 1/2
From Mrs. Smith	3	13	1
From Richard Mayler	31	7	11
From Nicholas Harry	11	12	7 1/2
	£112:	18:	0 1/2

carried over

112: 18: 0 1/2

Brt over

From John Millard	6	14	10
From Edward Bryan	4	18	9 1/2
From John Price	8	19	6
From Mr. Tolbot	13	12	7 1/2
From Captain Doyle	12	4	1 1/2
From Mrs. Walton's Maid	2	1	0
From Mrs. Peacock	1	16	0
From Timothy Kenedy	2	2	0 1/2
From Jonathan Kenedy	2	18	6
From Mr. Brown a Chairman	8	14	6
From Mr. Collins	0	17	2
From Mr. French	0	11	4 1/2
From Mr. Cox	1	16	3
From Mr. Robason	14	7	9
From Doctor Neil	2	6	6
From William Manstone	0	9	7
From John Brea	0	5	0
From Robert Preist	0	5	0
From John Handley	1	13	1
From Charles Smith	4	5	6 1/2
	<hr/>		
	£203:	17:	2 1/2

The Charge

This Accountant chargeth herself with
 the several Articles set forth in the fore
 going Inventory amounting to the Sum of
 Fifty-Three pounds, Ten Shillings, & Eleven pence

Also with the debts & reced amounting
 to the Sum of Twenty Three pounds
 Thirteen Shillings

The Discharge

This accountant craveth an allowance for

the several Sums of Money by her paid laid out and expended in and about the Funeral of the said deceased and otherwise touching her Administratorship as followeth (to wit)

To the dec[eas]ed's Coffin and Shroud	4	10	0
To the Glover and for Cloaks	1	18	0
To Crape and Ribbond	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1 1/2</u>
	carried over	£8:	0: 1 1/2
		Brt. over	8: 0: 1 1/2
To Wine	0	10	0
To Expences in laying the deced out	0	10	0
To the deced's Burial	1	0	10
To the Doctor's Bill	0	3	3
To the Shoemaker's Bill	1	7	5
To a lump of Sugar	1	0	5
To Water Money	0	7	6
To the Excise as p receipt	3	2	0
To the Barber's Bill	0	3	0
To the Lamps and Scavenger	0	12	1
To white limeing the House	0	7	8
To nursing a Child before the Death			
of the said James Owens	1	6	0
To half a Year's Watch Money	0	3	7
To half a Year's Window Tax	0	6	6
To the Baker's Bill	0	9	6
To Three Quarter's Rent of the			
House when he died	16	10	0
To Three Quarter's Bridge Money	0	9	9
To Two Barrells of Syder (<i>Cider</i>)	4	15	0
To the Malster's Bill	<u>34</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
	£75:	4:	7 1/2

Item this accountant craveth an allowance
of the sum of Eighteen Shill[ings] by her paid for
taking out Letters of Administration to the
Effects of they said deceased and the Sum of
One Pound Two shillings for drawing Ingrossing and
exhibiting this Inventory and account and
other necessary Charges relating thereto 2: 0: 0

This accountant also saith That there are sundry Debts now due and owing from the Estate of the deceased which still remain unsatisfied.

Particularly to Luke Ladd for Money lent the deced 70 0 0
Elizabeth Matcott.

2) Rogers, Stephen. Mariner. St. Stephen. 1764

A true and perfect Inventory of all and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credits
of Stephen Rogers late of the City and Diocese of Bristol Mariner deceased which since
his Death have come to the Hands Possession or Knowledge of Elizabeth Rogers
Widow Administratrix of all and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said
deceased taken and appraised the Twenty Fourth Day of February in the Year of our
Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty four as followeth (to witt)

First	The deceased's Wearing Apparel of all sorts	~	3	12
Also	Ready Money in the Deceased's House at the Time of		23	19
	his Death			
Also	His Silver Plate (to witt)			
	One milk Jug Five Tea Spoons One pair of Buckles One			
	Old Watch and			
	One pair of Sleeve Buttons	2	14	~
Also	The deceased's Household Goods (to witt)			
	One Broken Mahogany Desk	1	10	~

	Six Prints framed and glazed	~	3	~
	One Cloaths Horse	~	1	~
	One Bedstead with Blue Furniture	1	2	~
	One Bed Bolster Two Pillows and a Pillow	1	10	~
Case				
	Two Blanketts and One Quilt	~	16	~
	One Bed and Two Pillows	1	5	~
	One small Quilt and Rug	~	6	~
	One small Oak Desk	~	10	6
	Six Wallnut Chairs and an Arm Chair	1	11	6
	One Sea Bed One Pillow One Small Quilt and	~	9	~
Coverlid				
	One Oak Pillar Table	~	5	~
	An Eight Day Clock Jappan Case	4	14	6
	One Stove Grate	~	17	~
	One Sconce Looking Glass		1	1
	An oaks Desk Bedstead	~	16	~
	One Feather Bed and Bolster	~	18	~
	One Rug Two Blankets and a very Old Blanket	~	10	~
An Old Corner Cupboard		~	4	6
Four Curtains Valions Head Teaster and a small red Check				
Window				
Curtain		1	5	~
	Carried	£50:	6:	0
	forwards			
Brt. forwards		50:	6:	0
One Bed and Bolster		2	2	~
Mahogany Tea Board and Tea Chest		~	5	~
Two Looking Glasses		~	6	~
One Old broken Table		~	~	6
One Brass Fender One Pestle and Mortar and One Warming	~	10	6	
Pan				

One Iron Box and Iron Fender	~	3	~
One pair of Bellows	~	1	~
Three Pewter Dishes and Eleven Pewter Plates	~	11	8
Three Brass and One Iron Candlestick	~	1	8
An Oval Table	~	5	~
Twelve Wooden Chairs	1	4	~
Three Rush Bottom Chairs	~	1	6
Three Pair of Tongs a Poker and Shovel	~	2	6
Two Tea Kettles	~	4	6
A Tin Candle Box one Tin Oven and one Dripping Pan	~	1	3
Six Prints framd and glazd	~	6	~
Seven Blue and White China Plates	~	5	~
One small plaid Window Curtain	~	1	~
Six China Cups and Saucers some broke and some whole	~	2	~
One Tea Chest and painted Sugar Canister	~	3	6
An Old Jappan Tea Board	~	~	6
One China Bowl and one China Bowl crackt	~	4	~
Eight Sheets	~	16	~
Four Pillow Cases	~	1	4
Three Old Table Cloths	~	3	~
One Paper Snuff Box	~	1	~

Also The Deceased's Books (to witt)

Ten Books a Mariners Compass and a Quadrant	~	7	6
Also A parcel of Salt Beef	8	~	~
Also Due to the deceased on Account of Freight	7	~	~
Also The deceased's One Eighth Share of a Vessell called the Union but			
the Value of the deceased's said Share She this Exhibitant	~	~	~
cannot			
speak to			

£73 16 11

Total

The Full and true Account of the above Named Elizabeth Rogers as well of her Receipts as of her Payments Disbursements to and other Necessary Expences which she hath made disbursed and been at by reason of her being Administratrix as aforesaid followeth (to witt)

The Charge

This Accountant Chargeth herself with the severall Articles
sett forth in the foregoing Inventory (Except the last Article
thereof
being the deceased's Share of the Ship Union) Amounting to 73 16 11
the sum of

The Discharge

This Accountant Craveth an Allowance of the Several Sums of
Money by her paid laid out and Expended in and about the
Funeral
of the said Deceased and for Debts by him owing at his Decease
and otherwise touching her Administratorship as followeth (to
witt)

This Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of Seven
Pounds

Twelve Shillings and Ten Pence so much being paid by her for
the

Expences of the deceased's Funeral 7 12 10

Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of Two
Pounds

Three Shillings and Eight Pence so much being paid by her for
the

Charges of the Administration 2 3 8

Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of Ten
Shillings as much being paid by her to John Waleam for
Appraising

the deceased's Goods	~	10	~
Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of Five Pounds so			
much being paid by her to William Gordon for Rent due for the deceased's	5	~	~
Dwelling House			
Also this Accountant Craves an Allowance of the Sum of One Pound			
Twelve Shillings and Six pence so much being paid by her to Nathan Hall Taylor	1	12	6
Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of Six Pounds Six			
Shillings so much being paid by her to Richard Stephens Mariner for Wages	6	6	~
Also this Accountant craves and Allowance of the Sum of Two Pounds			
five Shillings so much being paid by her Capt[ain] Bonnel for Dues to Mr. Mayor	2	5	~
Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of One Pounds Eight			
Shillings so much being paid by her for Piloting the deceased Vessel to Bristol	1	8	~
Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of ~ Fourteen Shillings and Eight Pence so much being paid by her to Joseph Short Cordwainer	~	14	8
Also this Accountant craves an Allowance of the Sum of One Pound			
Eleven Shillings so much being paid by her to Joseph Hone Mariner	1	11	~

Sworn	in	court	this	Total £29	3	8
<i>Eliz Rogers</i>						

28th day of July 1764

Before us

J. Camplin Sur Witness

Jer Osborne

3) Collins, John. Mariner. City of Bristol. 1783

A true and perfect inventory of all and singular the Goods
chattles

and Credits which have come to the Hands Possession or Knowledge of William Bundy
of the City and Diocese of Bristol Sailmaker as Administrator of John Collins late of the
said city of Bristol Mariner deceased during the Minority of John Bundy Collins son of
the said John Collins as follows (that is to say) -

3 Chairs	0	13	6
1 Table	0	10	0
1 Glass	0	6	0
1 bedside Carpet	0	1	6
1 bedstead & Curtains	2	5	0
1 bed & bolster	2	10	0
7 Chairs	2	4	4
1 Table	0	4	8
1 suit of bed curtains & 1 window curtain to match	3	12	0
1 wash hand Stand	0	3	6
1 looking Glass	2	3	0
1 Ditto	2	13	0
1 Table	1	5	6
1 Ditto	1	5	6
1 Ditto	1	10	6
7 Chairs	4	10	0
1 Pair of Blanketts	0	6	0
1 Ditto	0	7	6
1 blanket	0	3	10
1 Quilt	1	6	0

1 Ditto	0	2	10
1 Pair of Sheets	0	7	0
1 Ditto	0	7	0
1 Pair of Sheets	0	11	0
5 Pillow Cases	0	4	2
2 Table Cloths	0	2	2
3 Ditto	0	4	6
7 towels	0	3	6
7 Ditto	0	1	9
6 Knives & 6 Forks	0	1	6
3 Chairs	0	11	6
Lott of earthen ware	0	2	6
Ditto	0	2	10
Sundries	0	1	3
1 looking glass	1	7	0
1 Table	0	13	0
1 pair window curtains	1	2	0
1 tin fender	0	1	0
1 iron fender	0	1	3
1 Tea board	0	3	6
1 Tea Tray	0	6	6
1 sett of fire irons	0	3	10
1 pair of candlesticks	0	1	10
1 Ditto	0	1	10
1 lot of China	0	12	0
1 Ditto	0	4	2
1 lot of Earthenware	0	2	2
1 Ditto	0	1	3
1 Ditto	0	4	2
1 Ditto	0	3	2
1 Ditto	0	2	0
1 lot of Glassware	0	1	0
Sundries	0	1	0

1 lot of Tinware	0	1	2
1 Ditto	0	0	6
1 flying pan	0	1	1
5 Chairs	0	5	0
1 Kitchen grate	1	0	0
1 set of fire irons	0	2	0
1 Kettle	0	1	10
1 lot of tinware	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	£37	18	7

Received of Gresley Blake & C^o to a debt due from them 28 5 6

And this Exhibitant doth declare that although he possessed himself of the before mentioned goods and chattles as Administrator of the said John Collins as aforesaid yet that the same properly belong (as this Exhibitant is advised) to the estate of Mary Collins deceased heretofore the Wife of the said John Collins who survived her said husband and was in Possession of the said Goods and Chattles and every Part thereof at the time of her Decease

Sworn in Court the

William Bundy

20th September 1783 before us

J. Camplin Sur

The foregoing is a true Copy Examined
with the Original the 25th March 1784 by us

Will^m Clarke

Lacon Berry

4) Smith, Thomas. Mariner. St. Augustine. 1773

A True and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods
Chattels

and Credits of Thomas Smith late of the City and Diocese of
Bristol

Mariner which since his Death have come to the Hands
Possession

or knowledge of Eleanor Smith of the City of Bristol aforesaid
Widow the Mother and also Administratrix with the Will
annexed of the said deceased taken this Twenty Third Day of
April One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Three as
follows (to wit)

The deceased's wearing Apparell and other Articles
Appraised by David Cherry Sworn Appraiser

	£	s	d
One old Brown Coat	0	4	0
One old Yellow Coat Waistcoat and Breeches	0	6	0
One other Coat Waistcoat and Breeches	1	5	6
Two old Blue Coats	0	5	6
One old blue Jacket, one old Green Jacket and one old Striped Waistcoat	0	1	6
One red nap Jacket	0	5	6
Three old pair of black Breeches	0	1	6
Four pairs of White Dimmety Breeches	0	10	0
Two pair of Flannel Drawers	0	0	6
One old striped Waistcoat, Two old black Waistcoats and one old pair of black Breeches	0	2	0
Four pairs of striped Trousers	0	1	6
Five old Check Shirts	0	9	0
Two old Holland Shirts	0	3	6
Two pairs of old Thread Stockings	0	1	0
One pair of old worsted Stockings and one pair of old thread Stockings	0	2	6
One Hat	0	4	0
Four worsted Night Caps	0	2	8
Twenty Six Damaged Handkerchiefs	0	2	2

Two old Linen pillow Cases	0	0	6
Two Sea Blankets	0	3	0
One old Cotton Table Carpet	0	3	0
One Piece of Printed Callico	1	1	0
One Matrass	0	5	0
Three Small Pewter Basins	0	2	0
One broken Quadrant / Hadley's/	0	10	6
Plate and Ivory appraised by Thomas Wigan			
One Silver Watch	2	0	0
One pair of Silver Shoe Buckles	0	11	0
One pair of Stone Knee Buckles set in Silver	0	8	0
One Breast Buckle	0	2	0
To the deceased's Moiety (in partnership with Mr. Simons) of the neat proceeds of Twenty Six Elephant's Teeth 0 ^c 3 st 1 ^{lb} at 9 ^e 9 ^s 0 ^d	3	1	7
To a Balance due to the deceased on his Account with the Owners of the Ship Betsey	43	14	6

This Exhibitant saith that the deceased was intitled to a distributive and proportionable share with this Exhibitant and her other Son and Daughter James Smith and Eleanor Smith of and in the Personal Estate and effects of Thomas Smith her this Exhibitant's late Husband deceased Intestate But as the said Thomas Smith the Father died abroad at the Havannah in the Island of Cuba and this Exhibitant hath not yet received any Account of his Effects, She cannot set forth what the said Thomas Smith the Son's Share thereof may be worth or amount unto.

This Exhibitant prayeth to retain in her Hands the Sums of Money by her paid laid out and expended for the deceased in his Life time And also such other Sums of Money as the deceased stood indebted to her at the time of his decease And also prayeth an Allowance for the

several Sums of Money by her paid laid out and expended
in and about her Administratrixship as followeth
(to wit)

	£	S	D
To James Power the Taylor's Note	6	9	3
To Phillipa Palmer and Son for Cloaths for the deceased	2	2	0/4
To Eleven Weeks Board of the deceased from 25 th September 1769 to the 11 th December following at Eight Shillings p Week	4	8	0
To Moneys Lent the deceased at different times for Pocket expences	5	5	0
To Paid David Cherry for appraising the deceased's Wearing Apparel	0	3	6
To Paid Thomas Wigan for mending the deceased's Watch and Buckle	0	9	6

Sworn in Court

Eliner Smith

The 15 May 1779

before us

J. Camplin Sur

Witness Rob Usken

Will^m Clarke