North American Society for Oceanic History (NASOH)

Annotated Bibliography of

Race, Class, Labor, and Gender in American Maritime History

In response to the nationwide protests for racial justice that erupted following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, the NASOH advisory council committed to, among other things, developing a freely accessible annotated bibliography of race, class, labor, and gender in American maritime history. This is a work in progress to which all are encouraged to contribute corrections, annotations, and additions, whether recently published work, or older works we have simply missed. Please write Lincoln.Paine@gmail.com with any emendations you may have.

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Africans and African Americans


Billingsley, Andrew. Yearning to Breath Free: Robert Smalls of South Carolina and His Families. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2007. ¶Smalls was a slave steamboat pilot who broke through Confederate lines with his vessel, Planter, joined the US Navy, (and supposedly was one of Lincoln’s inspirations to accept African Americans into the Union forces) and postwar won places both in the South Carolina and US House of Representatives after founding the Republican Party of SC.


Bryant, Jonathan M. Dark Places of the Earth: The Voyage of the Slave Ship Antelope. New York: Liveright, 2015. ¶A professor of history who specializes in slavery and constitutional law investigates one of the most significant—and unjustly forgotten—Supreme Court cases in American history involving the slave ship Antelope and the three hundred African lives at stake.


Chiarappa, Michael J. “Working the Delaware Estuary: African American Cultural Landscapes and the Contours of Environmental Experience.” *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* 25:1 (2018): 64–91. ¶African American work patterns, particularly those concerned with the handling and extraction of natural resources or labor in agricultural or industrial settings, have been at the heart of efforts to better understand black environmental experience. African Americans long participated in the environmental dynamics and transformation of the region defined by the Delaware Estuary and the use of its marine resources. This legacy has been visible principally through Thomas Eakins’s well-known scenes depicting African Americans working in the region’s shad fisheries or guiding railbird hunters through once bountiful wild rice areas and marsh. The Delaware Estuary’s reach within Philadelphia’s metropolitan sphere was critically influenced by environmental experience forged in the cultural landscapes of African Americans.


Farrow, Anne. The Logbooks: Connecticut’s Slave Ships and Human Memory. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2016. In 1757, a sailing ship owned by an affluent Connecticut merchant sailed from New London to the tiny island of Bence in Sierra Leone, West Africa, to take on fresh water and slaves. On board was the owner’s son, on a training voyage to learn the trade. The Logbooks explores that
voyage, and two others documented by that young man, to unearth new realities of Connecticut’s slave trade and question how we could have forgotten this part of our past so completely. When writer Anne Farrow discovered the significance of the logbooks for the Africa and two other ships in 2004, her mother had been recently diagnosed with dementia. As Farrow bore witness to the impact of memory loss on her mother’s sense of self, she also began a journey into the world of the logbooks and the Atlantic slave trade, eventually retracing part of the Africa’s long-ago voyage to Sierra Leone. As the narrative unfolds in The Logbooks, Farrow explores the idea that if our history is incomplete, then collectively we have forgotten who we are—a loss that is in some ways similar to what her mother experienced. Her meditations are well rounded with references to the work of writers, historians, and psychologists.


Chapter 3 studies American perspectives of the Haitian/Spanish American Revolutions. In the former, white American sailors frequently viewed black revolutionaries with profound disgust and racialized repulsion, especially as the massacres on both sides of the conflict mounted. At the same time, the extremes of the Revolution in Haiti made Americans proud of their organized and conservative revolution. Even more, the terror posed by the sight of blacks in charge of whites put sailors all the more on their guard, lest they suffer a similar fate.


Gourevitch, Alex. *From Slavery to the Cooperative Commonwealth: Labor and Republican Liberty in the Nineteenth Century.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. *This book reconstructs how a group of nineteenth-century labor reformers appropriated and radicalized the republican tradition. These “labor republicans” derived their definition of freedom from a long tradition of political theory dating back to the classical republics.*


Grandin, Greg. *Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom, and Deception in the New World.* New York: Picador, 2015. *One morning in 1805, off a remote island in the South Pacific, Captain Amasa Delano, a New England seal hunter, climbed aboard a distressed Spanish ship carrying scores of West Africans he thought were slaves. They weren’t. In fact, they were performing an elaborate ruse, having risen up earlier and slaughtered most of the crew and officers. When Delano, an idealistic, anti-slavery republican, finally realized the deception—that the men and women he thought were humble slaves were actually running the ship—he rallied his crew to respond with explosive violence.*

Drawing on research on four continents, The Empire of Necessity is the untold history of this extraordinary event and its
bloody aftermath. Delano’s blindness that day has already inspired one masterpiece—Herman Melville’s Benito Cereno. Now historian Greg Grandin returns to these dramatic events to paint an indelible portrait of a world in the throes of revolution, providing a new transnational history of slavery in the Americas and capturing the clash of peoples, economies, and faiths that was the New World in the early 1800s.

Grandy, Moses, dictated to George Thompson. Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy, Late a Slave in the United States of America. Boston: Oliver Johnson, 1841. https://archive.org/details/eeff9cab-52ec-4eb5-93d3-bod786f7dab5/mode/2up. Grandy was a slave waterman and vessel pilot in North Carolina who bought his freedom twice before finally succeeding on his third attempt. He became a noted abolitionist while working in Boston-area shipyards and as a mariner. Since he was illiterate, he dictated his story, which he also planned would generate funds so he could buy his family’s freedom.


Hardy, Penelope K., and Helen M. Rozwadowski. “Maury for Modern Times: Navigating a Racist Legacy in Ocean Science.” Oceanography 33:3 (2020): 8–13. Amid recent calls in the United States and elsewhere to remove statues and other references that glorify historically racist figures, we offer a reexamination of nineteenth-century naval officer and early ocean scientist Matthew Fontaine Maury. While Maury made significant contributions toward understanding and representing the ocean-atmosphere system and argued for increased support from both government and the public for such
studies, his work, including his science, was also inextricably involved in his nation’s imperialist goals. Before and after his resignation from the United States Navy to join the Confederacy during the American Civil War, Maury worked for the perpetuation and expansion of race-based slavery. For these reasons, we argue that oceanographers, historians, and the public need to rethink depictions of Maury that glorify his accomplishments without interrogating their darker side. Presenting honest portrayals is not only historically responsible but also aids the larger endeavor to recruit and retain more diverse students and scientists for ocean science.


Hawthorne, Walter. From Africa to Brazil: Culture, Identity, and an Atlantic Slave Trade, 1600–1830. Cambridge, 2010. ¶An Africanist by training, historian Hawthorne transitions smoothly to Brazilianist in this important work that builds on his earlier West African research (Planting Rice and Harvesting Slaves), which demonstrated that small-scale societies sometimes participated successfully in slaving, as did major states. This latest project effectively uses the recent Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database along with archival material from three continents and his own fieldwork in Guinea-Bissau and Brazil. Portugal’s venerable Amazonian colonies of Maranhão and Pará developed into substantial agricultural producers only after 1750, when large numbers of West African slaves became available. Unlike other studies tracing Africans very generally to scattered regions in the Americas, Hawthorne’s is quite specific in pinpointing the presence and impact of Upper Guineans in Amazonia. He documents their vital contributions to cotton and especially rice production, along with significant cultural retentions and religious adaptations. The data enable precise identification of Guineans from particular ethnic groups, though slave imports from other regions predominated after 1800. Hawthorne makes large claims for his books’ originality, but the book largely justifies them. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Academic and larger public libraries, undergraduates and above.


It’s Nice To Be Remembered!” *Negro History Bulletin* 45:3 (1982): 58–60. %A brief history of the Golden Thirteen, the first African Americans to graduate from OCS, in 1944.


Kelley, Sean M. *Voyage of the Slave Ship Hare: A Journey into Captivity from Sierra Leone to South Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. ¶From 1754 to 1755, the slave ship Hare completed a journey from Newport, Rhode Island, to Sierra Leone and back to the United States—a journey that transformed more than seventy Africans into commodities. In this engaging narrative, Sean Kelley painstakingly reconstructed this tumultuous voyage.


Lasso, Marixa. *Erased: The Untold Story of the Panama Canal*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2019. ¶The Panama Canal’s untold history—from the Panamanian point of view. Marixa Lasso recounts how the canal’s American builders displaced 40,000 residents and erased entire towns in the guise of
bringing modernity to the tropics—and in so doing erased the vibrant modernity that had long characterized the region. Drawing on previously untapped archival sources, Lasso describes the canal’s displacement of peasants, homeowners, and shop owners, and chronicles the destruction of a centuries-old commercial culture and environment.


Lemire, Elise Virginia. *Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019. ¶Between the Revolution and the settlement of the little cabin with the bean rows, however, Walden Woods was home to several generations of freed slaves and their children. Living on the fringes of society, they attempted to pursue lives of freedom, promised by the rhetoric of the Revolution, and yet withheld by the practice of racism. In *Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*, Lemire brings to life the former slaves of Walden Woods and the men and women who held them in bondage during the eighteenth century.


MacGregor, Morris J., Jr. *Integration of the Armed Forces, 1940–1965*. Washington, DC: US Army Center of Military History, 1981. ¶Explores the services’ experience in World War II, the move to integration, the tensions that persisted thereafter up to the passage of the Civil Rights Act. covers mainly Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.


Nelson, Bruce. “Organized Labor and the Struggle for Black Equality in Mobile during World War II.” *Journal of American History* 80:3 (1993): 952–88. Focuses on race and labor relations the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company (ADDSCO) was transformed from a struggling ship repair operation with about 1,000 irregularly employed workers to one of the nation’s major war production facilities, with 30,000 employees-white and black, male and female-repairing and producing ships for the United States Maritime Commission.


*Niles Register*. Available on Hathi Trust.


Pybus, Cassandra. “Billy Blue: An African American Journey through Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century.” *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 5:2 (2007): 252–87. ¶Traces the remarkable life of William Blue, who was probably born into slavery in colonial New York about 1737 and who died a much-celebrated founding figure in the colony of New South Wales (Australia) in 1834. The recovered life of William Blue allows us to consider the competing claims of slave owners and the military for the labor of expropriated Africans, the complex strategies of resistance and survival that these Africans could employ, and the shifting constructions of race and class within the complex and interconnected sphere of the Anglo colonial world in the long eighteenth century.


Rockman, Seth. *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in early Baltimore*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009. §Scraping By is about breaking new ground: the often nasty, unhealthy labor essential to Baltimore’s growth as a boomtown from the 1790s to 1830s. Rockman breaks new ground himself in studying “low-end laborers”: slaves, free blacks, European immigrants, and the native-born who struggled to cobble together a few days’ ill-paid toil as seamstresses, stevedores, harbor dredgers, or street cleaners. His work fits within several bodies of scholarship, including recent labor history incorporating race, gender, and class perspectives, and studies of capitalism that challenge the image of the U.S. as a land of equal opportunity. The author deftly illustrates dependent workers’ contributions by detailing how “casual” labor produced both Fort McHenry and the star-spangled banner that waved over its ramparts. One caveat: while Rockman highlights voiceless, poorly documented Baltimoreans, readers seldom hear their actual voices. —T. P. Johnson


Rupprechter, Anita. “‘All We Have Done, We Have Done for Freedom’: The Creole Slave-Ship Revolt (1841) and the Revolutionary Atlantic.” *International Review of Social History* 58 (2013): 253–77.


Scott, Julius Sherrard. The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution. Foreword by Marcus Rediker. New York: Verso, 2018. ¶“Out of the grey expanse of official records in Spanish, English and French, The Common Wind provides a gripping and colourful account of inter-continental communication networks that tied together the free and enslaved masses of the new world. A powerful ‘history from below,’ this book follows those ‘rumours of emancipation’ and the people who spread them, bringing to life the protagonists in the revolution against slavery. Though it has been said that The Common Wind is ‘the most original dissertation ever written,’ and is credited for having ‘opened up the Black Atlantic with a rigour and a commitment to the power of written words,’ PhD project has remained unpublished for thirty-two years, since it was completed at Duke University in 1986. Now, after receiving wide acclaim from leading historians of slavery and the new world, it will be released by Verso for the first time, with a foreword by Marcus Rediker.”


Smith, Billy G. Ship of Death: A Voyage That Changed the Atlantic World. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013. ¶“It is no exaggeration to say that the Hankey, a small British ship that circled the Atlantic in 1792 and 1793, transformed the history of the Atlantic world. This extraordinary book uncovers the long-forgotten story of the Hankey, from its altruistic beginnings to its disastrous end, and describes the ship’s fateful impact upon people from West Africa to Philadelphia, Haiti to London. Billy G. Smith chased the story of the Hankey from archive to archive across several continents, and he now brings back to light a saga that continues to haunt the modern world. It began with a group of high-minded British colonists who planned to establish a colony free of slavery in West Africa. With the colony failing, the ship set sail for the Caribbean and then North America, carrying, as it turned out, mosquitoes infected with yellow fever. The resulting pandemic as the Hankey traveled from one port to the next was catastrophic. In the United States, tens of thousands died in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Charleston. The few survivors on the Hankey eventually limped back to London, hopes dashed and numbers decimated. Smith links the voyage and its deadly cargo to some of the most
significant events of the era—the success of the Haitian slave revolution, Napoleon’s decision to sell the Louisiana Territory, a change in the geopolitical situation of the new United States—and spins a riveting tale of unintended consequences and the legacy of slavery that will not die.”


Zabin, Serena R. *Dangerous Economies: Status and Commerce in Imperial New York*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. ¶A history of New York culture and commerce in the first two thirds of the eighteenth century, when Britain was just beginning to catch up with its imperial rivals, France and Spain. In that sparsely populated city on the fringe of an empire, enslaved Africans rubbed elbows with white indentured servants while the elite strove to maintain ties with European genteel culture. The transience of the city’s people, goods, and fortunes created a notably fluid society in which establishing one’s own status or verifying another’s was a challenge. New York’s shifting imperial identity created new avenues for success but also made success harder to define and demonstrate socially. ¶Such a mobile urban milieu was the ideal breeding ground for crime and conspiracy, which became all too evident in 1741, when thirty slaves were executed and more than seventy other people were deported after being found guilty—on dubious evidence—of plotting a revolt. This sort of violent outburst was the unforeseen but unsurprising result of the seething culture that existed at the margins of the British Empire.

Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders


Chiang, Connie Y. Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterey Coast. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008. Shaping the Shoreline looks at how Monterey has formed, and been formed by, the tension between labor and leisure. Chiang examines Monterey’s development from a seaside resort into a working-class fishing town and again into a tourist attraction. Drawing on histories of immigration, unionization, and the impact of national and international events, Chiang explores the reciprocal relationship between social and environmental change.


Greenfield, Mary C. “Benevolent Desires and Dark Dominations: The Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s SS City of Peking and the United States in the Pacific 1874–1910.” Southern California Quarterly 94:4 (2012): 423–78. The career of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s SS City of Peking, 1874–1910, both outlined and undermined the currents of American cultural identity, national policy, industrial development, and immigration and labor history. Most significantly, the roles it played in the establishment of an American Pacific challenged the moral foundations on which the American political system was founded.


Labor


Chiang, Connie Y. Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterey Coast. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008. ¶“Shaping the Shoreline looks at how Monterey has formed, and been formed by, the tension between labor and leisure. Chiang examines Monterey’s development from a seaside resort into a working-class fishing town and again into a tourist attraction. Drawing on histories of immigration, unionization, and the impact of national and international events, Chiang explores the reciprocal relationship between social and environmental change.”


Dozer, Donald Marquand. “Matthew Fontaine Maury’s Letter of Instruction to William Lewis Herndon.” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 28:2 (1948): 212–28. ¶Maury’s secret letter to William Lewis Herndon is all about extending slave country into the Amazon. Maury urges Herndon to keep the real reason for his mission secret, lest it spoil American chances of getting free navigation of the Amazon from the respective South American governments involved. His vision is Manifest Destiny parfait.


Gilje, Paul A. *Free Trade and Sailors’ Rights in the War of 1812*. New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. ¶Free Trade was a patrician ideal while Sailors’ Rights was an issue that spoke most forcefully to common maritime laborers. Both were important products of the Enlightenment, and the Revolution was fought, in part, to promote both. It was only during the War of 1812, however, that both of these separate class ideals were joined together in one catchy phrase that captured the nation’s Revolutionary and Enlightenment inheritance as well as the causes for war in 1812. Gilje traces the rise and fall of each ideal, their marriage, their postwar relevance, and eventually their deaths in the post-1848 era.

Gilje, Paul A. *Liberty on the Waterfront: American Maritime Culture in the Age of Revolution*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004. ¶Sailors were neither proletariats nor idealized patriots. The high ideals of the age were secondary to them, for the primary meaning of liberty for sailors was highly individualized and was best embodied in the liberty to misbehave ashore. They were real people who were more interested in survival than ideals, and in drink than in virtue, though they were also possessed of their own protective sense of justice and fairness that often got themselves and others into trouble.


Glenn, Myra C. *Jack Tar's Story: The Autobiographies and Memoirs of Sailors in Antebellum America.* Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Glenn’s book positions sailors’ autobiographies and memoirs as major sources for understanding antebellum American masculinity and nationalism. Chapter 3 studies American perspectives of the Haitian/Spanish American Revolutions. In the former, white American sailors frequently viewed black revolutionaries with profound disgust and racialized repulsion, especially as the massacres on both sides of the conflict mounted. At the same time, the extremes of the Revolution in Haiti made Americans proud of their organized and conservative revolution. Even more, the terror posed by the sight of blacks in charge of whites put sailors all the more on their guard, lest they suffer a similar fate.


Gourevitch, Alex. *From Slavery to the Cooperative Commonwealth: Labor and Republican Liberty in the Nineteenth Century.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. This book reconstructs how a group of nineteenth-century labor reformers appropriated and radicalized the republican tradition. These “labor republicans” derived their definition of freedom from a long tradition of political theory dating back to the classical republics.

Greenfield, Mary C. “Benevolent Desires and Dark Dominations: The Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s SS City of Peking and the United States in the Pacific 1874–1910.” *Southern California Quarterly* 94:4 (2012): 423–78. The career of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s SS City of Peking, 1874–1910, both outlined and undermined the currents of American cultural identity, national policy, industrial development, and immigration and labor history. Most significantly, the roles it played in the establishment of an American Pacific challenged the moral foundations on which the American political system was founded.


Lang, Melissa Cornelius. “‘We were Nothing but Rust’: Beatrice Green Marshall’s Wartime Experience.” Oregon Historical Quarterly 116:2 (2015): 220–33.


Lemisch, Jesse. “Jack Tar in the Streets: Merchant Seamen in the Politics of Revolutionary America.” William and Mary Quarterly 25:3 (1968): 371–407. Lemisch brought the social history movement to maritime affairs with this groundbreaking article. His work took on traditional and historic perceptions of American seamen as crass, ignorant, naturally violent, and childlike even as it challenged Samuel Eliot Morison’s portrait of that class of laborers as young, adventuresome youth who took to the seas for a few seasons and then returned happily home to a prosperous future. Highlighting evidence from the pains to which patriarchs of privileged families took to prevent their sons from becoming sailors to the harsh anti-labor laws of eighteenth-century America, Lemisch painted a new portrait of the American seamen as a group of misunderstood and ill-treated laborers.


McEvoy, Arthur F. The Fisherman’s Problem: Ecology and Law in the California Fisheries, 1850–1980. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990. A study of the interaction among resource ecology, economic enterprise, and law in the history of the California fishing industry. It analyzes the ways in which the natural environment not only provided the raw material for economic development but played an active role in it as well. As this book shows, the natural environment has a history both independent of, and yet influenced by, classic example of ‘common property’ re-environmental conservation generally, as well as in the management of the fisheries of the world’s rivers and oceans.

McPhee, John. *Looking for a Ship.* New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1991. ¶McPhee accompanies second mate Andy Chase as he searches for a berth and then on a forty-two day run along the Pacific coast of South America, including such ports as Cartagena, Valparaiso, Balboa, Lima, and Guayaquil—an area notorious for pirates. As the crew make their ocean voyage, they tell sea stories of other runs and other ships, tales of disaster, stupidity, greed, generosity, and courage.


Nelson, Bruce. “Organized Labor and the Struggle for Black Equality in Mobile during World War II.” *Journal of American History* 80:3 (1993): 952–88. ¶Focuses on race and labor relations the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company (ADDSCO) was transformed from a struggling ship repair operation with about 1,000 irregularly employed workers to one of the nation’s major war production facilities, with 30,000 employees-white and black, male and female-repairing and producing ships for the United States Maritime Commission.


Raffety, Matthew Taylor. *The Republic Afloat: Law, Honor, and Citizenship in Maritime America.* Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2013. ¶Raffety argues that central questions of American nationality, governance, law, and identity emerged from the contested decks of antebellum American sailing ships. He looks at shipboard and maritime violence as they played out in court records to get a sense of how wartime law, state power, and the rights and protections of citizenship developed in the early republic. He sees the dynamic between shipboard violence and conflict, the courts, and law as a mutually-shaping discussion; what happened on deck ended up in court, which in turn shaped the law. The cycle came full circle when mariners and officers attempted to use the law to their advantage in disputes. He divides his book into three parts: law, honor (including masculinity) and citizenship.


Ringle, Dennis G. *Life in Mr. Lincoln’s Navy*. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1998. ¶Ringle discusses recruitment, sustenance, service, combat, and other topics, including how the Union Navy incorporated runaway slaves into the service, which he says inspired the Army to do the same. Of course, this lead directly to Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

Rockman, Seth. *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in early Baltimore*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009. ¶“Scraping By is about breaking new ground: the often nasty, unhealthy labor essential to Baltimore’s growth as a boomtown from the 1790s to 1830s. Rockman breaks new ground himself in studying “low-end laborers”: slaves, free blacks, European immigrants, and the native-born who struggled to cobble together a few days’ ill-paid toil as seamstresses, stevedores, harbor dredgers, or street cleaners (literally scraping by as manure collectors). His work fits within several bodies of scholarship, including recent labor history incorporating race, gender, and class perspectives, and studies of capitalism that challenge the image of the US as a land of equal opportunity. The author deftly illustrates dependent workers’ contributions by detailing how “casual” labor produced both Fort McHenry and the star-spangled banner that waved over its ramparts. One caveat: while Rockman highlights voiceless, poorly documented Baltimoreans, readers seldom hear their actual voices. Still, stressing the vulnerable, precarious nature of work is timely in the current economic climate of recession-verging-on-depression. Highly recommended. Academic and larger public libraries, upper-division undergraduates and above.” —T. P. Johnson


Rouleau, Brian. *With Sails Whitening Every Sea: Mariners and the Making of an American Maritime Empire*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2014. ¶Rouleau’s book puts working-class, blue-water white sailors at the center of American foreign relations in the early nineteenth century. Rouleau argues that sailors were the citizens of America’s first global age, and that their rough and tumble working-class diplomacy shaped the nation’s international relations, were the eyes for their fellow, terrestrial countrymen, and (for good or ill) served as the United States’ primary representatives to foreign peoples.


Smith, Joshua M. “Hands full with the Chinese”: Maritime Dimensions of the Chinese-American Experience, 1870–1943.” In *Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Power in Maritime America: Papers from the*


Vickers, Daniel. Young Men and the Sea: Yankee Seafarers in the Age of Sail. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005. ¶Challenges romantic assumptions about the maritime profession in the colonial period, suggesting that seafaring would come to be associated with romance only in the nineteenth century. Before that, seafaring for colonial sailors was far shorter, more predictable, and also ubiquitous. In the colonial period, going to sea as an ordinary sailor was a rite of passage to manhood, but it was not a role to continue in indefinitely, nor was it unusual or romantic because everyone went to sea. His in-depth social study of sailors out of Salem in the seventeenth and especially eighteenth centuries revealed just how ordinary and expected it was. It was only later, after independence, as voyages grew longer, more intense, and more exotic did it come to be associated with romantic adventures in the way that Melville and Dana wrote about them.


Wright, David, and David Zorby. Fire on the Beach: Recovering the Lost Story of Richard Etheridge and the Pea Island Lifesavers. New York: Scribner, 2001. ¶The Pea Island station was the only all African American manned station in the US Life-Saving Service/US Coast Guard.
Migration, Imperial Encounters, &c.


Baynton, Douglas C. “‘The Undesirability of Admitting Deaf Mutes’: U.S. Immigration Policy and Deaf Immigrants, 1882–1924.” *Sign Language Studies* 6:4 (2006): 391–415. When the federal government began in the 1880s to regulate immigration, the exclusion of what were termed “defectives” was one of the primary aims. Deaf people were among the thousands of disabled immigrants turned back each year at U.S. ports as “undesirables.” Stereotyped as economically dependent and as carriers of potentially defective genes, deaf immigrants were seen as a threat to the nation. The advent of immigration restriction was one aspect of a pervasive and intensified stigmatization of disability during this period, which also saw the widespread incarceration of mentally disabled people in institutions, the sterilization of the “unfit” under state eugenic laws, the suppression of sign language, and a growing tendency to exclude disabled people from social and cultural life.


Greenfield, Mary C. “Benevolent Desires and Dark Dominations: The Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s SS *City of Peking* and the United States in the Pacific 1874–1910.” *Southern California Quarterly* 94:4 (2012): 423–78. The career of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company’s SS *City of Peking*, 1874–1910, both outlined and undermined the currents of American cultural identity, national policy, industrial development, and immigration and labor history. Most significantly, the roles it played in the establishment of an American Pacific challenged the moral foundations on which the American political system was founded.


Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, Pre-Contact


Winterhalder, Bruce, Douglas J. Kennett, Mark N. Grote, and Jacob Bartruff. “Ideal Free Settlement of California’s Northern Channel Islands.” *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 29:4 (2010): 469–90 ¶The prehistoric establishment and expansion of permanent settlements on the Northern Channel Islands of southern California generally follows a pattern predicted by the population ecology model, the ideal free distribution (IFD). We determine this by comparing the abundant archaeological record of these Islands against a careful quantification of habitat suitability using areal photography, satellite imagery, and field studies. We assess watershed area, length of rocky intertidal zone, length of sandy
beach for plank canoe pull-outs and area of off-shore kelp beds, for 46 coastal locations. A simple descriptive analysis supports key IFD predictions. A Bayesian model fitted with the Gibbs sampler allows us to reconstruct the Native assessment of habitat that appears to underlie this process. Use of the Gibbs sampler mitigates the impact of missing data, censored variables, and uncertainty in radiocarbon dates; it allows us to predict where new settlements may yet be discovered. Theoretically, our results support a behavioral ecology interpretation of settlement history, human population expansion, and economic intensification in this region. They also demonstrate Bayesian analytical methods capable of making full use of the information available in archaeological datasets.


Native Americans, Post-Contact


Anderson, Douglas D., and Wanni Wibulswasdi Anderson. _Life at Swift Water Place: Alaska at the Threshold of European Contact_. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2019. ¶A multidisciplinary study of the early contact period of Alaskan Native history that follows a major hunting and fishing Inupiaq group at a time of momentous change in their lifeways. The Amilgaqtuaq yaagmiut were the most powerful group in the Kobuk River area. But their status was forever transformed thanks to two major factors. They faced a food shortage prompted by the decline in caribou, one of their major foods. This was also the time when European and Asian trade items were first introduced into their traditional society. The first trade items to arrive, a decade ahead of the Europeans themselves, were glass beads and pieces of metal that the Inupiat expertly incorporated into their traditional implements. This book integrates ethnohistorical, bio-anthropological, archaeological, and oral historical analyses.


Bahar, Matthew R. _Storm of the Sea: Indian and Empires in the Atlantic’s Age of Sail_. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019. ¶“Storm of the Sea offers a strikingly original history of Wabanaki people (consisting of Abenakis, Penobscots, Passamaquoddys, Maliseets, and Mi’kmaqs) and the colonial and imperial forces they faced from their earliest encounters with Europeans through the late eighteenth century. During that interval, Bahar argues, Wabanakis drew on their spiritually rooted relationship with the sea to develop a highly successful “blue-water strategy” (3) that flouted English and French threats to their sovereignty and peacefully ordered way of life. They did so by selectively adopting the newcomers’ maritime technology, practices, and material assets to wage no-holds-barred warfare and piracy.”—Neil Salisbury


Boxberger, Daniel L. To Fish in Common: The Ethnohistory of Lummi Indian Salmon Fishing. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000. ¶Political, economic and technical history of fishing by the Lummi Indians whose reservation is located northwest of Bellingham and whose historical fishing grounds encompass the San Juan Islands. Presents the persistent exclusion of the Lummi from the economic benefits of the fishery over time.


DeLay, Brian. “Indian Polities, Empire, and the History of American Foreign Relations.” Diplomatic History 39:5 (2015): 927–42. ¶Takes US diplomatic historians to task for not treating Native Americans as subjects of the field. He points to how the appropriation of Indian lands was critical in fueling U.S. exports, for instance, thereby offering maritime historians a clear connection between westward expansion and overseas commerce.


Fienup-Riordan, Ann, Marie Meade, and Alice Rearden. *Akulmiut Neqait: Fish and Food of the Akulmiut*. Anchorage: Alaska Calista Education and Culture, 2019. ¶ For centuries, the Akulmiut people—a Yup’ik group—have been sustained by the annual movements of whitefish. It is a food that sustains and defines them. To this day, many Akulmiut view not only their actions in the world, but their interactions with each other, as having a direct and profound effect on these fish. Not only are fish viewed as responding to human action and intention in many contexts, but the lakes and rivers fish inhabit are likewise viewed as sentient beings, with the ability to respond both positively and negatively to those who travel there. ¶ This bilingual book details the lives of the Akulmiut living in the lake country west of Bethel, Alaska (on the Kuskokwim River), in the villages of Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, and Atmautluak. Akulmiut Neqait is based in conversations recorded with the people of these villages as they talk about their uniquely Yup’ik view of the world and how it has weathered periods of immense change in southwest Alaska. While many predicted that globalization would sound the death knoll for many distinctive traditions, these conversations show that Indigenous people all over the planet have sought to appropriate the world in their own terms.”


Harmon, Alexandra. *Indians in the Making: Ethnic Relations and Indian Identities Around Puget Sound*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998. ¶The benefit of this work is that it uses fairly sophisticated critical race theory as a lens to interpret extensive historical documentation of Indian identity in Puget Sound country. The chronological development of identity as a creation of the relationship between Indian and white culture is examined using an array of sources collected in legal arguments about tribal status.


Oberg, Michael Leroy. *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand: Roanoke’s Forgotten Indians.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008. ¶Roanoke is part of the lore of early America, the colony that disappeared. Many Americans know of Sir Walter Raleigh’s ill-fated expedition, but few know about the Algonquian peoples who were the island’s inhabitants. The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand examines Raleigh’s plan to create an English empire in the New World but also the attempts of native peoples to make sense of the newcomers who threatened to transform their world in frightening ways. ¶Beginning his narrative well before Raleigh’s arrival, Michael Leroy Oberg looks closely at the Indians who first encountered the colonists. The English intruded into a well-established Native American world at Roanoke, led by Wingina, the weroance, or leader, of the Algonquian peoples on the island. Oberg also pays close attention to how the weroance and his people understood the arrival of the English: we watch as Wingina’s brother first boards Raleigh’s ship, and we listen in as Wingina receives the report of its arrival. Driving the narrative is the leader’s ultimate fate: Wingina is decapitated by one of Raleigh’s men in the summer of 1586. ¶When the story of Roanoke is recast in an effort to understand how and why an Algonquian weroance was murdered, and with what consequences, we arrive at a more nuanced and sophisticated understanding of what happened during this, the dawn of English settlement in America.


Witgen, Michael. *An Infinity of Nations: How the Native New World Shaped Early North America.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.¶Explores the formation and development of a Native New World in North America. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, indigenous peoples controlled the vast majority of the continent while European colonies of the Atlantic World were largely confined to the eastern seaboard. Through imaginative use of both Native language and European documents, historian Michael Witgen re-creates the world of the indigenous peoples who ruled the western interior of North America.


Women


Lang, Melissa Cornelius. “‘We were Nothing but Rust’: Beatrice Green Marshall’s Wartime Experience.” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 116:2 (2015): 220–33.


Oreskes, Naomi. “Objectivity or Heroism? On the Invisibility of Women in Science.” Osiris, 2nd ser., 11, Science in the Field (1996): 87–113. ¶Using the example of female scientists involved in submarine gravity measurements in 1920s, Oreskes argues women’s failure to gain attention through science work was not about a lack of objectivity—or even the perception of such a lack—but about the prohibition on their participation in the “heroic” aspects of science, even when that science was actually safe and routine (i.e., going out on a submarine).


Revelle, Roger. “How Mary Sears Changed the United States Navy.” Deep-Sea Research 32:7 (1985): 753–54. ¶Revelle tells story of how Mary Sears replaced him in a DC oceanography job during World War II. He was pawning off an uninteresting job, which he saw as not likely to contribute, and Sears turned it into something contributory.

Russell, F. S. “Sheina Macalister Marshall 20 April 1806–7 April 1977.” Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society 24 (November–April 1978): 369–89. ¶Marine biologist Marshall held a BSc, Glasgow University, 1919 and a DSc 1934. Worked at Millport Laboratory entire career, with stints elsewhere for specific investigations. This memorial doesn’t focus on the “first woman” aspect at all, concentrates on her science, but mentions in passing her needlework, for instance. Did work in and around water, but all shore-based, including 18-month study on Great Barrier Reef.


