**[Mission](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/" \o "Go to Mission's profile)**

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted January 31, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=340595) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=340595)

I looked for a generic topic on battle prep and couldn't find one, so I thought I'd just create a catch all topic.

At present, I am reading Abraham Crowley's journal *Crowley's Voyage Round the Globe* as included in William Hacke's *A collection of original voyages (1699)*. Crowley served with Dampier and Lionel Wafer under Bartholomew Sharp. Here, he is talking about a Dutch East Indiaman preparing for battle when the spot the ship Crowley is on. I thought the description was sort of neat.

"Most of the Men were got on shoar, but seeing a strong Ship standing in toward the Road, they instantly repaired all on board, clapping a pring upon the Cable, heaved her broad-side to us, strook out her Ports slow, and presently running out her lower tier of Guns, was ready to receive us; who, by this time, being got something too near him, and seeing so many Guns and Men [later learned to be 400 Men and 50 guns], whereas we had no more than 8 guns and 52 Men, we thought it more advisable to bear away before the Wind, the *Hollander* at the same time sending 10 shot after us, but all in vain, for we got presently to Sea again." (Crowley, p. 3)

I do wonder what a pring is.

[**Sjöröveren**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1062-sj%C3%B6r%C3%B6veren/)

* Plunderer
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* Member

[Posted January 31, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=340604) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=340604)

 Mission said:

I do wonder what a pring is.

I would wager that it's a typo of "spring". According to *Chapman's Sailor"s Lexicon:* **"a hawser laid out to some fixed object to slew a vessel proceeding to sea."** My actual sailing experience isn't sufficient to visualize this, but I understand it to mean something about being ready to sail at short notice, while still being at anchor. Perhaps bringing the vessel into the wind without actually being under sail.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 3, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=378965) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=378965)

This is sort of fun. It's from John Atkins' *The Navy Surgeon*, although it's not only about surgery. (For those of you weak of constitution, there is nothing remotely challenging in here. It's just some interesting details.) Atkins added a section to his original book called "Physical Observations on the Coast of Guiney." It's about a trip taken with Atkins as the ship surgeon in 1722.

First a bit related to surgery that I thought you guys might find interesting:

"...I rather impute it ["Dry Gripes, or Colica Pictonum"] to this ["large and partial Sweats"], than to any pernicious Quality in the Air, or of strong Drinks and Acids swallowed, because of any peculiar unwholsomeness in the former, would make the Mischief more general; nor does excessive Drinking, or Acids seem likely, either of Rum or Limes, because these are of universal Use with Seamen, in all Climates, without such Effect." (Atkins, p. 355)

Now some other curious details:

"*First*, The Condition of Careening Ships at this Island makes it unsuitable to *English* Constitutions, for we are put under a Necessity of building Tents, and employing half our men on Shore, for their Security, and for the Work that is wanted at them; whereby they are more at their own Wills and Disposals, than (without such a Necessity) it is proper they should ever be trusted with; being ungovernable in their Actions and Appetities pil-
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-fering from the Negroes, debauching their Wives, and excepting a very few, most irregular in their Way of Living, or their ill Behaviour towards those from whom they receive it, which is apt to stir up Anger and private Revenge; they have no other Weapon against *Europeans*, and perhaps may think it their Duty when injured. Revenge may be the properest Measure to reclaim an Evil-Doer; and if Men can so govern the Passion as not to exceed Justice, which may be sometimes without Sin to Fourfold or more, he chuses the suitable Method to bring an Offender to the Sense of his Guilt, and prevents himself and Friends from sharing more.

Another Cause, is the extraordinary Heat of the Sun, (now in the Zenith, more stifling and troublesome,) which the Men are forced to work in, and for a longer Time every Day, on such Occasions as *Cleaning*: These Heats nigh, or on the Shore at the Tents, vastly surpass those at Sea, not only on Account of the Earth's stronger Reflection, but also from surrounding Woods and Hills, that stops the Access of the Winds and refreshing Breezes.

They are still more offensive, in that the Setting Suns are succeeded with a Chilliness in the Air, filled with aqueous Vapours, which, condensing very fast by the Interruption the Hills give to their Motion, fall by the Evening at the Shore, in cold and prodigious Dews, sufficient in a few Hours to wet all the Beds through a double Tent. [A double tent?] This Alternation and Fatality of Extremes, our Troops at *Carthagena*, in the *West-Indies*, have lately experienced; laying three Nights after landing, upon their Arms, without Tents to screen off the Sun by Day, or Dews by Night.

Lastly, these alternate Heats and Dews are more hurtful to Seamen, from their Irregularities of Life: Every Day's Labour must be recruited: And this they do with Palm-Wines, plentiful on this Island and the whole Coast, although a natural Distillation from the Tree does without fermenting, [Footnote: *Others say Palm Wines, and all Liquors, before they gain a Spirit, must have some preceding Fermentation. here it is of few Hours, and little Despumation. Farther* North *'tis slower, and with more.*] become intoxicating, in large Quantities. And what is worse, they frequently lay down in these Inebriations, exposed to the Chills and Dews of
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the Night, whence a sudden Check is given to Perspiration, at a Time it is most wanted, and consequently Fevers, more or less malignant, are brought on as their preceding Conduct has made those other afore-mentioned co-operating Causes, more or less powerful." (Atkins, p. 356-8)

[**Bos'n Cross**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11032-bosn-cross/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member

[Posted February 3, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=378991) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=378991)

unfortunately im gonna have to search for where its from, but the practice of claping a spring to the anchor cable was basicaly a way to get the anchor up enough out of the water to get under way, with out actually raising it by capstan.........particularly useful for quick getaways......where ever i saw thsi actually had a diagram of how ya do it....im gonna look for the source on that and get back to yee all later........

**Edited February 3, 2010 by Cross**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 5, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379149) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379149)

Bwa-ha ha ha! This is *great*. If you doubted that people are people, whatever the era, here is proof. It's from *The Memoirs of Pére Labat 1693-1705*, translated and edited by John Eaden.

"Apart from the slave trade [in Martinique] there is a large business in ivory, wax, gold, bums, etc., etc., grass mats, parrots and monkeys. With regard to monkeys an officer of the ship told me the following story about his father, who was the principal agent in one of the companies' *comptoirs*.

His father had asked permission to go to France on private business. His request had been granted, and at the same time he had received an order from one of the general directors to bring home four or five monkeys, but the number had been carelessly written 4 or 500 monkeys. The agent had never received a like commission and wondered for what

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country the company could possibly desire such settlers. He had some difficulty in collecting so large a number, but eventually 330 monkeys were obtained. He shipped the monkeys in cages and boxes, and they were landed in good condition at la Rochelle, except a few that escaped and jumped overboard.

On his arrival the agent went to pay his respects to the director, and this gentleman asked him if he had been able to bring the monkeys. The poor agent trembled and replied that he had done his best, but had only been able to land 310. Picture the horror of the directer, who was so enraged that he told the agent he would be charged freight for all the monkeys over the four or five ordered. Further he vowed that he would see that the agent paid dearly for the ridicule such a cargo would inevitably attract to the company. The agent, however, had carefully preserved the director's order, and went to a lawyer, who made a true copy of the document. he then showed it to the director, who was thus convinced that the mistake was due to his own fault, and was obliged to debit himself with the value of this fine merchandise. The director was then able to give magnificent presents to all his friends and relatives." (Labat, p. 60-1)

Speaking of monkeys and parrots (I find it interesting that such value was placed upon them outside of the traditional pirate/sailor stereotypes), Labat presents this bit:

"Beside the furniture in their canoes, the Caribs also bring parrots, iguanas, chickens, pigs, pineapples, bananas and crabs to trade with us.

The Indians catch parrots by first finding a tree on which a number of parrots roost at night. When it is dark they go to this tree and light a charcoal fire under it. Next they put gum and green pimento on the fire. This gives off a thick smoke and stupefies the parrots that fall to the ground and behave just as if they were drunk. The Indians then pick up and tie their wings and legs. To bring them to their senses they pour a little water on the parrots' heads. To tame the birds the Indians do not give them any food till they are really hungry, and then feed them by hand. If the parrot bites and is savage they blow tobacco smoke on its beak, and this suffocates the bird and makes it quickly forget its bad temper. Parrots

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are thus tamed and in a very short time learn to talk." (Labat, p. 78-9)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379315) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379315)

Ok, this is also from Labat. Anyone who has not read this book is really missing a treat. It is *wonderful* and very detailed. Sally forth to your local library today. (This is definitely a library book; it costs a mint to buy.)

"[1701] Roving, the sacking of Cartagena, the loot from the Jamaica raids, and the trade which has started with the mainland since the Peace of Ryswick, has filled San Domingo with gold and silver. The settlers all gamble to excess, live very well, and vie with each other in displaying their wealth. Every one forgets who he was when he came to the island, and I could name a number of men who came out as *engagés* ["white slaves" or indentured servants] and were sold to buccaneers, but who are now such great seigneurs that they cannot walk a step but must always ride in their *carosse* and six horses. Were I to do so, however, I might hurt the feelings of many people, a thing I always try to

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avoid. I could not help smiling, however, when a man, whom I had known as a ship's cooper, came to town to buy the tools of his old trade for an *engagé* that he had imported. He was now so grand that he employed a man to choose the tools, and pretended to be ignorant of even what they were called.

When I was at Léogane I saw a large number of carosses and chaises, and only the small settlers rode on horseback. it is not indeed an expensive matter to keep one's coach and six horses after the initial cost, as the coachman and postilions are slaves who receive no wages, and are employed on other work when not required for the carriage. The feed of the horse also costs nothing, as they graze all year round on the *savannes*, and the little corn they eat is grown on the plantation. The horses too are not dear, thought they are not very handsome. They have not been hunted for their skins so are found in legions in the forests and prairies. It is easy to recognize their Spanish origin.

There is a district where the ponies are no larger than donkeys, but these are willing, tireless, far stronger than one would expect, and require very little fodder.

I saw no horses in San Domingo as big as the carriage horses in France, but they are fast and willing, and hold themselves up very well. Numbers of these horses are caught in the paths in the forest between the *savannes* with the lasso, and are sold very

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cheaply. One could buy a beautiful horse for five or six pieces of eight, but it costs sometimes twice as much to break them in." (Labat, p. 165-7)

[**Red Cat Jenny**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3475-red-cat-jenny/)

* Truly one of a Kind
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* Member

[Posted February 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379324) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379324)

Wow these are great! Thanks.. lol I like the part about the cooper..

I have such a stack of books now from my Dad's library..I'm gonna have to add this to the list

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 9, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379441) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379441)

And now for some real life period politics! Yay!

"The island of St. Martin lies south-west of St. Bartholomew and is shared by the French and the Dutch.

When war broke out in 1702 our generals [Labat was French ] wished to remove the French colony on account of its weakness and distance from the other French islands. But the settlers were weary of changing their homes so frequently, and preferred to run the risk of remaining in their portion of the island. They renewed the old concordat with the Dutch, so that if a French ship comes to the island to trade she is welcomed and does her business in peace and security. Should a French corsair attack the Dutch, the French take up arms to defend them, and the Dutch settlers assist the French

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should they be attacked by Dutch or English ships. These settlers may be truly called wise people, and it makes one wish that their example might be followed in all the other islands, so that they might remain at peace with each other instead of taking part in the quarrels of Europe." (Labat, p. 206-7)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member

[Posted February 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379480) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379480)

Cool. IIRC, a similar arrangement prevailed on St. Vincent in the 1620s, with the French and the English sharing the island and cooperating, largely because they were both scared witless by the Carib natives. After the French and the English managed to cooperate in killing the Caribs off, they eventually turned on each other.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted February 14, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379773) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379773)

How can you but love an author who admits things like this?

“We set sail from Esterre on Friday, 18th February [1701]. Our barque had two cannons but only one cannon ball, and this round could not be fired, as it was used to crush the mustard we used with our *cochon boucanné*.” (Labat, p. 174)

[**Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
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* Member

[Posted February 14, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379778) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379778)

Horses and donkeys! Thank you Mission! I will have to try and get this book through our ILL program for the summer! The buccaneer thread is going very well to thanks to you. I had already begun making one of those multi-knive sheaths for PiP this year, that was a very welcome addition.

Bo

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 17, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=379925) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=379925)

Well lookee what I stumbled across while trying to figure out what a word meant! Now no one has an reason not to read this if they want to. (I highly recommend it.):

[*The Memoirs of Pére Labat 1693-1705*](http://books.google.com/books?id=tD53QA3W60gC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q=&f=false)

Here's another fun quote that caught my eye for your amusement.

"We hove to opposite Prêcheur, where the crew went ashore to spend the last of their money according to custom, for their law does not allow filibusters to take money to sea with them, so that if they have any money in their pockets they spend it in a cabaret before they sail." (Labat, p. 232)

[**Capt Thighbiter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2303-capt-thighbiter/)

* Plunderer
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* Member

[Posted February 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380000) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380000)

Thanks Mission, I am hooked now!

Not on inter-library list here, so my local library has to buy it! My tax dollars at work finally!

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted February 19, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380009) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380009)

I doubt they will, since it is out of print and now goes for at least $150. If they did buy it, they'd probably put it into their special collection which means you couldn't check it out.

Use the hotlink I put in my last post and you'll find the whole thing on-line!

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,081 posts

[Posted February 20, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380047) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380047)

“As all the crew [of the *St. Paul*, leaving Marseilles] were Provencaux you may be sure that they had not forgotten the fife

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and tambourine. You know that one man plays both instruments at the same time. The tambourine is fastened to his left side and is beaten with the right hand, while the fife is held and played with the left hand. One does not have to ask Provencaux to dance, so as soon as the fife and tambourine were heard every one came on deck, and I believe that this music would have cured any invalid among our crew had there been one. While some danced, others leaped about, and we had apprentices and young sailors aboard who could make the most celebrated rope-walkers look to their laurels…” (Labat, p. 260)

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
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* Member

[Posted February 20, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380062) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380062)

On Tatts n that

From one of William Dampiers travelogs (1680s)

He's describing Jeoly a 'painted' prince,(the .......... bits represent a skip forward)

He was painted all down the Breast, and behind.......... I cannot liken the Drawings to any Figures of Animals...................... full of great Variety of Lines, Florishes, Chequered Work, &c............... By the Account he gave me of the manner of doing it, I understood that the painting was done in the same manner as them Jerusalem Cross is made on Men's Arms, by pricking the Skin and rubbing in Pigment. But whereas Powder is used in making the Jerusalem Cross, those at Meangis use the Gum of a Tree, beaten to Powder, called by the English Dammar.................

So Dampier at least was au fait with 'tattooing' on Europeans in the late 17thC

And also on painted/tattooed/glazed europeans and shamelessly nicked from a post by Ed Foxe on another forum

American Weekly Mercury of March 17, 1720:

"...a North Country Man aged about 21 Years, Short Brownish Hair, Round-Faced. He has on one hand blue S.F. in blue letters and on the other hand blue Spots, and upon one arm our Saviour upon the Cross and on the other Adam and Eve, all supposed to be done in Gunpowder. He is a Saylor.

**Edited February 20, 2010 by Grymm**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted February 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380650) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380650)

You do realize Dampier brought the prince so he could show him off in England for money? It suggests to me that it was a pretty rare thing. (Alas, Dampier was so poor in England that he soon wound up selling his prized attraction to someone else so that they could show him for money. The prince apparently didn't adapt well to the food, diseases, living in England or some such and died soon after that.)

“Abundance of mosquitoes and sand-flies hindered our rest, to remedy which we digged holes in the sand, got some grass and laid it therein to to lie upon, in order to cover ourselves from the flies, which most of us did; but it being extreme cold, and firing scarce, we had little comfort.” (Dickinson, p. 20)

These folks were shipwrecked on the coast of Florida. It seems funny to me that I haven't come across more references to mosquitoes.

“About noon some fish was brought us [by the Florida Indians who captured them when they shipwrecked]: hunger was grown strong upon (us), and the quantity given was not much more than each a mouthful; which we ate. The Casseekey [cacique: basically an indian chief] ordered the master Joseph Kirle, Solomon Cresson, my wife and me, to sit upon their cabin to eat our fish; and they gave us some of their berries to eat. We tasted them, but not one amongst us could suffer them to stay in our mouths; for we could compare the taste of them to nothing else, but rotten cheese

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steeped in tobacco.” (Dickinson, p. 26-7)

Now **THERE'S** a flavor to contemplate and savor!

[From *Jonathan Dickison's Journal or God's Protecting Providence; Being the Narrative of a journey from PORT ROYAL in JAMAICA to PHILADELPHIA August 23, 1696 to April 1, 1697*.]

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
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* Moderator

[Posted February 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380652) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380652)

 Quote

The first kind are the size of the gnats we have on summer days at home; they land one's flesh and suck blood until they are full and unable to fly. In places where they are abundant the only thing to do is to break off a branch and keep fanning it, as a cow waves her tail to chase the flies away. They torment people most in the mornings and evenings, and most vexing of all is the noise they make in one's ears, which is not to be borne. These gnats are called *mosquitoes* by the Spaniards, and *maranguines* by the French.

***The Buccaneers of America*** by Alexander Exquemelin

<He didn't mention that they are the size of small dogs, and have been known to carry small children away...... :angry: >

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380654) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380654)

Thanks, Patrick. Do you have the page # for that?

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
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* Moderator

[Posted February 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380657) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380657)

It's from Chapter Four

*Fruits,Trees and Animals of Hispaniola*

Page 43 in the Dover edition. (about 6 pages into the chapter)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=380691) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=380691)

Some notes on the Spaniards of Florida's food. They seem to have been very, very poorly supplied. I didn't make a note of the exact quote, but Dickinson said they had not been supplied at St. Augustine for several years.

[Edit: I happened to see it while looking at some other notes:

"The governor stated the poverty of the country unto us. The place is a garrison maintained one half by the King of Spain, the other half by the Church of Rome... And all their supply of bread, clothing and money comes from the Havana and Porto Vella [Footnote: Presumably Porto Bella]. And it is going on of three years since they have had a vessel from any place whatsoever, which makes their wants very great; all things being expended except ammunition and salt, of which they said they had enough." (Dickinson, p. 61)]

At the end is also a quote about clothing I thought some of you might find interesting. (From 1696.)

“The Spaniards had brought little provision with them, so that there was not much to spare for us; having not above a rove of corn, and a little Nova Spain bread, which was so bad

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that it was more dust and dead weevils than bread: an handful of it was an acceptable present to us. We would mix it with a little water, making it to a paste, which would eat pleasantly; but hunger was no stranger unto us; and we knew not that we should have any victuals on our journey: but our deliverance seemed to overbalance it all.” (Dickinson, p. 43-4)

“About an hour before sunset, we got to an Indian plantation (this was the first place we saw anything planted) being full of pumpion vines and some small pumpion on them but the Spaniards were too quick for us and got all before us: some of us got a few as big as one’s fist. We had a fire there, yet had not patience to dress them as they should be, but put them into the fire, roasted them and eat them. The Spaniards used a great deal of cookery with their pumpions, and the piragua [a small boat] that came last from Augustine had brought bread, corn and strung beef; but it was kept from us, except a piece of strung beef the captain of the Spaniards gave my wife [who was nursing a child] as big as a stick of sealing-wax; which we treasured up, expecting it must be harder with us when we left these people.” (Dickinson, p. 47)

"About half an hour afterwards the governor [of [st.] Augustine] sent for John Smith and me and gave us a shirt and sliders, a hat and pair of silk stockings, telling us he had no woolen clothes as yet [it was mid-November], but would have some made." (Dickinson, p. 58)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted March 21, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=381607) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=381607)

From *The Travels and Controversies of Friar Domingo Navarrete*, Volume I, Edited by J.S. Cummings:

“There is another little Creature in Mexico, which they call Zorrilo [skunk], of a hellish Nature, for when it breaks wind, it infects all the Grounds about with the Stench.” (Navarrete, p. 41)



[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member

[Posted March 21, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=381609) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=381609)

 On 3/21/2010 at 11:06 AM, Mission said:

From *The Travels and Controversies of Friar Domingo Navarrete*, Volume I, Edited by J.S. Cummings:

“There is another little Creature in Mexico, which they call Zorrilo [skunk], of a hellish Nature, for when it breaks wind, it infects all the Grounds about with the Stench.” (Navarrete, p. 41)



That's doubly funny, becasue "Zorrillo," translated literally, means "little fox."

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted March 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=382002) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=382002)

Well, this makes [40' crocodiles](http://pyracy.com/index.php?showtopic=4392&st=420&p=379863) sound pretty plausible...

“At Guistin [in the Philippines] I saw a Tree, of which the Curat at Luban had told us, that every Leaf of it which fell to the Ground, immediately turn’d into a Mouse. Being come to the said Town with the other Companions that were upon the Mission with me, I enquir’d among the Indians concerning the truth of that Report. They avouch’d it to be soi, and added, that if any of the wild Mice came within the Shade of that Tree, they dy;d upon the spot. The Tree is beautiful to look to, and of a very fine Green. I hapning to relate this in China, Father Balat the Jesuit, said, That in some parts of the Lower Germany there were certain Trees on the Seashore, the Leaves whereof falling into the Water were converted into Ducks. I afterwards read the same in Friar Michael de Angelis [Manoel dos Anjos], and at Rome, credible Persons of that Country assured me it was true.” (Navarrete, p. 77)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted March 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=382038) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=382038)

“17. The Sea and Rivers [in the mountains in the Philippines] abound in excellent Fish. That sort is found there which is commonly call’d Piscis Mulier, or Woman-Fish, of the Bones whereof Beads of great value are made, because they have a singular virtue against Defluxions and that which has been try’d is worth much Money. The Licentiate Francis Roca, Curates of that place [Nauján], told me a very extraordinary Passage that had happen’d in his Division. An Indian going a fishing every day, found near the Water a Piscis Mulier, which they say is like a Woman from the Breasts downwards. He had

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actual Copulation with her, and continu’d this beastly Whoredom for above six Months, without missing a day. At the end of this time God mov’d his Heart to got to Confession; he did so and was commanded to go nor more to that place, which he perform’d and that abomination ceas’d. I own, that if I had not heard it my self from the Person I have nam’d, I should have doubted of it. [Footnote 1: The Dugong, a submarine elephant now rapidly becoming extinct, is possible the origin of Homer’s sirens and the mermaid legends; Columbus, for instance, was misled into taking one for a mermaid. It puzzled many travelers, though after 1565 it was known not to be a human being (A. da Silva Carvalho, *Garcia d’Orta* (Coimbra, 1934), 110); but even in the nineteenth century it remained a mystery to some (W.E. Retana, *Aparato bibliográfico de la historia general de Filipinas* (Madrid 1906), I, 151). Others refer to its ability to stop bleeding (Jerom Merolla da Sorrento, ‘Voyage to the Congo, 1682’ in Churchill, *Collection*, I (1704), 672; F. Colín, *Labor evangélica*, ed. P. Pastels (Barcelona, 1904), I, 82-3; J. J. Delgado, *Historia general…de Filipinas* [1753] (Manila, 1892), 912).] (Navarrete, p. 81-2)

I just found this interesting, so I thought I'd re-print it. It's not really gross like some of the other stuff, so the squeamish should have no trouble with it. It's another bit from Matthais Purmann's book *Chirurgia curiosa*.

 Quote

CHAP XVII.

*Nævi, or Natural Marks on Children on the Face, or other Parts of the Body, how they may be extirpated.*

Every Body knows, that a sudden Surprise, a Fright, Stupefaction, or any unexpected frightful Accident, or vehement Desire in a Woman great with Child, does commonly so work upon the *Imagination*, as to Imprint the same *Figure*, which was the Cause of the Fright or Desire upon the Body of the *Fœtis*, which being in its Formation and Growth, has a Harmony in every Part with the Mother, and hence it is that the Mother's *Imagination*, with the help of the *Formative* Faculty, has a Power upon the Infant, which like *Wax*, receives any Impression, and there delineates those several *Næve* in the Shape and Figure that caused them, as of Fruits and other things, and sometimes prodigious and unnatural Representations, which tho' it be wonderful to consider, yet it shews the exact *Sympathy* between the Mother and the Child insomuch that wheresoever the Mother by chance lays her Hand, in such a Fright, Surprize, or Desire, the Child will certainly be marked in the same place with the Figure of what was in her Imagination.

These Impressions commonly happen, as some affirm, in the Second or Third Month, and afterward in the Eighth and Ninth from the time of *Conception*; for in those Months they are neither too Strong nor Weak, but liable to such Blemishes, and the other Months the contrary; But who can make such certain Conclusions from such intricate Premises... (Purmann, p. 47)

And I can't resist posting a few of his medicinal cures because they are as absolutely bizarre as his explanation for how birthmarks come to be:

 Quote

The Cure by *Medicines* is sometimes effectual, but must be attempted in the first or second Month at farthest. I have cured several Children six Weeks old or thereabouts, with the fresh Blood of an Eele, after the Eele's Head was cut off, and then only rub the Child's Mark with it, three or four times a day, and the Mark suddenly vanished, *Wolf's* Blood, if it can be had, will do the same, and as some say, the *Secundine* [afterbirth - ok, that one is a little gross] used in the same manner... (Purmann, p. 48)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted August 16, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=402289) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=402289)

This is from Dr. Thomas Sydenham's book, *The Whole Works of that Excellent Practical Physician Dr. Thomas Sydenham*, 10th Edition. As I read it, I wondered what prompted them to set up shops on the ice. Perhaps because the novelty of the situation caused so many people to go out there?

"...and on this Account we must likewise take notice, that the last two Years of the Constitution\* now going off, had two very severe Winters, especially the last save one, *viz.* the Year 1683; in which the Season was so vehemently cold, that no Man living ever saw the like as to the intense degree of the Cold, and the long Time it held; for the noble River of *Thames* was so froze, that it easily sustained, like a solid Pavement, Coaches running about upon it, and Shops well furnished in the manner of Streets, and great Crouds of People. Tho the following Year 84 did not equal the preceding, either as to the Extremity of Cold, or obstinate Duration of it, yet it did not come much behind it as to either; but as it thawed in *February* in the year 85, this Fever began that I now treat of..." (Sydenham, p. 409)

\* The precise meaning of 'Constitution' here is not entirely clear to me, but it refers to an epidemic fever. My thought is that he means its composition, although that doesn't seem to quite fit either.

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* Member

[Posted August 16, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=402291) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=402291)

Novelty may have been one reason for setting up shops on the ice. But you also have to remember how intensely crowded London streets were, and how tough it was to find selling space there. The frozen river would have been a brief opportunity for craftsmen who couldn't afford shop space on regular streets to grab some for nothing.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
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* Moderator

[Posted August 30, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=402573) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=402573)

There were frost fairs intermittently when the Thames froze over. I have a couple of little printed slips with people's names on, the date, and some words like 'Printed on the Ice'. Basically you went to the booth, paid your ha'penny, and got a neat souvenir with your name on to show you'd been. A bit like Disneyland really.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted September 22, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=403093) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=403093)

 On 3/28/2010 at 10:49 AM, Mission said:

"17. The Sea and Rivers [in the mountains in the Philippines] abound in excellent Fish. That sort is found there which is commonly call'd Piscis Mulier, or Woman-Fish, of the Bones whereof Beads of great value are made, because they have a singular virtue against Defluxions and that which has been try'd is worth much Money.... ]

[Footnote 1: The Dugong, a submarine elephant now rapidly becoming extinct, is possible the origin of Homer's sirens and the mermaid legends; Columbus, for instance, was misled into taking one for a mermaid. It puzzled many travelers....] (Navarrete, p. 81-2)

Nathaniel Uring also talks about a "Woman Fish" in *The Voyages and Travels of Captain Nathaniel Uring* (1928 reprint, first published in 1726), identifying it as a manatee, which is closely related to the dewgong.

"Throughout all the River of Zair [the Congo], he [Father Francis de Pava] says, the *Mermaid* is found, which from the Middle upwards has some Resemblance of a Woman; it has Breasts, Nipples, Hands and Arms, but downwards it is altogether Fish; its Head is round, and the Face like that of a Calf, a large ugly Mouth, little Ears, and round full Eyes; that he has eat of them divers Times, and it tastes not unlike Swine's Flesh, and the Entrails resemble that of a Hog, for which Reason the Natives Name it *Ngullin a-Masa* (the *Water Sow* but the *Portugueze* call it *Peixe Molker* (the *Woman Fish* although it feeds on

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Herbs which grow on the River Side, yet it does not go out of the Water, but only holds its Head out when it feeds: they are taken for the most Part in the rainy Times, when the Waters are disturbed and muddy, and cannot discern the Approach of Fishermen; they are caught by striking. This creature that the good Father speaks of as the *Mermaid*, can be no other than the *Manatee*, it answering exactly to that Description, only he has made the Finns to be Hands and Arms. (*See the Description of the* Manatee *or* Sea-Cow, *in the Voyage to* Campeachey.)" (Uring, p. 45-6)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted October 1, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=403238) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=403238)

Here are a number of interesting things from the book *The Voyages and Travels of Captain Nathaniel Uring* (1928 reprint, first published in 1726) that don't really fit in another topic perfectly.

First, some period words and phrases I found interesting.

*Bomb-Ketches* - small craft carrying howitzers

*being a-peak of our Anchors* - with the cable shortened in

*Boar cable* - [bower cable], the best cable in the ship

*Factory* [capitalized] - Usual term for a trading station in the 17th century.

*false Keel* - a timber secured to the bottom of the keel to pretect it from damage.

*fish the Mast* - To lash spars to it at a weak spot, similar to splints on a broken arm

*a Paper Braul* - A blue and white striped cloth manufactured in India.

*the People* - A term given to the crew in the 18th century. "Ship's company" is a 19th-century expression.

*Smart-Money* - Money granted for a wound.

*Sugar-droghers* - small schooners carrying sugar from the West Indies plantations to the shipping ports.

*Tierce* - a barrel holding 42 gallons

"When the Enemy [The French. Uring was pressed into service as a midshipman aboard the *Eagle*, a British Navy ship.] saw we had forced their Boom, most of them left their Ships and fled a-shore in their Boats,

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having first laid Trains of Gun-powder, with lighted Matches, in order to blow them up rather than they should fall into our Hands..." (Uring, p. 56-7)

"Before the Privateer came up with us [uring was in charge of a Packet Boat (small ships which delivered things British colonies) in 1703. Since Packet Boats contained mail and valuable items, French privateers tried to capture them.], I had caused the Ensign to be nailed to the Staff, and that made so fast that none of my People should be able to strike it; and having all I was worth on Board, and not willing to lose it easily, being resolved not to surrender until there was not possibility of keeping her." (Uring, p. 67)

"[uring is shipwrecked and residing in an English camp amongst the natives off the coast of Honduras in 1711] The manner of their Lodging is thus: They fix several Crutches in the Ground about Four Foot high, and lay Sticks cross, and other Sticks cross them close together; and upon those Sticks they lay a good Quantity of Leaves, and upon them a Piece of old Canvas if they have it; and this is their Bed. There is also at each Corner of the Bed-Place, a tall Pole fixed, to which they fasten their Covering, which is generally made of Ozinbrigs [Footnote 1: A form of 'onsaburg,' a kind of coarse linen named from Onsabruck.]; it is sewed together, and fastened at each Corner to these Poles about Four Foot above the Bed-Place, and is so contriv'd that it falls down on every Side, which tucks close in all round, and serves not only for Curtains, but also keep the Flies from disturbing them. This was the first Contrivance I saw of this sort, and are called by these People Pavilions; nor are there hardly any living without them." (Uring p. 124-5)

"[uring is again off the coast of Honduras, shipwrecked.] These Considerations put me upon drawing a Draught of those Coasts, which will be very useful to Masters of Ships that may, by Accident, be drove into those Seas, or Trade thither, and are unacquainted therewith. Having advised with my *Padrone* [the man he was staying with while shipwrecked] about it, he encouraged me, and said, he would give me an exact Account of that Part which I had not seen, and supply'd me with Paper for that Purpose. In order to draw the said Draught, I made a wooden pair of Compasses, and a Scale; my Ink was made with Gun-powder, and my Pens with the Feathers of wild Fowl; with these Utensils, I drew the Draught of the Bay of *Honduras*, describing all the Islands therein, and the Coast of the *Muschetos*, which, with some Alteration I have made since, is a pretty good one, and is hereunto annexed. [i could not find this map in the book I have, in the original manuscript or on-line. I did find [Uring's map of St. Lucia on-line](http://www.themaphouse.com/search_getamap.aspx?id=108185&ref=WIND3716).] The prick'd Line shews the Course of my Travels, both in the Canow and on the Land from the Time I was cast away, to my embarking for *Jamaica*."

"It may not be improper to relate the Manner of a *Round Robin*. [This is a way to institute mutiny among the crew.] They take a large Sheet of Paper, an strike two Circles, one a good Distance without the other; in the inner Circle, they write what they have a mind to have done; and between the two Circular Lines, they write their Names, in and out, against the Circles; beginning like the four Cardinal Points of a Compass, right opposite to each other, and the rest as they go on signing one opposite to the other, and so continue till the Paper is filled; which appears in a Circle, and no one can be said to be the first, so that they are all equally guilty; Which I believe to be contrived to keep 'em all firm to their Purpose, when once they have signed it; and if discovered, no one can be excused, by saying, he was the last that signed it, and he had not done it without great Persuasion." (Uring, p. 178)

[**pyrat**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2948-pyrat/)

* Bilge Rat
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* Member

[Posted October 1, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=403243) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=403243)

An interesting side note related to Saint Augustine and it's "situado" (resupply), Governor Montiano (1737-49) reportedly sent a message to the King shortly after assuming his post in Saint Augustine, stating he was going to engage in trade with the English in order to insure the survival of the colony since the situado was so far in arrears. I just recently heard this tidbit and have not yet verified it, but it coincides with Montiano's personality and known illegal trading activities which occurred with Charles Towne to the north.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted October 20, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=403726) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=403726)

Here are some bizarre observations (from a bizarre topic) for you to consider from the English interpretation of the French book *A Course of Surgical Operations, Demonstrated in the Royal Garden at Paris*, by Monsieur Dionis, (2nd Edition 1733):

"...but when the Wind is lodg'd in the Cavities of the *Darius*, the Tumor resists the Touch, and the *Scrotum* is extended as tort [taut] as a Foot-Ball. I have met with rascally Beggars, who by piercing their *Scrotum*, and blowing it up thro' a Straw, have so fill'd it with Wind, as to swell it to an extraordinary Bulk; Which done, their next Business was to lay themselves at a Church-door, and expose the *Scrotum* naked to the view of all Persons, by which means exiciting the Pity of those who pass'd by them, they receiv'd their Charity, for which they were bolig'd to this suppos'd Infirmity." (Dionis, p. 201)

That last visual aside... Football!

According to [this site](http://www.sportsknowhow.com/football/history/football-history.shtml), "In 1623, football resurfaced (legally) in England as a soccer-type game played on a field rather than in the town streets. Players were not allowed to touch the ball with anything except their feet. At about the same time, Irish teams took up a form of football that allowed players to hit the ball with their fists."

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted March 28, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=407592) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=407592)

This may not be news to many of you, but I still found the description sort of amusing and interesting.

"...he [pirate William Phillips, former boatswain of the *King Solomon* taken by Robert's Crew] had confessed to [George] *Fenn* [Mate of the *King Solomon*] that he had been obliged to sign their Articles that Night, (a Pistol being laid on the Table, to signify that he must do it, or be shot,) when the whole appeared to be an Untruth from other Evidence...

The Court observed the Pretences of this, and other of the Pyrates, of a Pistol and their Article, being served up in a Dish together, or of their being misused and forced from an honest Service, was often a Complotment ["A plotting together".- what an awesome word!] of the Parties, to render them less suspected of those they came from and was to answer the End of being put in a NewsPaper or Affidavit, and the Pyrates were so generous as not to refuse a Compliment to a Brother that cost them nothing, and, at the same Time, secured them the best Hands, the best I call them, because such a Dependance made them act more boldly." (Johnson, A general history of the pyrates, 3rd ed., p. 300)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted March 28, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=407604) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=407604)

 On 3/28/2012 at 9:20 AM, Mission said:

This may not be news to many of you, but I still found the description sort of amusing and interesting.

"...he [pirate William Phillips, former boatswain of the *King Solomon* taken by Robert's Crew] had confessed to [George] *Fenn* [Mate of the *King Solomon*] that he had been obliged to sign their Articles that Night, (a Pistol being laid on the Table, to signify that he must do it, or be shot,) when the whole appeared to be an Untruth from other Evidence...

The Court observed the Pretences of this, and other of the Pyrates, of a Pistol and their Article, being served up in a Dish together, or of their being misused and forced from an honest Service, was often a Complotment ["A plotting together".- what an awesome word!] of the Parties, to render them less suspected of those they came from and was to answer the End of being put in a NewsPaper or Affidavit, and the Pyrates were so generous as not to refuse a Compliment to a Brother that cost them nothing, and, at the same Time, secured them the best Hands, the best I call them, because such a Dependance made them act more boldly." (Johnson, A general history of the pyrates, 3rd ed., p. 300)

Is that a same man than John Filips?

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
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* Moderator
* Shooting pirates.

[Posted March 28, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=407631) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=407631)

No, William Philips was a boatswain from London and was executed at Cape Corso in 1722. John Philips was a carpenter from Devon and was killed by forced men from his crew in 1724. Just to confuse the issue, John Philips (before he became a captain) served alongside John Fenn (before he became a captain), who was not the same person as George Fenn.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted April 26, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=408747) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=408747)

I just thought this was an interesting detail.

“[bonnet] ...they took a Scooner, coming from *North-Carolina*, bound to *Boston*, they had out of her only two Dozen of Calf-Skins, to make Covers for Guns…” (Johnson, General History of the Pyrates 3rd Edition, p. 96)

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
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* Member

[Posted April 26, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=408755) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=408755)

Shame there isn't more detail on the covers...or is there? In which case pray continue

**Edited April 26, 2012 by Capt. Sterling**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted May 3, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=408934) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=408934)

 On 4/26/2012 at 10:26 AM, Capt. Sterling said:

Shame there isn't more detail on the covers...or is there? In which case pray continue

No, you got everything in there. I would have posted the details had there been more.

This reads like a movie script...

"About 10, [Pirate captain] Cornelius came up with them [an African Company slaving ship containing Robert Williams], and being hailed, answered he was a man of war, in search of pirates, and bid them send their boat on board; but they refusig to trust him, though he had English colours and pendant flying, the pirate fired a broadside, and they began a running fight of about 10 hours, in which time the negroes discharged their arms so smartly, that Cornelius never durst attempt to board. About 8 at night the ship blew up abaft. They immediately cut the lashings of the long-boat, but the ship going down, they had not time to get her out, and barely enough to launch the yawl, which lay on the forecastle. The ship went down on one side, and Robert Williams running on the other, was hooked by the mizen-truss, and was carried down with her; but having his knife in his hand, and a, great presence of mind, he cut the waistband of his trowsers, where he was caught, got clear, and swam after the boat, into which about 16 had gotten, and either knocked those on the head, or cut off their hands, who laid hold on it; however, with much entreaty, he was permitted to lay one hand on to ease him. They made to the pirate, who refused to receive them, without they would enter with him : which, to save their lives, they all agreed to, and were then civilly received, and dry clothes given them. These and one negro were all the souls saved." (Captain Charles Johnson, *The History of the Pirates* (aka. Vol II of *The General History*), 1834 Edition, p. 161)

I take it the ship would have blown up because they hit the powder magazine?

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted May 9, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409105) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409105)

Eventual pirate Captain North's story in the *The History of the Pirates* (aka. Vol II of *The General History*) contains all sorts of interesting comments. Here are two. The first is about getting a Letter of the Marque renewed (or extended):

"[North] ...returned to Jamaica, and went on board and cruised in a Spanish barcalonga, of 10 guns, commanded by Capt. Lovering, born at Jamaica. They cruised three months in the West-Indies, and making but a small hand of it, they steered for Newfoundland, to try their fortune on the banks. Here they met a man of war, who renewed their commission for six months longer." (Captain Charles Johnson, *The History of the Pirates* (aka. Vol II of *The General History*), 1834 Edition, p. 188)

The second is an interesting comment about water casks. Well, I thought it was kind of interesting.

"They fitted this ship [the *Pelican*, which the crew had purchased] for a long voyage, out of the joint stock of the company; but iron hoops being scarce in New-England, they were obliged to take casks hooped with wood, which I mention, because it proved the ruin of their voyage to the East-Indies for a whole year." (Johnson, p. 189)

"...they thought of going to sea again [after being stuck ashore in the East-Indies for some period due to sickness], but on examining their water casks, they found the hoops all worm eaten and rotten, so that there was no proceeding; but this defect was repaired by their cooper, who was an ingenious fellow. He went into the woods with the Mayotta slaves, and with withes [willow branches] and other stuff he gathered, fitted them up, and made them tight; in acknowledgment of which service they chose him captain, and North was made quarter-master." (Johnson, p. 191)

[**Cuisto Mako**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10777-cuisto-mako/)

* Ship's Master
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* Member
* 152 posts

[Posted May 9, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409108) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409108)

Very interesting descriptiton I just found today in Jean Doublet journal's.

In 1672, when he was a young sailor/pilot, his ship got captured, they took everything and the crew was sent in prison in Ostend.

They spend 3 days and prison, than are freed and each men is given the equivalent of "15 sol" to pay for their way back to France and the men are left in a very miserable condition:

*...je n'avois sur moy qu'un justaucorps sans manches raptassé de pièces de thoille godronnés et une pareille culotte, des vieux bas de deux couleurs et sans pieds, et de misérables souliers qui m'abandonnèrent à la première lieue, et pour bonnet le haut d'un vieux bas attaché avec une ficelle...*

...all I had with me was a sleeveless justaucorp patched with some tarred canvas and similar breeches, some olds "feetless" socks of different colours, some crappy shoes that dyed on me at the first mile and for a hat, the top of an old sock tight up with a string...

Now, i'm not saying this is representative of a late 17th c French sailor... but it would make a nice beggar outfit!

Anybody got an old justaucorp they don't need anymore? 

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted May 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409125) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409125)

Here is some more from North's story in the *The History of the Pirates* (aka. Vol II of *The General History*). The first part is about how they dealt with treasure. Sequins have come up in several other accounts from this book, which I find sort of interesting. And, of course, to the re-enactor there is all that stuff about making gold buttons and buckles. (Get your wallet it if you want to be PC in this manner!)

"When they came over against Cachine, some black merchants, goldsmiths, and several Dutchmen,came on board to trade with them, bringing a great many sequins, and other gold coin, to change for Spanish dollars. As many of the pirates designed to knock off and return home, they gave 500 dollars for 200 sequins, for the conveniency of close stowage about them. The goldsmiths set up their forges on board the ship, and were fully employed in making them buttons, buckles, and what else they fancied,so that they had a fair opportunity of putting in what alloy they thought proper." (Johnson, p. 199)

The second bit is about a tribal custom when the pirates were staying in Madagascar. I have come across photos of African tribal scarifying, but hadn't read about it in a period document before this.

"As the whites were returning home with their company, they fell in with another nation, the Timouses, whose prince joined North, with 500 men, and swore a strict amity with him and his crew.

The ceremony used among the natives, as it is uncommon, so an account of it may, perhaps, be agreeable. The parties who swear to each other, interweave their toes and fingers, so that they must necessarily sit very close to each other. When they have thus knit their hands and feet, they reciprocally swear to do each other all friendly offices, to be a friend or enemy to the friend or enemy of the party to whom they swear; and if they falsify the oath they make, they imprecate several curses on themselves, as may they fall by the lance, be devoured by the alligator, or struck dead by the hand of God. Then an assistant scarifies each of the contracting parties on the chest, and wiping up the blood with a piece of bread, gives this bloody bread to each of them to cat, that Is, each eats the blood of the other; and this oath, whether it be with equal parties, or with a prince and his subject, where the one promises protection and the other obedience, (which was the nature of that taken between North and this prince) is looked upon inviolable, and they have few examples of its being broken; but where any has been wicked enough to violate this solemn oath, they say, they have been ever punished according to their imprecations." (Johnson, p. 211)

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
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* Admin

[Posted May 10, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409129) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409129)

On the 9th of February, 1718, there arrived at Mobile, by ship, from France, Pierre Duqué Boisbriant, a Canadian gentleman, with the commission of Commandant at the Illinois. He was a cousin of Bienville, then Governor of Louisiana, and had already served under him in that province. In October, of the same year, accompanied by several officers and a detachment of troops, he departed for the Illinois country, where he was ordered to construct a fort. The little flotilla, stemming the swift current of the Mississippi, moved slowly on its way, encountering no enemies more troublesome than ***"the mosquitoes, which,"*** says the worthy priest Poisson, who took the same journey shortly after, ***"have caused more swearing since the French have been here, than had previously taken place in all the rest of the world."***

That line (especially coming from a priest) always makes me laugh.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted May 15, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409204) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409204)

Below are some interesting bits about setting up tents for influx of pirates into Nassau, Bahamas after the Rogers brought the King's pardon. This is from *The History of the Pirates* (aka. Vol II of *The General History*) and it also includes some interesting details about the construction of houses.

"The governor, with some soldiers, guarded the fort, and the inhabitants, who were formed into trained bands, took care of the town ; but as there was no sort of accommodation to lodge such a number of people, they were forced to unbend the sails, and bring them on shore, in order to make tents, tilt they had time to build houses, which was done with all possible expedition, by a kind of architecture altogether new.

Those that were built in the fort were done by making six little holes in the rock, at convenient distances, in each of which was stuck a forked pole; on these, from one to the other, were placed cross poles or rafters, which being lathed at top, and on the sides, with small sticks, were afterwards covered with Palmata leaves, and then the house was finished ; for they did not much trouble themselves about the ornaments of doors and windows." (Johnson, p. 220)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted May 17, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409260) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409260)

The modern source is " Scourge of the Seas - Buccaneers, Pirates and Privateers" but this is originally from old account.

In an account of the engagement between the English East India Company

ship Cassandra and the pirate Edward England in july 1720, Captain James McRae

described how his opponent attacked with two vessels, one of 30 guns and the

Fancy of 34 guns. The Scottish captain was deserted by the English East Indiaman

Greenwich and the Dutch East India Company ship that sailed with her, and she

was left alone to face the pirates:

" For though we did not doubt that he [the Greenwich] would join us, because

when he got about a league from us, he brought his ship to, and look'd on, yet

both he and the Osunder basely deserted us, and left us engaged with barbarous

and inhuman enemies, with their black and bloody flags hanging over us, without

the least appearance of escaping being cut to pieces. But God, in his good

Providence determined otherwise, for notwithstanding their Superiority, we

engaged them both about three hours, during which the biggest received some

shot betwixt wind & water, which made them keep off a little to stop their leaks.

The other endeavoured all she could to board us, by rowing with her oars,

being with half a ship's length of us above an Hour, but by good Fortune we shot

all her oars to pieces, which prevented them, and by consequence, saved our lives

Here we had a more violent engagement than before. All my Officers, and

most of my men behav'd with unexpected Courage, & as we had considerable

advantage by having a broadside to his bow, we did him great damage, so that

had Captain Kirby come in then, I believe we should have taken both, for we

had one of them for sure, but the other pyrate (who was still firing at us) seeing

the Greenwich did not offer to assist us. He supplied his Consort with three

boats full of fresh men. About 5 in the evening, the Greenwich stood clear away

to Sea, leaving us struggling hard for life in the very jaws of death, which the

other pyrate, that was now afloat, seeing this, got a warp out, and was hauling

under our Stern, by which time many of my men were killed or wounded, and

no hopes left of us from being all murdered by enraged barbarous Conquerors,

I order'd all that could, to get into the longboat under the cover of the smoke of

our guns, so that with what some did in boats, & others by swimming, most of

us that were able reached ashoar by 7 0' clock. When the Pyrates came aboard,

they cut three of our wounded men to pieces. I, with a few of my people, made

what haste I could to the Kingstown, 25 miles from us, where I arrived next day,

almost dead with fatigue and loss of blood, having been sorely wounded in the

Head by a musket ball."

**Edited May 17, 2012 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409818) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409818)

Belly-timber!

“[Roberts] They seiz'd in this River a Sloop, and by her gained Intelligence, that a Brigantine had also sailed in Company with her, from *Rhode-Island*, laden with Provisions for the Coast. A Welcome Cargo! They growing short in the Sea Store, and as *Sancho* says, *No Adventures to he made without Belly-Timber*.” (Johnson, 3rd, p. 223)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted June 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=409830) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=409830)

Some pirate democracy in horrible way... they sometimes shared quite many things with eachother even wifes...

From GHoP (1724 version)

Some (was it Foxe?) has call into question the story about BB's wife but we may never know what was the truth (Mission yes history is messy indeed)

" Before he sailed upon his Adventures, he (Teach) marry'd a young Creature of about sixteen Years of Age, the Governor performing the Ceremony. As it is a Custom to marry here by a Priest, so it is there by a Magistrate; and this, I have been informed, made Teach's fourteenth Wife, whereof, about a dozen might be still living. His Behaviour in this State, was something extraordinary; for while his Sloop lay in Okerecock Inlet, and he ashore at a Plantation, where his Wife lived, with whom after he had lain all Night, it was his Custom to invite five or six of his brutal Companions to come ashore, and he would force her to prostitute her self to them all, one after another, before his Face."

the 14 wifes is propably not true...

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted September 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=410842) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=410842)

I have found this a little time ago in some history forum but I cannot tell where . However I think this was written by Privateer Shelvocke after a shipwreck.

"In two months we made a tolerable shew, owing in a great measure to the ingenuity of Poppleston, our armourer, who never lost a minute in working with his hands, or contriving in his head. He made us a small double-headed maul, hammers, chisels, and a sort of gimblets or wimbles, which performed very well. He even made a bullet-mould, and an instrument to bore cartouch-boxes, which he made from the trucks of our gun-carriages, covering them with seal-skins, and contrived to make them not only convenient, but neat."

I found this when I wanted, just for fun, to find out how popular cartouche-boxes were. (and after looking period pictures and reading some quotes, like the blackbeard battle thing from 1719 newpaper quote, I think that those boxes were, if not popular, used at least in some numbers by fighting sailors and pirates alike.)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted September 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=410843) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=410843)

Now I want to get some gimblets and wimbles just so I can say that during presentations.. (Actually, I have two wimbles... sort of...)

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

* Mercury Malefactor
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* Admin

[Posted September 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=410849) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=410849)

 On 9/1/2012 at 7:38 AM, Mission said:

Now I want to get some gimblets and wimbles just so I can say that during presentations.. (Actually, I have two wimbles... sort of...)

You should refer to them as your skull gimlets and dental wimbles, making them sound whimsical and disturbing.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted September 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=410843) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=410843)

If asked me to describe my method of presentation, I think that "whimsical and distubing" would be an excellent response.

[**Captain Jim**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2317-captain-jim/)

* Captain Jim for Captain!
* 
* 
* Member

[Posted September 1, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=410860) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=410860)

Raphael Mission, churgeon, for all your whimsical and disturbing medical needs...

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted January 15, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=412881) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=412881)

Quote from The history of the pyrates: containing the lives of Captain Mission. Captain Bowen. Captain Kidd ... and their several crews 1728 (<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/17002>) Nothing really special but nice quotes about many things like provisions and pirate and ladies....

***"In the mean Time Vane made towards the Coast of Hispaniola, living riotously on Board, having store of Liquor, and plenty of fresh Provisions, such as Hogs, Goats, Sheep, Fowl, which he got upon easy Terms, for touching at a Place called Isleatherer, he plundered the Inhabitants of as much of their Provision as they could carry away: Here they cruised to about February, when, near the Windward Passage of Cape Mase, they met with a large rich Ship of London, called the Kingston, loaden with Bale Goods, and other rich Merchandize, and having several Passengers on Board, some English, and some Jews, besides two Women.***

***Towards the North-End of Jamaica they also met with a Turtle Sloop, bound in for that Island, on Board of which (after having first plundered her) they put the Captain of the Kingston, and some of his Men, and all the Passengers, except the two Women, whom they kept for their own Entertainment, contrary to the usual Practice of pyrates, who generally sent them away, least they should occasion Contention.***

***The Ship Kingston they kept for their own Use; for now their Company being strengthened by a great many Recruits, some Voluntiers, and some forced Men out of the Neptune and Kingston, they thought they had Hands enough for two Ships; accordingly they shifted several of their Hands on Board the Kingston, and John Rackham, alias Callico Jack, (so called, because his Jackets and Drawers were always made of Callico) Quarter-Master to Vane, was unanimously chosen Captain of the Kingston."***

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted January 17, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=412914) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=412914)

Recently I was amazed about that how many of the early books of 17th and 18th centuries can be found on wed.

Being a lucky one I found this as and e-book without even searching it more than a few minutes : A voyage round the world, by the way of the great South Sea *performed in a private expedition during the war, which broke out with Spain, in the year 1718* 2nd ed., rev. and republ. / by George Shelvocke, Esq. by Capt. George Shelvocke. Published 1757

<http://www.archive.org/stream/avoyageroundwor00schegoog#page/n157/mode/2up/search/cap>

Too bad so some pages are missing in this e-book including pages that covers the period of may and early June of 1719 and so the yellow pirate flag part I was originally looking for is not in this e- book version

This is not really piratical or even nautical but of the period and Americas

But there is an interesting description apparently about Spanish American Indian clothing. Anyway it almost fits to that we know about hunter buccaneers of the earlier time. Also did British postilions use montero cap style hats? Well apparently yes...

Picture of the page here

<http://ia600308.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/28/items/avoyageroundwor00schegoog/avoyageroundwor00schegoog_tif.zip&file=avoyageroundwor00schegoog_tif/avoyageroundwor00schegoog_0158.tif&scale=4&rotate=0>

And picture than came just before and it is apparently linked to that description

<http://ia700308.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/28/items/avoyageroundwor00schegoog/avoyageroundwor00schegoog_tif.zip&file=avoyageroundwor00schegoog_tif/avoyageroundwor00schegoog_0156.tif&scale=2&rotate=0>

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted January 19, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=412948) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=412948)

More from Shelvocke

An interesting situation where the gunner put his foot in his mouth by sympathizing Spaniards. It also shows that sailors still knew that they would have been money to be had in the Red Sea. So the treasures of the Orient were not forgotten even thought the era of the super successful Red sea rounds-men was gone. Thought in this era there were still many pirates like England or La Buse in the Indian Ocean but not many at all sailing the Red Sea....

See the second paragraph

<http://ia700308.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/28/items/avoyageroundwor00schegoog/avoyageroundwor00schegoog_tif.zip&file=avoyageroundwor00schegoog_tif/avoyageroundwor00schegoog_0063.tif&scale=7.284109149277689&rotate=0>

[**Zaknesbitt**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20810-zaknesbitt/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
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* Member

[Posted February 6, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413186) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413186)

An interesting description of Sailor's Slops comes to us from Ned Ward's book 'A Frolick to Horn-Fair', published in 1699. Fascinating because, it describes in detail the sailor-tenants of Deptford in their typical dress, including round-toed shoes, showing they were in vogue among sailors well before the 1706 slop contract.

Ward describes them as wearing 'New course[coarse] Cloth-coats, Speckled Breeches, Grey Stockins, **Round-Toed Shoes, Picked Heels, stitch'd round the Quarters, ty'd on with Scarlet-Tape instead of buckles,** with mittings on his hands, a Fur-cap on his Head, Arm'd with an Oaken Cudgel, with a Head as big as a four Pounder.'

Apparently this fashion was rather common, as Ward goes on to say, 'I observ'd they all, *Spaniard* like, **kept up to one fashion, so that the same descripion would serve any I saw**, with a very slender variation.'

Certainly does give us insight on how sailors dressed, at least when ashore in London.

**Edited February 6, 2013 by Zaknesbitt**

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted February 6, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413188) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413188)

 On 2/6/2013 at 2:54 PM, Zaknesbitt said:

Certainly does give us insight on how sailors dressed, at least when ashore in London.

Indeed nice quote. Thought when in Madagascar or the Bahamas people would certainly have left the fur cap out. Living north were people frequently dress with fur caps during the winter and autumn seasons I know that no way you can wear a fur cap when in hotter weather. But in London there is still quite cold in winter. Thinking also that in London there was "considerably" cooler back then where there was "the little ice age" and The Thames froze almost every winter.

[**Zaknesbitt**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20810-zaknesbitt/)

* Bilge Rat
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* Member

[Posted February 6, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413190) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413190)

Actually, I've been sailing in the Caribbean, and even in our modern day, hot as it is ashore during the day time, it's a different story out at sea, especially at night; it can get fairly cold, with the wind chill and damp from the sea-air around you, indeed there were some nights when I would've loved a pair of 'mittings', and a sailor's jacket would've been a necessity.

Also, perhaps not fur, but there is evidence of sailors having thrum-caps in the West Indies... I believe it was the crew of Thomas Antis while they were having a mock-trial on the Isle of Pines.

**Edited February 6, 2013 by Zaknesbitt**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 6, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413191) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413191)

You always have to be careful with fictional books, though. Especially humorous ones. There is truth underlying humor, but it's often exaggerated for comic effect meaning you probably want to have a confirming source for it. (The stuff you posted sounds pretty banal, though, so it may be pretty safe. May be...)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted February 7, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413203) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413203)

 On 2/6/2013 at 4:43 PM, Zaknesbitt said:

Actually, I've been sailing in the Caribbean, and even in our modern day, hot as it is ashore during the day time, it's a different story out at sea, especially at night; it can get fairly cold, with the wind chill and damp from the sea-air around you, indeed there were some nights when I would've loved a pair of 'mittings', and a sailor's jacket would've been a necessity.

Also, perhaps not fur, but there is evidence of sailors having thrum-caps in the West Indies... I believe it was the crew of Thomas Antis while they were having a mock-trial on the Isle of Pines.

Quite right. The nights might be colder at sea. I think the thrum-caps were used in The Caribbean in Elizabethan era as well. Thrum-cap used by the man in the mock trial was probably an imitation of the judges wig because I think the man had glasses as well and he was presenting the judge. Anyway it proves that pirates had those caps. Some of the Early Johnson's book editions mention that Blackbeard had a fur cap and there is pictures of BB with fur cap. I wonder why the fur cap was taken off both from the text and pictures by the second edition of 1724.

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted February 17, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413321) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413321)

From *The four years voyages of capt. George Roberts.... 1726*

The real writer was really Defoe

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&source=gbs_navlinks_s>

Google book (so blame them of the bad copying)

Pages 30-32

Two notes I make: The cursing! and mentions of clothing especially the gold laced hat. That is odd since it was used by ordinarily pirate gunner. And in this era the most common hat style that would have had a gold lace is the gentleman style tricorn.....

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA30&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U0gZhk0KukmYynTkxR-T2vGH0bfrA&ci=137%2C123%2C760%2C1477&edge=0>

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA31&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U35BdIrCayUCX8NU8daHsrUlirnyg&ci=63%2C117%2C922%2C1529&edge=0>

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA32&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U3VGOBLdo9YVv27RQB04o_SuuU3hQ&ci=130%2C104%2C769%2C1473&edge=0>

**Edited February 17, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted February 23, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413409) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413409)

Interesting book <http://openlibrary.org/books/OL7232970M/The_journal_of_Sir_George_Rooke_admiral_of_the_fleet_1700-1702>

The journal of Sir George Rooke, admiral of the fleet, 1700-1702
edited by Oscar Browning. Published 1897 but it is the original journal with some additions and explanations. Thus it tells something about Gaop period naval things but it is not too detailed.... At least the lists about the Names of English, Spanish, Swedish etc. ships are nice.

The first page of the introductions tells what the book is about: Rooke's missions at the Baltic sea and in Spain.

[http://ia600304.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/0/items/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft\_jp2.zip&file=journalofsirgeor00rookuoft](http://ia600304.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/0/items/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_jp2.zip&file=journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_jp2/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_0013.jp2&scale=5.727126805778491&rotate=0%C2%A0)

[\_jp2/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft\_0013.jp2&scale=5.727126805778491&rotate=0](http://ia600304.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/0/items/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_jp2.zip&file=journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_jp2/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_0013.jp2&scale=5.727126805778491&rotate=0%C2%A0)

Here some English warships names: <http://ia600304.us.archive.org/BookReader/BookReaderImages.php?zip=/0/items/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_jp2.zip&file=journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_jp2/journalofsirgeor00rookuoft_0294.jp2&scale=5.727126805778491&rotate=0>

**Edited February 23, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 24, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413412) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413412)

 On 2/17/2013 at 10:43 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

From *The four years voyages of capt. George Roberts.... 1726*

The real writer was really Defoe

No, it probably wasn't. <http://tinyurl.com/aqdz43h>

There were a series of very badly researched attributions to Defoe, especially by J.R.R. Moore whose primary goal seems to have been to make a name for himself by massively expanding and the co-opting the American public library system to accept his various attributions to Defoe in the 1930s. Although the first person to attribute the work to Defoe was the unpublished work of Henry Hutchins, even he admits he's not sure as you see via that link. Moore's attributions (which included *The General History of the Pyrates*) are not to be trusted.

 On 2/17/2013 at 10:43 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

Google book (so blame them of the bad copying)

Pages 30-32

Two notes I make: The cursing! and mentions of clothing especially the gold laced hat. That is odd since it was used by ordinarily pirate gunner. And in this era the most common hat style that would have had a gold lace is the gentleman style tricorn.....

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA30&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U0gZhk0KukmYynTkxR-T2vGH0bfrA&ci=137%2C123%2C760%2C1477&edge=0>

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA31&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U35BdIrCayUCX8NU8daHsrUlirnyg&ci=63%2C117%2C922%2C1529&edge=0>

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA32&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U3VGOBLdo9YVv27RQB04o_SuuU3hQ&ci=130%2C104%2C769%2C1473&edge=0>

You should post the quotes in the relevant posts you're talking about. Remember not everyone here has read all your posts and they don't know why those things are notable. 

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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* Member

[Posted February 24, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413413) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413413)

 On 2/24/2013 at 9:11 AM, Mission said:

 On 2/17/2013 at 10:43 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

From *The four years voyages of capt. George Roberts.... 1726*

The real writer was really Defoe

No, it probably wasn't. <http://tinyurl.com/aqdz43h>

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 On 2/17/2013 at 10:43 AM, Swashbuckler 1700 said:

Google book (so blame them of the bad copying)

Pages 30-32

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<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA30&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U0gZhk0KukmYynTkxR-T2vGH0bfrA&ci=137%2C123%2C760%2C1477&edge=0>

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA31&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U35BdIrCayUCX8NU8daHsrUlirnyg&ci=63%2C117%2C922%2C1529&edge=0>

<http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&hl=fi&hl=fi&pg=PA32&img=1&zoom=3&sig=ACfU3U3VGOBLdo9YVv27RQB04o_SuuU3hQ&ci=130%2C104%2C769%2C1473&edge=0>

You should post the quotes in the relevant posts you're talking about. Remember not everyone here has read all your posts and they don't know why those things are notable. 

Indeed it was probably written by someone else than Defoe. I learnt that just after that post...

Oh and those quotes are notable because, at least I, was wondering the bad language among pirates alike. Hats and clothing are relevant since there was, previously in this tread, talk about quotes of sailors appearance (with the fur cap and all). I was also thinking merchant captain's appearance and that is why the Robert's morning suit was relevant in my opinion and I saw that someone else might be interested as well, especially since the dialogue between pirates and Roberts was rather funny. Indeed I should be more clear. I want also to say, just in case, that I am not trying to justify any one vision of history but I make notes when the evidence there, like the gold laced hat, is suggesting something that I see notable, interesting or extraordinary.

**Edited February 24, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted February 24, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413415) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413415)

You don't have to put them in the appropriate threads. I was just remembering that you started a thread on swearing and I believe you have started more than one thread on fancy clothing - getting down to a granular level like hats and coats and whatnot. My suggestion is that you put those comments (and the links if you like, although it would be nicer to have searchable text) in the threads you started so others can benefit from your discoveries on a topic. Throwing them all in one giant topic like one this make them less useful than putting them in specific threads about the topic. It's your choice, of course, but since you've gone to all the trouble to find them...

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
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[Posted February 24, 2013](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=413418) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=413418)

I indeed thought (i really did) that perhaps they should be in those treads but.....

Anyway the incident about The King of England was rather interesting. It seems that Russel was a Jacobite. Pages 72-75

[http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=fi&source=gbs\_ge\_summary\_r&cad=0#v=twopage&q&f=false](http://books.google.fi/books?id=OWsBAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=fi&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=king%20of%20england&f=false)

**Edited February 24, 2013 by Swashbuckler 1700**

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin

[Posted September 30, 2015](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=418597) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=418597)

Here is a description of making a tent from a sail after the shipwreck of the *Scipio* caused by hitting rocks off an island during a storm around 1727 or 1728. This is from An account of the life: and dealings of God with Silas Told, first published by Told in 1785 near the end of his life. (1805 edition).

"We speedily hoisted out our long-boat, and stowed several bags of bread therein, together with an old fore-sail, wherewith we intended to make a tent on shore; but the boat being exceedingly rotten, with many leaks in her bottom, and having no tools on board to stop them before we could reach the landing-place, to our mortification the boat sunk to the gunnel, and totally spoiled all our bread; yet, by the assistance of the Almighty, we all escaped to land with the fore-sail, with which, and the help of two long poles, we erected a small tent for the purpose of keeping off the insufferable heat, and scorching influence of the sun." (p. 35)

I think it's notable that the reason given for making the tent was *not* as shelter while sleeping.

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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[Posted September 30, 2015](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=findComment&comment=418598) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/14147-interesting-period-descriptions/&do=reportComment&comment=418598)

I also found this in Silas Told's account and thought it was sort of interesting in that it was a Spanish pirate [or possibly the Guarda Costa, although Told leans towards it being a pirate] plundering an English Slaver/Merchant off Cuba. It was related by Told in 1785 near the end of his life, although the date of the event would have been 1727 or 1728.

"When we were boarded, the Spanish sailors began to plunder us, stripping and taking all away, from the captain down to the cabin-boy; nor did they spare the cloaths on our backs, but in turn of them clothed us with their filthy ragged frocks and drawers. They killed all our poultry, and set us to picking [plucking] them; put on the ship's large kettle, and boiled both fowls and ducks. They likewise took away all our compasses, save two that had been spoiled with the rain on the Coast of Africa. In short, they took away every useful article, and left us totally destitute of carpenter's, cooper's, and boatswain's tools. They then informed us, that, at eight o'clock the next morning, every one of us, without distinction, partiality or reserve, should be hanged, and that without ceremony, and had also the barbarity to present to us the place and the scaffold erected for that purpose, which was on the platform under Cape Nichola; and we had every reason to fear that they would have carried their designs into execution, had not the providence of God interposed, by making me the instrument of our deliverance therefrom." (Told, 1805, p. 32)

(The rest of the story is long and not relevant to my point. Basically the captain of Told's ship agreed to trade hidden gold and silver watches for the lives of the crew, which Told was sent to retrieve. A pirate crew member followed Told, knocked him out and stole the watches before he could bring them back. When the Spanish pirate captain discovered this, he turned his attention to punishing the thief and let Told's crew go.)