

Marine Lives
Machine
transcribed
HCA deposition
edition
1574-1688

Progress report

Thursday, June 30th 2022

Ad 1^u rendet Th
of Bedford and h
and

Beare bunder lan
others parts beyo
that he hath kno
ale

yeares last past an

Et alr satcsceu es

Ad 2uj of rendet
wherof John Tho
that the sd shipp
voyage from this
and that the sayd

of September 16

1624 And that th
trade at Callye Ti

in noe other port

Ad 3uj rendet Th
Jarvis Sutton wen
the Adventure th
the freighters of t

was mr of the sayd shipp before the voyage in question, and all
the compayne wch served in the sd shipp the sayd voyage
were hired and appoynted (as he beleiveth by the sayd Thoruebast
and Robinson, wth the approtation of the sayd Rooks and
companye) Et alr nescit rendere./

Ad 4 rendet that the sayd shipp the Adventure the voyage aforesd
by the directions of the sayd Rocks and company did sayle
into the Baye of Algier, and before her arrivall there, but
he touched at Sallye, but by reason of fould weather was inforced
to sett sayle from thence before she had any trade there, and
afterwards went to Tituan and Callye traded, and from thence

Ad 1^u rendet Cat Es. was borne at St. Ives folde in the County
of Bedford and late livyd in the Lander Lane, Creations Root
and Beare bunder Lane, lond in the malleys in ffraunce, and at Roode and at
other parts beyond the said for cōys for yeare last past, and
Cat Es. late Rooneys Es. in the George Root for Chesebrough
yeare last past and, John Wardell for Cōys ~~Es.~~ last past
Et alr satcsceu est Juxta.

Ad 2^u affroudest Cat Es. Es. - Es. sayd Es. Es. the Adventure
wch rose to the Edward Root and Roode his māl and Quoode -
Cat Es. Es. Es. was in stowyd by māl Roots and company in a
poragey roome his port of London to the rocts of Barbary and
and Cat Es. Es. Es. Es. beganne in Cōys for about two moneths
of September 1628 and swide in or about two moneths of July
1629 and that Es. sayd Es. Es. Es. Es. did sayle ~~and~~
trade at Callye Tituan and Algier in Barbary, and sit or
in noe other port. Et alr nescit rendore.

Ad 3^u rendest Cat John Robin son John Davis is his sondest and
Jarvis Sutton wch in stowyd as factord in Es. sayd Es.
Es. the Adventure Es. Es. aforē syde for māl Roots and company
the freighters of Es. sayd Es., and Cat John Thoruebast ~~and~~
wch of Es. sayd Es. Es. syde Es. sayd Es. in question, and all
the company wch served in the sayd shipp before the voyage
in question, and before her arrivall there, but he
sett sayle from thence before she had any trade there, and
from thence to Tituan and Callye traded, and from thence
Et alr nescit rendore.

Ad 4 rendest Cat Es. Es. Es. the Adventure Es. Es. Es. aforē
by the directions of the sayd Rocks and company did sayle
into the Baye of Algier, and before her arrivall there, but
he touched at Sallye, but by reason of fould weather was inforced
to sett sayle from thence before she had any trade there, and
afterwards went to Tituan and Callye traded, and from thence

TALK

- Project goals
- Editorial Advisory Board
- Publication and collaboration opportunities
- Volume structure [formal; semantic]
- Image structure [visual; semantic]
- Designing data structures for search
- Baseline recognition model
- HTR model [Pylaia]
- Characteristics of high performing models
- Setting edition goals and quality standards
- One volume work process
- Proposed clean up processes
- Productivity data
- Learning curves
- Learnings from one volume use case
- Future improvements
 - Enhanced machine/human interactions
 - Multi-person teams working on individual volumes
- What are humans and machines good at?

APPENDIX

- Sources of baseline recognition errors
- Sources of HTR recognition errors

Twelve month project goals and strategy

- Build a multi-hand, multi-year Secretary Hand HTR model, optimised for English High Court of Admiralty depositions, 1600-1659
- Work with panel of academic historians interested in English High Court of Admiralty archival material to understand their research needs
- Work with the same panel to understand how they use a test group of HCA volumes made viewable and searchable in the Marine Lives Transkribus collection
- For example, Michael Bennett (Manchester); Thiago Krause (UniRio/Princeton); Holly Brewer (UMD)
- Build a multi-hand, multi-year generalized Secretary Hand HTR model, optimised for multiple sub-types of Secretary hand, 1600-1659
- Explore C17th Secretary Hand types, and consider different research needs for Secretary Hand machine transcription, including possibility of a model focused on C17th legal, or C17th legal and administrative Secretary Hand
- Work with panel of academic historians with a range of archival material interests to understand their research needs
- Work with the same panel to understand how they use a test range of Secretary Hand documents covering a range of sub-types of Secretary hand and a range of archival materials
- For example, Brodie Waddell (Birkbeck); Susan Amussen (UCMerced) [TBC]
- For example, Worcestershire QS Petitions, 1592-1699; Star Chamber, C17th
- Develop a semi-automatic machine text creation & editing work process, integrating machine based pre-processing, HTR-recognition, post-processing, and humans in loop to create high quality editions at scale
- Develop semi-automatic work processes to publish 34 million word edition of English High Court of Admiralty depositions, 1574 – 1688, by end 1Q 2023
- Learn from reception of HCA deposition publication to improve work processes
- Synthesize findings; publish model; publish paper; hold workshop(s) and/or conference

We have formed a seven person Editorial Advisory Board to supervise the production of our planned edition of HCA depositions, 1574 to 1688. The EAB will meet every quarter, for twelve months. Our first virtual meeting was on May 4th, 2022.

Colin Greenstreet
(Marine Lives)

Thiago Krause
(UniRio/Princeton)

David Brown
(TCD)

Holly Brewer
(UMD)

Tobias Hodel
(Bern)

Lou Roper
(NYU-Pfalz)

Justin Colson
(SAS)

Lucas Haasis
(Oldenburg)

KEY:

Content focus

Digital focus

Editorial Advisory Board



*Use case: English High Court of Admiralty
machine transcribed depositions, 1574-1688*

1. Editorial decisions in a digital context
2. Workflow design
3. Productivity data from alternative workflows
4. Root cause analysis of errors
5. Recommendations to optimise hybrid human/machine workflows
6. Searchability & readability
7. Research possibilities using digitized legal records at scale

Open to co-authors

Submit end August 2022

Publish (subject to peer review)

November 2022

COLLABORATION

1. Join panel of academic historians exploring our digital edition
2. Contribute legal secretary hand from other 2H C16th and C17th English language use cases
 - o e.g. Star Chamber
 - o e.g. Petitions
 - o e.g. London mayoral Court
3. Work with a student class on digital edition of a specific HCA volume
 - o Hands on machine learning and digital edition training for undergraduate and graduate classes

WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO IMPROVE OUR MACHINE TRANSCRIBED EDITION
OF ENGLISH HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY DEPOSITIONS, 1574-1688

1. We are inviting undergraduates, graduates, and early career and well established scholars to give us feedback
 1. We need thirty minutes of your time to:
 - I. Grade ten pages according to the criteria Excellent; Very Good; Good; Acceptable; Poor, for your research purposes, as you wish to define them
 - II. Tell us the types of search you would like to perform on our data e.g. fuzzy searches; semantic searches; Boolean searches
 - III. Tell us the specific phrases, words and other search strings you would like to try with our data
 2. In return we will give you free access to 600,000 plus words of searchable, human readable text from the English High Court of Admiralty, 1648-1649, together with the related images, to help you with your own researches

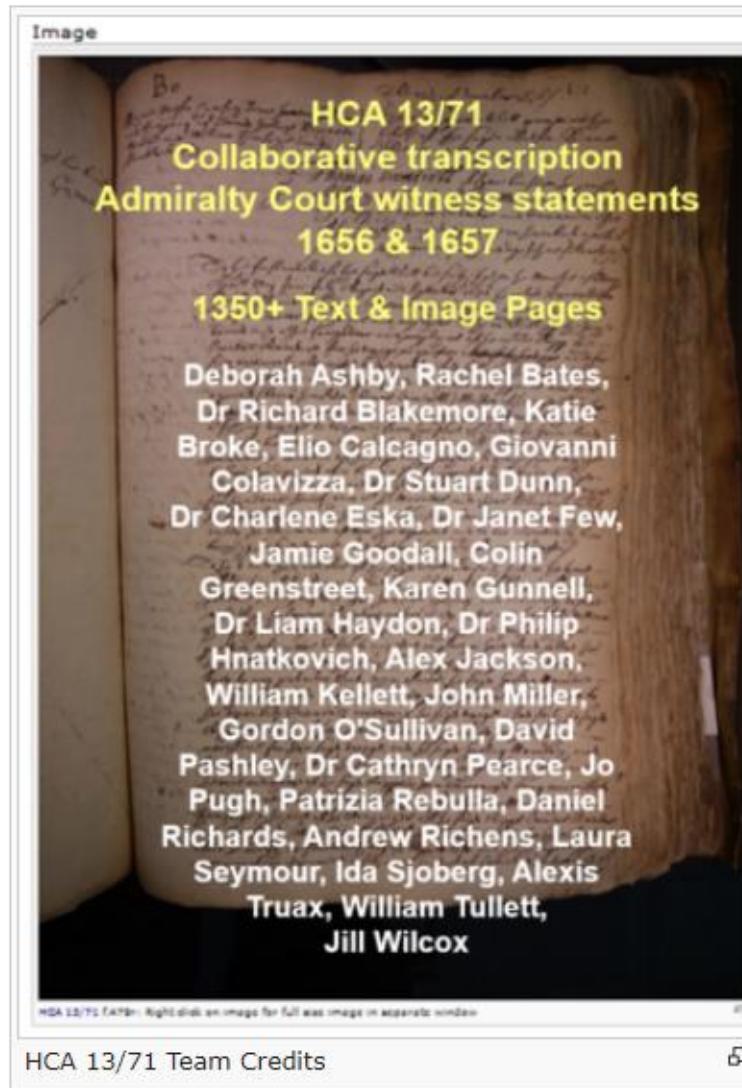
Type	Text	Structure	Re
▼ Page			
▼ TextRegion			
> Line	neither proffitt nor losse to him this deponent in case shee wentence should		other 1
> Line	be given for or against Captaine Hawkins his owners or any of them in this		1
> Line	of cause.		2
> Line	Ad 3 rendet that hee hath often heard that when shippes belonging to Christians		3
> Line	bee to Alborne to trade and traffique the shipps company doe usually keepe		4
> Line	bee		5
> Line	on board and not adventure to goe on shore unlesse they well armed with		6
> Line	gunnes of is interr, or els that the moores in case they fende oportunitie day		7
> Line	usually		8
> Line	afte make seizure of them and take and keepe them prisoners till they		9
> Line	bee bought off with money or otherwise. But of this use of theirs hee		10
> Line	saith hee cannott of his owne knowledge depose for smuch as hee was		11
> Line	never therre before hee went the voyage in question		12
> Line	Ad quartu rendet that such behaviour of the and dealing of the said Moores		13
> Line	in fallyng their words and taking the company prisoners is well very		14
> Line	well knowne at Mallegae and Cales and other places thereabouts, for		15
> Line	this rendent hath often in those places heard it spoken off, insomuch		16
> Line	that they will not trade with them without hostages for their true		17
> Line	performance, and saith the said Blowe and company knew and		18
> Line	heard thereof before they went the said voyage, and diverse of the company		19
> Line	(whereof this rendent was one) exprest much unwillingnes to goe the		20
> Line	said voyage, untill the merchants that franghted them promised to them		21
> Line	some pape southinge to drincke, and over and above their wages,		22
> Line	and promised to ransom such of them as should happen to be seized		23
> Line	upon by the said Moores and such promise that the said merchants		24
> Line	had soe promised and undertaken their said master informed them		25
> Line	before they went from Suta for Alborne aforesaid. And hee saith		26
> Line	& that for some certaine dayes to after their first arrivall at		27
> Line	Abine they their men that had occasion to goe on shore, went well		28
> Line	armed, but afterwards when they had libertie granted them to trade there		29
> Line	they went unarmed, and were unarmed when they were soe seized,		30
> Line	for wch hee holdeth them unwise and over seene, but yet hee saith		31
> Line	they had two moores on board for hostages when the said men were		32
> Line	soe seized. Et alr nescit, for hee was not in the said shipp at		33
> Line	such her retourne.		34
> Line	Ad ultimum nescit depositus et nescit, saving hee saith hee verily beleeveth		35
> Line	that although the said Moores are a very false and was barbarous		36
> Line	people, yet considering howe freely they suffered their men to come on		37
> Line	shore and retourn not winteruptough earned) bef for diverse		38
> Line	dayes next before the said Captaine had after they had gotten leave to		39
> Line	trade with them and untill the said Captaine Hawkins had soe taken and		40
> Line	the said Tarkish shipp, hee hee verily beleeveth they would not		41
> Line	have surprized or seized their said men, had not the said Captaine		42
> Line	Hawkins soe taken the said Turkish shipp		43
> Line	Signature-m... 2		44
	Signum dci		1

Ten years ago it took a team of twenty-nine volunteers six months to hand transcribe and publish a volume of English High Court of Admiralty depositions. This month it will take fifteen days for one person to machine transcribe, correct and publish another volume of depositions from the same Court.

2012

6 months; 29 volunteers

ca. 810,000 words



2022

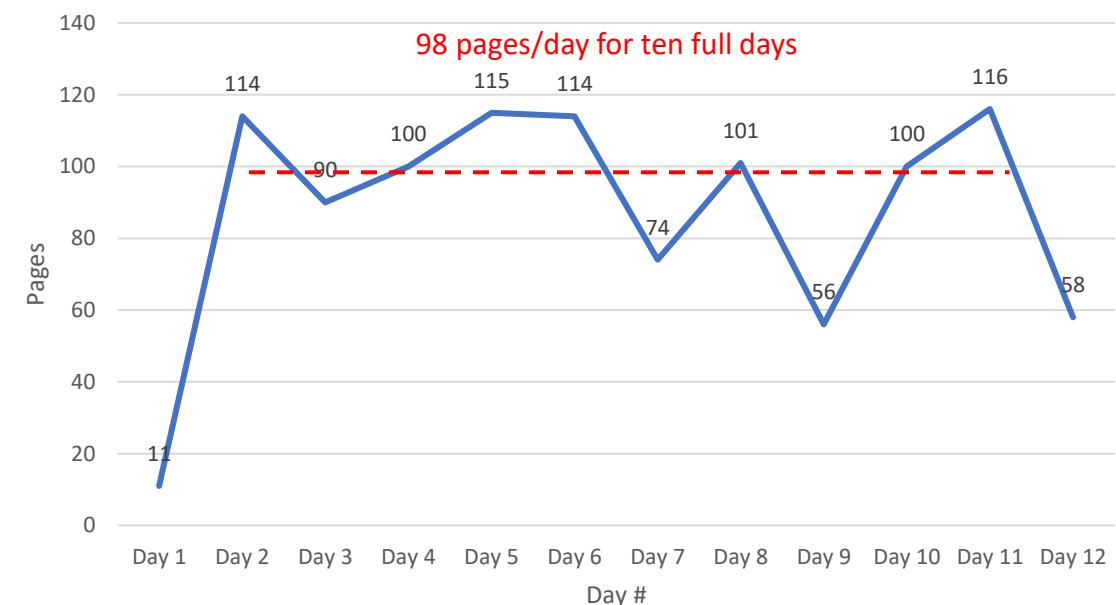
12 work days (of which 2 were partial) (+ 3 days anticipated cleanup);

1 person + baseline model + HTR model

ca. 630,000 words

Creating HCA 13/61 searchable edition

Page output per day



Volume, semantic and image structures

Volume structure

- Pages (images)
- Lines
- Words

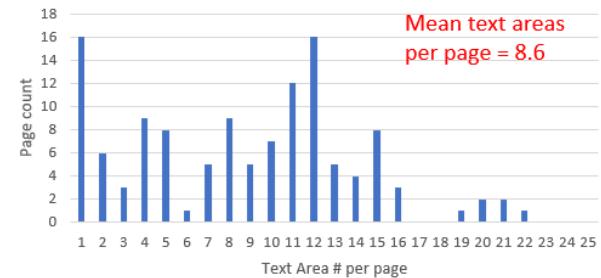
Semantic structure

- Case ["cause"]
- Deposition
- Answers to allegations/libels
- Answers to interrogatories
- Memoranda

Image structure

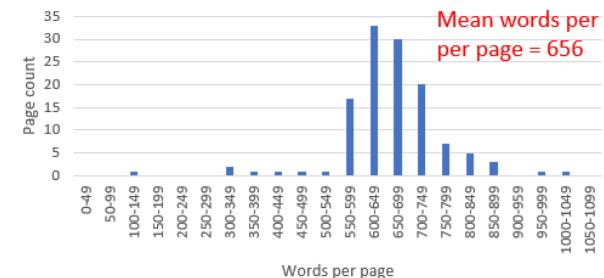
- Text Regions
- Baselines
- Words
- Characters

Text Areas per page
HCA 13/61 pp.69-175 (n=132)



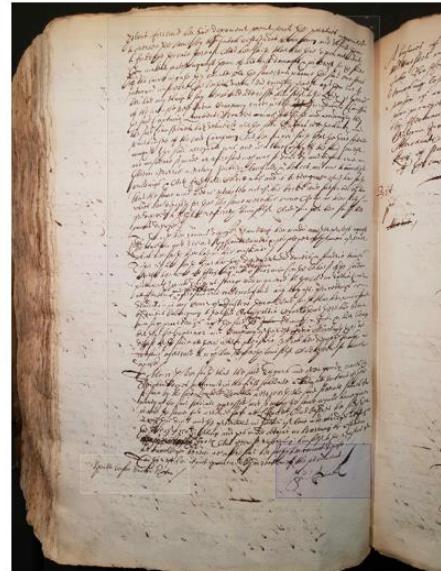
Mean text areas
per page = 8.6

Words per page
HCA 13/61 pp.69-175 (n=132)

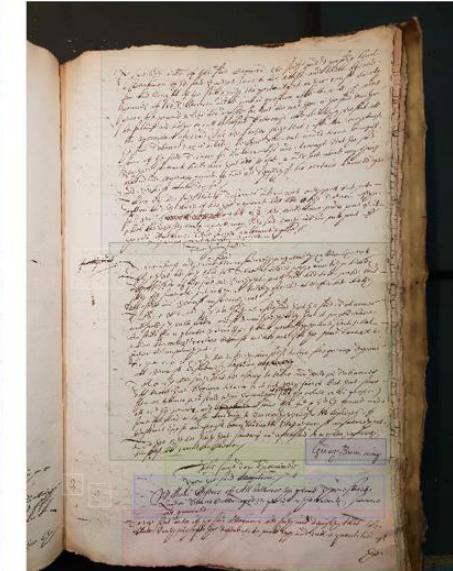


Mean words per
per page = 656

Three Text Regions



Ten Text Regions



Fifteen Text Regions

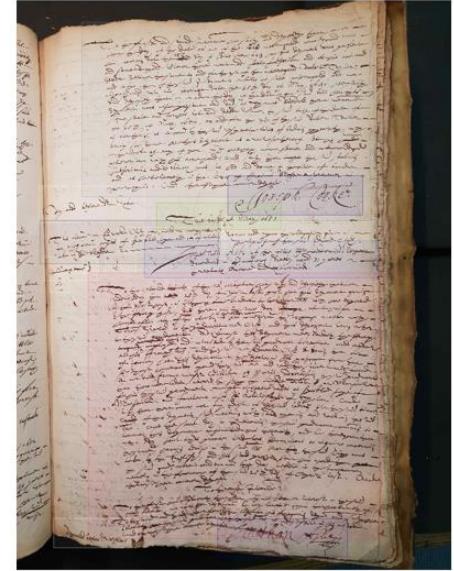
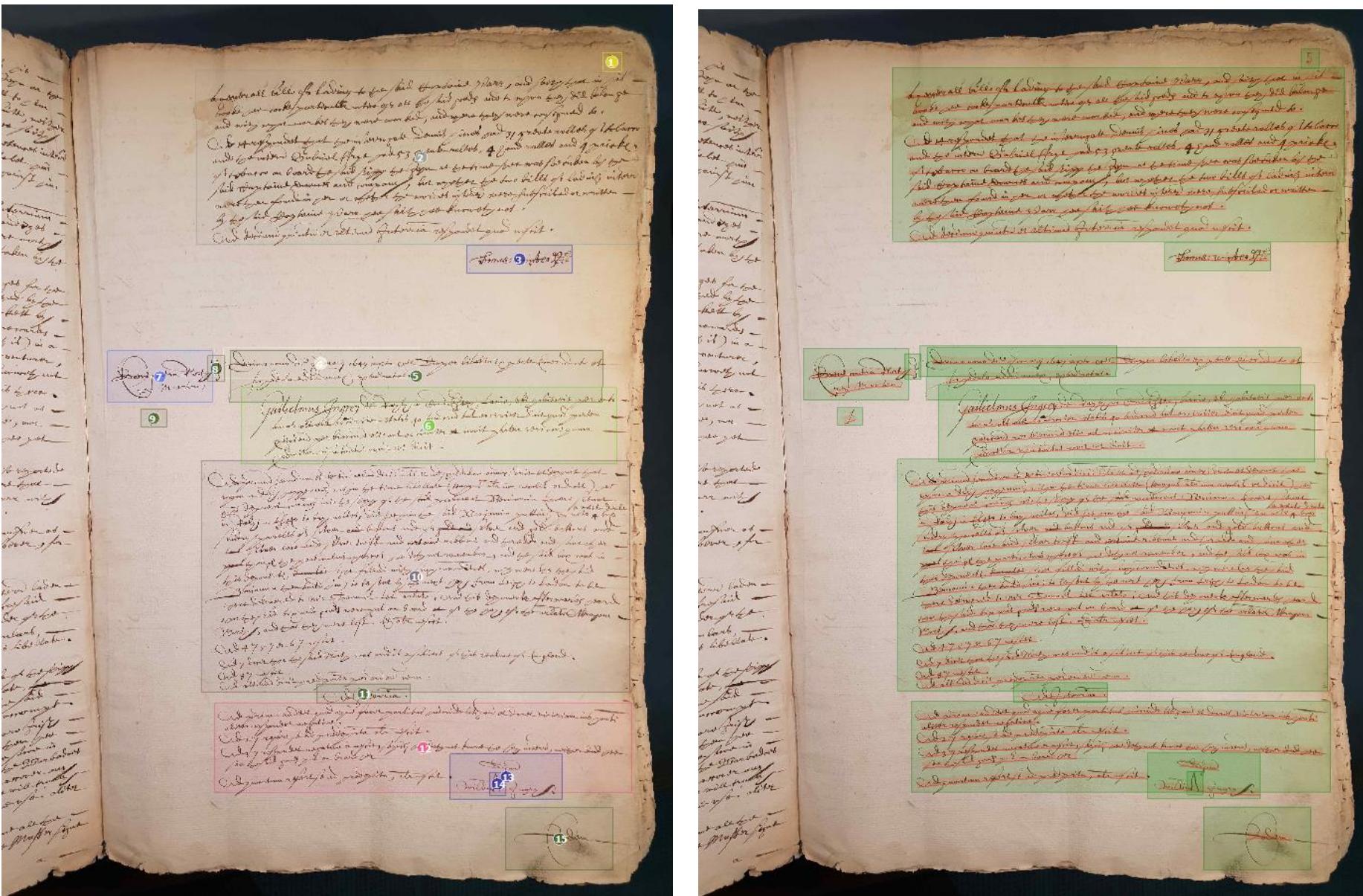


Image structures: editorially imposed reading order



Designing data structures for search

The screenshot shows the XML Viewer application interface. The title bar says "XML Viewer". The source URL is "https://files.transkribus.eu/Get?id=LFXHSQNVZPFWIVOLWWYPJUV". The search term is "tobacco". The search results are displayed in the main pane, showing various XML elements and attributes. Several lines contain the word "tobacco", which is highlighted in yellow. The XML code includes elements like <TextLine>, <Coords>, <Baseline>, <TextEquiv>, and <Unicode>. The lines are numbered from 75 to 130.

```
Source: https://files.transkribus.eu/Get?id=LFXHSQNVZPFWIVOLWWYPJUV
tobacco Search Case sensitive Whole word Previous Wrap search

75 <TextLine id="region_1648024210596_1615" custom="readingOrder {index:4;}>
76   <Coords points="953,724 1048,724 1143,724 1238,722 1333,719 1428,716 1523,712 1618,707 1713,702 1808,698 1904,692 1999,681
77   <Baseline points="953,710 1048,710 1143,710 1238,708 1333,705 1428,702 1523,698 1618,693 1713,688 1808,684 1904,678 1999,676
78   <TextEquiv>
79     <Unicode>and the interr Galriel ffrye had 53 greate rolles, 4 hand rolles and 4 pricks</Unicode>
80   </TextEquiv>
81 </TextLine>
82 <TextLine id="region_1648024210596_1616" custom="readingOrder {index:5;}>
83   <Coords points="962,791 1053,791 1145,791 1237,790 1329,788 1421,786 1512,784 1604,780 1696,777 1788,773 1880,769 1971,761
84   <Baseline points="962,777 1053,777 1145,777 1237,776 1329,774 1421,772 1512,770 1604,766 1696,763 1788,759 1880,755 1971,755
85   <TextEquiv>
86     <Unicode> of tobacco on board the said shipp the John at the time shee was soe taken by the</Unicode>
87   </TextEquiv>
88 </TextLine>
89 <TextLine id="region_1648024210596_1617" custom="readingOrder {index:6;}>
90   <Coords points="965,862 1059,856 1154,851 1248,847 1343,843 1437,841 1532,838 1626,835 1721,833 1815,831 1910,829 2004,821
91   <Baseline points="965,848 1059,842 1154,837 1248,833 1343,829 1437,827 1532,824 1626,821 1721,819 1815,817 1910,815 2004,819
92   <TextEquiv>
93     <Unicode>said Captaine Downes and company, but whether the two bills of lading interr</Unicode>
94   </TextEquiv>
95 </TextLine>
96 <TextLine id="region_1648024210596_1618" custom="readingOrder {index:7;}>
97   <Coords points="977,935 1068,927 1160,919 1251,914 1343,909 1434,905 1526,900 1617,897 1709,894 1800,893 1892,891 1983,881
98   <Baseline points="977,920 1068,912 1160,904 1251,899 1343,894 1434,890 1526,885 1617,882 1709,879 1800,878 1892,876 1983,876
99   <TextEquiv>
100    <Unicode>were then found in her or whether the wordes interr were subscribed or written</Unicode>
101  </TextEquiv>
102 </TextLine>
103 <TextLine id="region_1648024210596_1619" custom="readingOrder {index:8;}>
104   <Coords points="977,1005 1046,998 1116,991 1185,986 1255,982 1325,978 1394,973 1464,971 1533,969 1603,966 1673,964 1742,911
105   <Baseline points="977,989 1046,982 1116,975 1185,970 1255,966 1325,962 1394,957 1464,955 1533,953 1603,950 1673,948 1742,909
106   <TextEquiv>
107     <Unicode>by the said Captaine Parr hee saith hee knoweth not.</Unicode>
108   </TextEquiv>
109 </TextLine>
110 <TextLine id="region_1648024210596_1610" custom="readingOrder {index:9;}>
111   <Coords points="962,1093 1037,1084 1113,1078 1189,1071 1265,1066 1341,1062 1416,1059 1492,1055 1568,1053 1644,1051 1720,1050
112   <Baseline points="962,1077 1037,1068 1113,1062 1189,1055 1265,1050 1341,1046 1416,1043 1492,1039 1568,1037 1644,1035 1720,1034
113   <TextEquiv>
114     <Unicode>Ad decium quintu et ultima Interria respondet quod nescit.</Unicode>
115   </TextEquiv>
116 </TextLine>
117 <TextEquiv>
118   <Unicode>a generall bill of lading to the said Captaine Parr, and saith that in his&#13;
119 booke hee tooke particular notice of all the said goods and to whom they did belonget;&#13;
120 and with what markes they were marked, and where they were consigned to;&#13;
121 Ad 14 respondet that the interrogate Dennis Himes had 31 greate rolles of tobacco&#13;
122 and the interr Galriel ffrye had 53 greate rolles, 4 hand rolles and 4 pricks&#13;
123 of tobacco on board the said shipp the John at the time shee was soe taken by the&#13;
124 said Captaine Downes and company, but whether the two bills of lading interr&#13;
125 were then found in her or whether the wordes interr were subscribed or written&#13;
126 by the said Captaine Parr hee saith hee knoweth not.&#13;
127 Ad decium quintu et ultima Interria respondet quod nescit.</Unicode>
128   </TextEquiv>
129 </TextRegion>
130 <TextRegion orientation="0.0" type="signature-mark" id="reiaon_1648024220119_20" custom="readingOrder {index:2;} structure
```

Comments

- Words are localised to specific lines, which are located within specific regions within an XML schema
- Words can be searched at line and Text Region level within an XML schema, with Text Regions allocated user-defined semantic meanings

Questions

- What are the capabilities of the two leading Lucene based leading web search systems [SOLR and Elastic] to support semantic Text Region search capabailities?
 - “Show me all Text regions called “personal front matter”, which contain the words Wapping OR Redriff”?
 - “Identify all Text Regions labelled “Signature-Mark” and sort them according to their visual characteristics (e.g. signatures; initials; marks; e.g. signatures with flourishes)”
 - “Show me the start of a deposition (as described by its “personal front matter” and the signature-mark associated with that deposition” [decision rule is ffirst signature-mark to follow a defined personal front matter]

Models

Baseline model

Details

Name: HCA_Secretary_Hand_Baselines_Ver.4.404da

Description: Trained using same GT as HCA Secretary Hand 4.404 plus maybe another 10 pages of GT
A large trainings set of over 35,000 baselines which have all been manually checked, as have the Text Regions
Excludes HCA 13/71 and HCA 13/72 since I have not personally checked the TRs and baselines

Parameters:

Nr. of Epochs	100
Learning Rate	0.001

Document Type: Handwritten

Nr. of Words: 337465

Nr. of Lines: 35271

Learning Curve

Loss

Epochs

— Loss Train — Loss Validation

Loss on Train Set: 6.43% Loss on Validation Set: 5.62%

HTR model

Details

Name: HCA Secretary Hand 4.404 Pylaia

Language: English

Description: No base model
Learning rate 0.00015
Target epochs = 500 epochs
Early stopping = 400 epochs
Compressed images
Deslant turned on
Training data:
HCA 13/46; HCA 13/48; HCA 13/49;
HCA 13/51; HCA 13/52; HCA 13/55;
HCA 13/56; HCA 13/57; HCA 13/58;
HCA 13/59; HCA 13/60; HCA 13/61;
HCA 13/64; HCA 13/65; HCA 13/71

Parameters:

Max epochs	500
Early stopping	400
Epochs trained	500
Learning rate	0.00015
Batch size	24
Normalized height	64
Omitted Tags	unclear

Document Type: Handwritten

Nr. of Words: 413167

Nr. of Lines: 42641

Learning Curve

CER

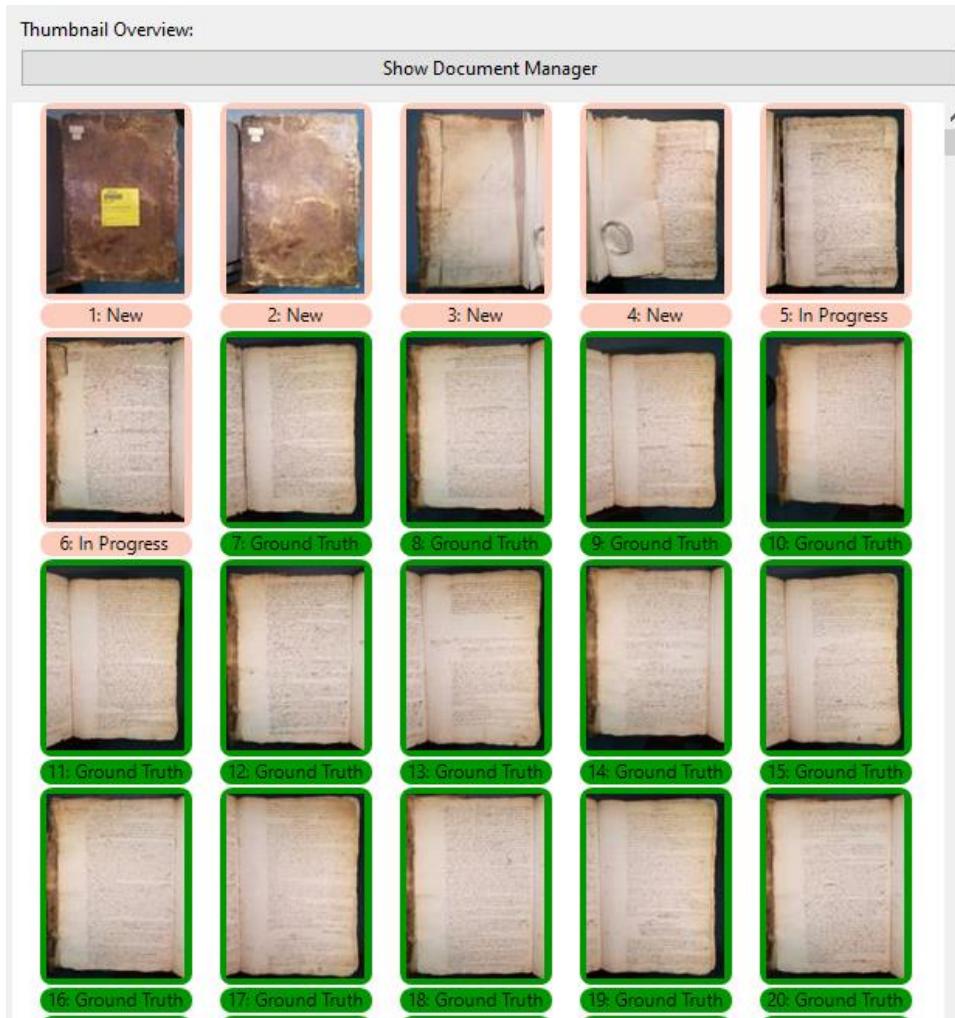
Epochs

— CER Train — CER Validation

CER on Train Set: 5.00% CER on Validation Set: 6.10%

Transkribus Expert Client Ver.1.21 has a baseline training utility. We have trained a baseline recognition model using a 337,000 word Ground Truth from HCA depositions

We have trained multiple HTR models using Pylaia technology. Our latest model is “HCA Secretary Hand 4.404 Pylaia”. It has very strong theoretical characteristics, with a CER Training of 5.0% and a CER on the Validation Set of 6.10%, and performs very strongly in practice.



Groundtruth is...

- ...Expensive in terms of human time
- ...High skill in terms of demands on transcriber
- ...Gold dust in terms of impact on model accuracy
- ...Surprisingly impactful in relatively small quantities

Our current Pylaia based HTR model has a groundtruth of 413,169 words and 42,641 lines, extracted from 16 HCA volumes (HCA 13/46 to 13/61), covering the period 1625 to 1660, and containing roughly 50 different notarial hands

High performing HTR model characteristics

Signs of a high performing HTR model

- Correct basic punctuation (e.g. commas, semi-colons, colons, full stops, right leaning slash marks)
- Correct insertion marks below a line
- Correct identification of paired opening and closing brackets around a phrase, either on one line, or split across two lines
- Reliable capitalisation matching what a human reader sees
- Correct rendering of abbreviations, and full version of abbreviation if written in full (e.g. Dre/Doctor)
- Does NOT expand contractions (unless instructed to)
- Correct identification of years (e.g. 1651; 1653)
- Correct identification of currency symbols (£; s; d)
- Correct identification of weight symbols (e.g. lb)
- Correct identification of volume symbols (e.g. hhd)
- Reliable identification of sequences of numbers, with punctuation (e.g. To the 8. 9. 10. & 11th & 12th...)
- And, of course, very accurate text, especially in large text blocks in response to allegations, libels and interrogatories
- The quality of smaller text regions (typically labelled “legal boiler plate” or other marginalia, are likely to be lower quality, since often located near centre of bound volume or on highly curved portions of an image

- Correct differentiation between word variants (e.g. ship/shipp; he/hee; answareth/answeareth; beleeveth/beleiveth; himself/himself; depositions/deposicons; yeare/yeere; street/streete; French/ffrench))
- Correct ordering of diphthongs (e.g. ei/ie) Distinguishing “s” and “e” in words (e.g. advice/advice)
- Correct differentiation of “a” and “e” at end of word and within word

Possible signs of a high performing model in certain types of Text Region

- Makes decent attempt at signatures, providing not complex

Signs of slight over fit

- Anticipating punctuation
- Tendency to correct all word variants to the dominant variant in the language model (e.g. “shipp” rather than “ship”)

High performing HTR model characteristics

Observed paradoxes

Text Regions

- A high performing HTR model can still fail in particular Text Regions on a page, e.g. if average line slope changes significantly, or a line sharply curves up or down (especially if it slopes up)
- Not very sensitive to close fitting borders around Text Regions

Base lines

- Not sensitive to exact vertical positioning of a baseline, but very sensitive to the horizontal location of a baseline under a character

Difference from human transcriber

- Reliably transcribes Latin
- Reliably “sees through” partial crossing out of words and phrases

Proposal signs of a high performing baseline and HTR and baseline model

- Fewer than one in ten pages with more than ten lines (out of fifty to sixty on a page) which either fail or require significant manual correction to be readable
- Human gives very positive feedback as to the readability of text after reading twenty to thirty pages

Target users

Academic researchers
Archivists
General public

How to be used?

Read
Searched
Linked

Output parameters: technical

Available for output in multiple digital formats [e.g. XML, Jason, csv]

Output parameters: quality

Human read quality [Groundtruth vs. Very high readability vs. High readability vs. Acceptable readability]
Human search quality [Function of accuracy of output; strength of search tools]

Version control

Complete creation and editorial history
[Time stamped model, human author, and human editor identified pages]

Conceptual issues

Overlapping Text Regions
Nesting of Text Regions
Embedding of data structures in XML schema and use of XML schema for searching and linking

Setting edition goals and quality standards: groundtruth vs uncorrected machine transcription

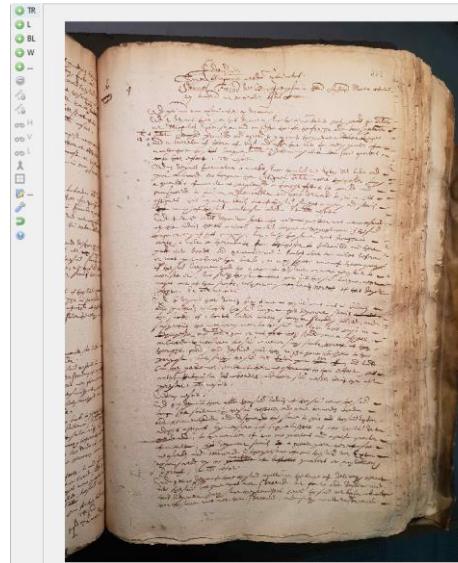
Type	Text	Groundtruth	Structure	Readi..	Type	Text	Machine generated (4.404), uncorrected	Structure	Rea
✓ Page					✓ Page				
✓ TextRegion					✓ TextRegion				
> Line	neither proffitt nor losse to him this deponent in case shee Sentence should			1	> Line	neither proffitt nor losse to him this deponent in case shee wentence should			1
> Line	be given for or against Captaine Hawkins his owners or any of them in this			2	> Line	be given for or against Captaine Hawkins his owners or any of them in this			2
> Line	xx cause.			3	> Line	of cause.			3
> Line	Ad 3 rendet that hee hath often heard that when shipps belonging to Christians			4	> Line	Ad 3 rendet that hee hath often heard that when shipps belonging to Christians			4
> Line	bee to Albozine to trade and traffique the shippes company doe usually keepe			5	> Line	bee to Alborne to trade and traffique the shippes company doe usually keepe			5
> Line	bee			6	> Line	bee			6
> Line	on board and not adventure to goe on shore unlesse they x well armed with			7	> Line	on board and not adventure to goe on shore unlesse they well armed with			7
> Line	gunns of is interr, or els that the moores in case they finde oportunitie doe			8	> Line	gunns of is interr, or els that the moores in case they fende oportunitie day			8
> Line	usually			9	> Line	usually			9
> Line	often x make seizure of them and take and keepe them prisoners till they			10	> Line	aftre make seizure of them and take and keepe them prisoners till they			10
> Line	be bought off with money or otherwise, But of this use of theirs hee			11	> Line	bee bought off with money or otherwise, But of this use of theirs hee			11
> Line	saith hee cannot of his owne knowledge depose forasmuch as hee was			12	> Line	saith hee cannott of his owne knowledge depose for smuch as hee was			12
> Line	never there before hee went the voyage in question./			13	> Line	never there before hee went the voyage in question			13
> Line	Ad quartu rendet that such behaviour of the and dealing of the said Moores			14	> Line	Ad quartu rendet that such behaviour of the and dealing of the said Moores			14
> Line	in falfyng their words and taking the company prisoners is well very			15	> Line	in falfyng their words and taking the company prisoners is well very			15
> Line	well knowne at Mallegae and Cales and other places thereabouts, for			16	> Line	well knowne at Mallegae and Cales and other places thereabouts, for			16
> Line	this rendent hath often in those places heard it spoken off of, insomuch			17	> Line	this rendent hath often in those places heard it spoken off of, insomuch			17
> Line	that they will not trade with them without hostages for their true			18	> Line	that they will not trade with them without hostages for their true			18
> Line	performance, and saith the said Blowe and company knew and			19	> Line	performance, and saith the said Blowe and company knew and			19
> Line	heard thereof before they went the said voyage, and diverse of the company			20	> Line	heard thereof before they went the said voyage, and diverse of the company			20
> Line	(whereof this rendent was one) exprest much unwillingnes to goe the			21	> Line	(whereof this rendent was one) exprest much unwillingnes to goe the			21
> Line	said voyage, untill the merchants that fraighted them promised x them			22	> Line	said voyage, untill the merchants that fraighted them promised to them			22
> Line	some xxxx somthinge to drincke, and over and above their wages,			23	> Line	some pape southinge to drincke, and over and above their wages,			23
> Line	and promised to ransome such of them as should happen to be seized			24	> Line	and promised to ransome such of them as should happen to be seized			24
> Line	upon by the said Moores, And such promise that the said merchants			25	> Line	upon by the said Moores and such promise that the said merchants			25
> Line	had soe promised and undertaken their said master informed them			26	> Line	had soe promised and undertaken their said master informed them			26
> Line	before they went from Suta for Albozine aforesaid. And hee saith			27	> Line	before they went from Suta for Alborne aforesaid. And hee saith			27
> Line	x that for some certaine dayes xx after their first arrivall at			28	> Line	& that for some certaine dayes to after their first arrivall at			28
> Line	Albozine they their men that had occasion to goe on shore, went well			29	> Line	Abine they their men that had occasion to goe on shore, went well			29
> Line	armed, but afterwards when they had libertie grannted them to trade there			30	> Line	armed, but afterwards when they had libertie grannted them to trade there			30
> Line	they went unarmed, and were unarmed when they were soe seized,			31	> Line	they went unarmed, and were unarmed when they were soe seized,			31
> Line	for wch hee holdeth them unwise and over seene, but yet hee saith			32	> Line	for wch hee holdeth them unwise and over seene, but yet hee saith			32
> Line	they had two moores on board for hostages when the said men were			33	> Line	they had two moores on board for hostages when the said men were			33
> Line	soe seized. Et alr nescit, for hee was not in the said shipp at			34	> Line	soe seized. Et alr nescit, for hee was not in the said shipp at			34
> Line	such her retourne.			35	> Line	such her retourne.			35
> Line	Ad ultimum nescit deposit et nescit, saving hee saith hee verily beleeveth			36	> Line	Ad ultimum nescit deposit et nescit, saving hee saith hee verily beleeveth			36
> Line	that although the said Moores are a very false and xxxxxx barbarous			37	> Line	that although the said Moores are a very false and was barbarous			37
> Line	people, yet considering howe freely they suffered their men to come on			38	> Line	people, yet considering howe freely they suffered their men to come on			38
> Line	shore and retourne not uninterrupted (though unarmed) bef for diverse			39	> Line	shore and retourne not vinterupted though earned) bef for diverse			39
> Line	dayes next before the said Captaine Haw after they had gotten leave to			40	> Line	dayes next before the said Captaine had after they had gotten leave to			40
> Line	trade with them, and untill the said Captaine Hawkins had soe taken and			41	> Line	trade with them and untill the said Captaine Hawkins had soe taken and			41
> Line	the said Turkish shipp, hee hee verily beleeveth they would not			42	> Line	the said Tarkish shipp, hee hee verily beleeveth they would not			42
> Line	have surprized or seized their said men, had not the said Captaine			43	> Line	have surprized or seized their said men, had not the said Captaine			43
> Line	Hawkins soe taken the said Turkish shipp./			44	> Line	Hawkins soe taken the said Turkish shipp			44
✓ TextRegion			signature-m...	2	✓ TextRegion			signature-m...	2
> Line	Signum dci			1	> Line	Signum dci			1

Setting edition goals and quality standards: groundtruth vs uncorrected machine transcription

Type	Text	Groundtruth		Type	Text		
Type	Text	Structure	Readi..	Type	Text	Structure	Rea
✓ Page				✓ Page			
✓ TextRegion				✓ TextRegion			
> Line	neither proffitt nor losse to him this deponent in case shee Sentence should	other	1	> Line	neither proffitt nor losse to him this deponent in case shee wentence should	other	1
> Line	be given for or against Captaine Hawkins his owners or any of them in this		2	> Line	be given for or against Captaine Hawkins his owners or any of them in this		2
> Line	xx cause.		3	> Line	of cause.		3
> Line	Ad 3 rendet that hee hath often heard that when shipps belonging to Christians		4	> Line	Ad 3 rendet that hee hath often heard that when shipps belonging to Christians		4
> Line	bee to Albozine to trade and traffique the shippes company doe usually keepe		5	> Line	bee to Alborne to trade and traffique the shippes company doe usually keepe		5
> Line	bee		6	> Line	bee		6
> Line	on board and not adventure to goe on shore unlesse they x well armed with		7	> Line	on board and not adventure to goe on shore unlesse they well armed with		7
> Line	gunns of is interr, or els that the moores in case they finde oportunitie doe		8	> Line	gunns of is interr, or els that the moores in case they fende oportunitie day		8
> Line	usually		9	> Line	usually		9
> Line	often x make seizure of them and take and keepe them prisoners till they		10	> Line	aftre make seizure of them and take and keepe them prisoners till they		10
> Line	be bought off with money or otherwise, But of this use of theirs hee		11	> Line	bee bought off with money or otherwise, But of this use of theirs hee		11
> Line	saith hee cannot of his owne knowledge depose forasmuch as hee was		12	> Line	saith hee cannott of his owne knowledge depose for smuch as hee was		12
> Line	never there before hee went the voyage in question./		13	> Line	never there before hee went the voyage in question		13
> Line	Ad quartu rendet that such behaviour of the and dealing of the said Moores		14	> Line	Ad quartu rendet that such behaviour of the and dealing of the said Moores		14
> Line	in falfyng their words and taking the company prisoners is well very		15	> Line	in falfyng their words and taking the company prisoners is well very		15
> Line	well knowne at Mallegae and Cales and other places thereabouts, for		16	> Line	well knowne at Mallegae and Cales and other places thereabouts, for		16
> Line	this rendent hath often in those places heard it spoken off of, insomuch		17	> Line	this rendent hath often in those places heard it spoken off of, insomuch		17
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> Line	performance, and saith the said Blowe and company knew and		19	> Line	performance, and saith the said Blowe and company knew and		19
> Line	heard thereof before they went the said voyage, and diverse of the company		20	> Line	heard thereof before they went the said voyage, and diverse of the company		20
> Line	(whereof this rendent was one) exprest much unwillingnes to goe the		21	> Line	(whereof this rendent was one) exprest much unwillingnes to goe the		21
> Line	said voyage, untill the merchants that fraighted them promised x them		22	> Line	said voyage, untill the merchants that fraighted them promised to them		22
> Line	some xxxx somthinge to drincke, and over and above their wages,		23	> Line	some pape southinge to drincke, and over and above their wages,		23
> Line	and promised to ransome such of them as should happen to be seized		24	> Line	and promised to ransome such of them as should happen to be seized		24
> Line	upon by the said Moores, And such promise that the said merchants		25	> Line	upon by the said Moores and such promise that the said merchants		25
> Line	had soe promised and undertaken their said master informed them		26	> Line	had soe promised and undertaken their said master informed them		26
> Line	before they went from Suta for Albozine aforesaid. And hee saith		27	> Line	before they went from Suta for Alborne aforesaid. And hee saith		27
> Line	x that for some certaine dayes xx after their first arrivall at		28	> Line	& that for some certaine dayes to after their first arrivall at		28
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> Line	they went unarmed, and were unarmed when they were soe seized,		31	> Line	they went unarmed, and were unarmed when they were soe seized,		31
> Line	for wch hee holdeth them unwise and over seene, but yet hee saith		32	> Line	for wch hee holdeth them unwise and over seene, but yet hee saith		32
> Line	they had two moores on board for hostages when the said men were		33	> Line	they had two moores on board for hostages when the said men were		33
> Line	soe seized. Et alr nescit, for hee was not in the said shipp at		34	> Line	soe seized. Et alr nescit, for hee was not in the said shipp at		34
> Line	such her retourne.		35	> Line	such her retourne.		35
> Line	Ad ultimum nescit deposit et nescit, saving hee saith hee verily beleeveth		36	> Line	Ad ultimum nescit deposit et nescit, saving hee saith hee verily beleeveth		36
> Line	that although the said Moores are a very false and xxxxxx barbarous		37	> Line	that although the said Moores are a very false and was barbarous		37
> Line	people, yet considering howe freely they suffered their men to come on		38	> Line	people, yet considering howe freely they suffered their men to come on		38
> Line	shore and retourne not uninterrupted (though unarmed) bef for diverse		39	> Line	shore and retourne not vinterupted though earned) bef for diverse		39
> Line	dayes next before the said Captaine Haw after they had gotten leave to		40	> Line	dayes next before the said Captaine had after they had gotten leave to		40
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> Line	have surprized or seized their said men, had not the said Captaine		43	> Line	have surprized or seized their said men, had not the said Captaine		43
> Line	Hawkins soe taken the said Turkish shipp./		44	> Line	Hawkins soe taken the said Turkish shipp		44
✓ TextRegion		signature-m...	2	✓ TextRegion		signature-m...	2
> Line	Signum dci		1	> Line	Signum dci		1

One page [p.789]

- Hand markup Text Regions (8 Text Regions)
- Run automatic baseline recognition (ca. 12 secs)
- Correct baselines (56 base lines; 3 interlineations)
- Run HTR (ca. 30 secs)
- Inspect output



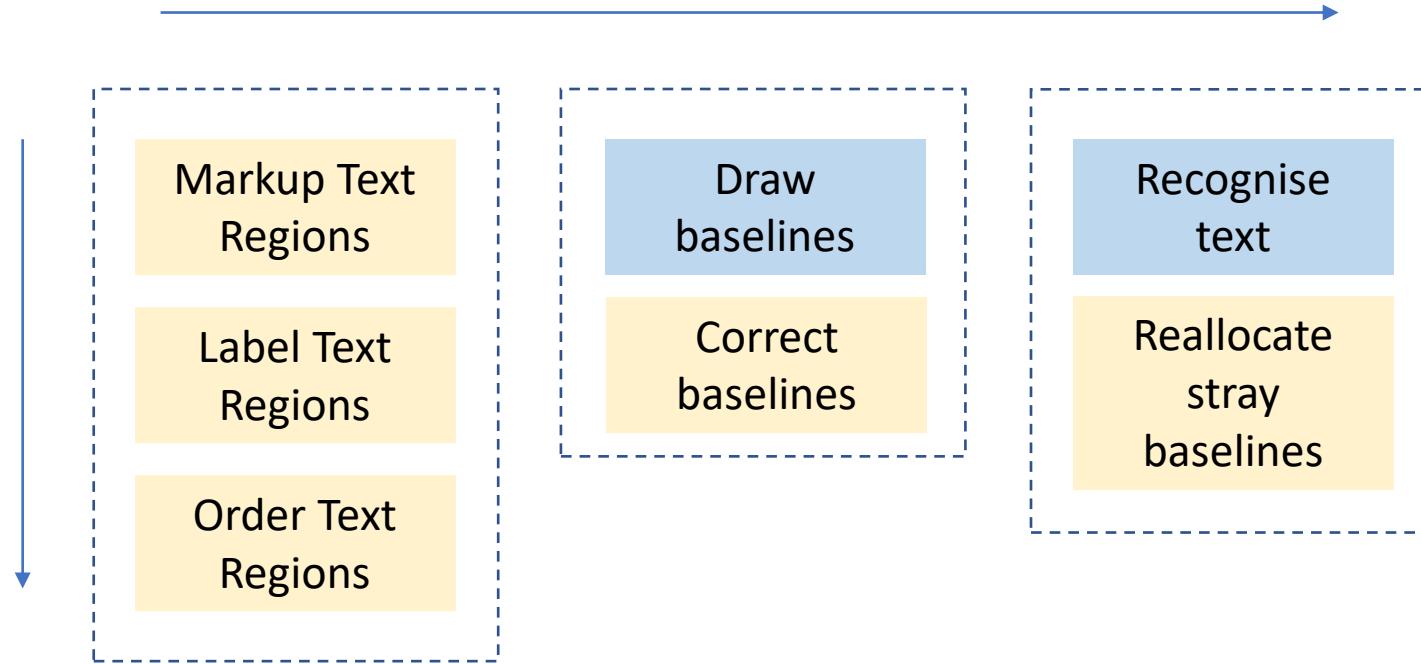
Batch of ten pages [pp.773-782]

- Run HTR (ca. 180 secs) [Text Regions & baselines pre-done]
- Inspect output



Source: Transkribus Expert Client HCA 13/61 FULL IMAGE SET, Thumbnail views;
HCA 13/61 f.391r =Transkribus HCA 13/61 p.789]

Per batch



Manual

Machine

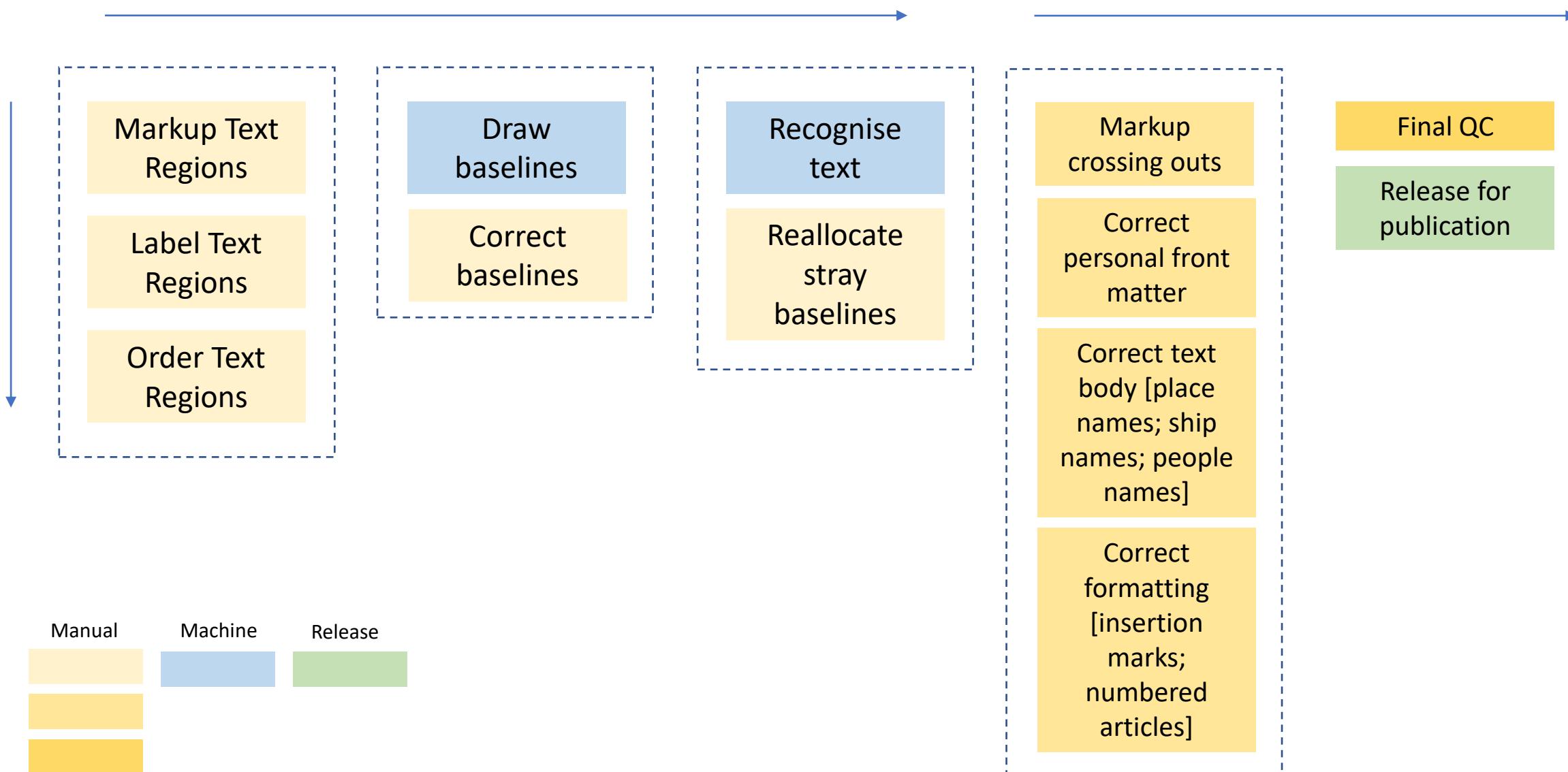


Proposed cleanup work processes

Per batch [n=10]

Per batch [n=100]

Per batch [n=1,000]



Very high impact on readability by a human

- Correct People names in personal front matter

High impact on readability by a human

- Correct Place names
- Correct Ship names
- Correct missing words at RH of downward and upward curving baselines where line runs into centre of a bound volume
- Markup the crossed out words and phrases

Medium impact on readability by a human

- Adding missing insertion marks
- Correcting numbered articles (e.g. 11th, 12th, 13th...)

Low impact on readability by a human

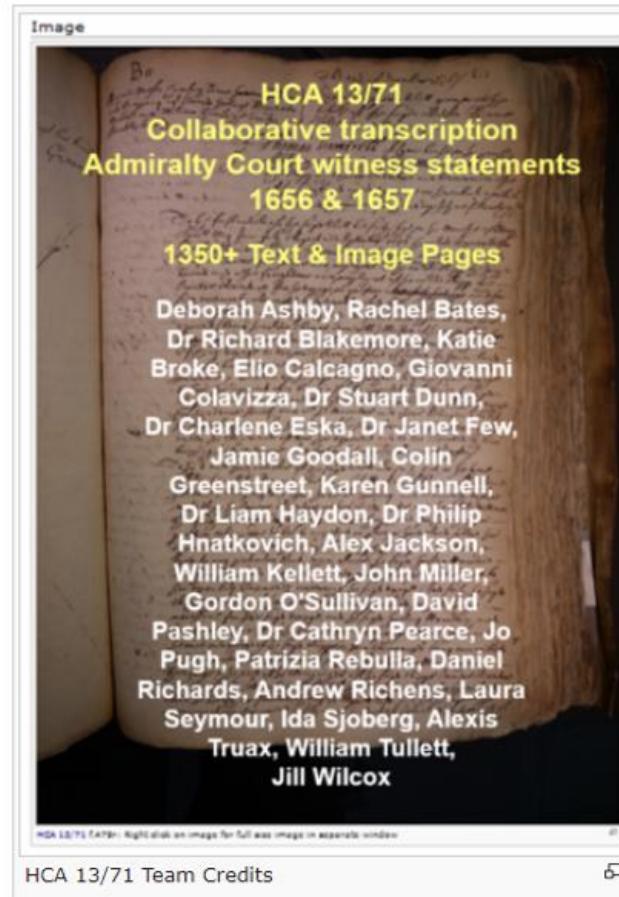
- Correction of basic punctuation
- Correction of capitalisation
- Correction of single/double letters in common words, e.g. ship vs. shipp; cannot vs cannot; he vs hee;
- Correction of common single word variants, e.g. said vs sayd; ye vs. the
- Adding superscripts (e.g. 13th)
- Adding or correcting short interlineations
- Adding or correcting short legal boilerplate (e.g. Smith dt.; 3us; Rp.; EA)

No apparent way to clean up

- Interlined word in image appears above baseline, but baseline recognition places the interlined baseline below the main baseline, contrary to how a human reads insertions

Productivity data: shift over last ten years

Ten years ago it took a team of twenty-nine volunteers six months to hand transcribe and publish a volume of English High Court of Admiralty depositions. This month it will take fifteen days for one person to machine transcribe, correct and publish another volume of depositions from the same Court.

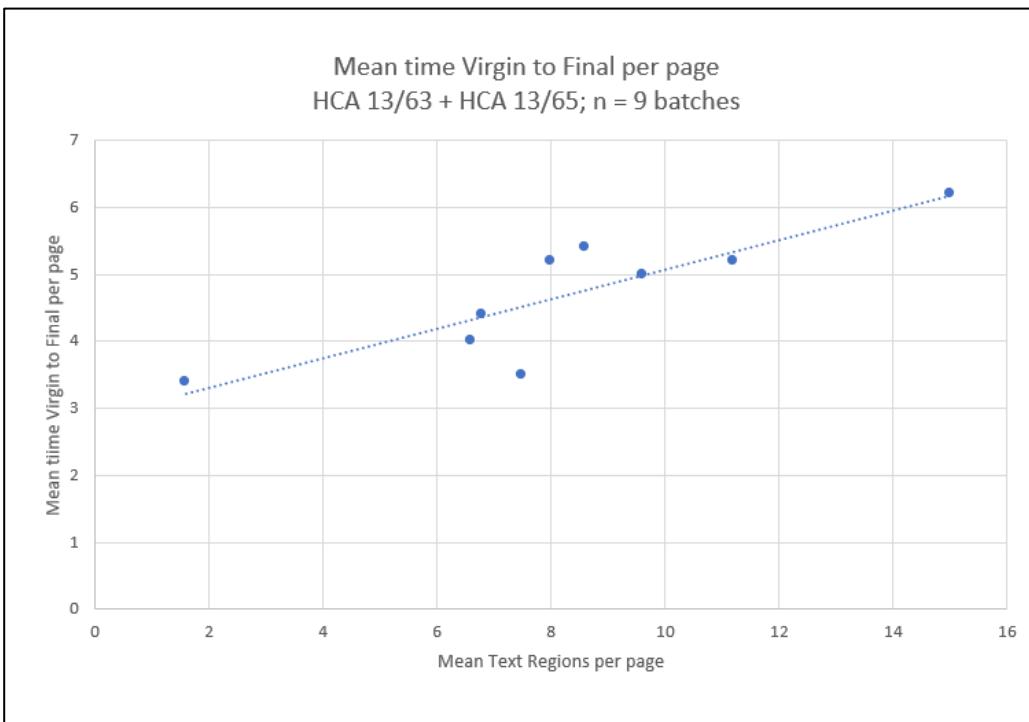


2022
12 work days (of which 2 were partial) (+ 3 days anticipated cleanup);
1 person + baseline model + HTR model
ca. 630,000 words

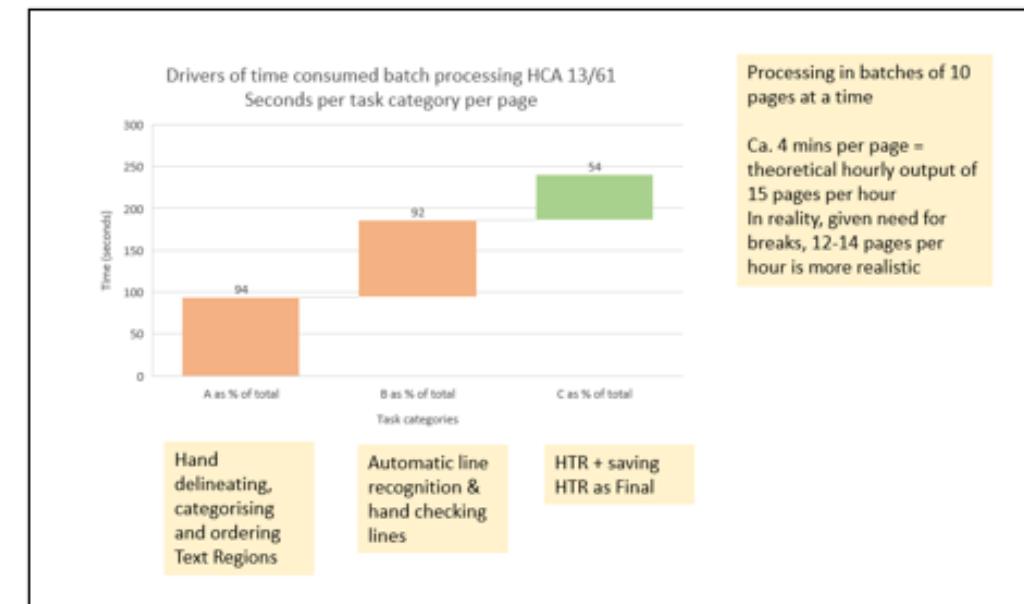
Creating HCA 13/61 searchable edition
Page output per day



Productivity data: impact of page complexity



240 seconds per page



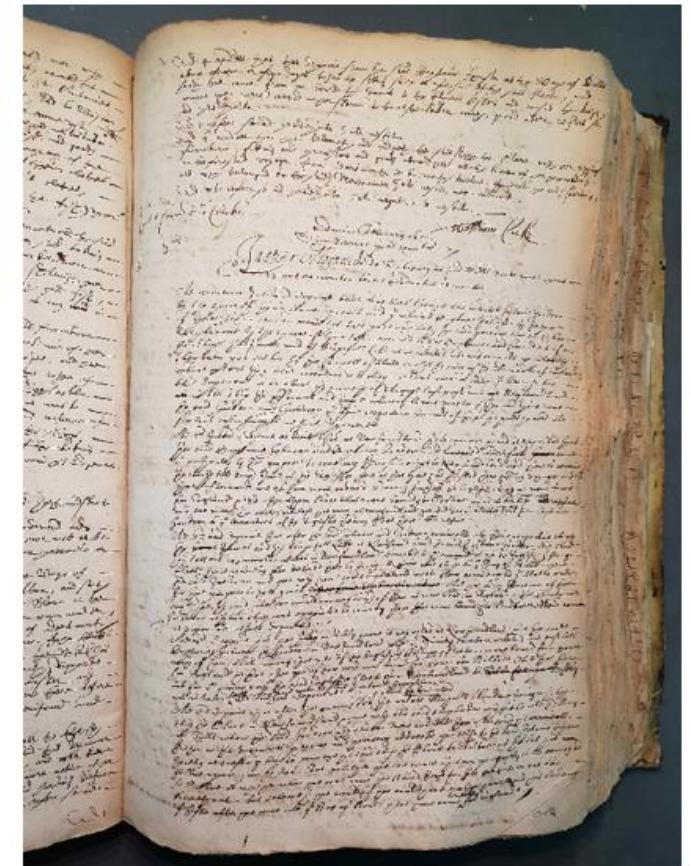
Productivity data: producing new Groundtruth

Our quick (and statistically invalid) Twitter poll suggests that #Twitterstorians can personal daily (day in day out) transcribe a weighted average of 6438 words (that's roughly 11 pages of English High Court of Admiralty pages of depositions. And they guess that we can machine transcribe to a high standard a weighted average of 8400 words (that's roughly 15 pages).



Our machine transcription output over the last seven days = nearly 26 pages per day

Day	Day	Pages	Machine Transcription	Machine Transcription Estimated words
Monday	18/03/2022	17	9690	
Tuesday	19/03/2022	24	13680	
Wednesday	20/03/2022	24	13680	
Thursday	21/03/2022	34	19380	
Friday	22/03/2022	26	14820	
Saturday	23/03/2022	31	17670	
Sunday	24/03/2022	23	13110	
		Mean	25.6	14576



Complexity

- Mean of 8.6 text regions per page
- Mean of 61.8 lines per page
- Mean of 656 words per page

How challenging?

- One of the “easier” volumes
- Limited curvature of pages since not a huge volume
- Limited interlineation (two to five interlinings per page)

Batches and workflow

- Worked in batches of ten
- Why ten?
 - A balance of efficiency vs boredom
 - Ten is thirty-five to forty-five minutes work

Baseline accuracy

- Misses ca. one interlineation in five
- Foreshortens three interlineations in ten

Baseline correction

- Significantly more work to correct verso pages, since curvature has a higher impact on verso pages (the main text body lines typically curve down or up into the centre of the bound volume)

Post HTR correction

Propose a large batch [100 pages per batch] post HTR checking process

Open questions

- How many manual check “passes” to do?
- Should manual check passes be done by multiple people?
- Would it be best to add ALL interlineations at the end, after HTR is run, as part of final quality check?
- Is the machine aware of where on a page a baseline is positioned (e.g. the leading particle words at bottom of page?)
- Would accuracy go up or down if use existing line polygons?
- Does darkness in centre of volume affect HTR recognition?

Challenges

- Mentally tiring to run a batch of ten pages. Need a five minute rest between batches

How good is “good enough”?

Frustrations

- Only five categories to characterise workflow (New; In Progress; Done; Final; Groundtruth). Need ideally six or more

Text Region markup

- This can definitely be structured for volunteers

Baseline checking

- For a flat page without curvature of baselines 90% of the baseline checking is (a) checking for missed interlineations (b) adding missed interlineations (c) stretching foreshortened interlineations

What are humans and machines really good at?

Humans much better than machine

General

- Creating Groundtruth
- Learning from a set of semi-structured rules
- Learning from experience
- Applying a very broad well contextualised set of specialist vocabularies

Layout

- Identifying different semantic types of Text Region
- Distinguishing and drawing overlapping Text Regions
- Spotting interlineations and marking them up
- Spotting and transcribing leading lines at bottom RH foot of page

HTR

- Recognising characters on sloping or curved lines
- Guessing words based on a semantic understanding of a phrase or sentence

Humans somewhat better than machines

Layout

- Making subtle distinctions between characters (e.g. s/f; s/c)

HTR

- Spotting and marking up insertion marks below baseline

Humans and machines about the same

- ?

Machines much better than humans

General

- Creating machine searchable text
- Speed of baseline and HTR computation
- Doesn't get bored

Layout

- Fast baseline drawing

HTR

- Making consistent judgements across large datasets
- HTR recognition from poor quality images (fuzzy text; badly lit text)

Machines somewhat better than humans

- HTR of very small height letters

APPENDIX

Baseline errors: summary

Recto pages

LH side

- Falls short when large capital “T” at start of line as in “To”
- Falls long when a loop descends from line above beyond start of line

RH side

- Falls short when line in marginalia or legal boiler plate at LH line end curves sharply down
- Falls short when line in marginalia or legal boiler plate at LH line end curves sharply up

Verso pages

LH side

- Falls short when large capital “T” at start of line as in “To”
- Falls long when a loop descends from line above beyond start of line

RH side

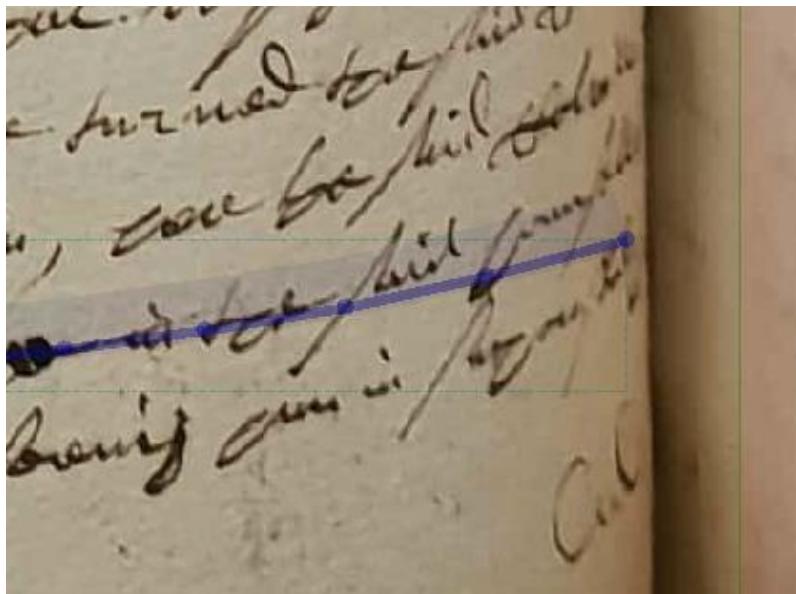
- Falls short when line at RH line end of main text curves sharply down
- Falls short when line at RH line end of main text curves sharply up

All pages

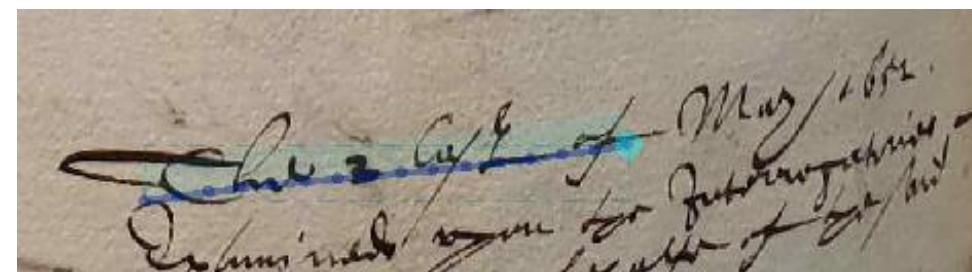
Independent of side

- Struggles to detect continuity if a line is partially broken
- Struggles with short and single word interlineations (fails to “see” them)
- Baseline too short at RH end of line if punctuation is some distance after end of line or above or below anticipated baseline
- Too long on LH side of baseline if a downward loop from line above is near end of line

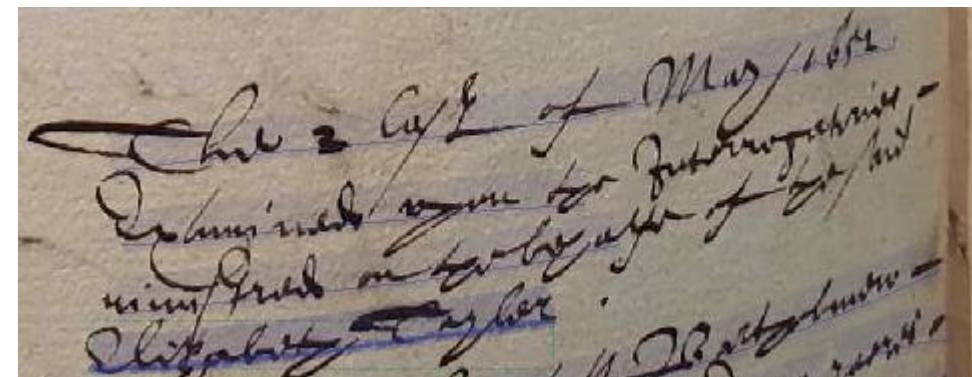
Baseline errors: sloping text lines



Automatic baseline well below upward curving text line

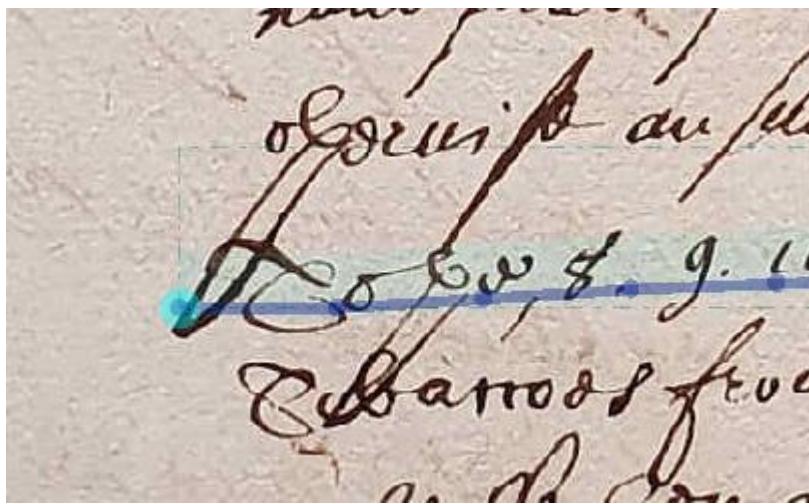


Automatic baseline falls short on upward sloping text line

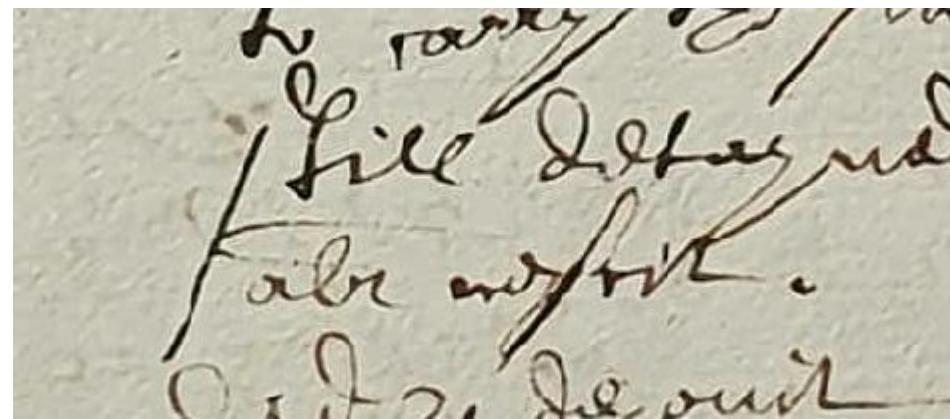


Automatic baseline falls short on upward sloping text line

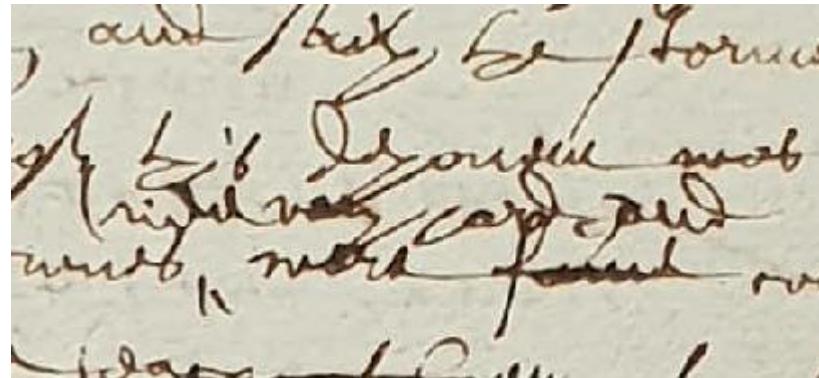
Baseline errors: interference from other lines



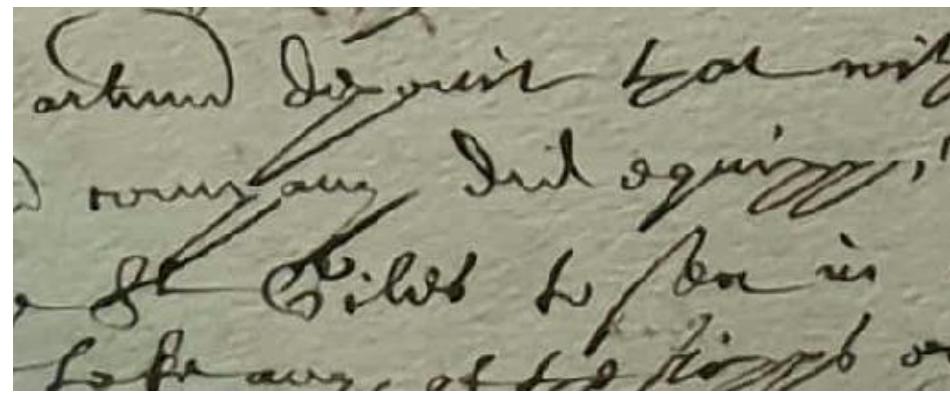
Downward loop beyond LH line end



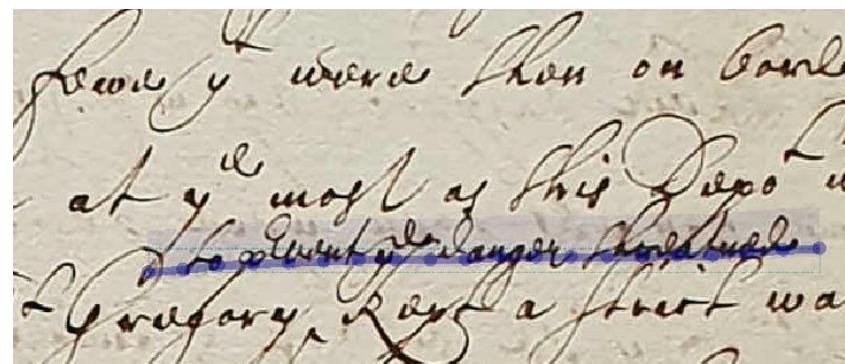
Downward stroke beyond LH line end



Downward lines from interlineation to line below

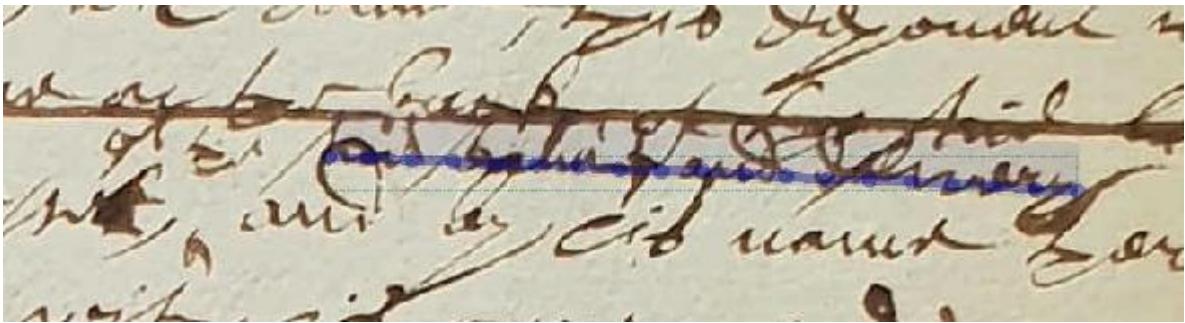


Downward strokes within line

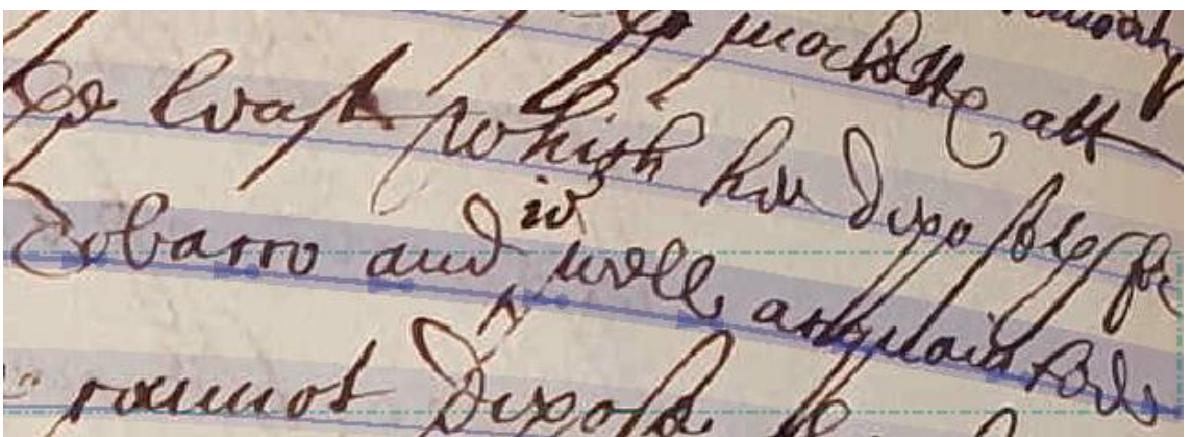


Downward strokes across an interlineation

Baseline errors: interlineation

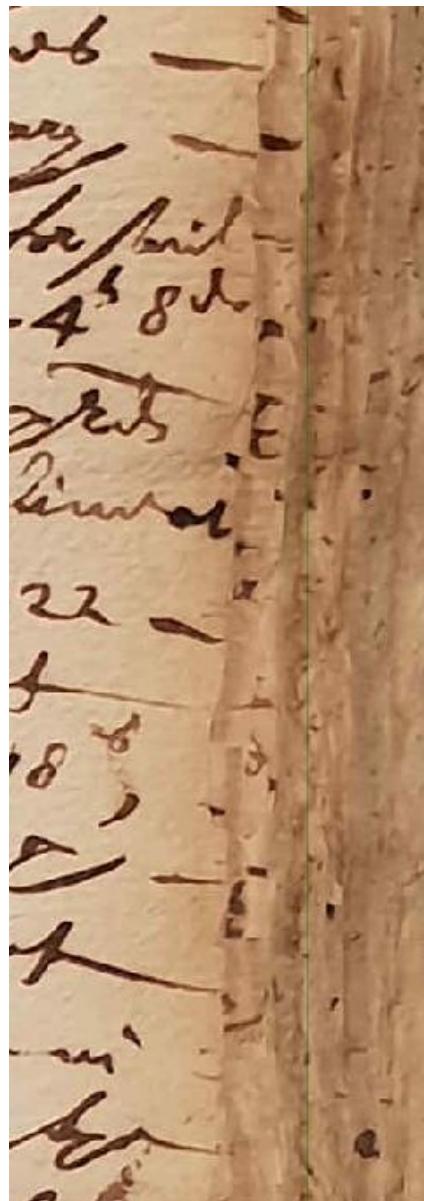


Automatic baseline misses part of a long interlineation

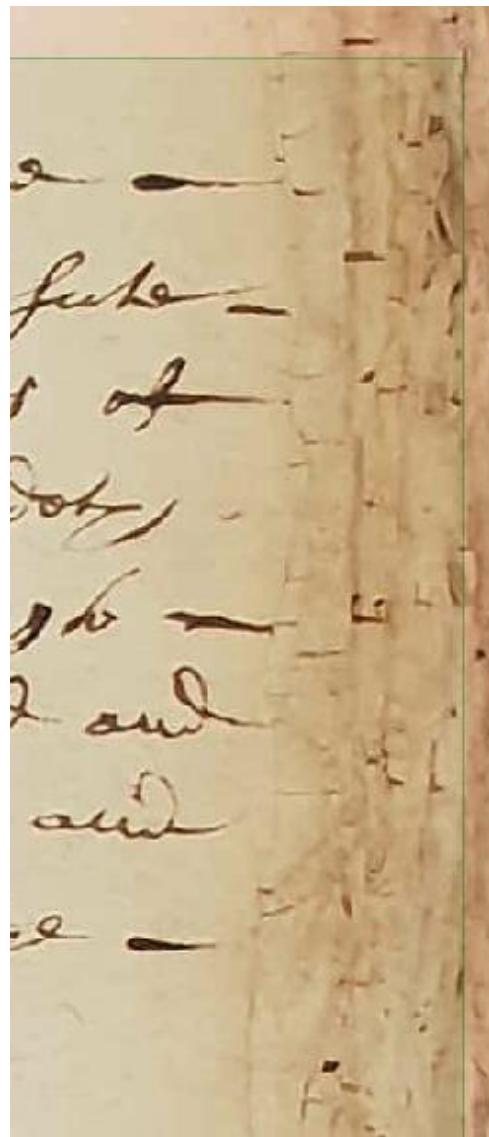


Small interlineation missed entirely by automatic baseline

Baseline errors: page edges



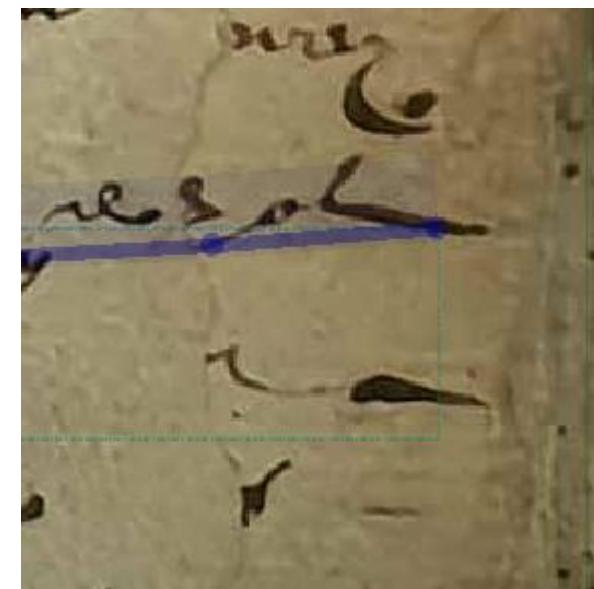
Problematic page
edge noise



Unproblematic page
edge noise

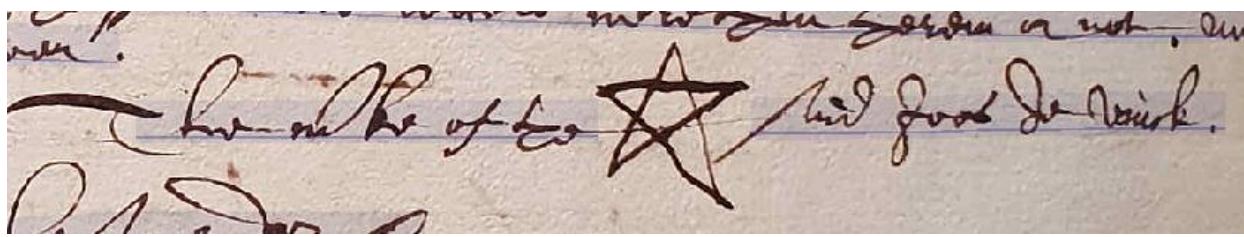


Text affected by curvature and dark zone at edge
of page

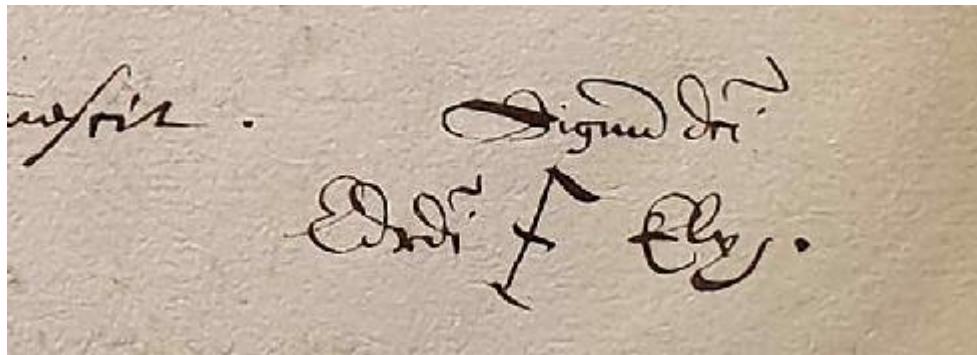


Problematic page
edge noise

Baseline errors: symbols

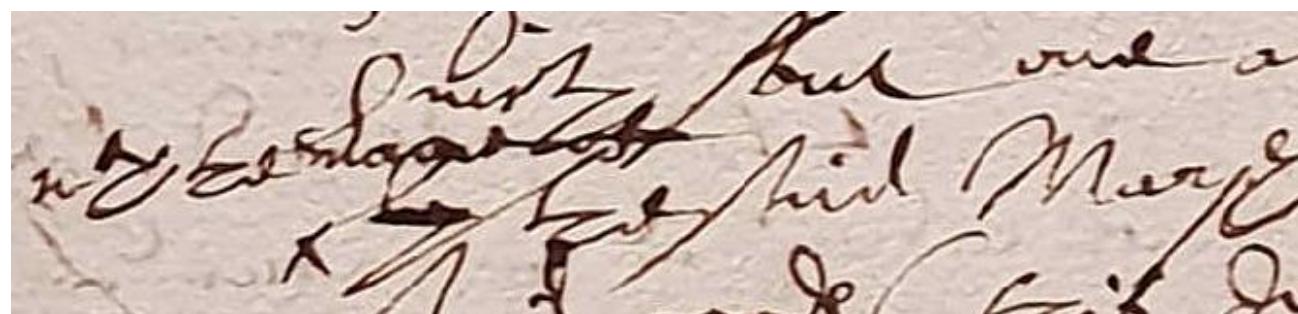


Non alphanumeric symbol

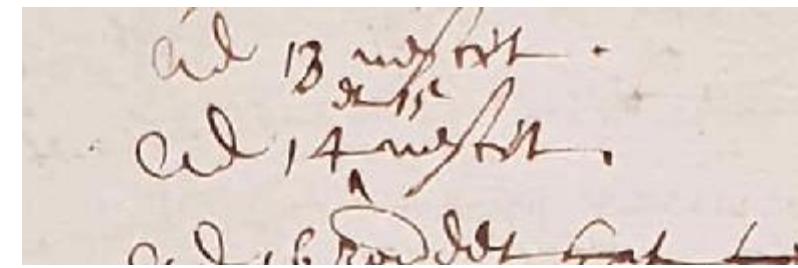


Non standard large angled alphanumeric symbol

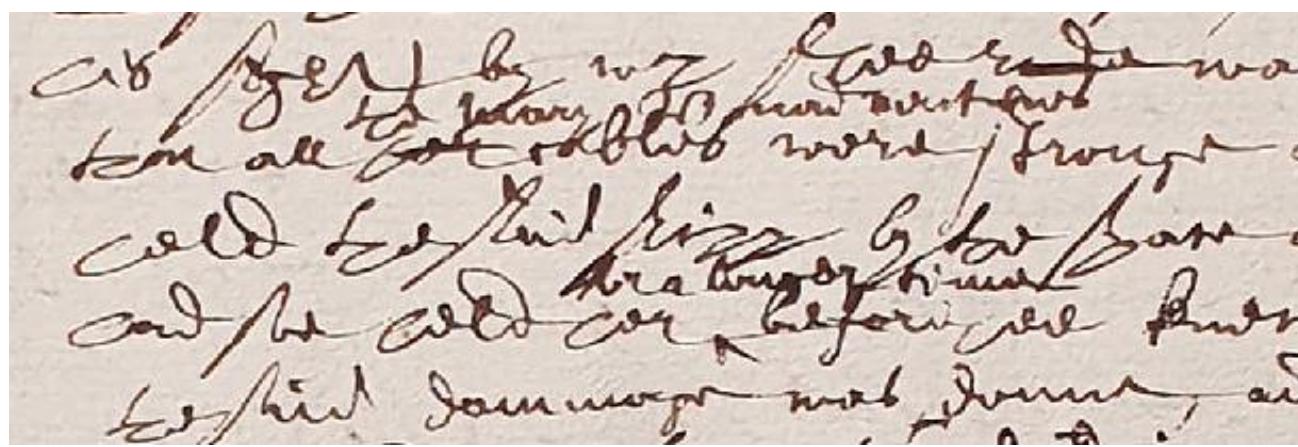
Baseline errors: insertion marks



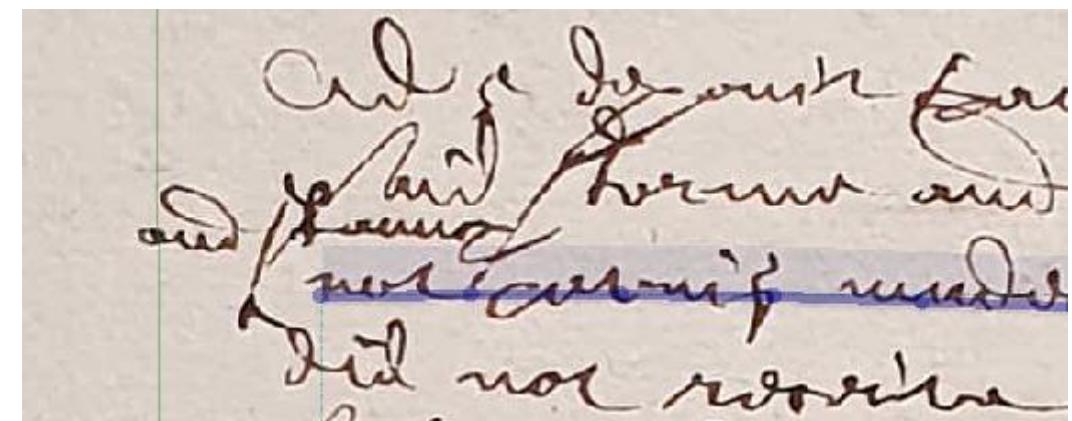
Insertion marks to far left of a text line



Insertion marks below a text line

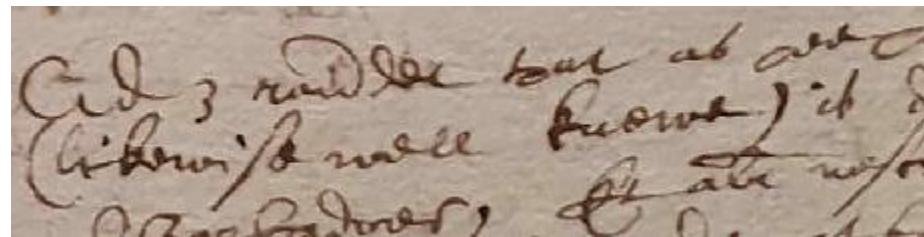


Insertion marks below a text line

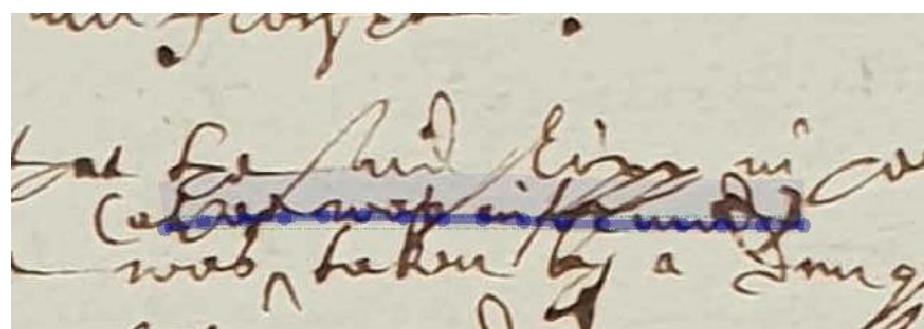


Insertion marks to far left of a text line

Baseline errors: other

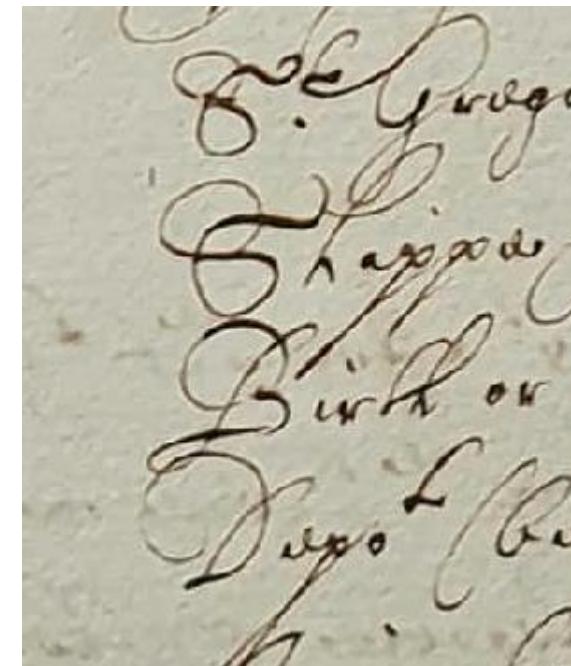


End 3 roundels but at the
Libri's well known it
is a good, & the w
Brackets



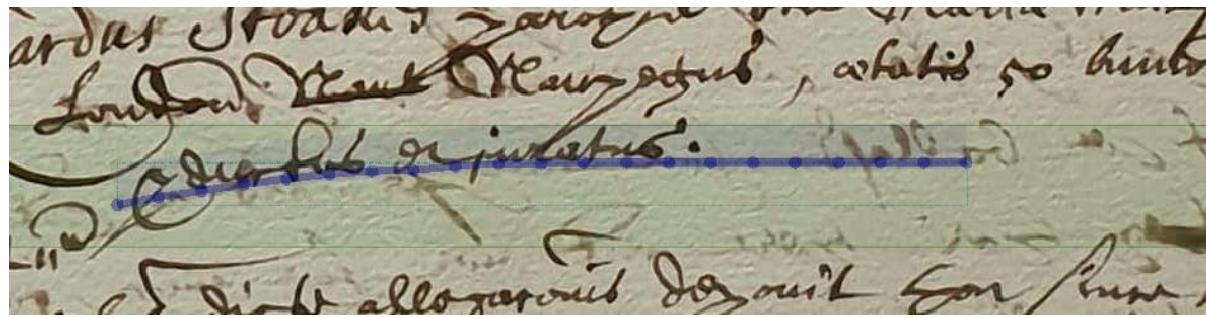
in my way
had to find this in
~~and was taken by a man~~
was taken by a man

Brackets



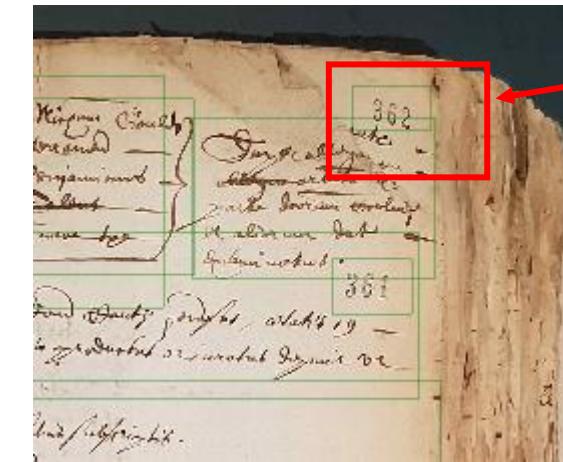
B. Gregor
Sappo
Birth or
Drap. Re

Large drop caps at start of a line



ardas Stodas Zarogia in
London. New Regulus, what is so
curious or interesting.
" first all too much don't you know

Ink bleed through from other side



Dependent on whether verso or recto

VERY BAD

- Struggles with legal boiler plate which curves down to centre of volume on LH side of a recto page

PRETTY BAD

- Struggles with [ADD EXAMPLE]

MODERATELY BAD

- Struggles with [ADD EXAMPLE]

Independent of page type

VERY BAD

- Struggles with large letters, both as singletons and in words (e.g. the name of a person in the personal front matter at the start of a deposition)
- Struggles with complex marks
- Struggles with initials
- Cannot deal with merchants marks as marginalia

PRETTY BAD

- Struggles with signatures
- Struggles with lengthy uppers and downers falling outside polygon recognition zone

MODERATELY BAD

- Struggles with [add example]

HTR errors: upward sloping baselines

On the 6th arte of the said allegacion hee saith and deposeth that
a schapman of London & milles new to his huse and there free
for and caught of the said Edward the partie alredy in prisone by twenty
pound of the tobaccoes are the moneys in question of the rate of nine
pounds per pound which his deponent had bee payed for the said tobaccoes
and had a helpe to cutt the said tobaccoes and was payed a profit at
the agreement aforesaid And his purpos was that after the receipt of
the said tobaccoes as is aforesaid his said deponent would haue brought
some of the said tobaccoe for his owne use and corrupt But he said
he did provent him selfe neuer to make paynt or abake any thing
of the said tobaccoes or pound which hee hadde of his portaine knowledges
and exerptes deponent doth saye
Also hee saye that the tobaccoes which was only worth but not
payable and because of his said deponent hat had a good tobaccoe of his
said moneys hee did not haue made more of it
whiche hee hadde being a workeman to the said Smith and did cutt part off
the said tobaccoes And before hee had cutt off the said tobaccoes
hee had a good tobaccoe of his portaine knowledges

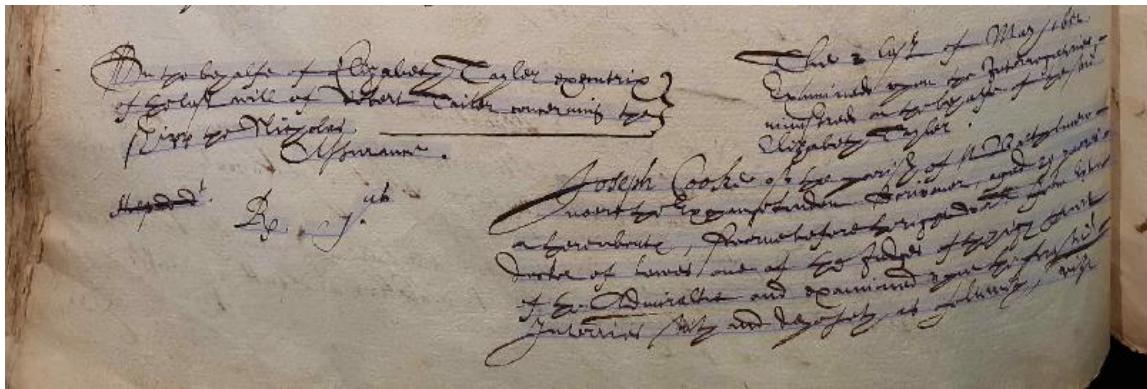
Upwards sloping baseline, verso page

Error:

- Upward sloping baselines, if the text is already sloping to the right, lead to a failure of the Pylaia model to recognise the whole line
- Lines 3-9 show a complete failure of HTR, whereas lines 1, 2, 10-18 have highly accurate HTR, despite the upwards slop of the baselines showing little difference

Type	Text	Structure	Reading Order
▼ Page			
▼ TextRegion			
> Line	To the 6th arte of the said allegacion hee saith and deposeth that	other	1
> Line	of herman of the said Butcher came to his house and there free		1
> Line	he came		2
> Line	and was and		3
> Line	were for and hee was he is		4
> Line	first and sett the said alr satis		5
> Line	her her what hee		6
> Line	this were all his deponent was have bought		7
> Line	in the to the had		8
> Line	this servant tould him this his Master would not above any thing		9
> Line	fiftie five pence the pound which hee deposeth of his certaine knowledge		10
> Line	and otherwise cannot depose./		11
> Line	To the 8th hee saith that the Tobaccoes interr was only were but not		12
> Line	rotten and beleeveth if hee this deponent had had at the Tobacco of the		13
> Line	said Smith (as & att 12 hee could have made more of it		14
> Line	which hee deposeth being a workeman to the said Smith and did cutt part of		15
> Line	the said Tobaccoes And further hee cannot depose/		16
> Line	& ye rest not examined by direction of the producent./		17
> Line	To the interr.	legal-boilerplate	18
▼ TextRegion			2
> Line			1

HTR errors: upward sloping baselines



Upward sloping baseline, verso page

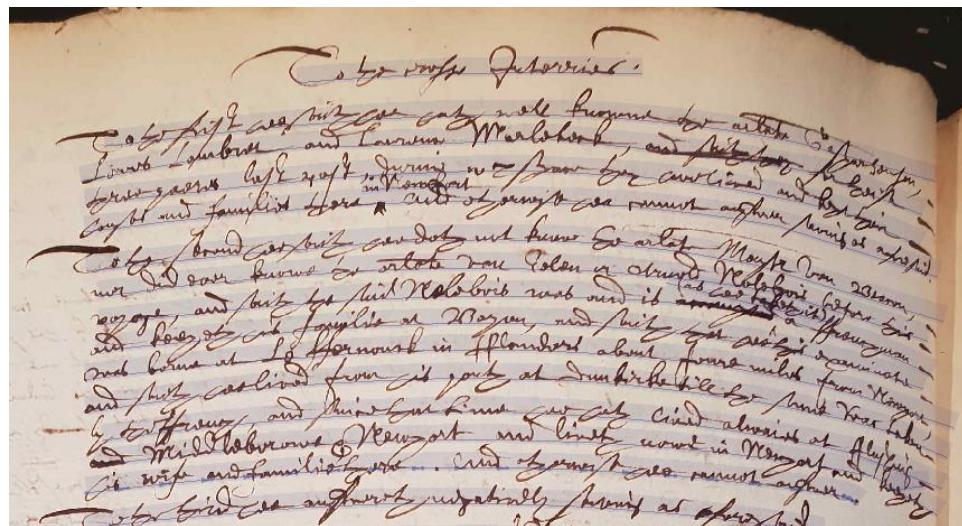
▼ TextRegion	date-of-deposit... 6
> Line	1
▼ TextRegion	legal-boilerplate 7
> Line	1
> Line	2
> Line	3
> Line	4
> Line	5
> Line	6
▼ TextRegion	personal-front-... 8
> Line	1
> Line	2
> Line	3
> Line	4
> Line	5
> Line	6

Fairly accurate rendition of line 3, which is shorter than the rest and slopes less
[Correct = Elizabeth Tayler]

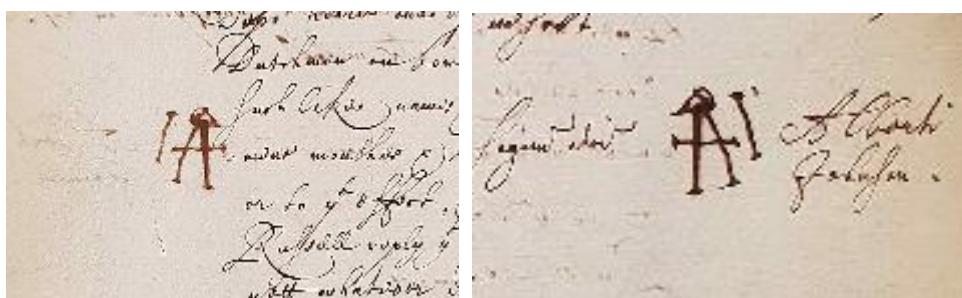
Error:

- Upward sloping baselines, if the text is already sloping to the right, lead to a failure of the Pylaia model to recognise the whole line
- Lines 1-2, and 4 in Legal boilerplate Text Region and lines 1 to 6 in Personal Front matter Text Region show a complete failure of HTR
- The lines on LH side of the image, which are horizontal, have correct HTR (not shown on this slide)

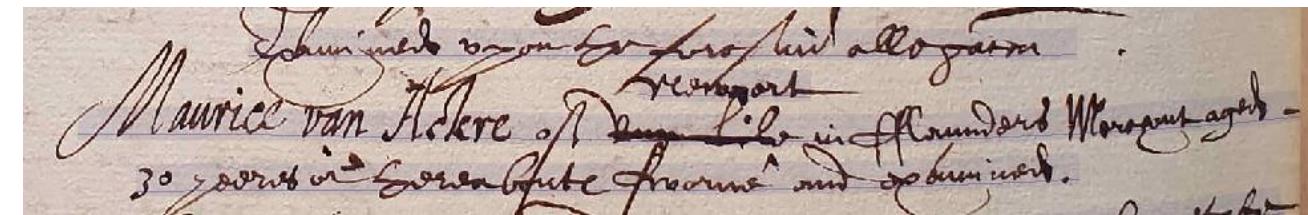
HTR errors: various causes



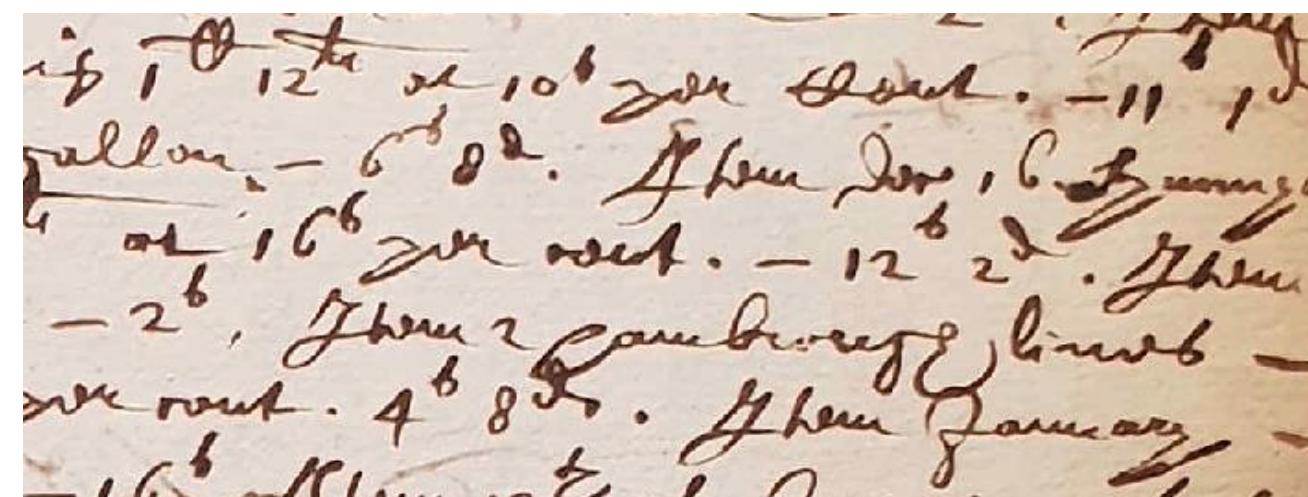
Page curvature



Ink bleed through from other side of page

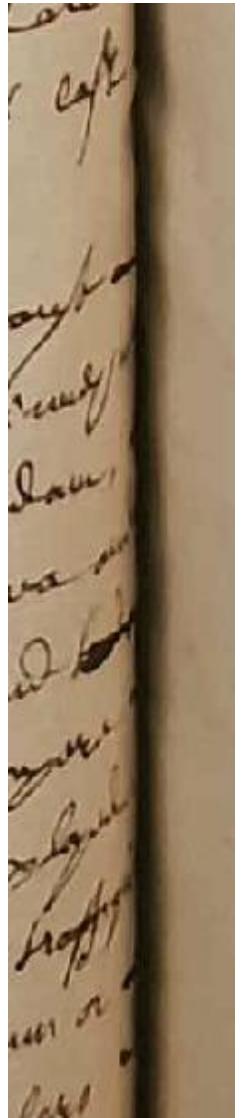


Large letters

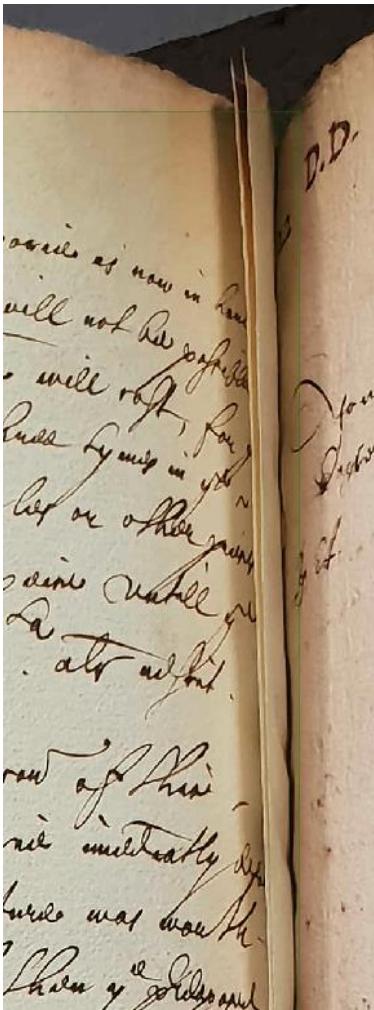


Superscripts

HTR errors: sample images prone to HTR errors: RH side of verso pages

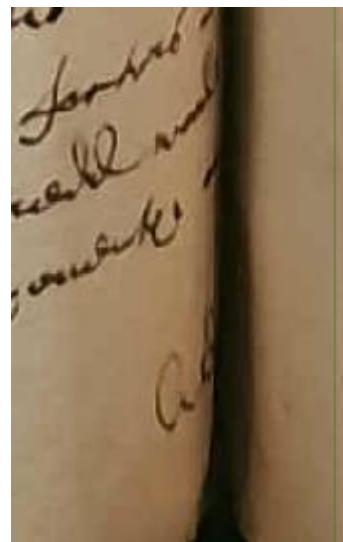


BAD

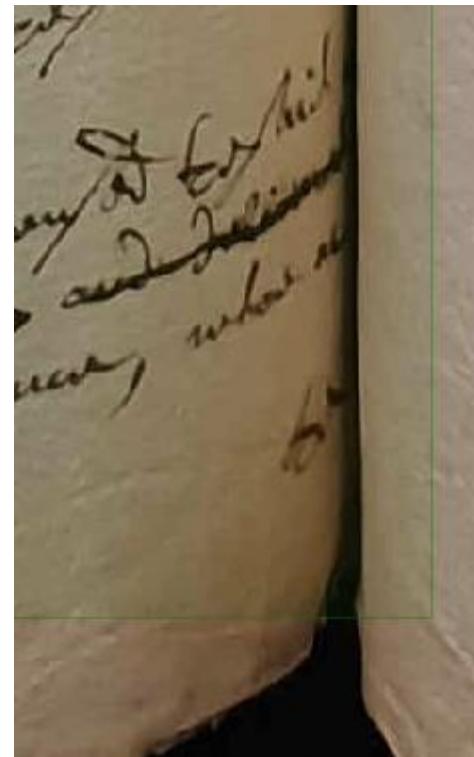


Text curves
sharply up
and is hidden

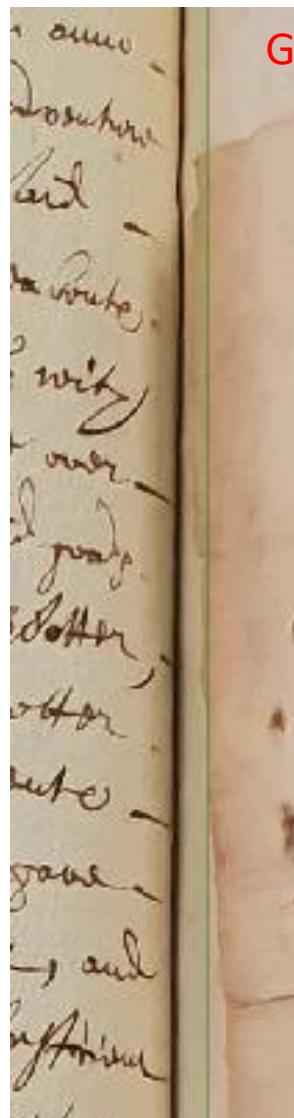
Text obscured
by fold



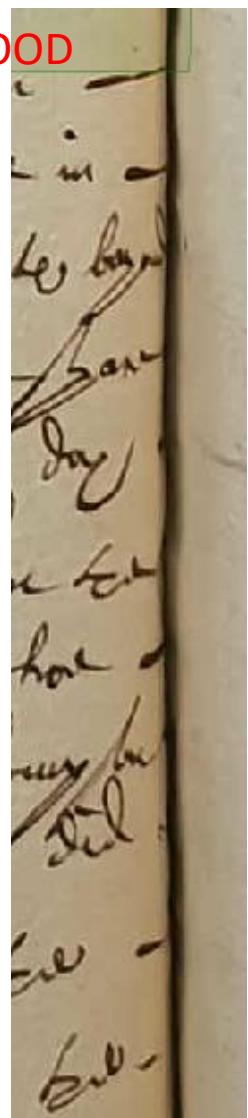
Orphan word
sharply
slanting



Orphan word
sharply
slanting

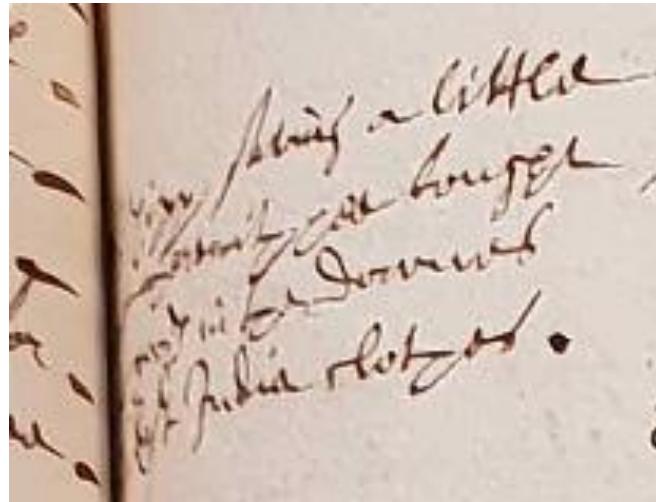


GOOD

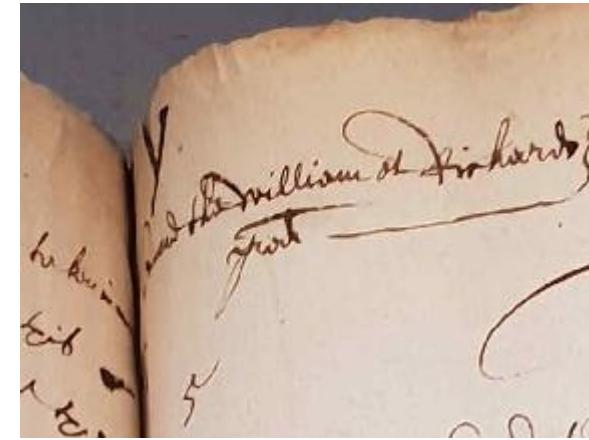


Moderate
slant, but full
word visible

HTR errors: sample images prone to HTR errors: LH side of recto pages



Text curves sharply down and distorts



Text curves down and distorts

Remarkably good HTR performance

3^o February, 1648.
Twyer alldayre yester daye spauyned.

Some superscripts [u; ui; o]

master for sal gwy.
18^t of Iulij for 1646.
L 7 h 6^d 9^s. Item sum
monys h - 16 d. Item
8^d. Item sumary & c^c

Currency superscripts

Ad 16th et 17th wifit.
Ad 18th wifit.
Ad 19th non concordit eu.
Ad 20th wifit.
Ad 21st non concordit eu.

Some numerical superscripts

wtate. It abouy
Ad yndit, having
to f^o offartate, an
- Comptant Esse.

Some numerical interlineations

Ad his diryng doth or em advera.
Ad Interria.
Ad primu rendet that about 4£ 10s of his wages is detained to the
said wheately untill hee recovers his freight aforesaid, alr said
supra.

legal-boilerplate

textbody-respo...

▼ TextRegion

► Line

Ad Interria.

▼ TextRegion

► Line

Ad primu rendet that about 4£ 10s of his wages is detained to the

► Line

said wheately untill hee recovers his freight aforesaid, alr said

► Line

supra.

Ad his diryng much plattened & broke
with 2. morsels lost & one morsel broken by the
ocean, or other damage so a great
amount.

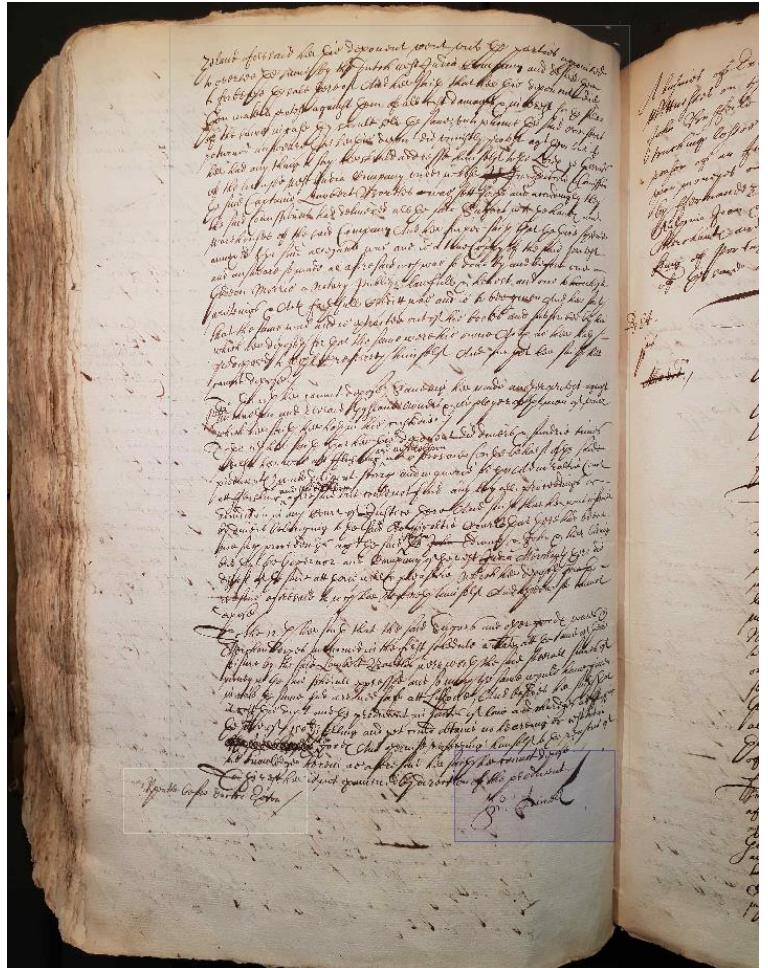
Faint
handwriting

Small text

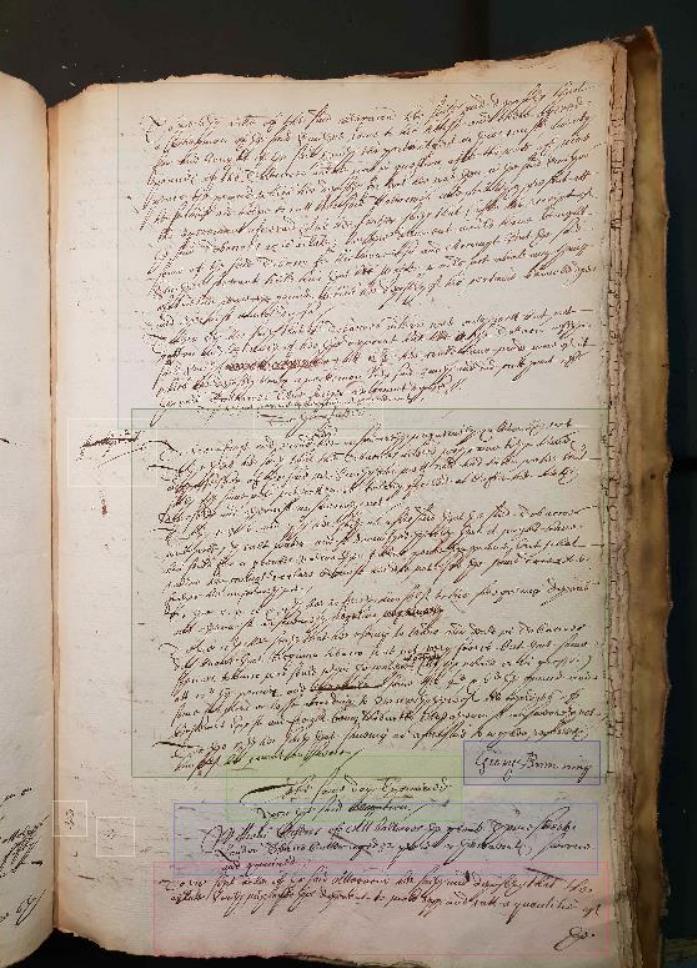
SUPPLEMENTARY SLIDES

Page complexity

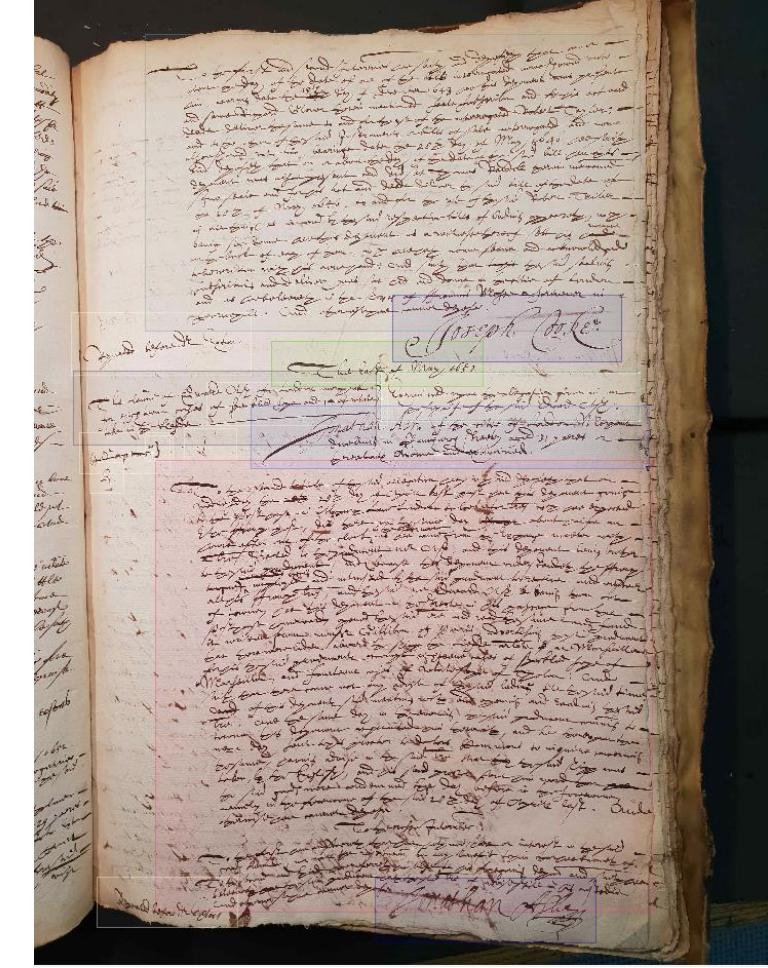
Three Text Regions



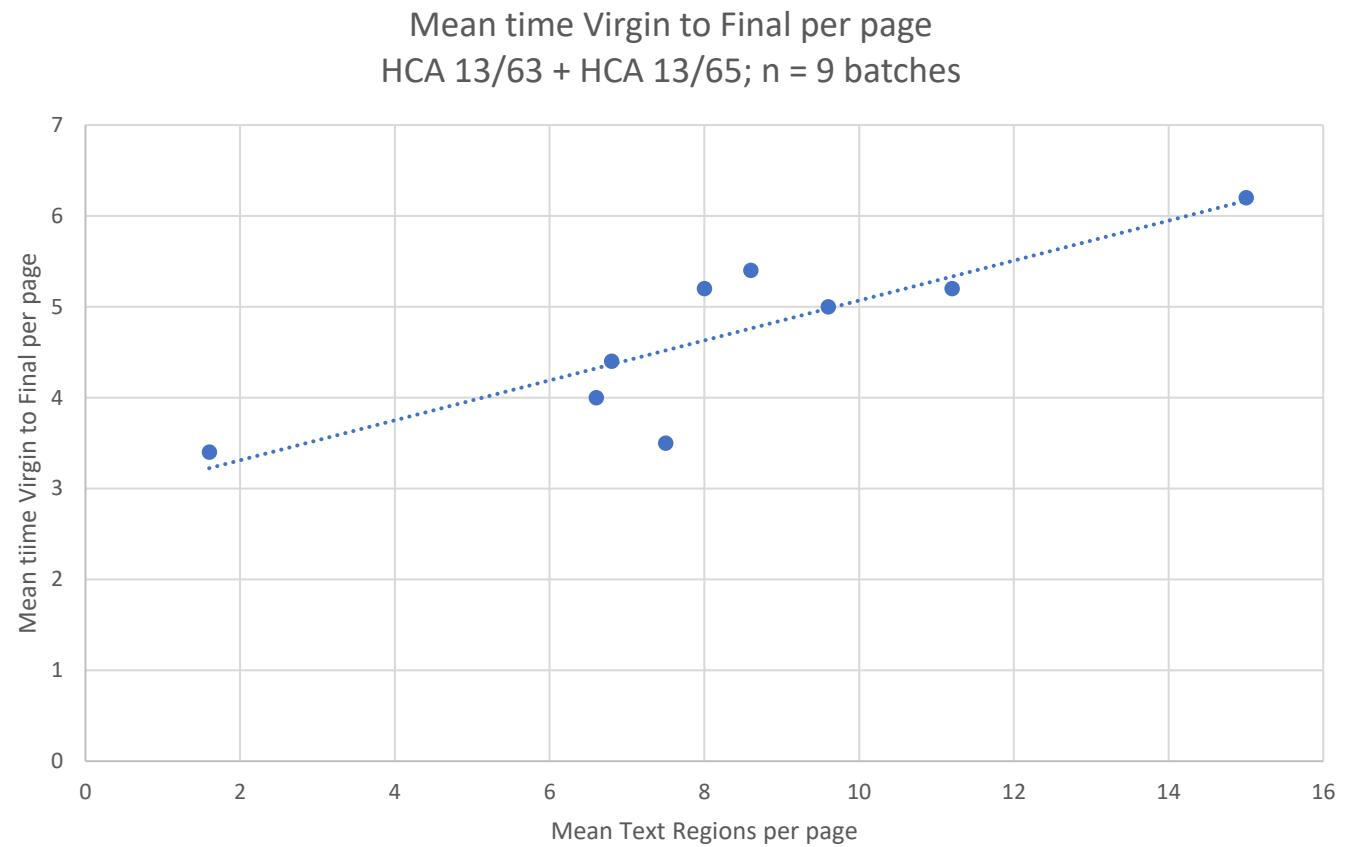
Ten Text Regions

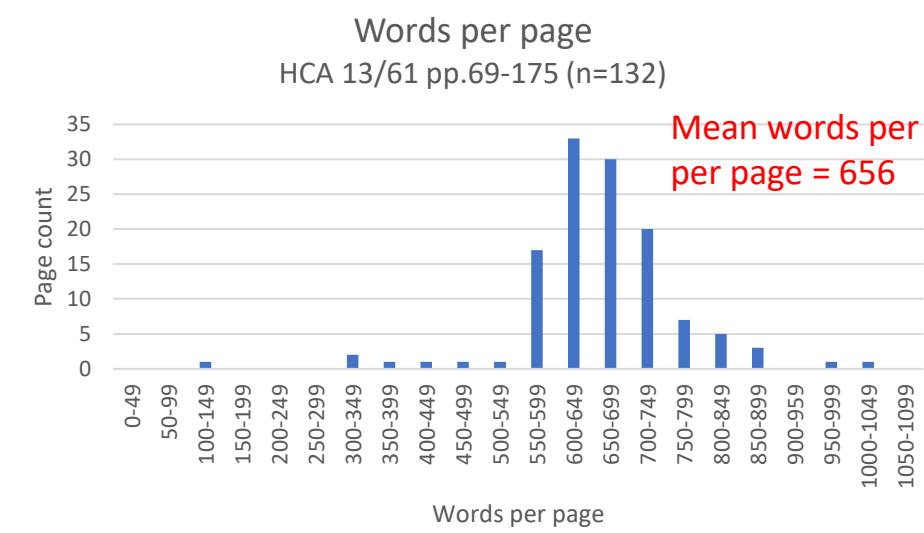
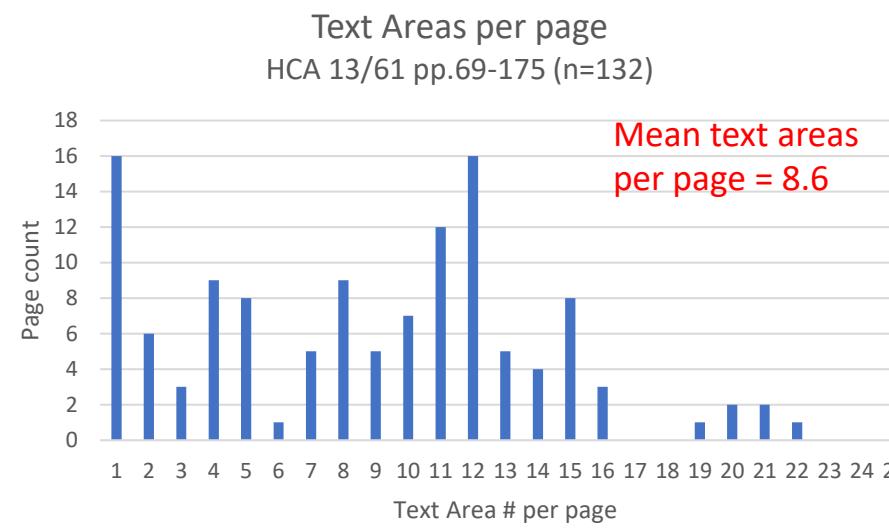


Fifteen Text Regions

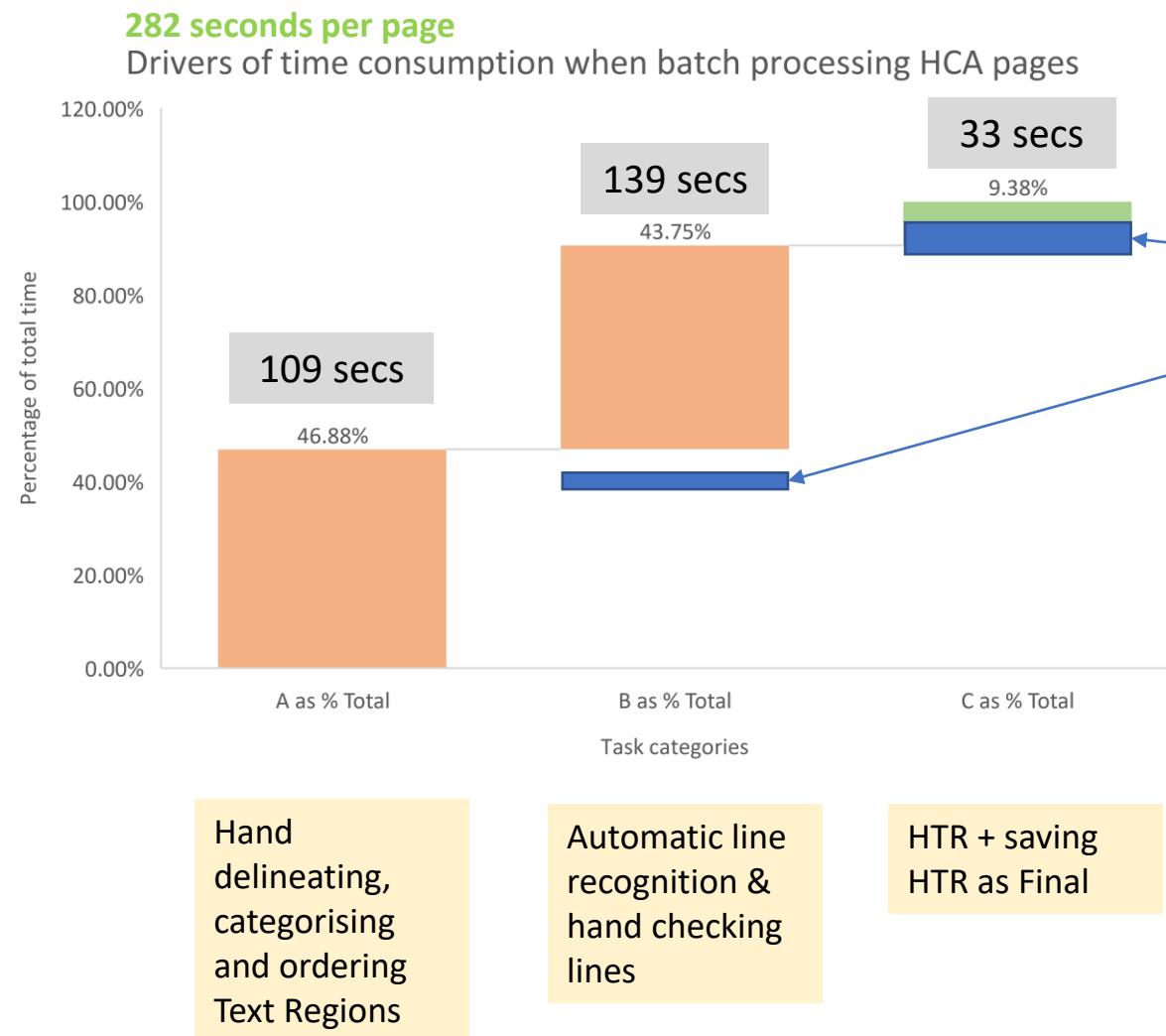


Page complexity (as measured by number of Text Regions on an image) drives up the human effort required for pre-processing images prior to HTR, with greater time per page both for Text Area markup and for manual checking of line recognition.





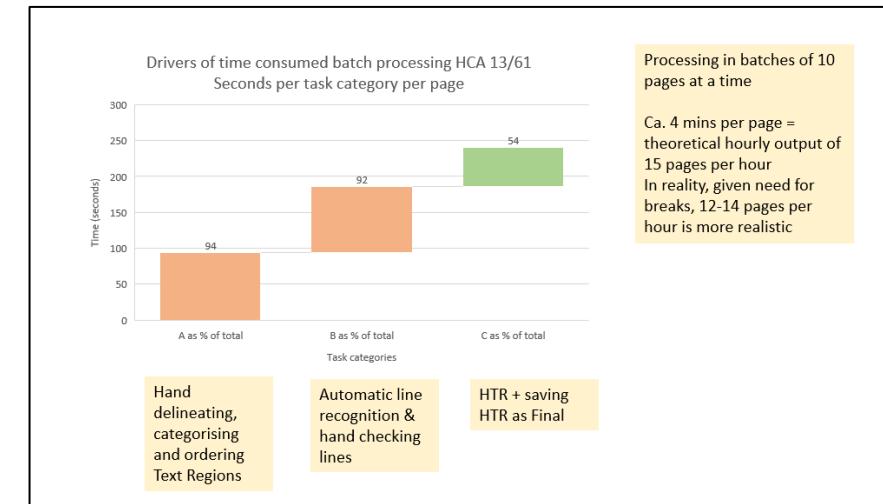
Learning curve: Reduced processing time per page from 282 seconds to 240 seconds after 500 page throughput

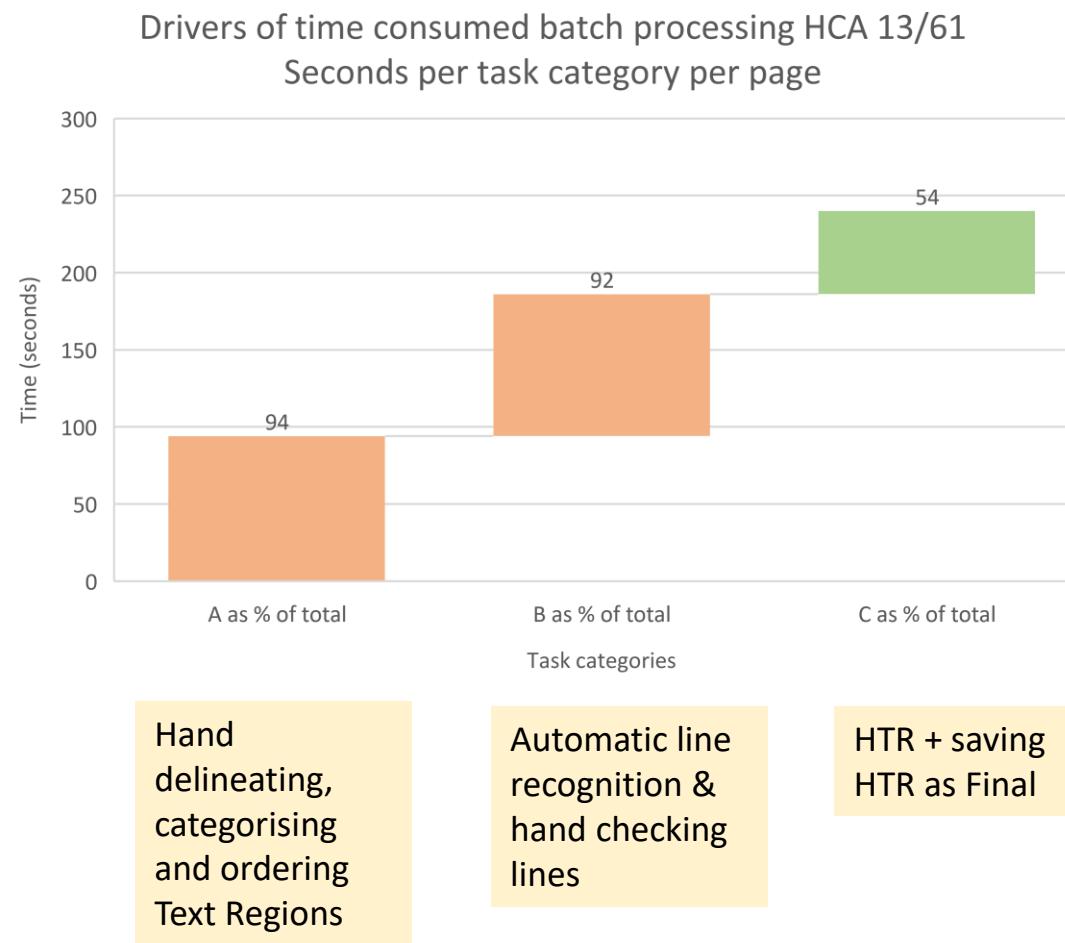


Batch processing, 5 images at a time
282 secs per page = 4.7 mins per page

Machine time
19.0 secs per page HTR
8.4 secs per page automatic line recognition
27.4 secs per page total machine time

240 seconds per page





Processing in batches of 10 pages at a time

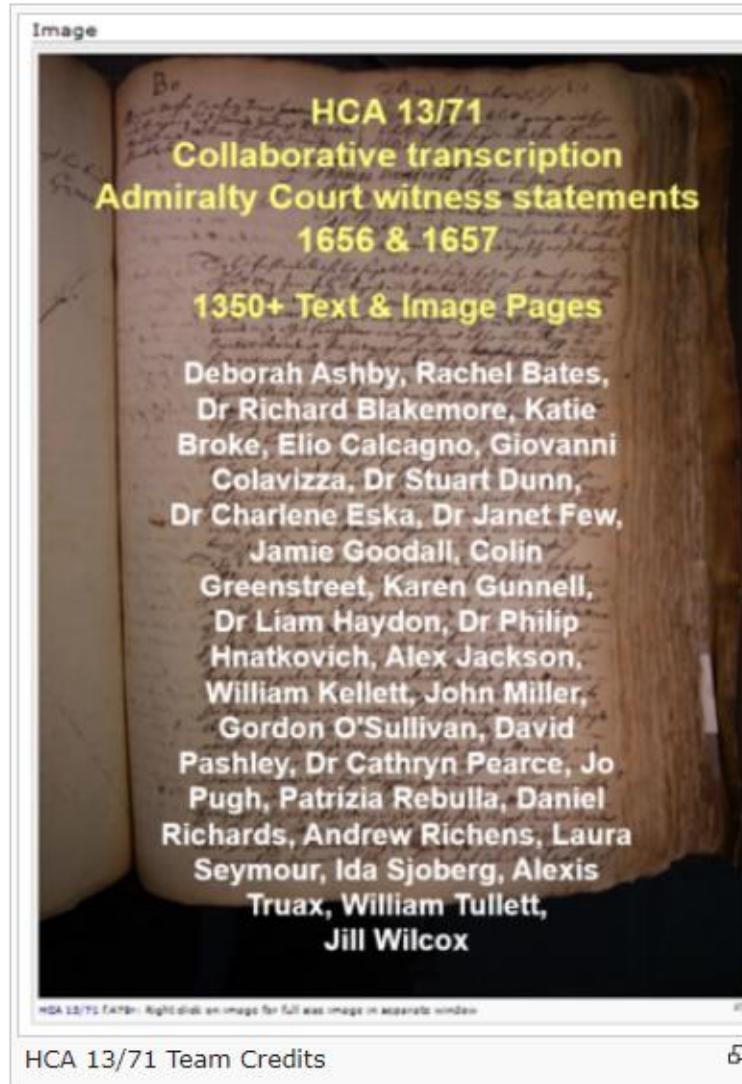
Ca. 4 mins per page = theoretical hourly output of 15 pages per hour
In reality, given need for breaks, 12-14 pages per hour is more realistic

Ten years ago it took a team of twenty-nine volunteers six months to hand transcribe and publish a volume of English High Court of Admiralty depositions. This month it will take fifteen days for one person to machine transcribe, correct and publish another volume of depositions from the same Court.

2012

6 months; 29 volunteers

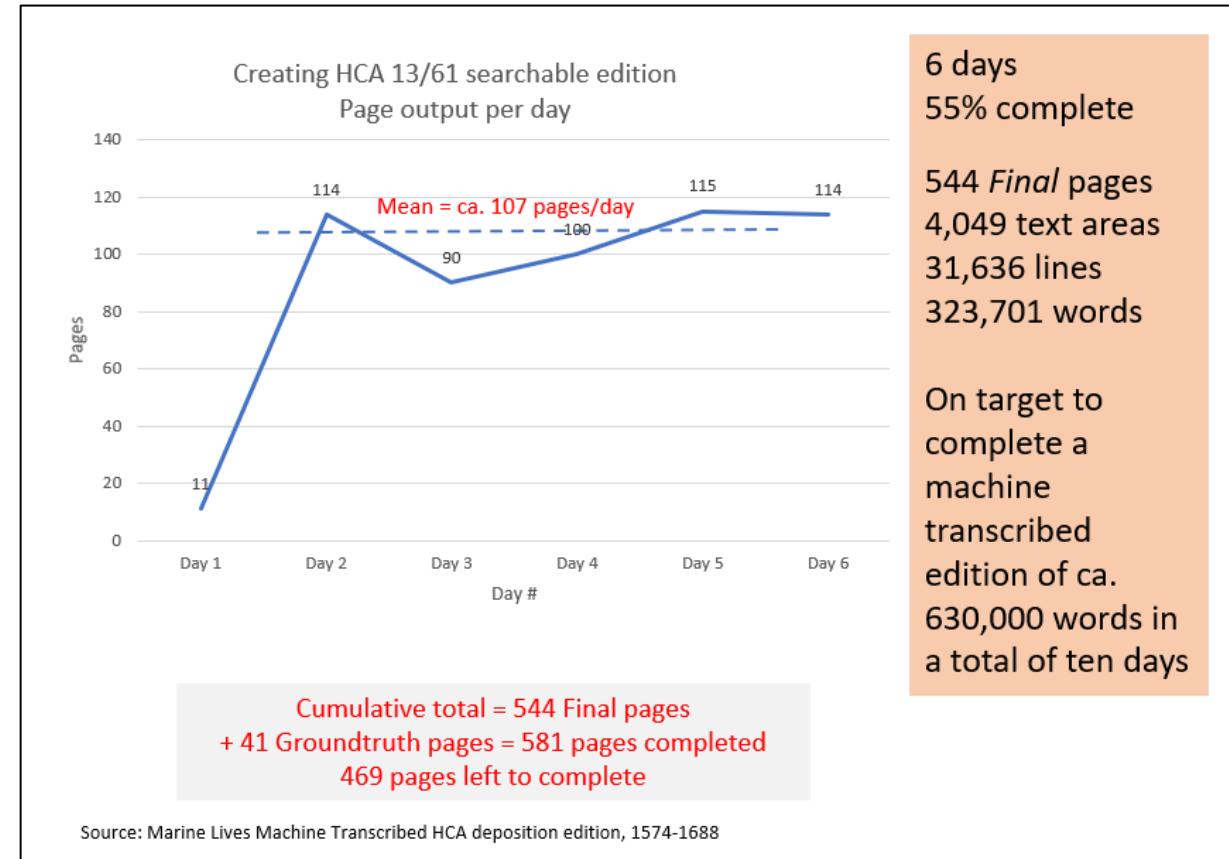
ca. 810,000 words



2022

10 days (+5 days cleanup); 1 person + baseline model + HTR model

ca. 630,000 words



6 days
55% complete

544 *Final* pages
4,049 text areas
31,636 lines
323,701 words

On target to
complete a
machine
transcribed
edition of ca.
630,000 words in
a total of ten days

[Home](#) > [Collection Overview](#) > [MarineLives](#) > **HCA 13/57 FULL IMAGE SET**

● New	816	<input type="checkbox"/>
● In Progress	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Done	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Final	108	<input type="checkbox"/>
● GT	34	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digging for data

The screenshot shows the TNA Discovery Search interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES' and a 'Menu' button. On the right, there are links for 'Sign in', 'Register', and 'No items'. Below the header, the search query 'letter AND mariner' is entered in a search bar, with a magnifying glass icon. To the left, a 'Filter results' sidebar is open, showing 'Your filters' (1600 - 1699) and sections for 'Held by' (The National Archives, Other archives) and 'Date' (1950+, 1925-1949, 1900-1924, 1800-1899, 1700-1799, 1500-1599, 1400-1499, 1300-1399, 1200-1299, 1100-1199). A 'Refine' button is at the bottom of the sidebar. The main search results area shows 'Records 554' and 'Record creators 0'. It includes a summary section for 'Admiralty: Royal Marines Pay Office: Records. IN-LETTERS. In-letters.' followed by detailed entries for three specific records: 'Captain James Mariner of the Formosa', 'Marine Miscellaneous Records', and another entry for 'Admiralty: Royal Marines Pay Office: Records. IN-LETTERS. In-letters.'.

National

- ADM 96/1
- Chancery
- PROB 32
- State Papers
- India Office records: Letter books
- India Office records: Marine miscellaneous

County and Municipal

- Bristol Archives
- Cornwall Record Office
- East Sussex Record Office
- Plymouth and West Devon Record Office
- Somerset Heritage Center

Search terms

- Copies of letters [e.g. to William Hurt, paymaster of the mariners, East India Company, 1622-49]
- Draft letter
- General correspondence
- General letter
- In-Letters
- Letter Books, Letter-Books
- Letter of attorney
- Out-letters
- Overland letter

Catalogue description

East India Company Letter Books

Reference: IOR/E/3/84-111

Title: East India Company Letter Books

Description: The Letter Books consist of copies of letters written by the East India Company to its trading posts in the East (India, China, Persia, Mocha, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Siam, West Africa, St Helena) and to its agents in Europe and the Levant, with occasional copies of Home Correspondence. The books begin in April 1626 but few letters survive before 1 April 1653, from which date they are more or less complete.

Date: 1626-1753

Related material: Pre-1626 letters can be found in the Miscellaneous Court Book [IOR:B/2] published in full transcript: Sir George Birdwood & William Foster, eds., 'The register of letters etc of the Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies 1600-1619' (London, 1893).

IOR: H/33-35: contemporary abstracts and extracts 1658-1679 and 1702-1706.

IOR:H/48-56: manuscript transcripts of documents in the India Office and Public Record Office relating to the island of Bombay.

IOR: G/40/28-31 manuscript calendar by William Foster c.1920 of documents in the India Office Records relating to the English factories in India 1655-1660.

Held by: [British Library: Asian and African Studies](#), not available at The National Archives

Language: English

Physical description: 28 volumes

Early Modern Mariners letters – EMLO has a total of THREE letters identified as written by mariners



Home Search+ Browse Collections Contribute About

24 results

EMLO is an active, collaborative project in continual development, and as such may contain errors/duplicates. We rely on feedback from the scholarly community: if you spot an error, please [get in touch](#).

Type of record	Brief details	Further details	Where found
1 Person or organisation	Ingle, Joshua, fl. 1689-1690	Roles or titles: Mariner	Found in Titles or roles : mariner
2 Person or organisation	Joyce, John	Roles or titles: mariner	
3 Person or organisation	Andrew, William, d.1652	Roles or titles: Mariner Year died: 1652	
4 Person or organisation	Wood, John, fl. 1650	Roles or titles: London agent; mariner	
5 Person or organisation	Gallop, Nathaniel, 1629 or before-1676	Roles or titles: of Boston; mariner and trader Year born: 1628 Year died: 1676	
6 Person or organisation	Adams, Thomas, fl. 1654	Roles or titles: Mariner	
7 Person or organisation	Roberts, John, fl. 1756-1773	Alternative names: John Roberts; Siôn Roberts Roles or titles: Mariner	

Type of record	Brief details	Further details	Where found
1 Letter	Unknown date: Frere, Henry, fl. until 1690 to Sancroft, William, 1617-1693	Author as marked: Frere, Henry. mariner.	Found in Author (as marked) : Frere, Henry. mariner. A
2 Letter	Unknown date: Joyce, John to Sancroft, William, 1617-1693	Author as marked: Joyce, John. mariner.	Found in Author (as marked) : Joyce, John. mariner. A
3 Letter	27 Jan 1690: Ingle, Joshua, fl. 1689-1690 (Falmouth, Cornwall, England) to Cradock, Richard, fl. 1689-1690 ~ Heron, Samuel, fl. 1690	Author as marked: Ingle, Joshua, mariner. Year: 1690	Found in Author (as marked) : Ingle, Joshua, mariner. A

Abstract

The petitioner Frere late commander of the "Tulip Dogger" has endured much misery as a captive at Sallee in Barbary begs for charitable relief in his present distress.

Abstract

The petitioner has been held in captivity for 6 years in. the West Indies is now free but sick and lame he now wishes to visit his friends in Durham, where he was born, and asks for help to aid him on his way.

Abstract

He sailed from Jamicia on Oct. 26th and he describes the long tempestuous voyage and shortage of food which they experienced. His crew were the worst and most trouble- some men he had ever carried to sea.

Early Modern Mariners letters – Calendar of Court Minutes of the English East India Company, 1640-43

A calendar of the court minutes, etc. of the East India Company Vol.II, 1640-1643

by Sainsbury, Ethel Bruce

Publication date 1907-1916
Topics East India Company
Publisher Oxford, Clarendon Press
Collection roberts; toronto
Digitizing sponsor MSN
Contributor Robarts - University of Toronto
Language English
Volume 1640-1643

Vol. 1. 1635-1639.- Vol. 2. 1640-1643.- Vol. 3. 1644-1649.- Vol. 4. 1650-1654.- Vol. 5. 1655-1659.- Vol. 6.
1660-1663

Letter = 100
Letters = 74

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 15, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 164).

more than his subscription or according to the proportion of his stock, and that none shall exceed 3,000*l.* Letters read from Mr. Steevens, master of the *Crispian*, and question raised as to whether, in the event of the said ship not being able to reach Surat with the easterly monsoon, she had better go first for Bantam, or for Masulipatam and then to Bantam; this is referred for future determination. Mr. Dyke desiring that his subscription of 300*l.*, ~~for which he underneath in the last Joint Stock may be consulted~~

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 22, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 172).

187*l.* 10*s.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock, 46*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* being divided, and charged with an arrear of 1*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* A letter to be written to Mr. Robinson, the searcher at Gravesend, directing him to forward to the Custom-house in London the broadcloths which he lately stopped from being sent to India as private trade. Mr. Methwold is granted remission of freight on his goods brought home as private trade in the same

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 8, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 196).

Mr. Norris's man to be given 2*c.i.* in recognition of his pains and expedition in bringing letters from Captain Mynors, notifying the arrival near Falmouth of the *Discovery* from India, the 40*s.* paid the man by Mr. Cramorne at Plymouth to be deducted, and a letter of thanks to be written to Mr. Norris. A Court of Sales is

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 22, 1642¹ (*Court Book*, vol. xviii, p. 138).

The Governor desires to know what propositions Mr. Courteene has to make in answer to those he received from the Company, and informs him it is thought right that he should give an account of his three ships, with a copy of his last letters and commissions sent to the Indies, and also a copy of his last advices received from thence. The Governor likewise desires to know what stock

~~Mr. Courteene intends to send in the two following ships to fetch~~

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 7, 1643 (*Court Book*, vol. xviii, p. 308).

to pay one-third of his own debt at once and discount for the remainder shortly. A letter is read from William Cobb, who is a prisoner at Rochester at the Company's suit, about the piracy committed in the Red Sea; it is resolved to prosecute him in the Admiralty, and a warrant is ordered to be taken out against Kynaston and Ayres on the same count. The *William* ordered

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 24, 1643 (*Court Book*, vol. xviii, p. 319).

he promising to return them in as good condition as when lent. A letter is read from Mr. Cramorne, of Plymouth; the Court resolves to desire him to provide a small boat with six, eight, or ten men, to lie off the Channel for three months from the 15th of June next, to advise the Company's homeward-bound ships (because of the distraction of the times) not to put into Scilly, Falmouth, or any western port, and not to board any ship or suffer any one to board them, but to be on their guard and make the Downs their first port if possible; also to desire him to hire two men who know the Parliament ships, that one may be sent aboard the Company's ships to point out the Parliament ships, and those set out from Falmouth, that they may be avoided. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES WITH THE MIXED COMMITTEES, SEPTEMBER 6, 1643 (*Court Book*, vol. xix, p. 41).

payment of 6*d.* per lb. freight. Mr. Budd reports that after consideration of the anonymous letter telling of a large quantity of indigo brought home as private trade and other abuses committed in the *Crispiana*, he is of opinion that the only way to discover the truth is to bring an action against one or two of the mariners, in which he can so frame the 'libell' that the truth will appear. To this the Court consents and desires him to proceed accordingly. Mr. Budd's fees of 2*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, for the suit in the Admiralty against Cobb, are ordered to be paid. John Southam buys the hull and

A COURT OF COMMITTEES WITH THE MIXED COMMITTEES, JUNE 28, 1644 (*Court Book*, vol. xix, p. 181).

A letter is read, dated April 22, 1643, from Messrs. Prowd and Broadbent, masters in the *Dolphin* and *Hind*, who went last year for Surat, reporting that the *Dolphin* was troubled with 'a weeping quality', so that they were forced to pump '300 stroakes an hour', and that the new ironwork in both ships is 'extraordinary badd'. Hall, the anchorsmith, and Steevens, the shipwright, are commanded to attend the next court to explain the reasons. A note is presented of the names of those adventurers in the Fourth Joint

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 28, 1645 (*Court Book*, vol. xix, p. 282).

in twenty-one years, he may be circumstanced as master of one of the ships next spring. A letter is read from Steevens and the officers of the *Eagle*, reporting that through negligence of the men in the *Peter*, bound for Barbadoes, the *Eagle* fell foul of that vessel and broke her 'boltspritt' and part of her head at Gravesend. The master of the *Peter* comes into court, presents a note of the damage done to his ship, amounting to 20*l.* 10*s.*, and requests satisfaction, in default of which he is to sue for it, as his ship's company assert upon oath that the fault was with Steevens. The Governor is desired to confer with Mr. Pennoyer, one of the owners of the *Peter*, and come to some amicable conclusion. (1*p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, NOVEMBER 18, 1646 (*Court Book*, vol. xx, p. 44).

1*d.* per lb. at six months. A letter is received from Thomas Godfrey, stating that owing to illness he does not think he will be able to go as master in the *Farewell* this voyage; the Court sends him word that they will wait until Friday week before choosing another master, in the hope that he may recover; meanwhile Curtis, the chief mate, is directed to get the ship ready for her voyage. (1*p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 14, 1648 (*Court Book*, vol. xx, p. 228).

in Dover Castle, and others that she should go round by Scotland, it is decided that Captain Bailey shall be written to and told to proceed on his voyage in the ordinary way at the first favourable opportunity. At the same time it is resolved that, notwithstanding 'the present distempers in the Downs and thereabouts', no letter shall be sent by the said Captain to deliver to the homeward-bound ships he may encounter to tell them not to put in to the Downs but into some other port in the west country. Mr. Holloway requesting that the sale of his calicoes may be further postponed.

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 23, 1649 (*Court Book*, vol. xx, p. 335).

Mr. Deputy represents that Henry Younge, who went out five years ago as purser's mate in the *Eagle* and has continued at Surat in the 'Writing Office' at 18*l.* per annum, has asked, in a letter to his father, John Younge, that his salary may be increased, as he is now acting as Secretary, in which post his predecessor received 50*l.* per annum; the Court agrees to give him 36*l.* per annum. Hopton

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 2, 1645 (*Court Book*, vol. xix, p. 290).

The Deputy reports that a petition concerning Mucknell and his consorts has been presented to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and that they have ordered letters to be written to Captain Swanley¹ to do his best with the ships under his command to intercept them; they have also advised the Company to send out two nimble pinnaces to scout about the Western Islands and give notice to the homeward-bound vessels, and in case any shall be surprised to bring word to Captain Batten¹ that he may deliver them. On this a motion is made for the Commissioners to be solicited to allow some shins of the third rank belonging to the

A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEES FOR THE SECOND GENERAL VOYAGE, NOVEMBER 23, 1647 (*Court Book*, vol. xxii, p. 39).

The letters to be sent to the Coast are read, approved, and ordered to be 'faire written'. It is resolved that Robert Doughty shall reside at the Coast so long as any considerable stock belonging

A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEES FOR THE SECOND GENERAL VOYAGE, DECEMBER 3, 1647 (*Court Book*, vol. xxii, p. 42).

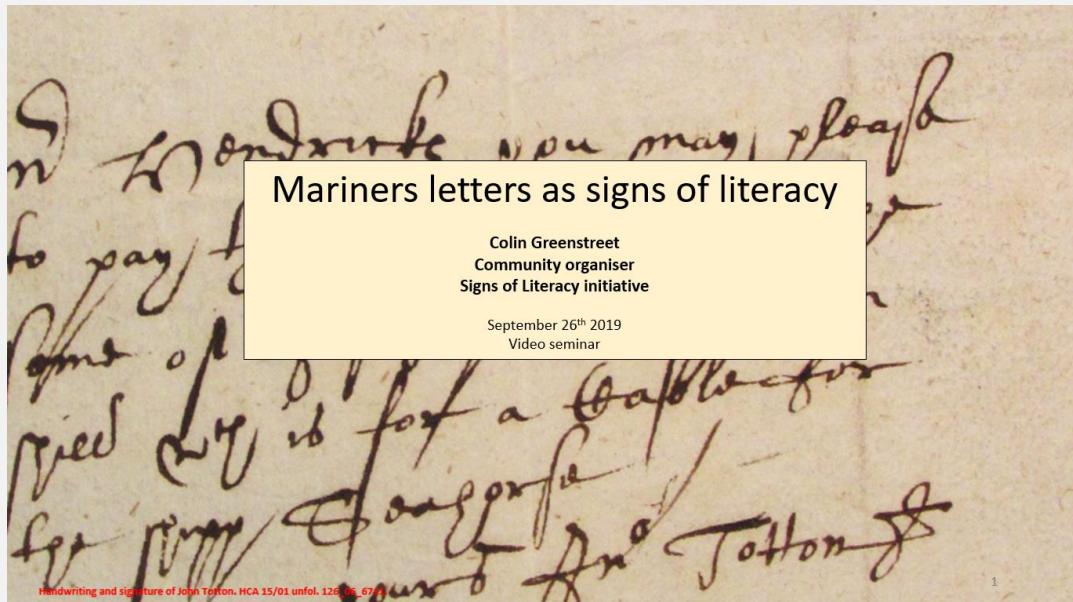
he is leaving in the Company's hands. On consideration of the abuse suffered by the Company through private trade, the Committees order letters to be written to the masters of the *Dolphin* and *Bonito* requiring them to command their boatswains to keep a strict account of all goods taken in and out of their vessels, on pain of forfeiting their wages and suffering such other punishment as the Company can legally inflict. These letters are ordered to be read at the mast before all the ship's company. It is resolved that one factor shall be sent to Surat but none to Bantam. Certain Com-

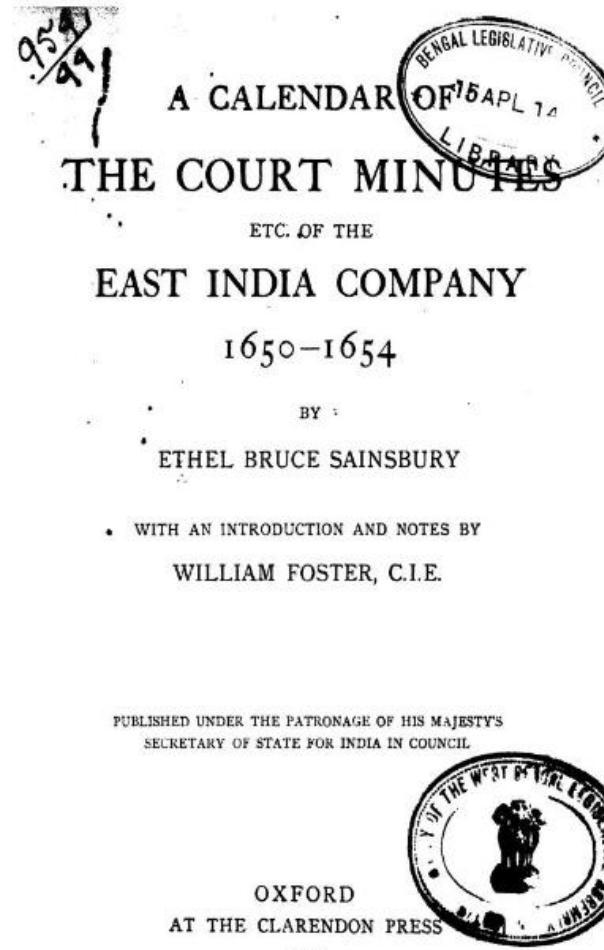
A COURT OF COMMITTEES, OCTOBER 6, 1648 (*Court Book*, vol. xx, p. 277).

Eagle, with Richard Southwell as his mate; and James Grooby is chosen steward for the *Greyhound*. The last letter received from India advising the want of young men for the counting-house, Bowen is required to prepare abstracts from the said letters, and the Court decides to consider this matter at the next meeting. A motion is

A COURT OF COMMITTEES WITH THE COMMITTEES FOR THE SECOND GENERAL VOYAGE, DECEMBER 12, 1649 (*Court Book*, vol. xx, p. 439¹).

50*l.* to be detained for the widow. Matthew Hollworthy, who lately resided at Marseilles and has done the Company good service in dispatching letters overland to India, is admitted to the freedom gratis and gives 40*s.* to the poor-box. Michael Yates is chosen





Letter = 148
Letters = 99

A COURT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE FOURTH JOINT STOCK,
APRIL 10, 1650 (*Court Book*, vol. xx, p. 52a).

Euse had sprung a leak, Captain Minors, Messrs. Steevens and Spiller have been sent to ascertain, and a letter is now read from them certifying that she is a 'strong tight shippe, sufficient to proceed on her voyage'. The Captain and his companions are hereupon desired to return to London. (1*pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE FOURTH JOINT STOCK
AND SECOND GENERAL VOYAGE, DECEMBER 4, 1650 (*Court Book*, vol. xxi, p. 54).

for any unnecessary stores there to be sold. Certain Committees are desired to attend the Commissioners of Customs concerning a letter lately sent to the Company about strangers shipping their goods. Mr. Apsley is allowed tare for ginger bought in jars.

A COURT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE FOURTH JOINT STOCK AND
SECOND GENERAL VOYAGE, MAY 28, 1651 (*Court Book*, vol. xxi, p. 105).

Company. Captain Ryder shows a letter he has received from Brest, in which it is intimated that there are six great ships with thirty-six guns and upwards apiece and 300 men aboard each ship set out to waylay and take the English East India homeward-bound ships; hereupon the Court, after serious consideration, and under-

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 13, 1652 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 147).

A letter is received from aboard the *Eagle* and other ships returned from India and now at Plymouth, in which the commanders desire leave to unlade the goods from the orlop of the said ship, in order that, if she is attacked by an enemy on her way to London and receives any shot near the water, she may be repaired more easily; hereupon the Court orders a vessel or two of about 100 or 80 tons to be hired to unlade some of the coarse goods from the *Eagle* and *Aleppo Merchant* to enable them to go with the other ships over the flats, and that two careful men from the

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 20, 1652 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 149).

a hond of 1,000*l.* Understanding from a letter received from aboard the *Eagle* that both coarse and fine goods are laden in her orlop, the Court directs that all goods from the orlops of the *Eagle* and *Aleppo Merchant* shall be shipped in two vessels to be hired for this purpose. (1*pp.*)

THE COMPANY TO EDWARD AND STEPHEN WRIGHT AND
ROGER HOWE [AT GENOA], JUNE 30, 1653 (*Letter Book*, vol. i, p. 214).

Acknowledge the receipt of their letter of the 18th instant, with copy of that of the 11th instant, the original of which miscarried, the 'Ordinary' having been robbed of his letters between their port and Alessandria. They also acknowledge the receipt of the second bill of exchange for 2,500 dollars on Thomas Jennings, and of the account current: the latter has been given to the Auditor, so they

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 9, 1653 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 249).

Ordered that a letter be written to Captain Hurleston, in answer to one received from him on the 4th instant, to congratulate him upon his safe arrival, to thank him for his care in preserving the goods committed to his custody, and to desire him to remain at Falmouth until sufficient convoy shall be sent by the State to bring him into the Channel. The captain is also to be requested to 'breake noe bulke' nor allow any goods whatsoever to be delivered out of the *Smyrna Merchant* before her arrival at the place of discharge. This letter is to be posted and a copy to be sent by the convoy appointed by the State. (1*p.*)

CAPTAIN ROGER MARTEN AT PORTSMOUTH TO GENERALS
BLAKE AND MONCK, JULY 14, 1653 (*Public Record Office: S.P. Dom.: Interregnum*, vol. xxxviii, no. 56).

I received your instructions, and since then an express from the Council of State, to go westward with the ships to look for our East Indiamen. The *Smyrna Merchant*, having arrived at Falmouth, was engaged by two Dutch pirates. If we can meet with the rest, we are to convoy them to Portsmouth. . . . We shall lie off the Lizard, where the rest of our consorts may find me. . . . (3*p.*)

CAPTAIN THOMAS SPARLING, ABOARD THE *LITTLE PRESIDENT*, OFF THE LIZARD, TO THE ADMIRALTY COMMITTEE, JULY 15, 1653 (*Public Record Office: S.P. Dom.: Interregnum*, vol. xxxviii, no. 62).

After my long lying here alone, on the 13th the *Hopewell* pink has joined me, and I will use this addition of strength to the best advantage. I have seen several small pirates, but at such disadvantage that we have not been able to do any good, only we have retaken two barks with coals. It is high time the two frigates appointed by the Generals arrived, as there are several freebooters newly come upon the coast, carrying from fourteen to twenty-four guns, besides the small vessels out of Brest, and there are four Dutch ships lying off Scilly to intercept our East Indiamen daily expected in the channel. I wish I were in a capacity to act; the Generals' warrant to call ships to my assistance will not do the work unless I could tell where to find them. . . . (1*pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, SEPTEMBER 16, 1653 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 273).

to act as they see fit in the matter. In view of the approach of the winter season, a letter is ordered to be written to Mr. Madock and another to Captain Brookhaven to desire them to send the silk from aboard the *Love* by land to London. Upon Mr. Thomson's report of what passed concerning the price of the saltpetre returned

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, OCTOBER 7, 1653 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 285).

sugar he bought and argues to be damaged; he is offered 10*s.* per cwt. but refuses to take it. A letter is ordered to be written to the commanders of the Company's ships at Plymouth, requiring them to sail from thence with the convoy which is expected from the westward, but if the said convoy does not arrive and there is a fair wind and 'noe news of any enimy', then to come to the Isle of Wight and there await further orders. (1*p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 4, 1654 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 325).

A letter is read from Thomas Allen and Richard Quiney, stating that they are owners of the *Loyalty*, lately broken up at Balasore, and that her commander, Captain John Durson, has written for another ship to fetch home their estate, or for some tonnage to be taken in the Company's shipping: they desire to comply with this request, but wish first to notify the Company; they are told to apply to the next general court. All cloth brought home as

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, SEPTEMBER 30, 1653 (*Court Book*, vol. xxiii, p. 283).

or the allegations made against him after the meeting of the arbitrators. 'Sannoos Addatoy' sold to Thomas Trotter. Order is given for letters to be written to Captain Brookhaven and Captain Newport at Plymouth to desire them to bring their ships, the *Love* and the *East India Merchant*, into the Thames and to take the first opportunity to come from thence, 'noe enimy appearing', to the Isle of Wight and remain there until further notice; but if they shall meet with the convoy, then to come directly to the Downs. (2*pp.*)

The English Factories In India (1651-1654)

by Sainsbury Ethel Bruce

Publication date
Topics
Collection
Language

1915
Rashtrapati
digitallibraryindia; JaiGyan
English

Letter = 240
Letters = 195

THE ENGLISH FACTORIES

39

termination has yet been reached. Have no further news of Durson's proceedings in the *Loyalty*, except from a letter received from John Boyer, commander of the *Hind* in her voyage to Bantam, in which he says that Durson accompanied him to sea from the Coast, with the avowed intention of going to Bengal, but steered on parting as if he were really bound home. Evidently the former report that the *Loyalty* had wintered at Goa was false. Have not heard of any

JOHN SPILLER AND NICHOLAS SCRIVENER AT LÄRIBANDAR TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL AT SURAT, MARCH 31, 1652 (O.C. 2264).

At the last moment, when they were about to dispeed the *Lanneret* to Surat for want of freight, the merchants' agents and 'the Byah,¹ whoe is next man unto the Shabander', offered to give three rupees more per load for freight to Kung, and this was accepted. The goods cannot as yet be got aboard, owing to bad weather. Dare not bring the vessel over the bar, for fear she would not be able to pass it again ; but unless the weather improves, it will be difficult for her to embark her cargo. The Shāhbandar has sent a request for more boats to 'the Rawnah,² for heere the sea coast and pilottis are more at his command then the Princes' ; but his character is such that 'very little or no trust is to be imposed in him'. Plenty of goods are now being offered for freight, and they have already accepted a full lading. The Surat vessel that the Multan Prince's men laded for 'his new port of Cuckerhallah' [see p. 10] was forced to put in here ; whereupon the Shāhbandar refused to allow her to leave, promising her master a cargo for Persia instead. This is not now forthcoming ; so the master is sending a messenger to Surat about the matter, and this letter is entrusted to him. (Copy. 1½ pp.)

JOHN SPILLER, ABOARD THE *LANNERET* AT KUNG, TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL AT SURAT, JUNE 14, 1652 (O.C. 2272).

at Gombroon, Spiller put in there again. Found that the ship was the *Supply*, which had left Bantam on December 27 and had had a long and dangerous voyage. The cargo, consisting of pepper and sugar, was in the charge of a merchant named [Abraham] Hutchins, who had already dispatched to Lewis the letters he had brought. His instructions were to sell his goods and then proceed to Fort St. George. Spiller urged that the season was too late for this, and that it would be better to send the ship to Basra ; but Hutchins would do nothing until answer should arrive from Lewis. On May 28 Spiller sailed again, but still found the wind unfavourable. On June 6, near Kishm, letters came to hand from Hutchins and the master of the *Supply*, announcing that they had decided, with Lewis's concurrence, to land their sugar and proceed to Basra with the pepper. Lewis's letter had been brought by Park, who was to go in the *Supply* to Basra for the benefit of his health. He wrote that the sugar had proved very bad and must be sold at a low price ; also that Lewis had since recalled him, owing to the death of Wycherley at Shiraz.

THE SAME TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL AT SURAT, FEBRUARY 24, 1653 (O.C. 2315).

the English prisoners, but were assured by the Dutch on shore that no one would be allowed on board. A letter from some of the *Roe buck*'s men alleges that they 'have none of the best usage'. By report of the merchants, that vessel 'soe well defended herselfe that, had shee not lost her foremast and by that takeing fire, shee would have gott cleare away. However, they had bin little the better for her, if the merchants had not intreated Mr. Hargrave to take pitty of them in not bloweing up the ship, which hee was ready to doe, powder and every thing else being laid ready.' Are nego-

Early Modern Mariners letters – high priority places to look for 1H C17th English language mariners letters (and letters in Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and Arabic written to English masters of ships)

- English and Portuguese language letters related to English ships hired by Portuguese merchants for the Brazil trade 1640s & 1650s [Portuguese notarial, municipal and national archives]
- Letters from and to Southern Spain in Spanish archives (notarial archives; municipal archives)
- Letters from and to Italian peninsula (Genoa; Livorno; Naples; Sicily; Venice) in Italian municipal and national archives
- English language (and French and Dutch) language letters related to the French wine trade, 1630s to 1660s (Bordeaux and other French Atlantic port municipal archives, including notarial archives)
- Letters from and to North Africa, 1600-1650 (modern Morocco through to modern Tunisia). In English state papers; in local archives in North Africa relating to city administrations

Early Modern Mariners letters – North & West Africa, 1H C17th

Entry ↑	Document type	Description of contents	Type of writer	Main Recipient	Type of recipient	Location of writer	Dispatching of letter	Location of recipient	Mode of transmission of letter	Ship involved	Voyage involved
54	Letter	Letter from unnamed Alcada or Governor of the town of Albozine in Barbary to the master of a ship named the Talbott. Seen by Thomas Gawle, mariner and gunner of the Talbott when he saw the letter, and heard the master of the Talbott comment on its contents.	Governor	Unnamed master of the Talbott	Master of ship	Albozine [Barbary coast; North Africa]		Albozine [Barbary coast]	N/A	Talbott	Mediterranean
70	Letters	Letters of advice written at Sally on the Barbary coast, possibly by Thomas Copping, factor at Sally for Thomas King the elder, or friends at Sally, and sent to Thomas Kinge the younger in England. Advising Kinge that Coppinge had been imprisoned and that goods and moneys left in Sally by Kinge had been	Factor	Thomas Kinge the younger [merchant of his father's ship the Thomas of London]	Merchant and Captain	Sally [Barbary coast; North Africa]		England	N/A	Thomas	London to Barbary coast
72	Letter	Letter written by Anthony Johnson, possibly from Tunis, and sent to William Garroway and Garroway's partner Thomas Cordell, in London. The letter informed Garroway and Cordell that Johnson's pinnace, of which he was captain, had had goods taken from it by the Saint John Baptist, and that Johnson was attempting to compound for the goods with the master of the Saint John Baptist at Tunis.	Captain	William Garroway and Thomas Cordell	Merchants	Tunis [North Africa]		London [England]	N/A	Unnamed pinnace; Saint John Baptist	Messina to Scio [Mediterranean]
110	Letter	Letter written on coast of Guinea by Henry Oake, master of the ship the Daniel of London and sent to the merchant of a ship named the Olive Branch of London, which was also on the coast of Guinea	Master of ship	Unnamed master of the Olive Branch of London	Merchant of ship	Coast of Guinea (Westr Africa)		Coast of Guinea (Westr Africa)	N/A	Olive Branch of London; Daniel of London	London to Guinea coast

Early Modern Mariners letters – C17th, TNA Discovery Search tool

Catalogue description

BUNDLE No 49: Letter of attorney of the officers, mariners and seamen, and their...

Reference: C 104/269

Description: BUNDLE No 49: Letter of attorney of the officers, mariners and seamen, and their creditors, of the ships Duke, Duchess and Incarnation, otherwise Bachelor, to Thomas Banks of St Mary, Whitechapel, Middx, Henry Fawsett of St John, Wapping, victualler, and Samuel Hurst of London, victualler, relating to the collection of money and goods concerning South Seas expeditions (signed and sealed by approximately 170 people), 1721

Date: mid 13th-century-1729

Held by: [The National Archives, Kew](#)

Legal status: Public Record(s)

Closure status: Open Document, Open Description

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Catalogue description

Page of four copy certificates issued by the mayor and jurats on behalf of mariners

Reference: RYE/47/149/5

Title: Page of four copy certificates issued by the mayor and jurats on behalf of mariners

Description: 1 John Shanks, gent, clerk of the cheque of the Merlin frigate, George Crapnel commander, set on shore on account of his illness, whose offer to Thomas Marshall of a bond for his expenses in lodgings and medicine has been refused; 25 Mar 1654

2 Robert Seaburne of Rye, mariner, concerning the loss of documents concerning coal freighted from Newcastle to Rye when his ship the Desire, Joseph Dugard master, was taken on its way to Newcastle by a Dutch warship and carried to Amsterdam while he was ill in London in 1652; 3 Apr 1654

3 Captain William Gregory, commander of the Grace of Faversham, concerning the release to Hamburg of a cargo of lemons and oranges taken (under letters of marque) on the Hope of Lübeck, Peter Gottings master; 15 Apr 1654

4 1654, April 20--Certificate by the Mayor and Jurats of Rye that Mark Heyman, master of the ship called the St. Marie of Stralsund, in Sweden, was taken at sea by one Captain Pedro Borgaro, of Dover, captain of a private man of war, and was brought into the harbour of Rye and that he hath lost out of his ship goods to the value of 50 l.

Date: 25 Mar - 20 Apr 1654

Held by: [East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office \(ESBRO\)](#), not available at The National Archives

Language: English

This record is held by East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office (ESBRO)

[See contact details](#)

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How to [use this catalogue](#)

Catalogue description

Marine Miscellaneous Records

Reference: IOR/L/MAR/C

Title: Marine Miscellaneous Records

Date: 1600-1879

Held by: [British Library: Asian and African Studies](#), not available at The National Archives

Language: English

Custodial history:

This varied accumulation represents the surviving records of the East India Company's management of its commercial shipping activity to 1834, and of its other marine business (after 1858 the marine affairs of the India Office) until 1879. The collection is in process of re-arrangement and listing in separate series L/MAR/1-9 according to type and provenance. A copy of the revised list in progress, based on the published 'List of Marine Records of the late East India Company' (London, 1896), is available in the Oriental and India Office Reading Room of The British Library. The documents are normally available for consultation throughout the revision process.

Administrative / biographical background:

Knowledge about the range and scope of the operations of the Committee of Shipping of the East India Company and of the Marine Branch of the Company and of the India Office is developing from the examination and of these surviving records and of their re-arrangement in the late nineteenth century. The following main constituent elements have been identified, each denoting an area of activity or responsibility: documents from seventeenth and early eighteenth-century voyages, including letter-books, accounts, copies of wills and inventories, lists of missing seamen, bills of lading and commissions; committee records from the Committee of Shipping and the Marine Branch of the Finance and Home Committee, fragmentary before 1713 but relatively complete thereafter; the the Company's Home Correspondence (with individuals and bodies not in the East Indies) on Marine matters from 1837 to 1867; shipping records, including lists of ships appointed for trade and other published shipping lists, terms for building, freighting and hiring ships, licences for ships to trade to India, returns of ships arriving at, or leaving, Indian ports, and reports of ships unloading at East India Docks; personnel records of the Company's maritime service (at all levels of employment, but including particularly the appointment and services of commanders and mates of East Indiamen), the Bombay Marine, the Indian Navy, and the Bengal Pilot Service; experiments in, and later the introduction of, steam navigation to and in the Indian Ocean; and records concerning troop transport from 1857 to 1870.

Catalogue description

Receipt from John Privett of London, mariner, for £30 received from Captain William...

Reference: 2 PG 12/2/4

Description: Receipt from John Privett of London, mariner, for £30 received from Captain William Williams for an adventure in Bantam in the good ship London belonging to the East India Company, which he promises to invest, half in white pepper and Japan trifles, and the other half in "scrutories" and "Japane toys". Engages to give a true account of the £30 and profits within 20 days of the arrival of the ship in the River Thames, London.

Date: 23 Jan. 1667

Held by: [Lincolnshire Archives](#), not available at The National Archives

Language: English

Physical condition: Sig. and seal.

This record is held by Lincolnshire Archives

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[Copies of letters to William Hurt, paymaster of the mariners, East India Company 1622-49, from...](#)

Private Papers. Copies of letters to William Hurt, paymaster of the mariners, East India Company 1622-49, from various correspondents including his sons and nephew.

Held by: [British Library: Asian and African Studies](#)

Date: 1632 - 1639

Reference: [Mss Eur Photo Eur 250](#)

Early Modern Mariners letters – C17th, TNA Discovery Search tool

Copies of letters to William Hurt, paymaster of the mariners, East India Company 1622-49, from...

Private Papers. Copies of letters to William Hurt, paymaster of the mariners, East India Company 1622-49, from various correspondents including his sons and nephew.

Held by: British Library: Asian and African Studies
Date: 1632 - 1639
Reference: Ms Eur Photo Eur 250

--Acknowledgement by William Maquery of Dieppe, mariner, of the receipt of eleven pounds from George Emery, one of the Chamberlains for the town of Rye, being due for two years rent or hire of three

ARCHIVE OF RYE CORPORATION.General Instruments, Process and Correspondence.General Files: Letters of Process, Letters Testimonial, correspondence and other papers.Mayorality of John Fowtrell; calendared.

Held by: East Sussex Record Office
Date: 1604
Reference: RYE/47/67/1

Catalogue description

Letter from John Allin to Philip Frith, Rye about the approach of the Dutch fleet near Woolwich and news of the ships lost against them, defences on the Thames, news of the French and his new address at the Three Mariners, Ratcliffe Cross

Reference: FRE/5577

Title: Letter from John Allin to Philip Frith, Rye about the approach of the Dutch fleet near Woolwich and news of the ships lost against them, defences on the Thames, news of the French and his new address at the Three Mariners, Ratcliffe Cross

Date: 20 Jun 1667

Held by: East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office (ESBRO), not available at The National Archives

Language: English

This record is held by East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office (ESBRO)

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Volume of letters and other documents, marked "Miscellaneous MSS" - f 1 Letter from George...

Prideaux Brune of Place, Padstow. Letter books and manuscript volumes. Volume of letters and other documents, marked "Miscellaneous MSS" - f 1 Letter from George Greyneyle of Penhele to Sir Nicholas Prideaux re. corn being spoiled by mice. 25 May 1592 - f 2 Letter from

Held by: Cornwall Record Office
Date: 1592 - 1924
Reference: PB/8/9

- f 31 Letter from Edmund Prideaux in Smyrna to his father, mentioning the Dutch attack on Chatham and successful repulsion from Dartmouth, Plymouth and Fowey, and of the Dutch visit to Padstow "but did not harme, only frightening of your sheep"; mentions the state of war in the Turkish empire against Venice and the poor quality of the Sultan "a very great Sot". 10 July 1668

Catalogue description

SIDMOUTH deeds, etc.

Reference: DD\BD/72

Title: SIDMOUTH deeds, etc.

Description: Deeds of land on the south side of Middle Field and a messuage in the town between the churchyard and the Broad Street and papers of the families with interests in the property.

The papers are mainly of the Scadding family and concern the mortgage by John Overbeck, surgeon, and his indebtedness to the Scadding family; included are an account of Overbeck's goods sold, 1731/2, and two letters from his son, a mariner, written from Operto, 1732.

Probates of wills of John Seymour, mercer, 1691, and John Nossiter, merchant, 1726, letters of admiral. of Thos. Channon, 1747, and copy of will of Henry Kingman, 1745, all of Sidmouth, and copy of will of Rev. John Kingman of Stogursey, 1766.

Date: 1649-1823

Held by: Somerset Heritage Centre (South West Heritage Trust), not available at The National Archives

Language: English

Physical description: 25 docts.

Catalogue description

The Buckle Papers

Reference:	BUCKLE
Title:	The Buckle Papers
Description:	The records relate to the family of Buckle, settled principally at Banstead in Surrey but with connections with Sussex, and are a rich source, particularly for students of naval history in the 18th and 19th centuries.
Date:	1593-1963
Related material:	Other records of the Buckle family can be found in Surrey Record Office
Held by:	West Sussex Record Office , not available at The National Archives
Language:	English
Creator:	Buckle family of Banstead, Surrey
Physical description:	67 series
Immediate source of acquisition:	The main collection was deposited in May 1976 by CS Buckle, Esq., of Slinfold. A further collection was deposited in 1977 by Lieutenant Commander CEA Buckle of Westbourne and has been catalogued in the Appendix.

Mathew Buckle was one of the most distinguished naval officers of the 18th century, and was in continuous command of fighting ships for nineteen years from 1744. His career is unfolded in a fine series of Log Books which survives for the period 1731-62 (excepting the years 1743-44), and in his [Letter](#) and Order Books for 1744-48. (Buckle MSS. 96-103, 105-106.)