

Colin Greenstreet

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

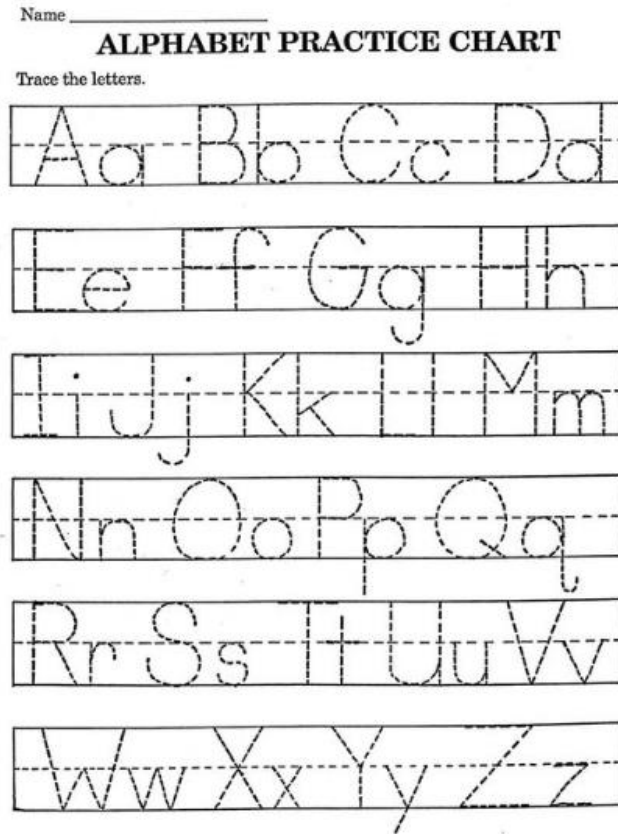
Stadsarchief Amsterdam  
The Italian Room, 13.00-17.00

Signs of Literacy  
Workshop

DRAFT, ver. 1.2

# Handwriting and literacy

# Learning the alphabet, C21st & late C16th/early C17th



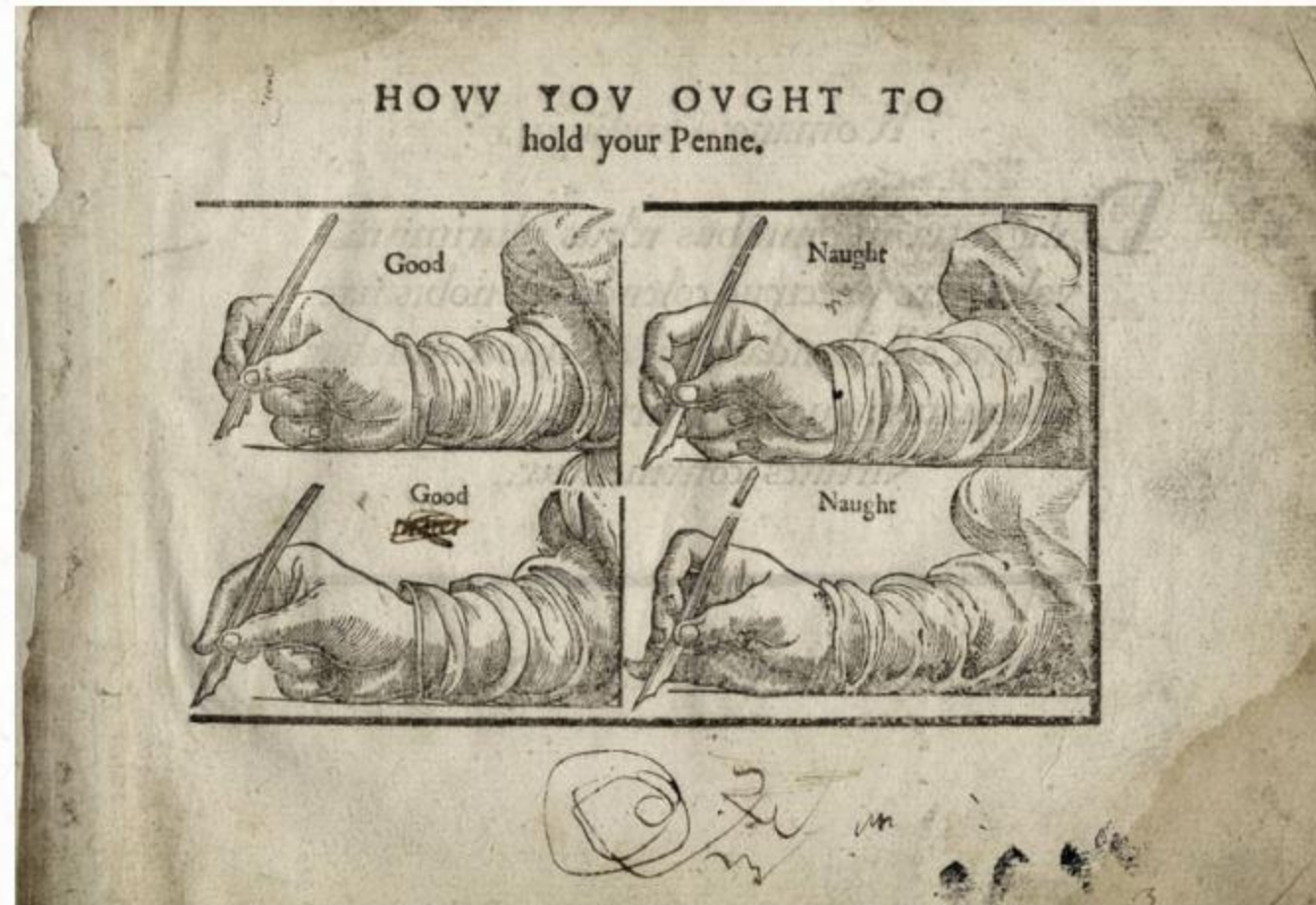
‘Printable sheets for learning Alphabet: Alphabet Practice Chart’,  
<https://printable360.com/printable-worksheets-for-learning-alphabet/printable-worksheets-for-learning-alphabet-learning-the-alphabet-worksheets-24/>  
‘Grammatica, De zeven vrije kunsten (serietitel)’, Cornelis Jacobsz. Drebbel, naar  
Hendrick Goltzius, 1587 – 1605, gravure, h 175mm × b 130mm, rijksmuseum,  
Netherlands, <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/nl/collectie/RP-P-1917-10>





# Copybook, 1602

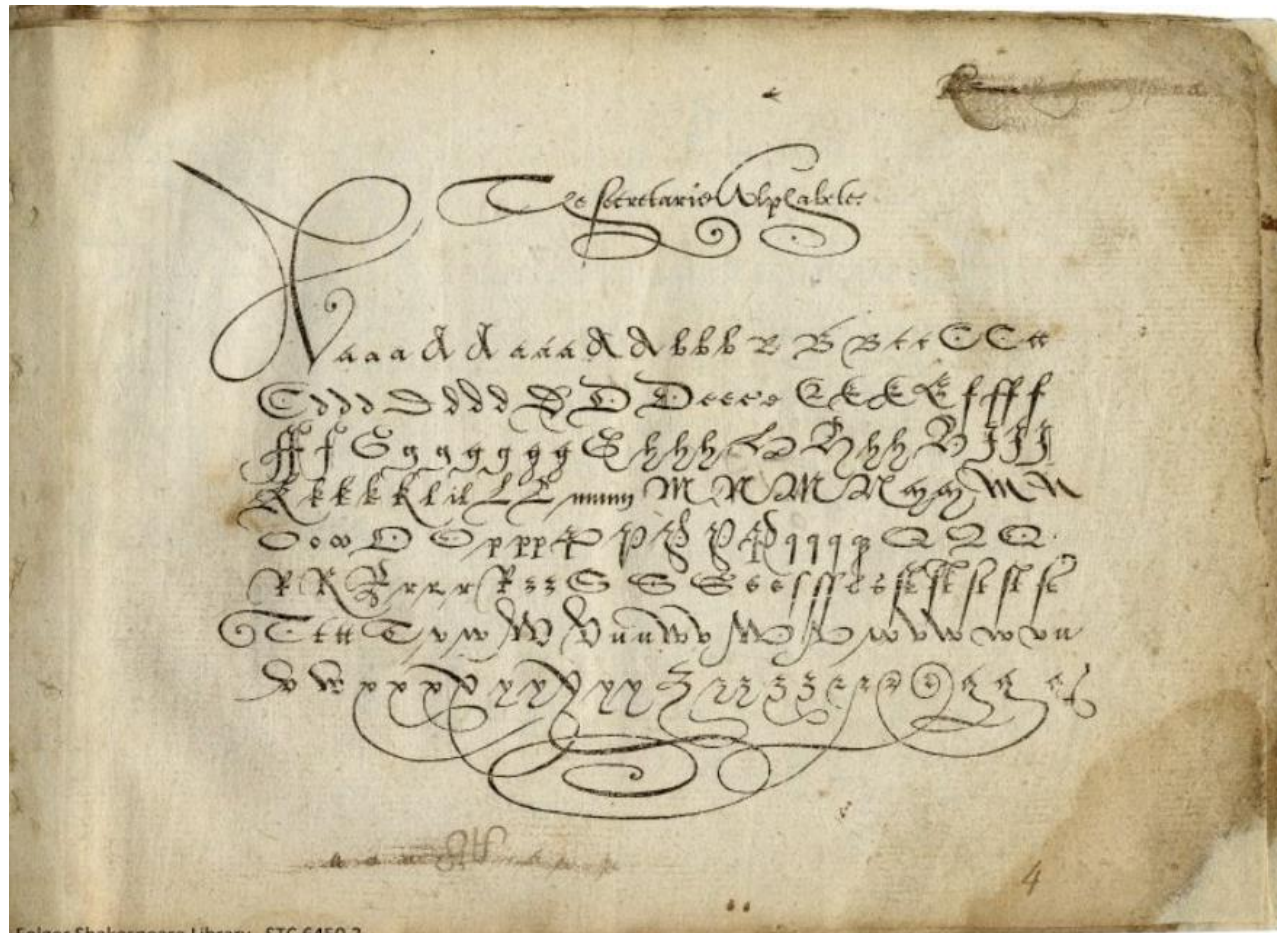
Jehan de Beau-Chesne and John Baildon, A booke containing diuers sortes of hands (London, 1602)



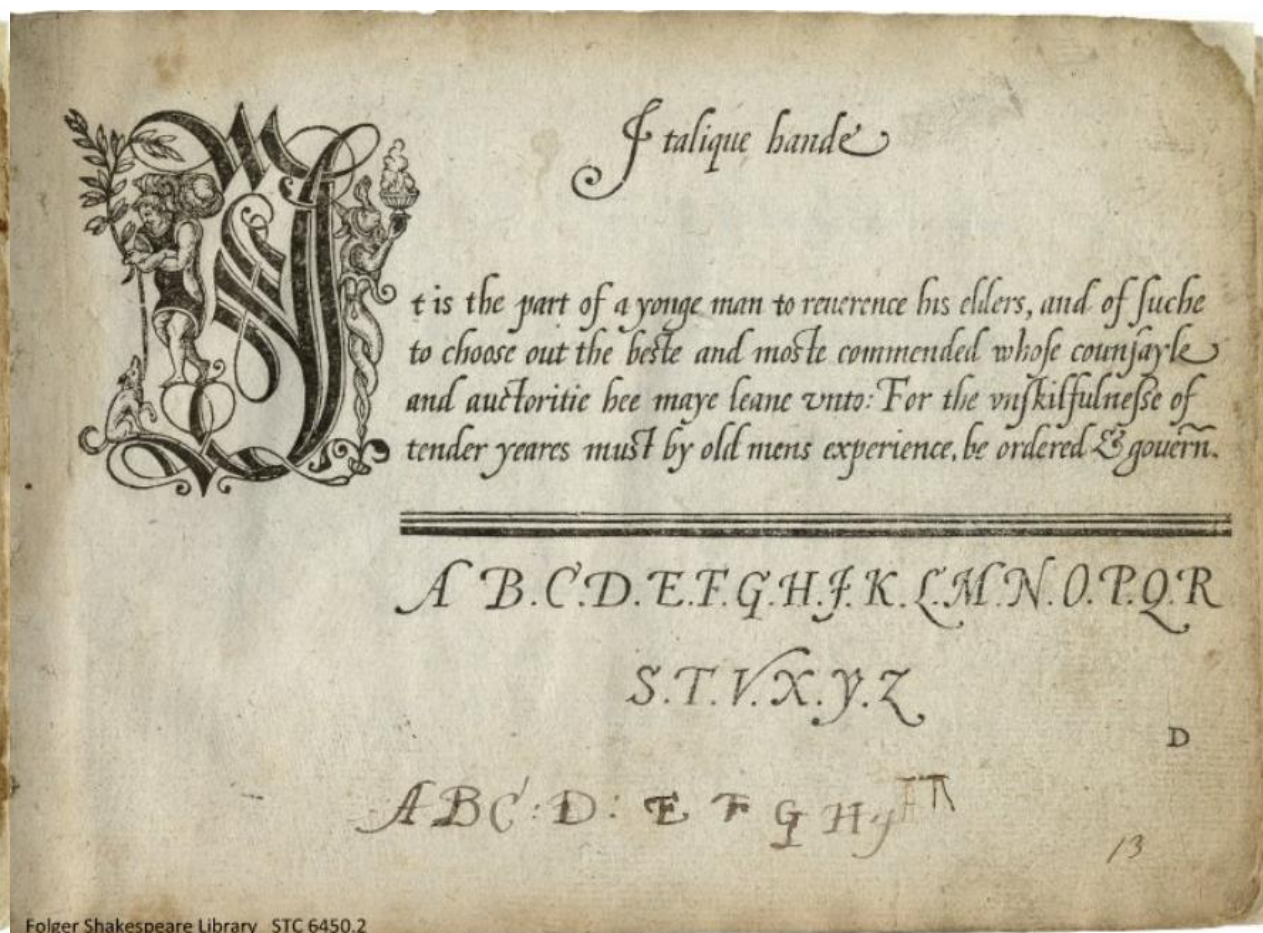
A page from the 1602 copybook, *A Work Containing Divers Sorts of Hands*. [Image: Folger Shakespeare Library/CC BY-SA 4.0]

# Copybook, 1602

The secretaire Alphabete



The italique hande





# Copybook, ca. 1800

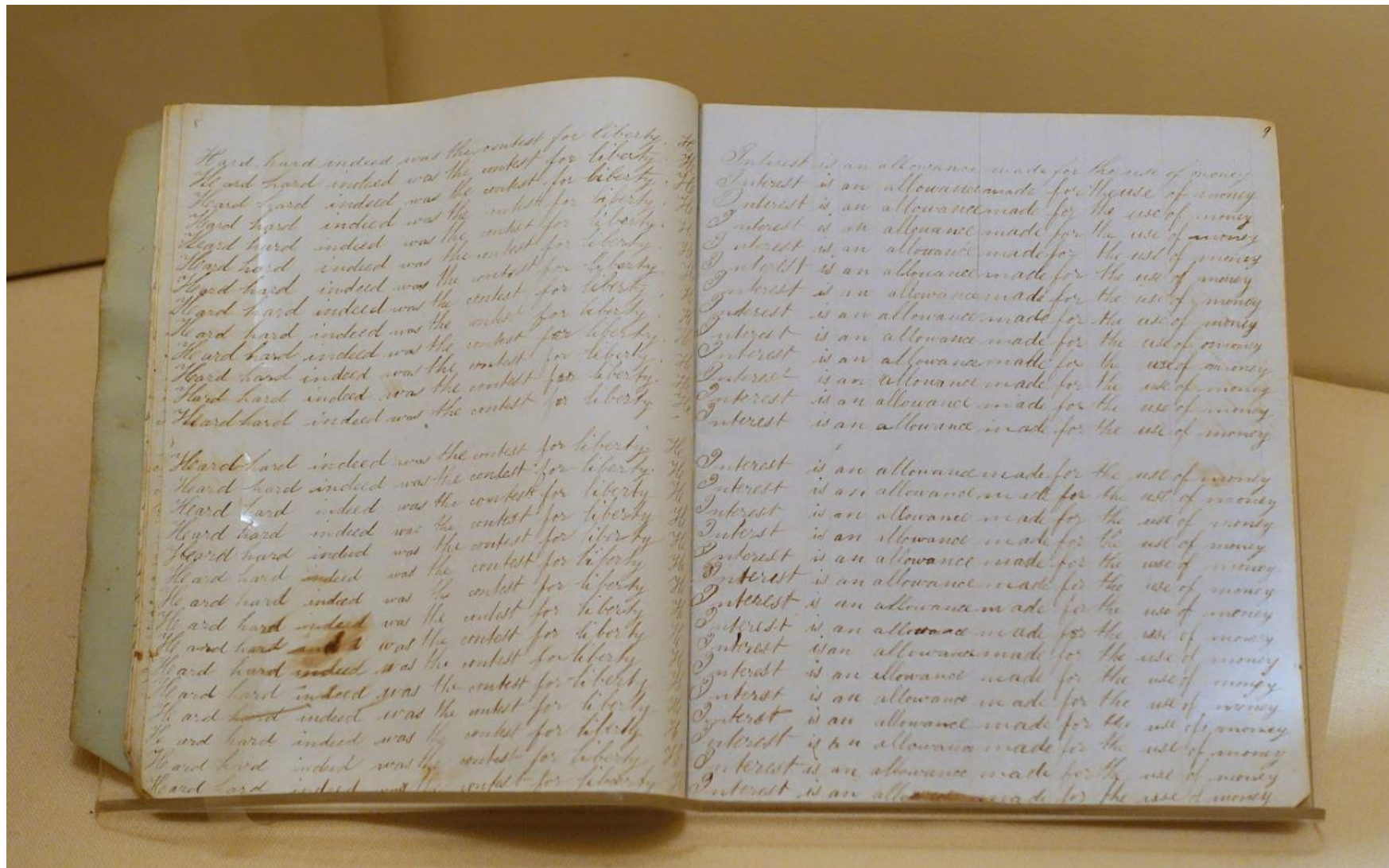
Tristram Little's copy book, early 1800s





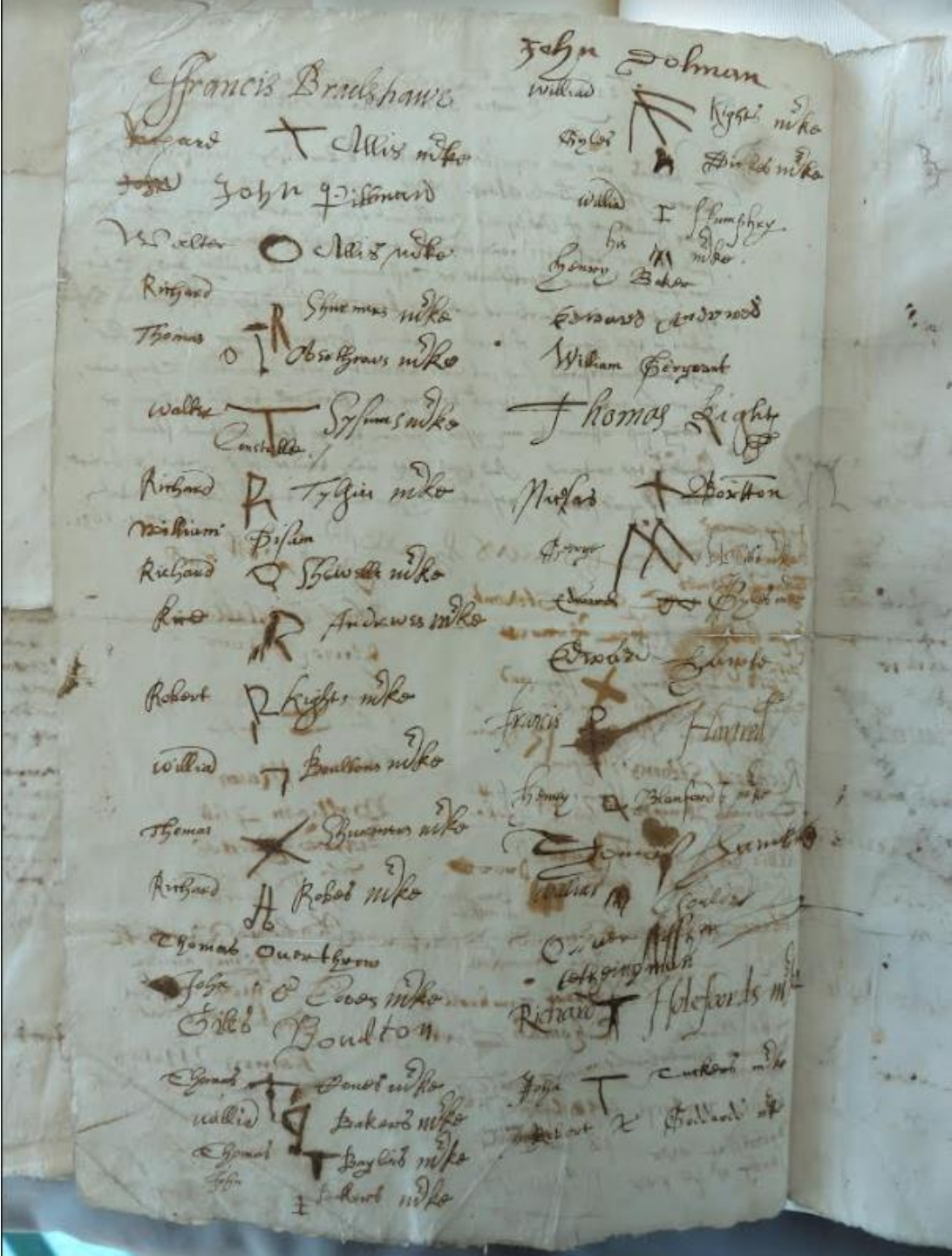
# Copybook, 1840-50

XXXX



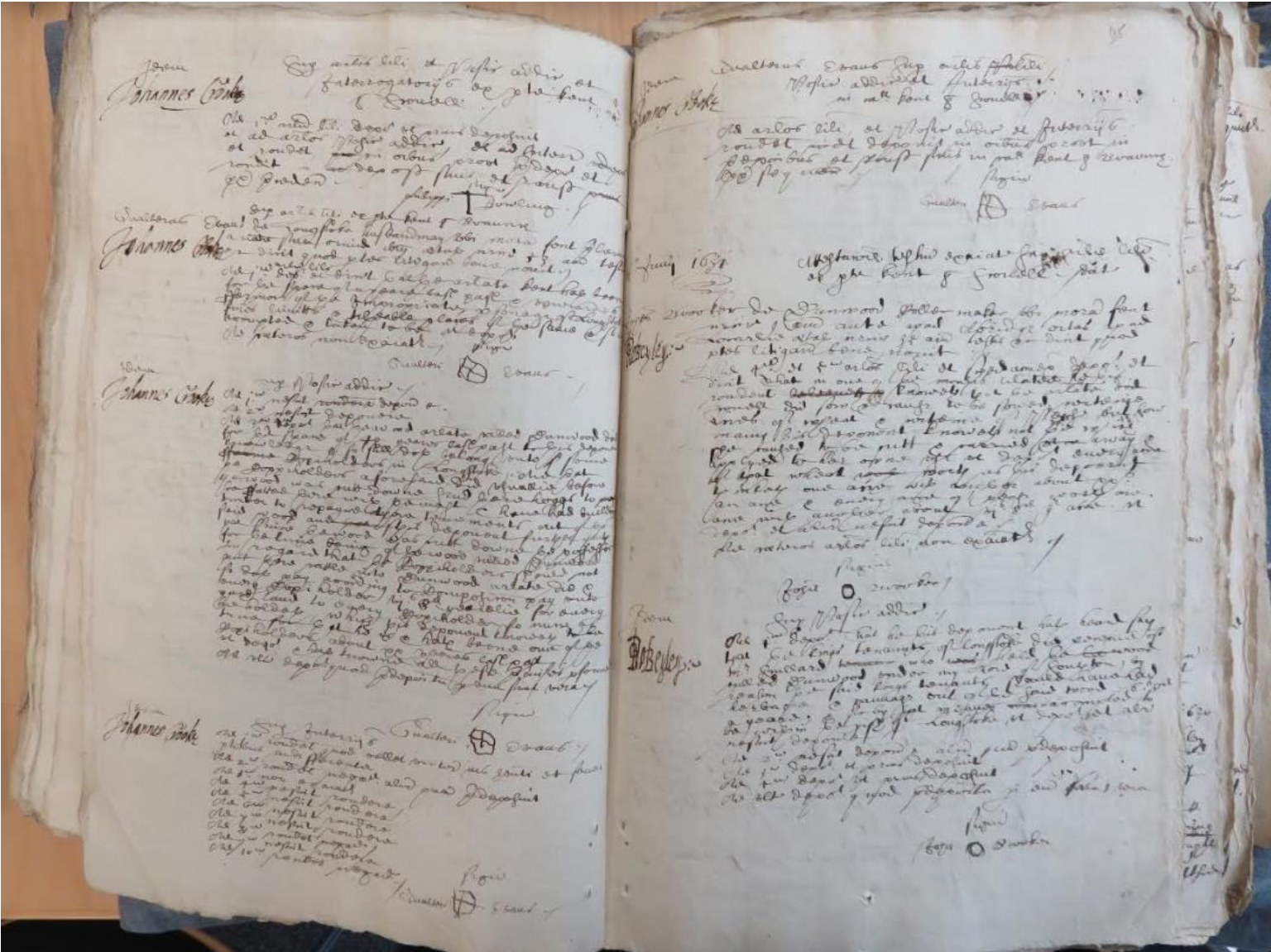
# Petition, 1632

Sign offs on the back of a petition (from Wiltshire Quarter Sessions, 1632),  
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (WSHC),  
photograph by Dr Mark Hailwood (Bristol)





# Depositions, Hampshire Church Courts, 1631



Sign offs on a deposition (from the Hampshire Church Courts, 1631), Hampshire Record Office (HRO), photograph by Dr Mark Hailwood (Bristol)



# Handwriting practice, undated

[illegible]

Stephen Poynting, 'Job a Righteous Man', handwriting practice, poss. Free School of Gloucester, undated, Folger Shakespeare Library MS. X. d. 243, from Heather Wolfe, 'Learning to write the alphabet', The Collation, Folger Shakespeare Library, May 13, 2013, <https://collation.folger.edu/2013/05/learning-to-write-the-alphabet/>

# School book, c. 1542-1546, Antwerp

" +.A.a.b.c.d. ... Pater noster. Vader onse die biste in die hemele[n] ...', in Antwerp] : [bi mi Jan van Loe](https://dams.antwerpen.be/asset/h7NPQTWJgQOdIZOkYcyPnKcZ/UhmqTOiJMbtrQEOKP MKCg4Oj) [Loe, van der, Jan], [c.1542-1546], [4] fol. 8°[A]<sup>4</sup>,  
<https://dams.antwerpen.be/asset/h7NPQTWJgQOdIZOkYcyPnKcZ/UhmqTOiJMbtrQEOKP MKCg4Oj>





# ABC-spel, ca. 1780-1795

‘ABC-spel, ca. 1780-1795, Jan Oortman (Sr.), 1778-1795, print, houtsnede met tekst in boekdruk, h 412mm × b 303mm, Rijksmuseum, Netherlands, <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/nl/collectie/RP-P-OB-88.078>





# Hornbooks

Discovered in the thatch of a Farmhouse at Middleton, by Youlgrave, Derbyshire, and preserved in the Bateman Museum at Lomerdale House. Period of the Commonwealth.



THE MIDDLETON HORNBOOK.



## A new invented Horn Book

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o  
p q r s t u v w x y z.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O  
P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.

a e i o u y.  
a b e b i b o b u b y  
a c e c i c o c u c y  
a d e d i d o d u d y  
a g e g i g o g u g y

### The LORD'S PRAYER.

O UR Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



+ A b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y z. a e i o u.  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O  
P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.  
a e i o u a e i o u  
a b e b i b o b u b y  
a c e c i c o c u c y  
a d e d i d o d u d y  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the son, & of the holy Ghost. Amen.  
Our father which art in hea-  
ven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy  
will be done in earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread. And forgive us our trespas-  
ses, as we forgive them that trespas-  
s against us, and lead us not in-  
to temptation. But deliver us  
from evil. Amen.

C17th-hornbook from Derbyshire, England,

<https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/record/2058629/5010.html> ;

Hornbook, ?London, 1630, [Luna: Folger Digital Image Library, item 3304](https://luna.folgerdigitalimage.org/3304) ;

<http://colonialdays.pbworks.com/w/page/16140818/Hornbook>



Applying machine learning to signs of literacy

English High Court of Admiralty depositions

Applying machine learning to signs of literacy

English High Court of Admiralty depositions



# Historic accounts of literacy acquisition

[Phylon \(1960-\)](#) / [Vol. 44, No. 3, 3rd Qtr., 1983](#) / "We Slipped and Lear..."



## JOURNAL ARTICLE

### "We Slipped and Learned to Read:" Slave Accounts of the Literacy Process, 1830-1865

Janet Cornelius

*Phylon* (1960-)

Vol. 44, No. 3 (3rd Qtr., 1983), pp. 171-186



Published by: [Clark Atlanta University](#)

DOI: 10.2307/274930

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/274930>

Page Count: 16

**Topics:** [Former slaves](#), [Literacy](#), [Writing instruction](#), [Bible](#), [Reading instruction](#), [Learning](#), [Plantations](#), [Preachers](#)

Were these topics helpful?  

[See something inaccurate? Let us know!](#)

## Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America



*E. Jennifer Monaghan*



**BACKUP**

# Signs of Literacy

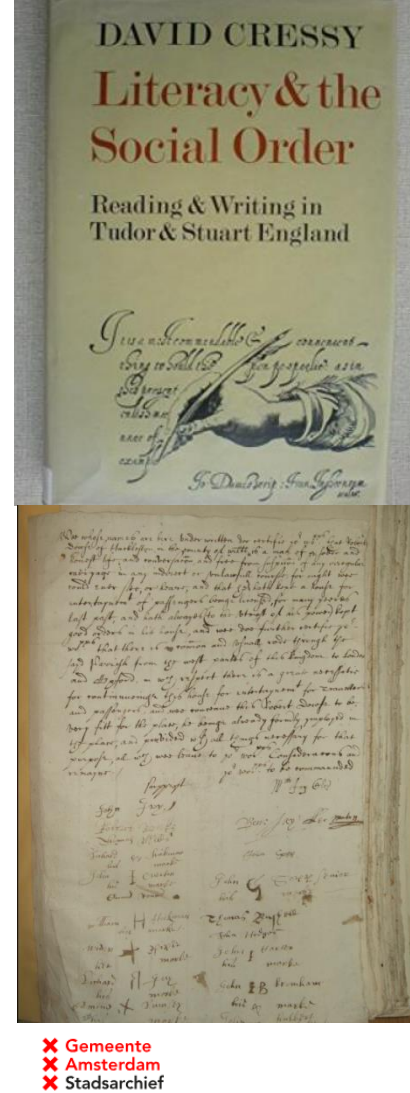
**Signs of Literacy** is a community for collaborative research into historical literacy.

The community has been initiated by the social venture [Chronoscopic Education](#), the [MarineLives project](#) and by social historians, [Dr Mark Hailwood](#) (Bristol) and [Mark Ponte](#) (Alle Amsterdamse Akten, Stadsarchief Amsterdam).

Questions we are addressing include:

- Who in the late C16th, C17th and early C18th could read and write?
- How did they become literate?
- How did literacy vary between occupation and location?
- By age cohort?
- By country?
- Were there adult learners?
- How did oral facility with multiple languages map (or not) to the literacy of reading and writing?

<https://github.com/Signsofliteracy/Signoff/wiki>



× Gemeente  
× Amsterdam  
× Stadsarchief

**AM**  
Alle  
Amsterdamse  
Akten

DE BESTE VERHALEN UIT HET ARCHIEF  
VAN DE AMSTERDAMSE NOTARISSSEN



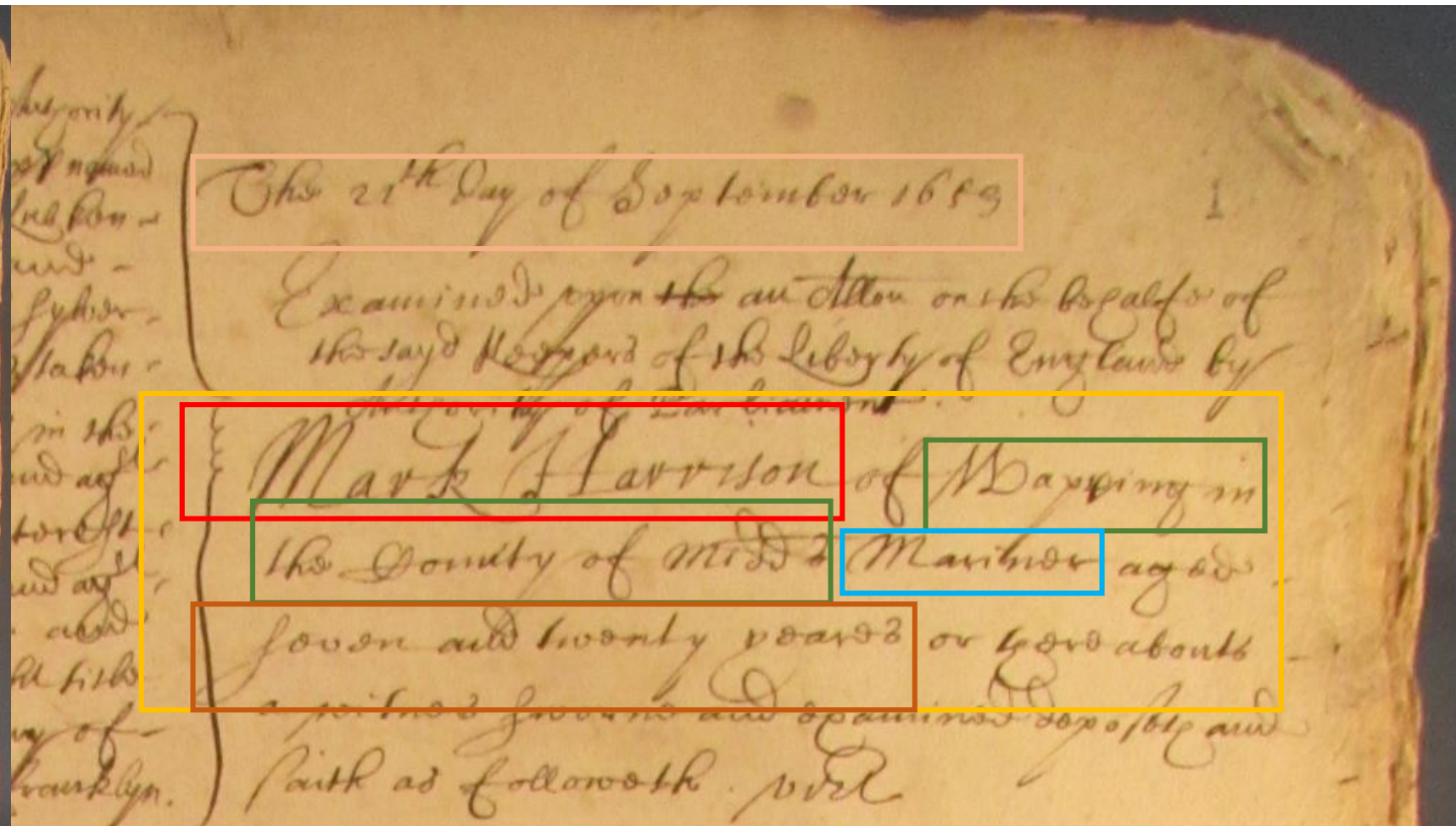
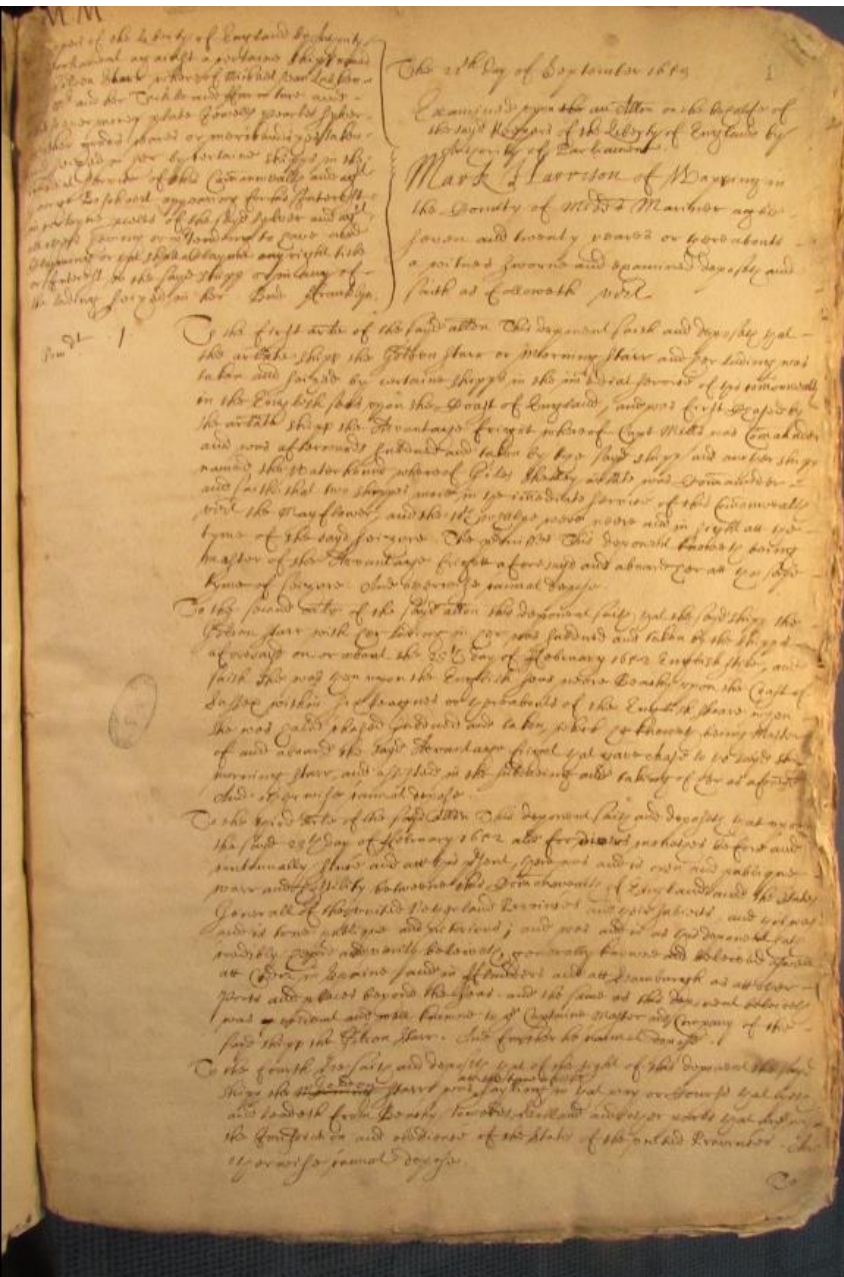
# Legal deposition

Deposition of Mark Harrison; mariner and master; resident in Wapping, Middlesex; age 27;  
Dated September 21<sup>st</sup> 1659 (TNA, HCA 13/68, ff. 1r-3r)



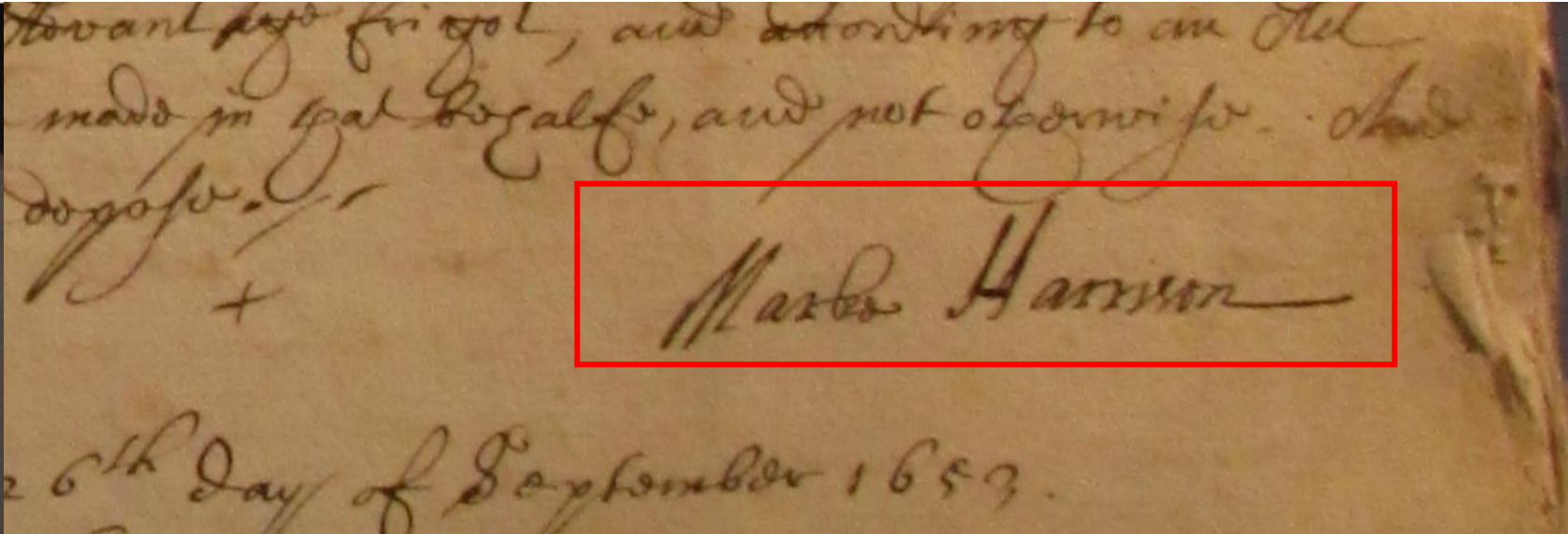
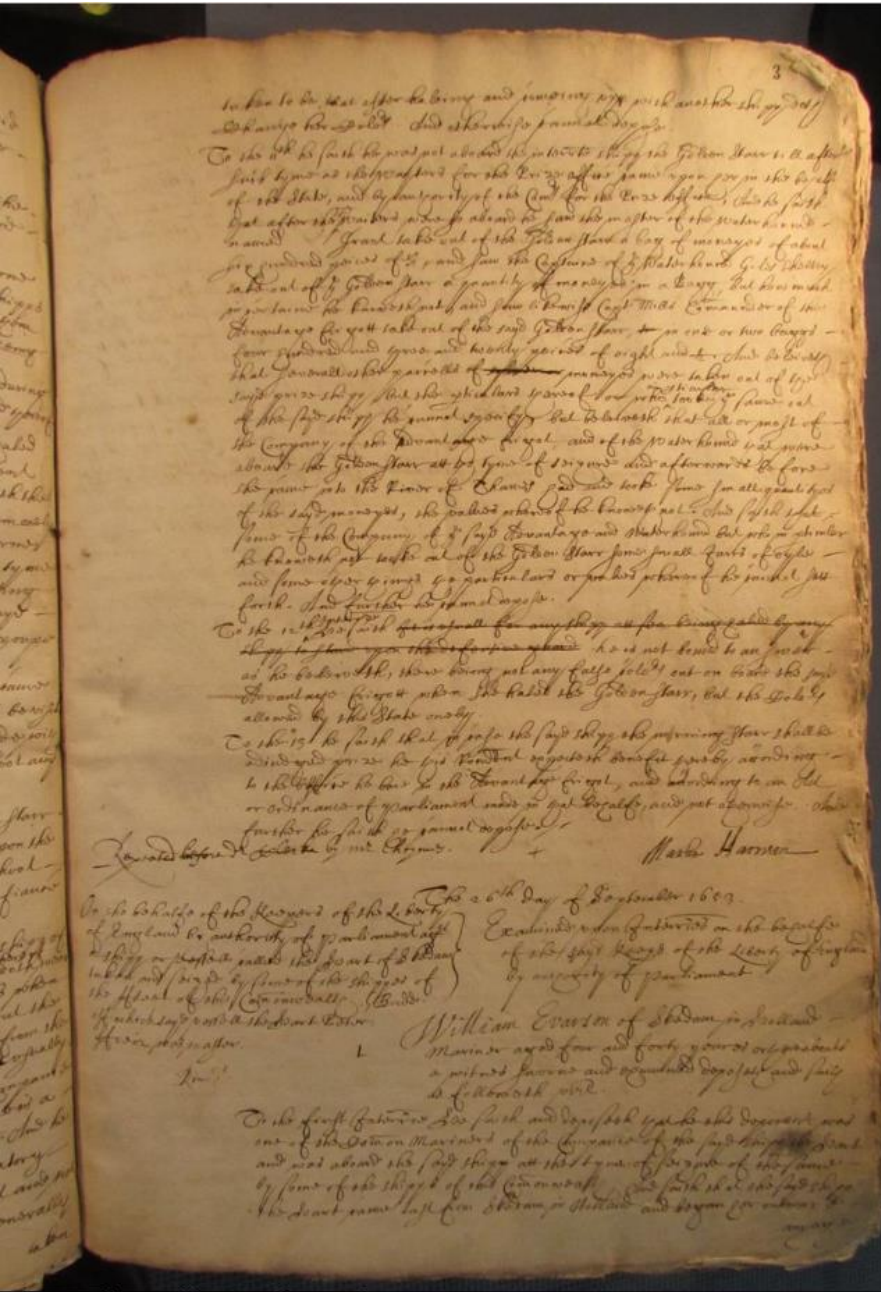


# Metadata



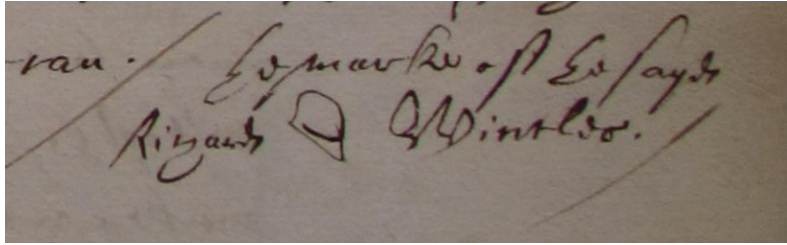


Signoff

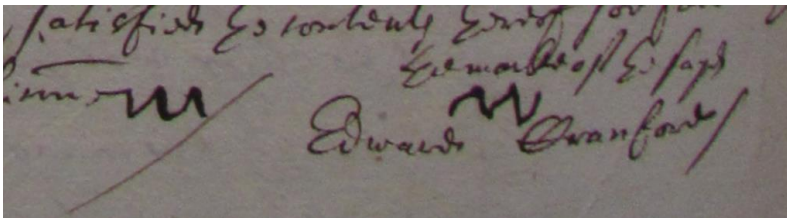


# Porters handling coals, whale oil, ginger & corn

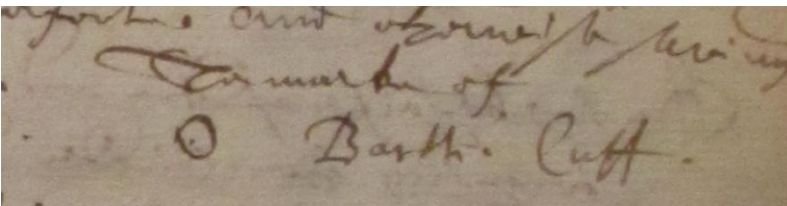
Richard Wincles, thirty-three year old porter, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Dec. 15, 1656; employed as a labourer with fifteen other men to unload coals from the *Imployment* moored near Execution Dock, Wapping, into lighters for fixed rate of 12 s per man ([HCA 13/70 f.554r](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "Richard Wincles." with a large, stylized initial "R" and "W".

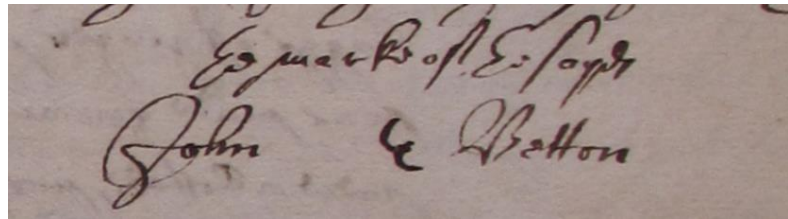
Edward Cranford, forty-four year old coale heaver or porter, of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, Dec. 15, 1656; employed as a labourer with fifteen other men to unload coals from the *Imployment* moored near Execution Dock, Wapping, into lighters for fixed rate of 12 s per man ([HCA 13/70 f.555v](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "Edward Cranford" with a large, stylized initial "E" and "C".

Bartholomew Cuff, sixty year old porter of the Stillyard, of the parish of Allhallowes the Greate, London, May 15, 1658; assisted in the landing of whale oil from lighters at the Stillyard Key and loading them away into a warehouse ([HCA 13/70 f.555v](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "Bartholomew Cuff" with a large, stylized initial "B" and "C".

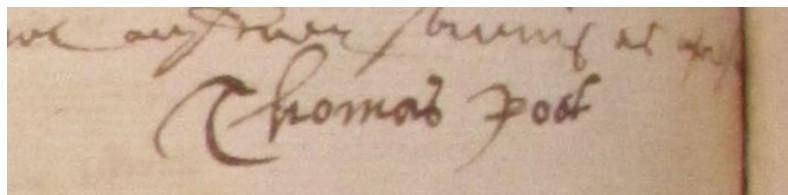
John Betton, fifty-four year old citizen and white baker of London, of the parish of Saint Buttolph Algate, London, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.449r](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "John Betton" with a large, stylized initial "J" and "B".

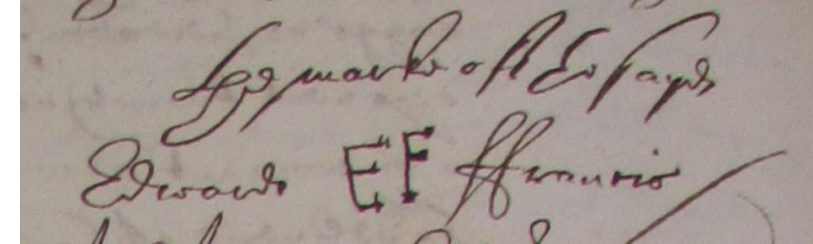
Edward Sherwin, fifty-six year old cittizen and leatherseller, of the parish of Little Allhallowes, London, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.449v](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "Edward Sherwin" with a large, stylized initial "E" and "S".

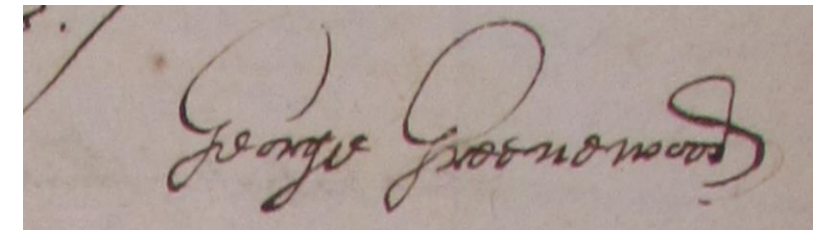
Thomas Roots, twenty-nine year old porter, of the parish of Greate Allhallowes, London, May 15, 1658; assisted in the landing of whale oil from lighters at the Stillyard Key, as one of the Stillyard porters, and loading them away into a warehouse ([HCA 13/72 f.330v](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "Thomas Roots" with a large, stylized initial "T" and "R".

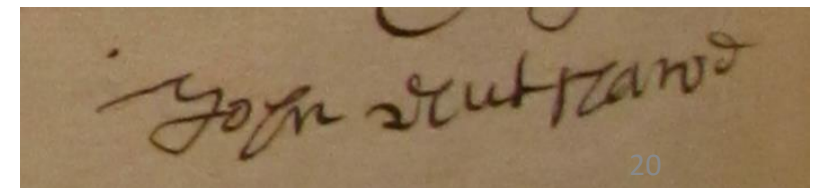
Edward ffrancis, citizen and merchantaylor of London, of the parish of Saint Olave in Southwarke, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.450v](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "Edward Francis" with a large, stylized initial "E" and "F".

George Greenwood, thirty year old citizen and vintner of London, of the parish of Saint Buttolph Bishopsgate, London, Jul. 31, 1655; self-described as a porter employed by the Commissioners for Prize Goods to deliver ginger from a warehouse at Ralphes Key ([HCA 13/70 f.454r](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "George Greenwood" with a large, stylized initial "G" and "G".

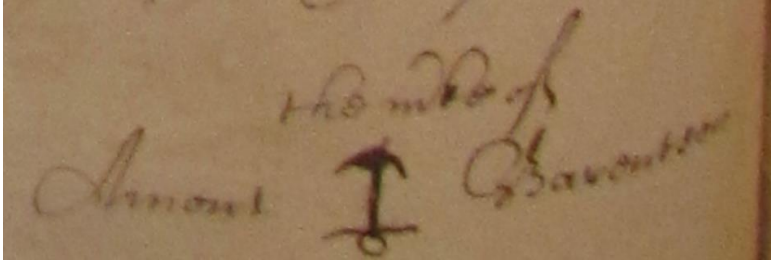
John Nutshall, fifty-five year old corne porter, of the parish of Saint Saviours Southwarke, Nov. 19, 1653; employed with a barber chyrurgeon/corne meter, an additional corne-meter, and other labourers to unlade a cargo of what in the *ffortune* of Stettin, moored against Limehouse; eight years of experience as a corne porter ([HCA 13/70 f.352v](#))

A handwritten signature in dark ink on aged paper. The text reads "John Nutshall" with a large, stylized initial "J" and "N".

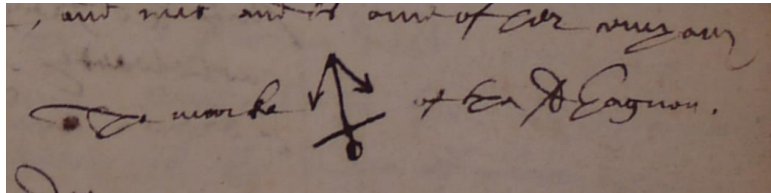


# Anchors

Amons Barentsen, thirty-five year old mariner, of Copenhagen, Denmark, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1653; self-described as an “ordinary mariner”, hired to sail from the Sound to Hamburg on the *Golden Hawke* of Stockholm ([HCA 13/68 f.81v](#))



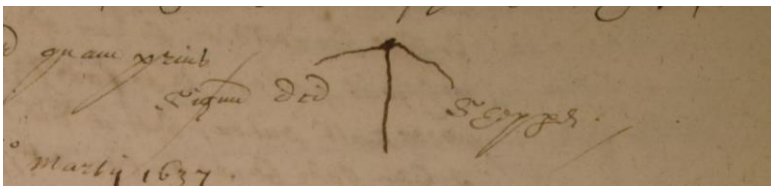
Claude de Gagnon, twenty-five year old mariner, of Melon, near Brest in Brittany, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1656 ([HCA 13/71 f.225r](#))



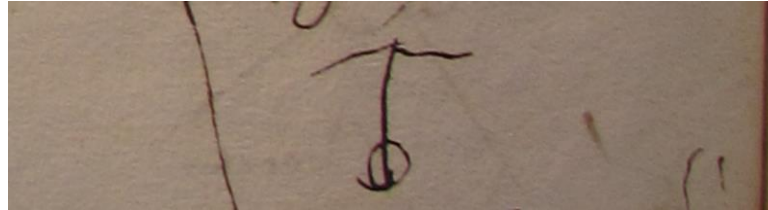
John Tylor, forty-two year old shipwright, of Lower Shadwell, in the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1659 ([HCA 13/73 f.36r](#))



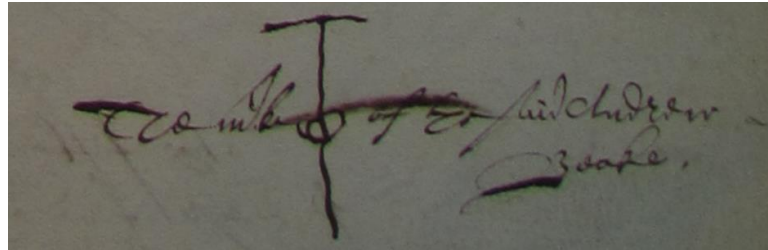
Richard Shepperd, fifty-eight year old cooke, of Brixton, Devon, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1637; self-described cooke of the *Hope* of Ipswich ([HCA 13/53 f.87r](#))



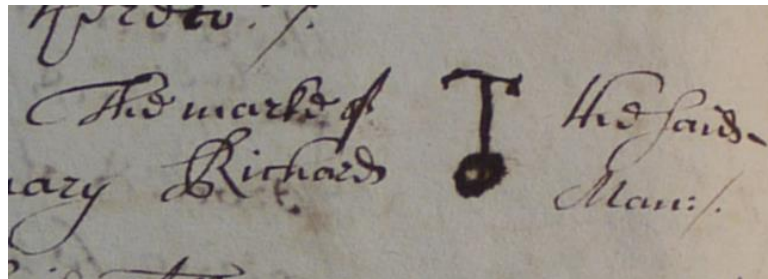
Andrew Beake, thirty-six year old lookeinglassemaker and formerly seaman, of Rose alley without Bishopsgate, London, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.252v](#))



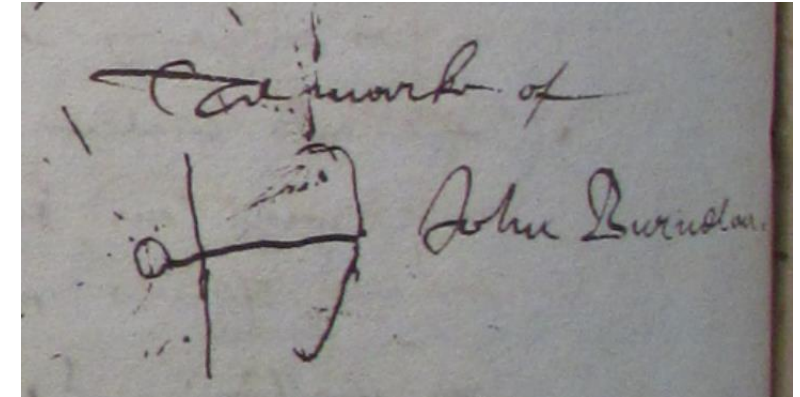
Andrew Beake, thirty-six year old looking-glasse maker, of Rose-Alley in Bishopsgate streete, London, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1655 ([HCA 13/70 f.252v](#))



Richard Man, thirty-one year old mariner, of Southampton, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1659; self-described common man of the *Lisbone ffrigott* on voyage to Oratava ([HCA 13/73 f.26v](#))



John Burnelau, twenty-eight year old sailor, of Mornar, France, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1661 ([HCA 13/73 f.486v](#))



# Signs of Literacy GitHub Organisation



This organization

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## Signs of Literacy

A community project for collaborative research into historical literacy

<http://signsofliteracy.org/>

 **Repositories** 1

 **People** 16

 **Teams** 5

 **Projects** 1

 **Settings**

Type: All ▼

## Signoff

Tools for the study of historical literacy

kaggle-competition

machinelearning

iiif

<https://github.com/Signsofliteracy>





# Find us

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Founder, Chronoscopic Education  
Community organiser, Signs of Literacy

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Social historian, University of Bristol

Mark Ponte  
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[m.ponte@amsterdam.nl](mailto:m.ponte@amsterdam.nl)

Weblinks:

<http://chronoscopic.org>

<http://marinelives.org>

<http://signsofliteracy.org>

<http://alleamsterdamseakten.nl>

GitHub:

<https://github.com/Signsofliteracy/Signoff>

Twitter:

[Marinelivesorg](https://twitter.com/Marinelivesorg)



# Reading

Colin Greenstreet, Pattern recognition of signatures and marks in historical manuscripts as the basis for sub-population recognition, March 2018 [available Signsofliteracy Github repository: [Signsoliteracy/Signoff](#)]

Colin Greenstreet, C17th alphabet of initials, 4<sup>th</sup> edn., April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 [available Signsofliteracy Github repository: [Signsoliteracy/Signoff](#)]

[Mark Hailwood, 'The Rabble that Cannot Read', Ordinary Peoples Literacy in Seventeenth-Century England, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014](#)

[David Cressy, Literacy and the Social Order: Reading & Writing in Tudor and Stuart England, 1980](#)