

# palaeography

#### further practice

**Document 39: Admiralty: Mutiny at the Nore, 1797** (Catalogue reference: ADM 1/727/C370a)

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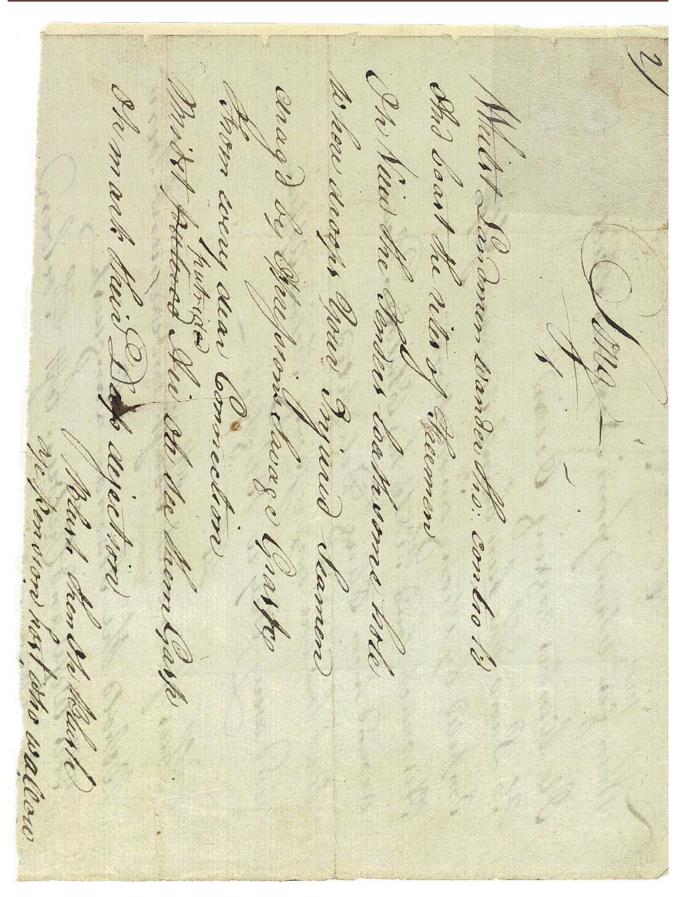
#### about this oocument

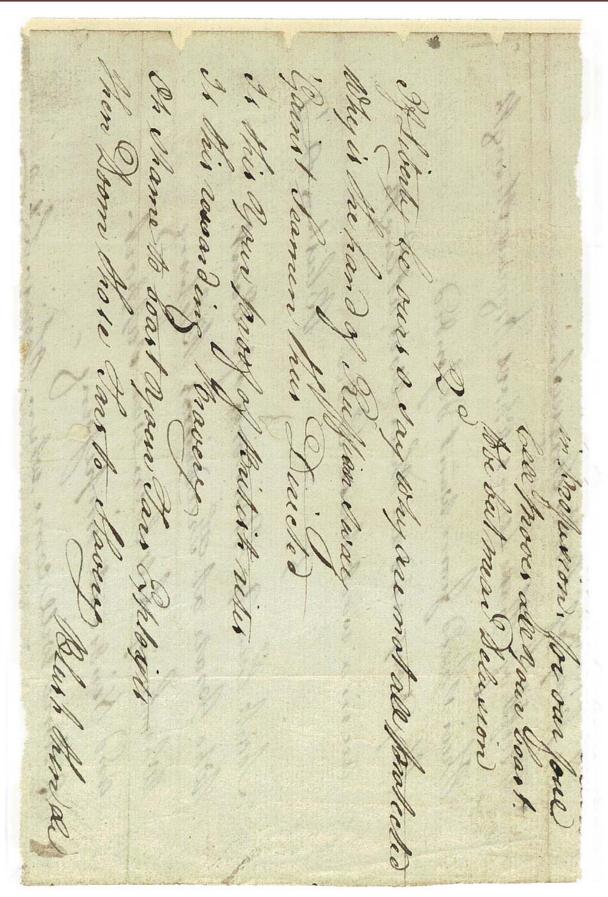
This document is a ballad recording the mutiny at the Nore, dating from 1797. (Catalogue reference: ADM 1/727/C370a)

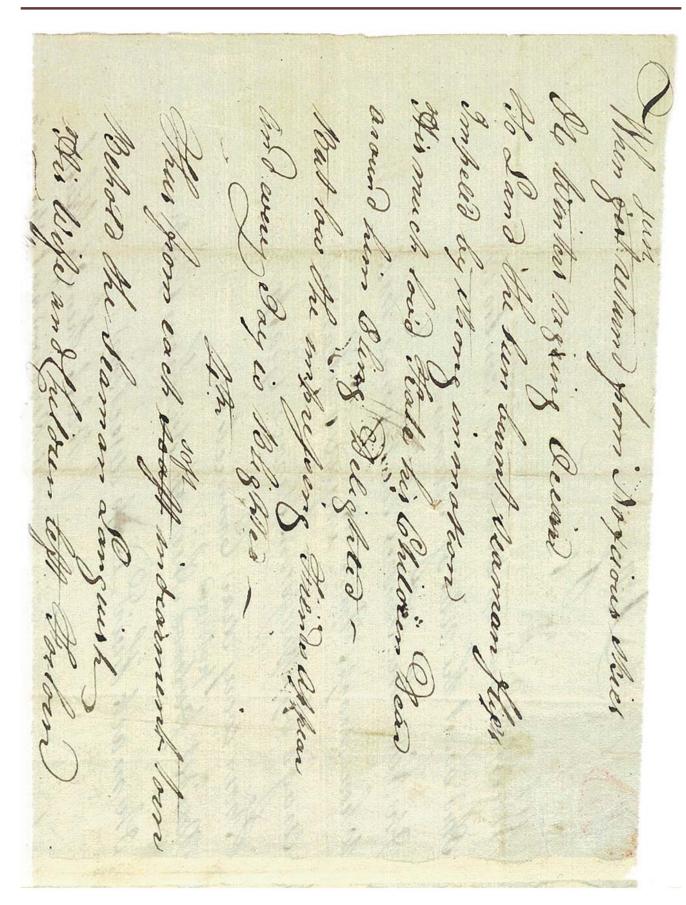
The ballad was found on the ship HMS Repulse after the end of the mutiny of the Fleet at the Nore, which began in spring 1797 because of low pay and poor conditions in the Navy. The Nore, a sandbank in the Thames estuary near the entrance to the River Medway, was an important naval anchorage and assembly point. After the ships involved in the mutiny submitted, Admiral Lord Keith removed any documents that had not been destroyed by the mutineers from the ships and sent them to the Admiralty.

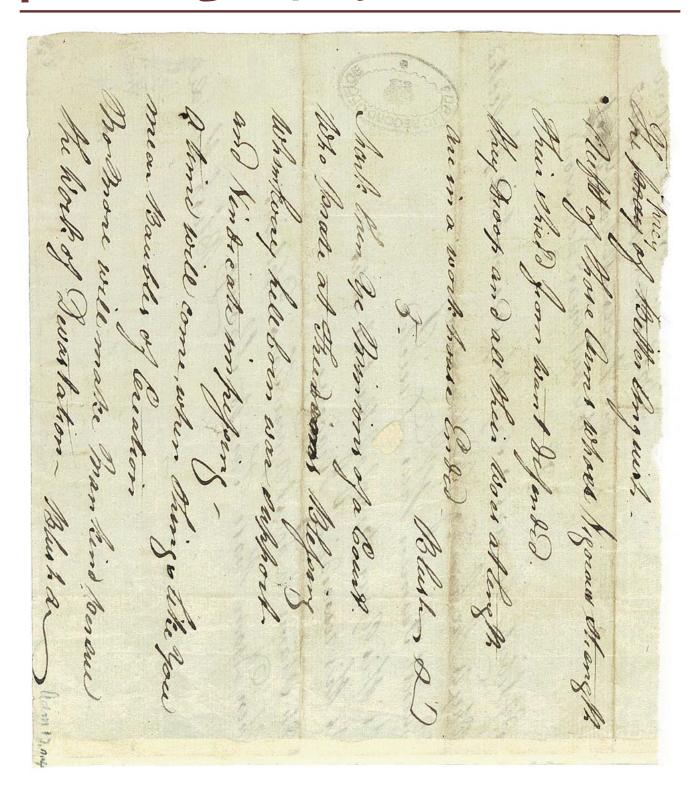
#### Please note:

- The document is written in a mixed cursive hand.
- The title Song is in an italic hand.
- 'Tar', in **line 23**, was slang for sailor, a word thought to derive from the word 'tarpaulin'.
- 'impessing' in line 48 for 'impressing'. Men were often 'press-ganged' into the Navy.









#### transcript

- 1. Song
- 2. 1
- 3. Whilst Landmen wander tho' control'd
- 4. And boast the rites of Freemen
- 5. In View the Tenders loathsome hole
- 6. Where droops Your Injured Seamen
- 7. drag'd by Oppressions Savage Graspes
- 8. From every dear Connection
- 9. Midst putrid Air oh see them Gasp
- 10. Oh mark their Deep dejection
- 11. Blush then Oh Blush
- 12. Ye Pension hast who wallow
- 13. in Profusion, for our foul
- 14. Cell proves all you boast
- 15. to be but mean Delusion
- 16. 2[n]d
- 17. If Liberty be ours O say why are not all protected
- 18. Why is the hand of Ruffian sway
- 19. 'Gainst Seamen thus Directed
- 20. Is this Your proof of British rites
- 21. Is this rewarding Bravery
- 22. Oh shame to boast Your Tars Exploits
- 23. then Doom those Tars to Slavery
- 24. Blush then etc
- 25. 3[r]d
- 26. When just returnd from Noxcious skies
- 27. III Winters raging Ocean
- 28. To Land the Sun burnt seaman flies
- 29. Impell'd by strong immotion
- 30. His much lov'd Kate his Children Dear
- 31. around him Cling Delighted
- 32. But low the impressing Fiends appear
- 33. and every day is Blighted
- 34. 4th
- 35. Thus from each soft indearment torn
- 36. Behold the Seaman Languish
- 37. His Wife and Children left Forlorn
- 38. The prey of Bitter Anguish
- 39. Reeft of those Arms whose Vigorous strength
- 40. Their shield from want defended
- 41. they Droop and all their woes at length
- 42. are in a work house Ended
- 43. Blush etc
- 44.5
- 45. Hark[?] then Ye Minions of a Court
- 46. Who prate at Freedoms Blessing
- 47. Whom Every hell born war support

- 48. and Vindicate impessing
- 49. A time will come, when things like you
- 50. mear Baubles of Creation
- 51. No More will make man kind persue
- 52. the Work of Devastation
- 53. Blush then etc