

MARITIME EMPIRES

British Imperial Maritime Trade in the Nineteenth Century

Edited by

David Killingray, Margarete Lincoln and Nigel Rigby

THE BOYDELL PRESS

in association with the National Maritime Museum



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Britain's overseas Empire pre-eminently involved the sea. Ships carried travellers and explorers, trade goods, migrants to new lands, soldiers to fight in wars and garrison distant colonies, and also ideas and plants that would find fertile minds and soils in far-off lands. It was a two-way process, from metropole to periphery and also from distant colonies to British shires. These essays, product of a stimulating conference at the National Maritime Museum, London, are by internationally known scholars who provide a wide-ranging but comprehensive picture of the activities of maritime empire. The essays discuss a variety of maritime trades – the brutal business of the transatlantic slave trade, Honduran mahogany shipped to Britain, the movement of horses across the vast reaches of Asia and the Indian Ocean, the impact of new technologies as Empire expanded in the nineteenth century, the sailors who manned the ships, the settlers who moved overseas, and the major ports of the Imperial world, plus the role of the Navy in hydrographic survey.

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First published 2004

Published by The Boydell Press
An imprint of Boydell & Brewer Ltd
PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF, UK
and of Boydell & Brewer Inc.
PO Box 41026, Rochester, NY 14604-4126, USA
website: www.boydellandbrewer.com

ISBN 1 84383 076 0

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Maritime empires : British imperial maritime trade in the nineteenth century / edited by David Killingray, Margarette Lincoln, and Nigel Rigby.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 1-84383-076-0 (hardback : alk. paper)

1. Great Britain—Commerce—History—19th century.
2. Great Britain—Colonies—History—19th century.
3. Merchant marine—Great Britain—History—19th century.
- I. Killingray, David. II. Lincoln, Margarette. III. Rigby, Nigel.
- IV. National Maritime Museum (Great Britain)

HF3505.8.M37 2004

382'.09171'241—dc22

2004003934

Typeset by Keystroke, Jacaranda Lodge, Wolverhampton
Printed in Great Britain by
St Edmundsbury Press Limited, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk