

## IPSWICH PORT BOOKS.

BY V. B. REDSTONE.

The recent discovery at the Public Record Office of a great number of records referring to the trade carried on in the ports of England, throws open a new and vast field of research to the local historian. This brief introduction to the newly discovered Port Books of Ipswich will show to a small extent what amount of material exists to be used by those who are interested in the development of the industries and trade of Suffolk.

Previous to the late discovery of the Port Books, it had been the opinion that the bulk of the records bearing upon the customs and trade of the various ports of England had been consumed by a fire which destroyed the Customs House of London early in the last century. Fortunately, however, the Port Books had been stored away in the turret room of the Public Record Office, and, although much affected by damp, they are in a condition to be of service to the historian and economist.

Early Customs Accounts were available, but these consist of membranes of parchments, for the most part containing only the total collections of the subsidies within the Port of Ipswich made in various years by the Controllers or Customers of the Port. The earliest Ipswich Customs Account is dated 9-10 Edw. I., and is an account with particulars of Thomas le Rente and Richard Len, collectors of Customs on wool. The next accounts are those of Walter de Luka, collector of a new custom on wool, 15 Edward I. The accounts for 18-19 Edward II., refer to the exports and imports of Ipswich and of all ports "usque capud Thamisie." It is not till the reign of Henry IV. that the accounts are enrolled to any great extent; in that

year they occupy fifteen membranes of parchment. In 7-8 Henry V., the number of membranes extends to twenty. This system of returns furnishing statistics referring to the trade of the Port of Ipswich and its members is continued to 4 Edward VI. The returns are not complete for the whole period Edward I. to Edward VI.; they refer to about two hundred years of the period.

The more recently known returns commence for the year 1565, and are continued to 1736. The Port Books of London commence for the year 1432. The reference to the Ipswich Port Books is Exchequer K. R. Port Books, Bundles 587—637.

The following notes, taken from an inspection of Bundle 604, containing in all fifteen books, will give some idea of the literary value of the Ipswich Port Books. The numbers 1, 2, 3, etc., are those given to the various books contained in the bundle.

1. On outside cover, "The Port of Ipswich. A blancke booke conteyning twelve leaves for the Searchers entries within the Towne of Colchester, a Creeke of the said Port, of all goods and merchandizes as well going out as of coming into the same by waye of merchandize, 25 Dec., 10 Chas. untill the 25 Dec. following, that is by the space of one whole year."

"Colchester."

Similar statements made on other Port Books show that blank parchment books were issued to the collectors of the various ports, and labelled as above. These books were returned to the Exchequer with the accounts each year.

2. "Blancke booke conteyning 16 leaves. Accounts for the Town and Port of Ipswich, and [its members]." Signed Thomas Cleere.

The ships mentioned in this Book, giving date of sailing, name of ship, master and destination, are as follows :—

- 7 Feb., Hope of Flushing, Peter Penny, Flushing.  
 7 Mar., Concord of Ipswich, Robert Longley, Dantzig.  
 12 Mar., Elizabeth of Ipswich, Benjamin Longley, Rotterdam.  
 17 Mar., St. George of Desarte, Thomas Wood, Bordeaux.  
 18 Mar., Deborah of Ipswich, Edmund Partridge, Dantzig.  
 19 Mar., Supply of Ipswich, Sephany Parker, Dantzig.  
 20 Mar., Stephen of Ipswich, Richard Horner, Dantzig.  
 21 Mar., John of Ipswich, John Smythe, Dantzig.  
 21 Mar., Endeavour of Ipswich William Garnett Dantzig.  
 3 Apr., John and Mary of Ipswich James Beale Dantzig.  
 4 Apr., Request of Ipswich, Robert Lowe, Dantzig.  
 The cargo of the Request consisted of four short Suffolk cloths  
 and one Tun of Beer.  
 4 Apr., New Year's Gift of Ipswich, Zachary Bromewell, Dantzig.  
 8 Apr., Mary of Ipswich, John Thompson, Rochelle.  
 16 Apr., Amytie of Ipswich, William Lawrence, Dantzig.  
 20 Apr., Little Benjamin of Ipswich, William Maynard, Dantzig.  
 20 Apr., Goodwill of Ipswich, William Crofford, Dantzig.  
 This was a vessel of 200 tons burthen. The consignees of its  
 cargo were :— Raphe Moore, Jas. Younge, Richard Mantell,  
 Walter Merrell, Edmund Tillet, H. W. Seeley, Edmund Clynych,  
 John Willes, John Blythe, John Smythier, Ambrose Payne,  
 Robert Knappe, Thomas Woodgate, Thomas Knappe, Randall  
 Crew, Robert Lymberx, Thos. Chapman, William Crofford.  
 The consignment of Thomas Seeley consisted of " 1 dry fatt of  
 1,300 blake Coniskynnes tawed and 300 gray Coniskynnes tawed."  
 28 Apr., Phoenix of Ipswich, Richard Wade, Dantzig.  
 8 May, William and John of Ipswich, Tymothy Grymble, Dantzig.  
 8 May, Rose of Ipswich, Thomas Thurston, Dieppe.  
 16 May, Hope of Flushing, Peter Allord, Flushing.  
 20 May, Deliverance of Ipswich, Thomas Marshe, Flushing.  
 Burthen 200 tons. Consignees :— John Blythe, John Seely,  
 John Wiles, John Smythier, Ambrose Payne, Raphe Noone,  
 James Younge, Richard Mantell, Walter Merrell, Edmund  
 Clynet, Thomas Knappe, John Crosse, Thomas Marshe.  
 26 May, Elizabeth of Ipswich, John Morlyne, Norway.  
 Burthen 100 tons. Cargo :—4 doz. felt hatts unlyned.  
 27 May, Salamon of London, William Chamblett, Norway.  
 Consignee John Pydall—28 weighs Spanish salt.  
 28 June, William and James of Ipswich, John Morse, Rotterdam.  
 Cargo :—80 chalders of Sea coales.  
 3 July, Hope of Flushing, Peter Allord, Flushing.  
 6 Aug., Alice and Bridget of Ipswich, John Johnson, Dieppe.  
 Consignee :—Nicholas Philippes, 28 Chalders of Sea Coales.  
 29 Aug., New Years' Gift, Zachary Bromewell, Dantzig.  
 Consignee :—Nicholas Partridge.

- 2 Sep., Mary and John of Ipswich, James Beale, Dantzic.  
 12 Sep., Benjamin of Ipswich, William Maynard, Dantzic.  
 Consignee:—Anthony Applewhite:—8 pieces of Perpetuanoes  
*i.e.*, a glossy Suffolk cloth known as “*everlasting*.”  
 12 Sep., Hope of Flushing, Peter Allord, Flushing.  
 22 Sep., Fraunces of Ipswich, John Cutting, Dantzic.  
 22 Sep., Nitingall of Ipswich, Bartholomew Cooke, Dantzic.  
 30 Sep., Goodwill of Ipswich, Robert Dawes, Dantzic.  
 Burthen 100 tons. Consignees:—Mathew Cradocke, Robert  
 Knappe, John Cross, Ambrose Payne, Raphe Moore, Richard  
 Mantell, James Younge, Thomas Knappe, Robert Dawes.  
 2 Oct., Concord of Ipswich, Robert Longley, Dantzic.  
 Burthen 100 tons. Consignees:—Ambrose Payne, Thomas  
 Knappe, Thomas Woodgate, Robert Lymbert, Edmund  
 Clynych, John Blythe.  
 7 Oct., Dorcas of Ipswich, Adam Graves, Rochell.  
 7 Oct., Hope of Flushing Peter Allord, Flushing.  
 9 Oct., Elizabeth of Ipswich, John Morlyne, Rochell.  
 10 Oct., Ursula and Elizabeth of Ipswich, Robert Lowe, Dantzic.  
 Consignees:—Thos. Knappe Robert Lowe. Cargo:—Short  
 Suffolk cloths, 24 yards each cloth.  
 12 Oct., Blessing of Ipswich, Richard Barnes, Bordeaux.  
 Consignees:—Robert Hurny, James Potton.  
 12 Oct., Desire of Aldeburgh, Thomas Cheeny, Rochell.  
 13 Oct., John and Mary of Ipswich, Henry Read, Bordeaux.  
 20 Oct., Elizabeth of Ipswich, Benjamin Longley, Rotterdam.  
 24 Oct., Elizabeth Adventure of Ipswich, John Mawlyn, Bordeaux.  
 Consignees:—Richard Denny. Cargo:—3 Yorkshire Kerseys  
 5 doz. Calveskynnes tanned by Licence.  
 5 Nov., Elizabeth of Ipswich, William Andrewes, Bordeaux.  
 15 Dec., Anne Samuel of Ipswich, Jeremy Lowe, Bordeaux.  
 Consignees:—William Inglethorpe. Cargo, 4 Short Suffolk Cloths.

*Arrivals. 1634—1635, giving date of sailing, name  
 of ship, master and port of embarkation*

- 29 Dec., Deborah of Ipswich, Edmund Partridge, Dantzic.  
 Cargo:—Wheat, pease, 1,500 ells East Country Cloth, 22 bags  
 Pollonia Wool containing 40 cwt., 4 trusses of Quinsborough  
 Canvis 2,600 ells, 2,000 lbs. potashes, hemp.  
 29 Dec., Primrose of Yarmouth, William England, Rotterdam.  
 Cargo:—millstones, doggestones, quernstones.  
 7 Apr., Gift of God of Boulogne, John Stone, Sherion.  
 Cargo:—35 tuns of Sherion wine (? Sherion—Xerés, hence the  
 modern word Sherry).

- 6 May, Hope of Flushing, Peter Allord, Flushing.  
 8 July, Request of Ipswich, Robert Lowe, Dantzic.  
 Cargo:—37 lasts of rye, 90 Caggs of Sturgeon.  
 5 Sep., Elizabeth of Ipswich, William Andrewes, New England.  
 Burthen 100 tons. Cargo:—1 hogshead of Beaver containing 70 skins and 7 skins in small pieces.  
 3. *Maldon*.—A Creek belonging to Port of Ipswich. Only 3 entries all referring to the ship Hopewell.  
 4. *Maldon*.—Only a few entries.  
 5. *Colchester*.—"Book for collectors of the new Imposition lately set and imposed upon outward and homeward bound ships."  
 6. *Ipswich*.—1635—1636.  
 25 Feb., Plough of Ipswich, Barnabas Holding, for Dieppe.  
 1 Mar., Ursula and Elizabeth of Ipswich, Robert Lowe, for Dantzic.  
 6 June, Ambrose and Charles of Ipswich, Thomas Silvester, for Dantzic.  
 6 June, Ursula and Elizabeth of Ipswich, Robert Lowe, for Dantzic.  
 22 July, Seaplough of Ipswich, John Morse, for Rotterdam.  
 10 Nov., Ambrose of Ipswich, Robert Church, from Russia.  
 Cargo:—1,000 lbs. weight of coarse feathers for Henry Chaplin, value £2, Edward Nuttall, armiger, Customer of the Ports of Ipswich, 22 May, 12 Chas.  
 7. *Colchester*—1635—1636.  
 28 July, Hopewell of Colchester, Edward Eldred, for London.  
 Cargo:—Bayes to be reshipped in "The Grenefield" of London, master Elias Jordan, for Lisbon.  
 8. *Woodbridge*.—A blank book, as belonging to Port of Yarmouth  
 9. *Ipswich*.—Labelled as No. 5.  
 In the Frauncis, master John Cuttinge, 9 score beaver skins, value 45 shillings.  
 10. *Ipswich*.—1636—1637.  
 Entries chiefly relating to vessels trading with Colchester, Maldon, London and Newcastle, carrying agricultural produce.  
 11. *Maldon*.  
 Mention of a vessel from Longsound, Norway, with deals.  
 12. *Colchester*.—1636—1637.  
 Entries concerning ships outward bound for Rotterdam and The Islands.  
 13. *Maldon*.—1636—1637. Entries similar to those of Book 10.  
 14. *Colchester*.—1637—38.  
 Entries concerning vessels carrying agricultural produce to London.  
 15. *Ipswich*.—1637—38.  
 22 May, Friendship of Scarborough, master Christopher Merell, for Sunderland.