

THE SOUTH SEA BUBBLE

Dr Helen Paul

University of Southampton

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

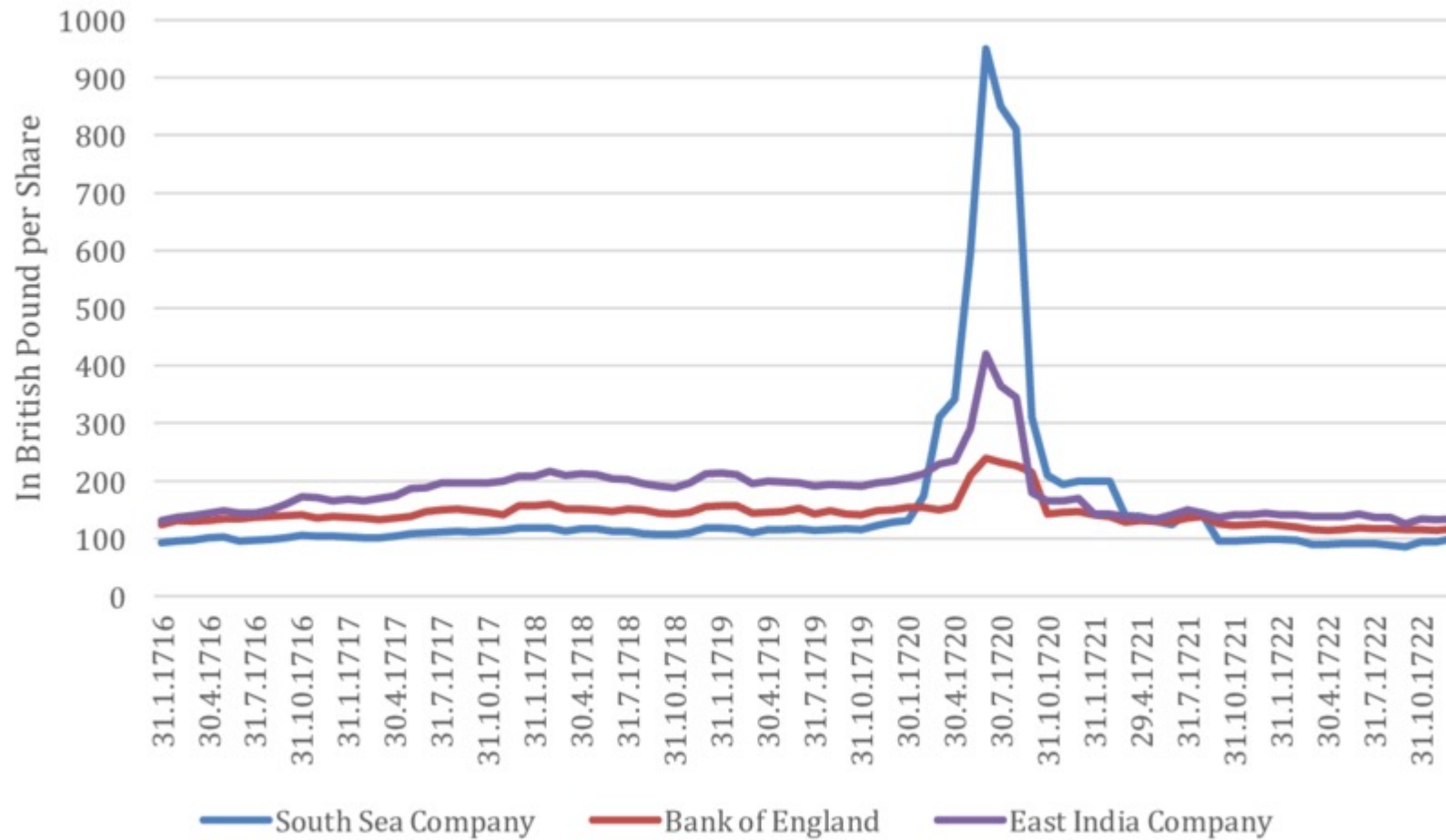


GRESHAM
COLLEGE

THE BUBBLE YEAR OF 1720



Share Price of South Sea Company, Bank of England and East India Company during Bubble Episode



T H E
Hubble Bubble.

C. 117. g. 1. (35.)
C. 161. f. 2 (63)

To the Tune of
O'er the Hills and far Away.

I.

JEws, Turks, and Christians, hear my Song,
I'll make you rich before it's long;
Sell Houses, Lands, and eke your Flocks,
And put your Money in the Stocks.

For Hubble Bubble's now in play,
Come buy the Bubble whilst you may,
There's Hubble Bubbles Night and Day,
At *Jonathan's* and *Garraway*.

II.

Ye *Scotsmen* who love Law so well,
Ye *Irish* who have Bulls to fell,
Ye *Dutch* and *German*s come and buy,
Leave off your Trade in *Quincampoy*.

Ye Hubble Bubbles high and low,
Who with your Stocks do ebb and flow;
Come o'er the Hills and far away,
To *Jonathan's* and *Garraway*.

A House insur'd brings better Rent,
Come then insure your Tenement.

Hubble Bubble, &c.

Insurance from Fire

VII.

For tho you should be all in *Flames*
Here's the *New-River* and the *Thames*,
And Gentlemen to raise your Water,
To quench your *Fire*, and Smoke to scatter.

Hubble Bubble, &c.

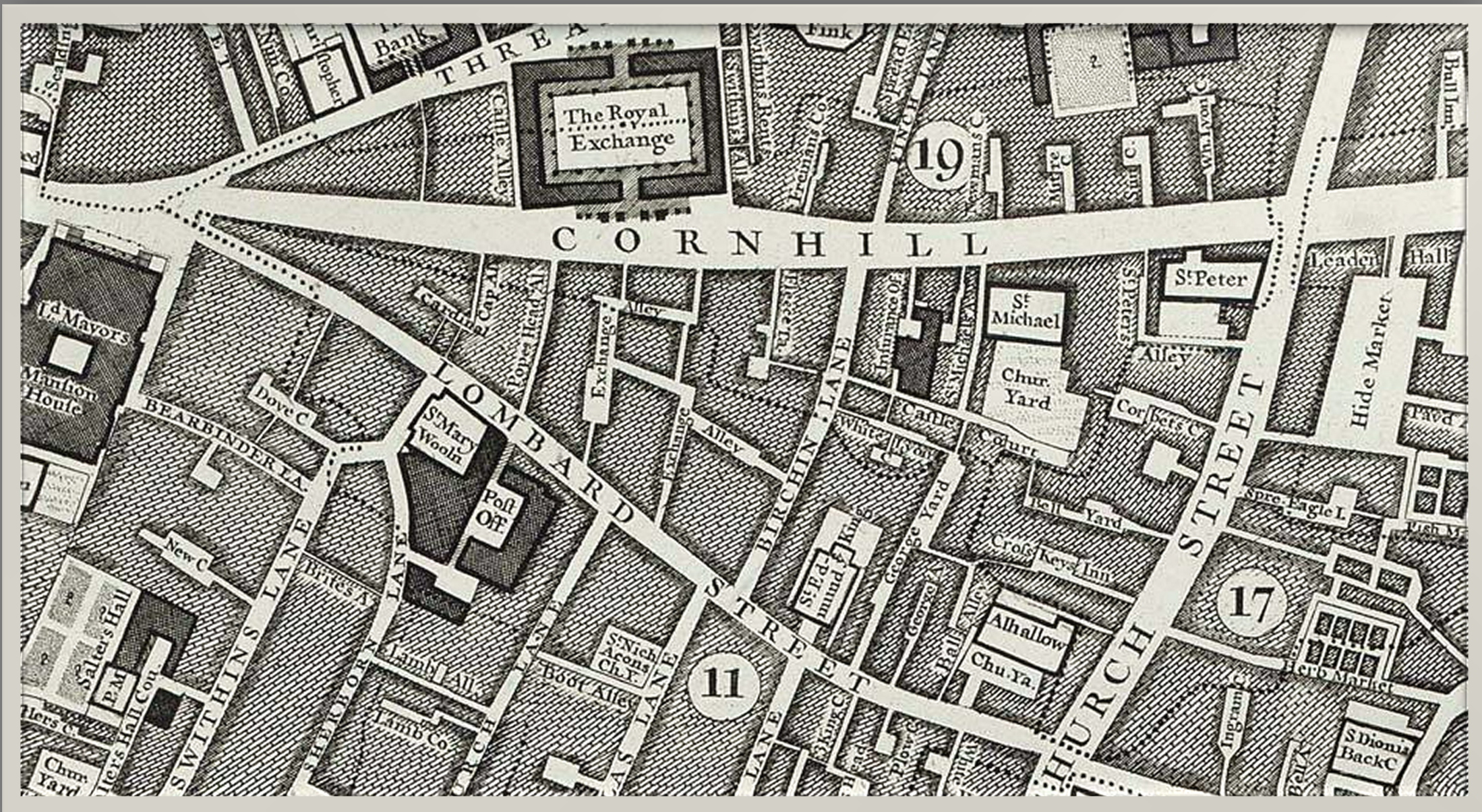
Insurance on Water.

VIII.

Come Ladys all, we let you know,
You shall be clean from Top to Toe;
No *Belle* shall have a Spot on her,
For here comes *clean your Shoes your Honour*.

Hubble Bubble, Great and Small





Detail from John Roque's Map of London (1746)

THE SOUTH SEA COMPANY

- Formed in 1711 to deal with Navy debt
- Treaty of Utrecht 1713

Asiento

Royal African Company

Royal Navy

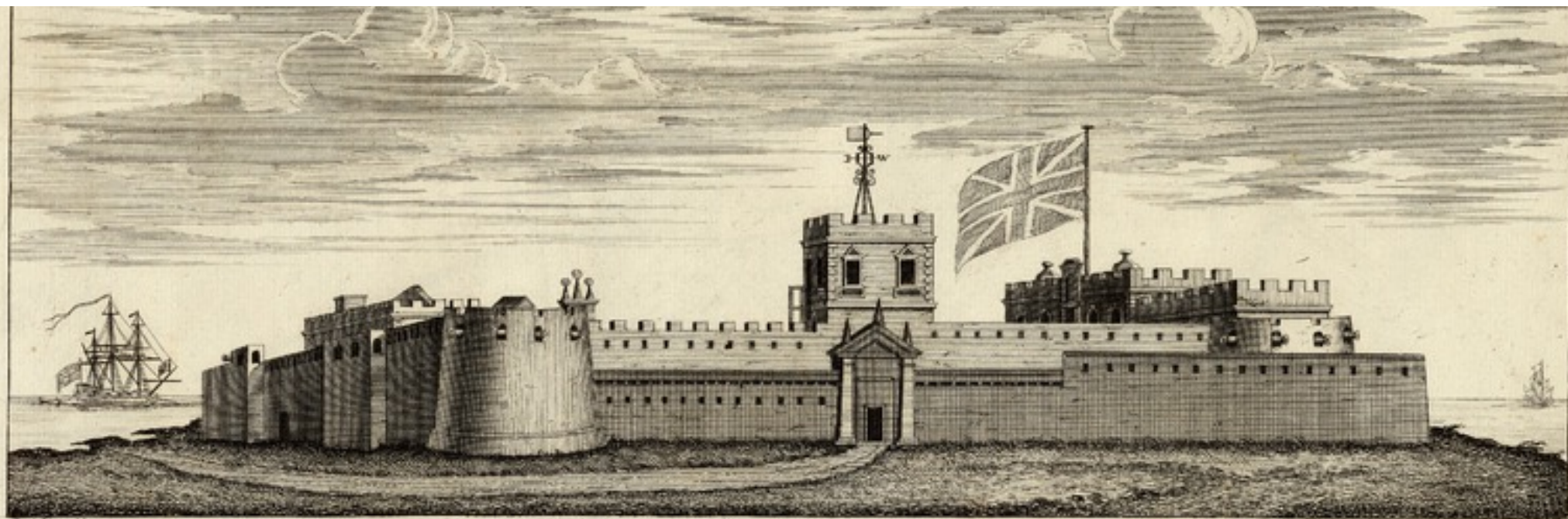
Royal Charter

Joint-stock company shares

Quasi-Public entity

Debt Management





Smith Delin.

Gray Sculp.

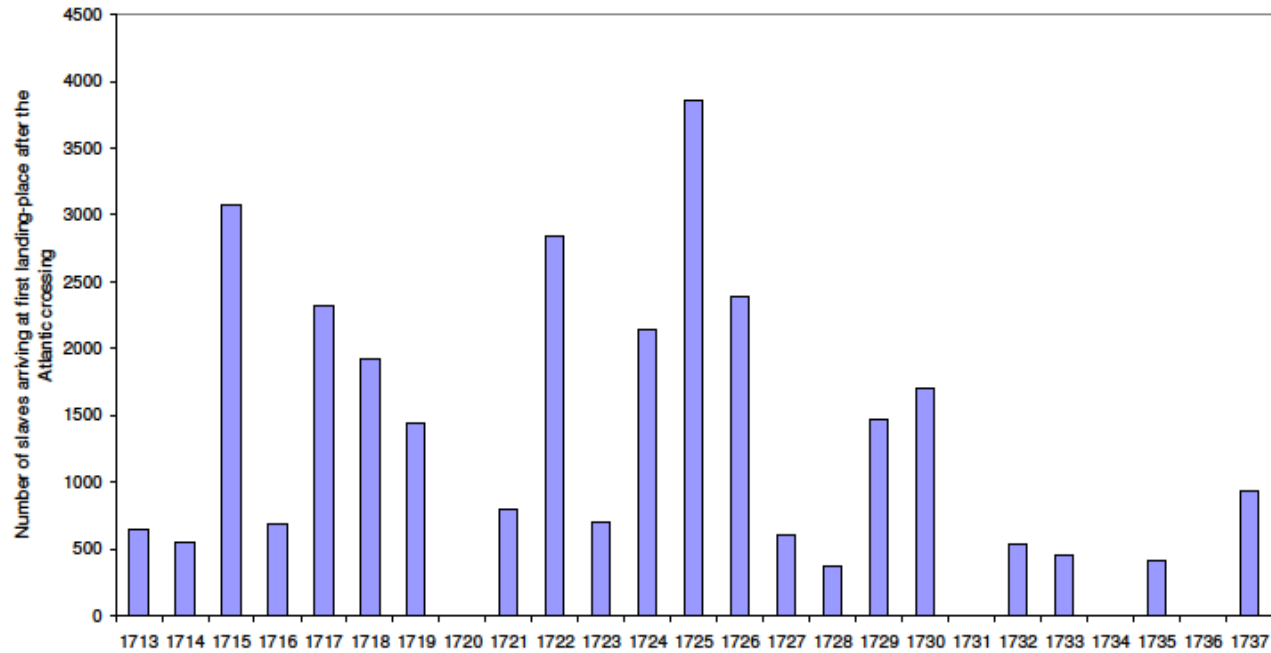
The North-West Prospect of Cape-Coast Castle.

CAPE COAST is y^e Largest, Strongest, & most beautifull Castle belonging to the Royal Afr.^e Com.^e on y^e Coast of Guinea. Here is y^e Residence of y^e Gen.^l Who presides over Eight other Forts, besides Several Factories. It lyes in y^e Latitude of 5.th North which (tho very near y^e Equinoctial Line) yet is it accounted y^e most wholesome air in Guinea Under Shelter of y^e Guns, is built a Large Populous Negro Town. The People are of a Warlike Sort. Their Religion is altogether Pagan. Their Titish day or Sabbath, is on Tuesday. Their Chief provision is Fish & Canky (before described in plate 14) Nevertheless y^e Castle is indifferently stored with Mutton, Goats, Hogs, & Fowles, from y^e Inland Country also some Venison, but at a very dear Rate.



Nicholls delin. *Cap^t BARTHOLOMEW ROBERTS.* J. Basire sculp.

The number of slaves landed from transatlantic South Sea Company voyages



Source: Adapted from Elis and Richardson (2008) and printed in H. Paul *South Sea Bubble*



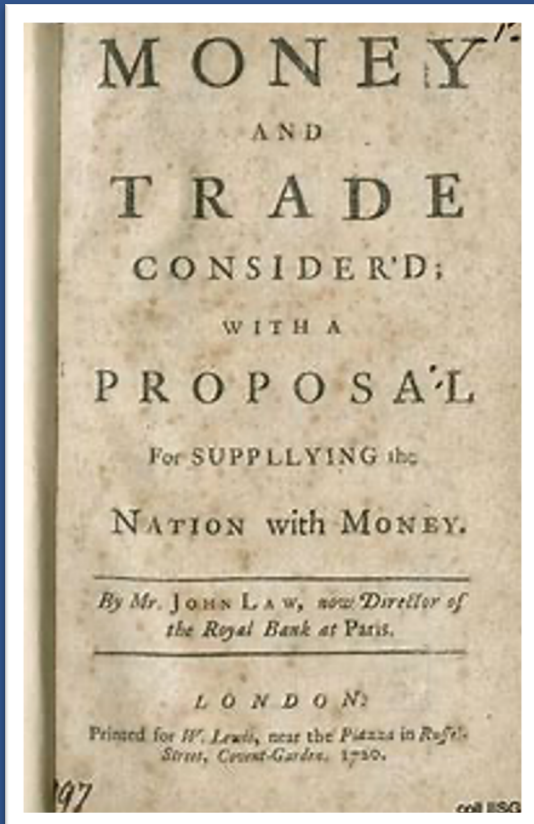
<https://www.slavevoyages.org/>

- *ST MARK* (Captain: Peter Solgard)
- Sailed from London in 1713
- Arrived on the West African Coast in 1714
- Docked at Cape Coast Castle
- Left Africa with 280 enslaved people on board
- Arrived in Kingston, Jamaica with 261 enslaved people on board
- Ten per cent of the enslaved were children on this voyage

DEBT RESTRUCTURING

- Debt for equity swap
- Annuities: illiquid
- Assignability of shares
- Joint-stock company shares and royal charter
- Government payment arrears
- Red tape costs
- Bargaining power
- Direct sales of shares to primary market

JOHN LAW



POWER OF ATTORNEY DOCUMENT



Know all Men by these Presents that Elizabeth

do hereby Authorize and Impower Edward Tucker of the County of Bedford Sheriff of the County of Bedford

That he do and in My name or otherwise to make Sign and give Good and Sufficient Receipts Acquittances and Discharges for such Consideration Money & Dividends

And I do hereby Ratify and Confirm all and whatsoever the said Edward Tucker shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the Premises by Virtue of these Presents In Witness whereof I have hereunto set My hand and seal the One and twentieth Day of October Anno Domini 1721 And in the Eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE by the Grace of God of Great Britain France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c.

Seal'd & Deliver'd
Three Six Penny Stamps Plainly
Appearing in the Presence of
Jean Reade Curate
of St Maries in Town of Bedford.
In Franklyn
Will Lake } Church-wardens

Eliza Bard

Known to M^r Tucker of Brooker



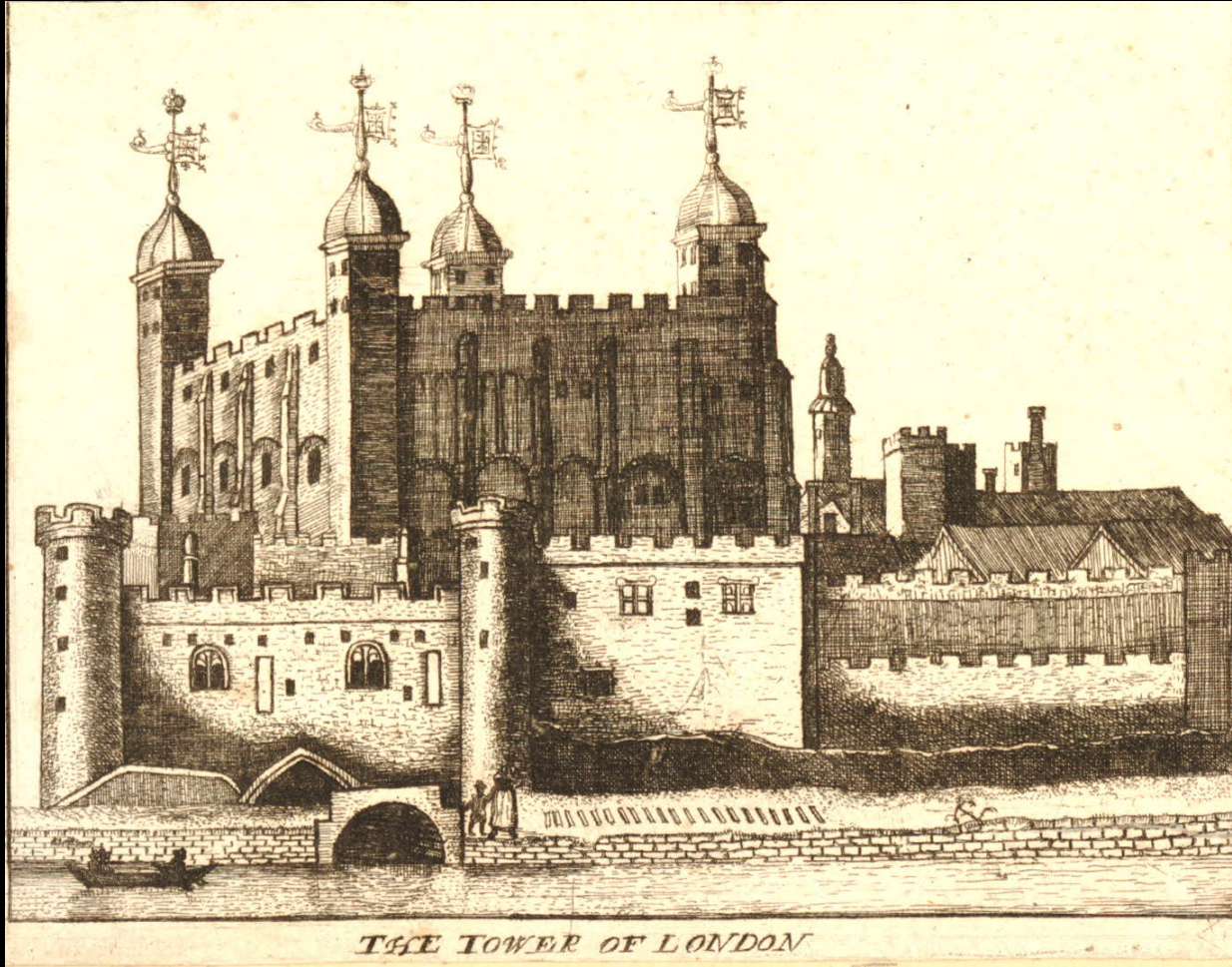
Know all Men by these Presents that Elizabeth

of Great Britain France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c.

Seal'd & Deliver'd
Three Six Penny Stamps Plainly
Appearing in the Presence of
Jean Reade Curate
of St Maries in Town of Bedford.
In Franklyn
Will Lake } Church-wardens

Eliza Bard

Known to M^r Tucker of Brooker







© National Maritime Museum



The Headlong Fools Plunge into South Sea Water
But the Sly Long-Heads Wade with Caution After
The First are Drowning but the Wise Last
Venture no Deeper than the knees or Waist

SOUTH SEA DIVIDEND HALL 1810

