

shipbuilding, the labour movement, and the deindustrialization of the American Midwest; and finally, the stories of the families of the victims and their quest to get compensation and recognition for their family members. However, while in the preface to the book the authors group the chapters in this manner, the actual organization of the book itself spreads them out without any clear logical progression between the different sections. As a result, the broader narrative arc is lost, leading each chapter to read like a stand-alone journal article instead of a part of a cohesive whole. There is a compelling story in the book about industrial decline, resilience, and the repeated use of the metaphor of a wreck. Yet it is hard for the reader to follow due to the organization of the chapters and a lack of clear transitions between the chapters.

Overall, readers interested in a detailed reconstruction of the last days and hours of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* will be disappointed by this work. Similarly, those looking for a dispassionate economic history of Great Lakes shipping and industrial decline in the later half of the twentieth century will also find the work lacking. However, anyone seeking to understand the legacy of the ship's sinking and the personal, political and economic legacy of 10 November 1975 will be well served by this new contribution.

Adam Coombs
Ottawa, Ontario

**Neufeld, Matthew. *Early Modern Naval Health Care in England 1650–1750*
McGill-Queen's University Press, 2024**

274 pp., maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN 9780228020585 (hardcover) CA\$110.00; 9780228020592 (softcover)
CA\$39.95

Matthew Neufeld's *Early Modern Naval Health Care in England 1650–1750* is an expertly researched work that will resonate with readers from a variety of backgrounds. It is also written at such a level that it manages to speak to academic and expert-level readers without being inaccessible to those who might simply be curious! Neufeld offers an in-depth look into health care for sailors in England within a chronologically inspired narrative framework that builds throughout the book. The author's continued focus on the spaces where care takes place and who provides that care throughout the period unites the chapters.

The narrative examines the continual struggle to provide appropriate care for seamen (including the spaces in which that care was given) and to pay for said care work. Although each period, represented in the various chapters,

presented unique challenges, there is an ongoing clear structure to Neufeld's study, which is especially important in such a detailed work. The push and pull among costs, spaces, and people involved in the provision of care represents differently throughout the period with highs and lows dependant on those involved (from commissioners to sailors and nurses) and the public purse's ability to keep up with the needs. It certainly does not seem to have helped that "certain ships' captains sent men from their complements on shore whom they did not like, not because they were sick" (160). Perhaps this was the era's version of "failing up."

This focused book is the result of diligent, presumably patient, research on the part of the author with available archival sources for which this reader must commend him. With upwards of 100 and in one case 200 endnotes per chapter and a robust bibliography, there is no mistaking the attention to detail that Neufeld demonstrates in this work. The only downside of this, in my opinion, is that some chapters seem to include repetitive information as Neufeld draws on similar sources and there are many common refrains throughout this carefully prepared history. That said, I would always prefer to read a diligently researched work than one without a strong source base.

The only two weaknesses I would like to point out are, firstly, the lack of figures and secondly, the lack of military or operational context for each chapter. Regarding the lack of figures or other illustrations, there are a grand total of four, where this Canadian reader's experience would have been greatly enhanced by additional maps to help situate her during detailed discussions of locations of care and traveling distances between them. There may have also been places where detailed financial information might have been best presented in a graph or chart to help us visual learners get through all those numbers! As for the second point, this reader came to the book due to her interest in military health care, not her knowledge of or specific interest in this period. Although many military or operational secondary sources exist, it would have been helpful to have a quick contextualizing paragraph within each chapter as to the high-level details of the conflict in question with details relevant to the question of health care.

I commend Neufeld for the attention he manages to bring to the carers, mostly women. Women, particularly those providing what we might now call gig economy labour, are notoriously hard to find in the archives – particularly those of the Admiralty I imagine – but he finds them and shares their stories in his work: "[care] work is mostly invisible. Part of this reality relates to the fact that women did most of the work" (192). I am impressed that, for the most part, the story of the carers is not siloed but instead integrated into the narrative framework which also addresses big ticket items like finances and

care spaces. Perhaps this speaks to the instrumental nature of the women's work and mere presence as key to the achievement of the goal of the health care system – healing sailors so that they could continue to serve in the navy. Unfortunately, there were instances of “cavorting” (181) and general disorder (chapter 7) which often saw the blame put onto the women, nurses, as well as the involved seamen.

This work is an excellent example of a well-researched work that brings archives to life while shining a light on previously understudied topics and people of this period. It will be perhaps most of interest to those interested in military health care and socio-economic conditions in early modern England. As a final observation, it should be noted that this very fine volume was recognized with an “Honourable Mention” for the Canadian Nautical Research Society's Keith Matthews Book Award in 2025.

Rebecca Murray
Ottawa, Ontario

Pearson, Judith E. and John A. Rodgaard, eds. *The Trafalgar Chronicle: Dedicated to Naval History in the Nelson Era: New Series 9*

Seaforth Publishing, 2024

223 pp., illustrations, notes

ISBN 9781399078085 (softcover) US\$39.95; 9781399078092 (e-book)

US\$19.99

This edition of *The Trafalgar Chronicle* is a superb collection of essays. The theme of this year's *Chronicle* is naval intelligence in the Georgian era, which C.S. Forester called “the age of fighting sail.” Seven of the 15 articles have at least some connection to intelligence. Steven E. Maffeo's overarching piece on “Secret Intelligence in the Age of Nelson” serves as a brilliant introduction to the theme. Evan Wilson's essay on junior British officers making the grand tour of Europe, a requirement for gentlemen to be seen as worldly and for officers to be gentlemen, demonstrates they took the opportunity not only to learn French and go to the opera but also to examine the ships, ports, and fortifications of a potential enemy. The lack of accurate, timely intelligence that caused Admiral Nelson to make several false movements in chasing Admiral Villeneuve's fleet across the Atlantic and back to European waters in the year-long lead-up to the battle of Trafalgar is the topic of Arthur Venn's informative contribution.

The eight non-intelligence essays are a smorgasbord, some focusing on individual people. Natachia Abriat writes about a scarcely known French naval