



Scottish Fisheries Museum
Boats, fish and folk...

Vernacular Harbours of the East Coast of Scotland - The East Neuk of Fife -

Bibliography (Fishing, Trade and Commerce before 1800)

Archives, Libraries and Websites

1. National Records of Scotland: this is the national archives in Edinburgh, that has changed its name over the years, and its acronyms from SRO to NAS to NRS. It has a good online catalogue and among much else contains a superb collection of customs records.
2. National Library of Scotland: as well as being a UK copyright library with many rare early books, it also has a collection of manuscripts (though as far as I know little directly on trade and fishing), and a good online catalogue.
3. St Andrews University Library: good general university library with some significant manuscripts including surviving records of the former Fife royal burghs.
4. Early Scottish Maritime Exchange: a website devoted to Scottish Maritime History run by Eric Graham and Sue Mowat.

Sources

A: Published (foreign):

1. Danish Sound Toll Registers, 1497-1857, published as tables of digested material in N. Bang and K Korst, *Tabeller over Skibsfart og Varetransport gennem Oresund*, 7 Volumes 1906-1953, Leipzig and Copenhagen, and individual ships' entries after 1630 available on line at www.soundtoll.nl, entered in Danish (British boats towards the end of each volume).
2. Konigsberg customs books 1588-1602, P H Winkelman, *Nederlandse Rekeningen in de Tolregisters van Koningsbergen 1599* (The Hague, 1971): specifies individual boats including many from Fife, entered in German.

B: Published (Scottish):

1. *Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland, 1295-1738*, multi-volumes ed. J.D Marwick et al, from 1866.

2. *Records of the Privy Council of Scotland, 1545-1689*, multi volumes.
3. *Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707*, a searchable data base produced in St Andrews University, which replaces the older published *Acts of the Parliament of Scotland*.

C: Unpublished:

1. Early customs books (before 1660); fragmentary and hard to decipher.
2. Customs books for Kirkcaldy precinct 1660- 1692 (NRS).
3. Customs books for Kirkcaldy precinct in the 18th century (NRS).
4. Kirkcaldy Sea Box, list of skippers' voyages, 17th century: (SAUL).
5. Records of the High Court of Admiralty (NRS): but access through the catalogue of 3700 cases, "Records of the High Court of Admiralty of Scotland 1627-1750", available on disc from Early Scottish Maritime Exchange (see above).
6. Court of Session Productions 96, papers ca 1760 -1840 (NRS), catalogued in List and Index Society *Special Series Vol. 23* (1987) - contains the account book of James Lawson, merchant of Anstruther, 1688-1698 ; the commonplace book of John Grant, shipmaster, Kirkcaldy 1759-1765; the log of Charles Primrose, shipmaster of Kincardine, 1783-4, of a voyage from Kirkcaldy to Bergen and back to Cromarty and St Andrews; papers of John Bennet, a merchant of Dysart accused in 1786 of smuggling tea from Holland: papers of Swan Blythe, shipmaster and merchant of Leven in 1796, and of John Yelton, merchant of Kincardine in 1798. All these are unstudied.

Secondary literature relating to Scotland and Scottish trade and fishing

1. S G E Lythe, *The Economy of Scotland in its European Setting 1550-1625* (Edinburgh, 1960).
2. T C Smout, *Scottish Trade on the Eve of Union, 1660-1707* (Edin. 1963).
3. Henry Hamilton, *Economic History of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*, (Oxford, 1963).
4. Christopher Whatley, *Scottish Society, 1707-1830* (Edinburgh, 2000).
5. David Dobson, *Mariners of Kirkcaldy, St Andrews and Fife 1600-1800*.

6. David Dobson, *Scottish Maritime Records* (1999).
7. M. Rorke, "The Scottish herring trade, 1470-1600", *Scottish Historical Review*, Vol.84 (2005), pp.149-165.

There is also secondary literature relating to East Neuk and other burghs, e.g.:

1. George Gourlay, *Anstruther or Illustrations of Scottish Burgh Life* (Cupar 1888, republished 2003).
2. Stephanie Stevenson, *Anstruther, a History* (Edinburgh, 1989).

Other scholars currently working in the field:

1. Prof Thomas Riis, University of Kiel, working on East Neuk fishing before 1630 with a view to producing a short book on the subject.
2. Dr Paula Martin, working on publishing a series of brief sources on East Neuk trade, including Alexander Gillespie's diary (see above) and the log of a voyage of a Pittenweem boat from Crail to the Baltic.