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THE ORNAMENTATION OF MEN-OF-WAR, 1703

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DOCUMENTS.

THE ORNAMENTATION OF MEN-OF-WAR, 1703.

(Contributed by W. G. PERRIN.)

[IN view of a recent question (No. 61) about figureheads, and the answer to it (p. 221), referring to the introduction of the lion figurehead, it may be of general interest to reproduce the Order of 1703, under which the lion was generally substituted for the more elaborate carvings till then in vogue. The Order is quoted *in extenso*, as it contains some interesting information concerning cabins, and other details of equipment, which may well form subjects for further enquiry.—W. G. P.]

[LORDS LETTER BOOK : ADM. SEC. OUT LETTERS, 183.]

Admty, 16 June 1703.

GENT^{NS},

Matters to be observed in fitting Ships for Sea; as to ornamentall workes &c^{ts} for lessening the Charge thereof.

Whereas it was some time since recommended to you by his Royl Highness to consider how the great Charge of Carver's & Joyner's & other ornamentall workes may be lessen'd on board her Majesty's Ships for y^e future, to which you have made the following Report:—

1st.—That the Carved workes be reduced to onely a Lyon and Trayl Board for the Head, with Mouldings Instead of Bracketts placed against the Timbers. That the Stern have onely a Taffarell & Two Quarter Peices, & in lieu of Bracketts between the Lights of y^e Sterne, Gallaries & Bulkheads, to have Mouldings fixed against the Timbers; That the Joyners workes of y^e sides of y^e great Cabbins, Coach, Ward-room, & Round-house, of each ship be fixed onely with Slitt Deales glewed & plained, without any sort of Moulding or Cornish, & the painting be onely plain Colour, without soe much as graveing or revailing, & that y^e parting of y^e Bedd place be likewise done in the same manner, both as to Joyners workes & painting; That the Beames in wake of the aforesaid places be stuck onely with a Beed on the Edges, & the like sort of slitt Deale to be fay'd between them up to the Deck & painted of y^e same colour; And that as to such ship's as have Steeridges their Inside-work as the Clamps, Beemes, & Ceiling to be Dubb'd smooth & Painted Timber Colour;

2.—That the allow'd standing Cabbin's be framed in Joynts, & Covered with Painted Canvas soe as to be taken away in Fold's upon any occasion, & replaced againe, which will there by prevent their being stav'd in Peices, as is frequently done to those fixed with Deale;

- 3.—That the Deales with which the Decks are lay'd in the Wake of y^e great Cabbin, Coach & Round house of each ship, be plain'd on the upper side, & care taken to fay them soe close as that the seames may be small, & that the smoothest & best Deales be made Choice of for that purpose, to prevent the lining those places any more with slitt Deale.

Wee have considered of these Proposition's, & very well approving thereof, doe by vertue of y^e Power & authority to Us given by his Roy^l Highness, hereby desire & direct you, to cause the same to be putt in execution as soon as conveniently may be, & that noe other Carvers, Joyners or Painters workes be allow'd or putt in any of her Maj^{ty}s ships for the future, without particular & especiall orders for the same.

And whereas Wee doe alsoe think it for her Maj^{ty}s service, that the following particulars should be in like manner observ'd in order to the reducing the publick Expence, you are therefore to give the necessary Orders that the same be done for y^e future; viz:—

1st: 2d: or 3d Rates
not to have any
Ports on their upper
Deck.

Not to Seal any of
the 3 Deck Ships be-
tween the Beams on
the Middle Gun
Deck, &c.

Scuppers to be made
in the Gun deck
Port Cells.

All 1st: 2d: or 3d
Rate to have
Double Port Ropes
& a Capstan on the
Fore Castle.

To Lessen all Com-
m^d & Warrant Of-
ficers' Cabbins for
y^e Future.

- 1.—That there be not allow'd for the future to any of her Maj^{ty}s ships of y^e 1st: 2d: or 3d. Rate, Ports to their upper Decks, In regard that soe soon as those ship's come to Sea, 'tis the constant practice to unhang them, soe that since they are not then of any use, her Majesty may be eas'd of y^e Expence of workmanship & Materials:
- 2.—That none of y^e Three Deck ship's be for y^e future sealed on the Middle Gun Deck between the Beames, nor filled with Cabbins; & that none of y^e Decks or Coaches be sealed, but made all plain:
- 3.—That the Cells of y^e lower Gunn Deck Port's of all her Maj^{ty}s ships, be for the future made in the same manner as those of y^e French ships lately taken & brought from Vigo, that is to say with Scupper's,—
- 4.—That all the 1st 2d or 3d Rates be allow'd double Port-Ropes, & that each of them have a Capsterne, to be placed on the Fore Castle, to heave the Main Tack on board, and to catt their Anchors, provided the same can be conveniently done,—
- Lastly.—That the Cabbin's for the Comission & Warrant Officers on board all her Maj^{ty}s ship's be for the future made less than now they are, to give more room for the Men: Wee are

Gent^l

Yrs &c.

G. C.: R. H.

Navy Board.