LONDON'S SAILORTOWN, 1600-1800 A SOCIAL HISTORY OF SHADWELL AND RATCLIFF, AN EARLY-MODERN LONDON RIVERSIDE SUBURB

DEREK MORRIS and KEN COZENS



THE FIRST BOOK TO DESCRIBE THIS UNIQUE AREA OF SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LONDON. FEATURES THE RICH AND THE POOR, THE CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, THE EAST INDIA COMPANY, HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, BREWERS, COOPERS, MARINERS, SAILMAKERS, SHIP BUILDERS, SHIP CHANDLERS. EXTENSIVE INDEXES TO NAMES, PLACES AND SUBJECTS

Professor Jerry White, Birkbeck College, University of London, has written in the Preface:

Revelatory is not too strong a term for the work undertaken here. The popular understanding of the East End of London at any time up to the First World War is of a uniformly bleak, often terrible, place of desperate poverty. This monochrome picture has been challenged by historians who have stressed the importance of an indigenous merchant and industrial class, especially in the years before 1800. But we have never before had revealed to us in such immense and convincing detail just how prosperous, diverse and cultured this East End heritage was in fact.

Anyone interested in London's extraordinary history owes a true debt to Derek Morris and Ken Cozens. The greatest revelation for the modern reader will be the depth and richness (in all senses) of the cross-class complexity of this district during the period under review. The lives of women come strongly to the fore. But most surprising will be the exploration of the lives and connections of the 'middling sort of people'. Laid before us are the merchants, ships' captains, manufacturers, contractors, clergymen, doctors and other professionals who helped make the London riverside such an astonishingly diverse place.

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