

Annika Nasz M.A.

Repetition, reproduction and observation – Illustrating knowledge in the journal of the slave vessel *Sandown* (new Workingtitel)

Since the 15th century the documentation of the meteorological, climatic, geodetic or geographical phenomena as well as cartographic illustrations were an essential part of the daily life of any seamen. Written down in logbooks or journals as a report for the merchants it was made possible to receive authenticate empirical data – therefore logbooks became an important cognitive tool not only for the trade but also e.g. for a precise mapping of the world. During the 18th century military and naval academies in England employed further drawings into logbooks and made the visualisation boost of the flora and fauna of foreign countries possible – reinforcing the world's progressive acquisition of knowledge and facts.

Far from unbiased blind visions that imagine the world with a scientific objectivity, the *Journal Of an Intended Voyage, by Gods permission, from London towards Africa from hence to America in the good ship Sandown [...]* will be examined in this doctoral thesis on the cultural process of knowledge to illuminate its circulation as well as its epistemological history. Written and drawn between 1793 and 1794 on a slave vessel that was to embark enslaved people on the coast of Africa, the evaluation of the journal does not only pass down historic and sociological information about the Transatlantic Slave Trade but also on the enclosed society of the slavers.

The careful examination of text and images raises different questions e.g. about the authorship of a journal – that is usually attributed to the Captain/Commander, surgeon or an officer of the vessel – or the production, repetition and reproduction of knowledge on board. To analyse different drawing techniques that are dedicated to the false species will help to develop a new perception of authorship that indicates: writing a journal unites the knowledge of several and opens the possibility to establish new discoveries.

To question the format of the *Journal of the Sandown* and with it the culture of knowledge on board a slave vessel might close a so far unnoticed gap that excluded journals of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This journal might therefore give an impression about cooperating authorships and the interaction of varying states of cognition, but also about the communication and configuration of knowledge on board of a vessel.