

first year of publication	title	author	publisher
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1619 **AN ABSTRACT & EXPOSITION OF ALL THINGS PERTAINING TO THE PRACTICE OF NAVIGATION** by **Sir Henry Mainwaring** 1587–1653. Manuscript written 1616-17 and presented to King James I in 1618. *Last known publication 1922 by The Council of the [British] Navy Records Society under the title **THE LIFE AND WORKS OF SIR HENRY MAINWARING VOLUME II**, edited by G.E.Manwaring & W.G. Perrin, edited with modern spelling and punctuation;*

*“**Braces.** These ropes do belong to all the yards...”*

*“**Breast-ropes** are the ropes which make fast the parrel to the yard*

*“**Brails** are small ropes reeved through blocks...”*

*“**Clew-garnet** is a rope which is made fast to the clew of the sail...”*

*“**Clew-line.** This is the same to topsails, topgallant sails and spritsails that the clew-garnet is to the mainsail and hath the very same use....”*

*“**Leech-lines** are small ropes which are fastened to the leech of the topsails...”*

*“**Ropes.** Generally all the cordage belonging to a ship is called by the name of rope.”*

1768-1779 **THE JOURNALS OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK ON HIS VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY** by **Lieutenant James Cook** 1728-1779 (*Four volumes and a portfolio*) published by Cambridge University Press 1955-1968

“Sleet and Snow froze to the Rigging as it fell and decorated the whole with icicles. Our ropes were like wires, Sails like board...”

1794 **THE ELEMENTS AND PRACTICE OF RIGGING AND SEAMANSHIP** (in four volumes) by **David Steel**. Also known as **STEELE'S RIGGING**.

Published in London 1794, and published at the navigation Warehouse in London 1800

David Steel was one of the most respected and prolific naval publishers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. His publications focused on naval strategy and shipbuilding techniques. This influential four-volume work, published in 1794, was the first comprehensive English manual of best naval practice. Designed for aspiring young officers, it established Steel's reputation as a maritime writer. The book describes theoretical and practical aspects of masts, rigging, and sails, and the science of sailing. The combination of practical advice supported by scientific and mathematical explanations and numerous illustrations provides valuable insights into British seamanship during the Napoleonic wars. Volume 1 explains the technical terms relating to the making of masts, bowsprits, yards, blocks and oars, and describes the tools required and the methods used.

1808, 1819 **THE YOUNG OFFICER'S SHEET ANCHOR** by **Darcy Lever** c.1759-1839. First printed by Thomas Gill, London, 1808, second edition 1819. This unabridged edition Dover 1998.

p1 *‘The rigging of a Ship consists of a quantity of Rope, or Cordage, of various Dimensions, for the support of the Masts and Yards. Those which are fixed and stationary, such as Shrouds, Stays, and Back-stays, are termed Standing Rigging; but those which reeve through Blocks. or Sheave-Holes, are denominated Running Rigging; such as Halliards, Braces, Clew-lines, Buntlines, &c, &c. These are occasionally hauled upon, or let go, for the purpose of working the Ship.’*

[He then describes the make-up of rope and different types of rope, vis. Hawser-laid, Shroud-laid and Cable-Laid]

1840 TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST and **1841 THE SEAMAN'S FRIEND - A Treatise on Practical Seamanship** by **Richard Henry Dana Jr.** 1815-1882. Dover Publications, Inc., Toronto, Canada, 1997

1847 THE KEDGE-ANCHOR or Young Sailor's Assistant by **William Brady**, sailing master USN d.1887. First published 1847, fourth edition 1849, '*cheerfully recommended*' by approximately forty British and US Navy and merchant navy masters. This unabridged edition published by Dover 2002

p301 '*Cordage Table, showing the Weight of one Fathom Rope, from 1 inch to 24 inches [circumference] inclusive, plain laid 3-strand, such as used for running rigging, &c...*' (see table)

1847 A HISTORY OF THE ROYAL NAVY by **N. H. Nicols** published in London 1847. Volume II, p471; a shipyard account, dated AD 1336-37;

*"...et in xv petris cord' de canabo... empties... pro **peyntours** et seysynges"* translated as '*...and 15 stone [weight] of hempen cordage bought to make **painters** and seizings.*'

Note: the above account helps link the modern word *painter* (bow line of a dinghy) to the Late Middle English word *paynter* from Old French *pentour* from Classical Latin *pendere* = 'to hang'. This terminology makes sense to a sailor as a dinghy/ship's boat is said to *hang off* the stern of a ship when the ship is at anchor or to *hang on* a mooring etc. To save confusion with the word *paint* it might be sensible to revert back to the Late Middle English spelling *paynter*.

1848 THE ART OF RIGGING by **Captain George Biddlecombe**, R.N. 1807-1878. *...being an updated and expanded volume from David Steel's 1794 THE ELEMENTS AND PRACTICE OF RIGGING AND SEAMANSHIP* (see above). *Biddlecombe's edition was first published in 1848 by Norie & Wilson, London. This unabridged edition published by Dover in 1990.*

Part 1 - Explanation of the Terms and Phrases used in Rigging

p25 '*ROPES. - All cordage in general, above one inch in circumference, which bear different names, according to their various uses. Bolt-rope is the rope sewed to the skirts or edges of sails. Buoy Rope. - A rope fastened to the buoy of an anchor. Breast Rope is fastened along the laniards of the shrouds, for safety, when heaving the lead in the chains. Davit Rope is the lashing which secures the davit to the shrouds, when out of use. Entering Ropes hang from the upper part of the stanchions alongside the ladder at the gangways....*'

p19 '*LINEs. - Cordage, smaller than ropes, and formed by two or more fine strands of hemp; as houseline, made of three strands, used to seize blocks into their straps and the clues of sails, and to marl the skirts of sails to their bolt ropes, &c. Log-line, made of three or more strands, and used for the log, &c. Marline, made of two strands, and used for the same purpose as house-line.*'

1849 REDBURN and **1851 MOBY DICK** by **Herman Melville** 1819-1891 - both sea novels based on his own experiences and his collations of other people's experiences.

1865 THE SAILOR'S WORD BOOK by **Admiral W. H. Smyth** KSF, DCL 1795-1865. *First published c.1865, this unabridged edition 1991, Conway, USA*

p579 'ROPE is composed of hemp, hide, wire, or other stuff, spun into yarns and strands, which together forms the desired cordage. '

p579 'ROPES A general name given to all the cordage above one inch in circumference used in rigging a ship...'

p446 'LINE. The general appellation of a number of small ropes in a ship...'

1885 FROM KEEL TO TRUCK - A Dictionary of Naval Terms in English-French-German-Spanish-Italian by **Captain H. Paasch** c.1810-1901. *First published 1885, revised edition 1894, third edition 1901, date of fourth edition c.1905 published by David Nutt, London (book found in Sydney Heritage Fleet Library, Pyrmont).*

French & English sections edited by Capt. P. Challamel, German section by Capt. Matthiesen, Director of the Seaman School and Capt A. Budde, Professor at the Naval Academy, Hamburg, translated into Spanish by Admiral P. Montojo of the Spanish Royal Navy, translated into Italian by Gieseppe Romairone, official translator to the Civil Court of Genoa.

Note: Principal author, Capt. H Paasch went to sea aged 15 and retired in 1870. It might be guessed that he was born in c.1810, went to sea in 1825 and retired at the age of sixty. He had been retired fifteen years when the book was first published in 1885 and had been retired thirty years when the Preface was written in 1901. He would have therefore been around 90 years old at publication of the third edition. He served in the royal navies of Germany and Denmark as well as the German, Dutch, American and Russian merchant navies. Since 'retirement' he surveyed approximately four thousand vessels and *"have thus had opportunity to familiarise myself with ...the precise technical force of every word and expression noted."*

p489

'Rope. A combination of the fibrous material obtained either from hemp, manilla, coir, etc., spun into threads, called yarns, which are twisted together into strands; several strands being wound or laid together forming a rope.'

p490

'Warp. Rope employed for mooring a vessel in port, and for other purposes'

'Mooring-rope. A rope by which a vessel is moored alongside a quay, another vessel, etc.'

p491

'Line. Term applied to thin cords, as marline, a log-line, lead-line, rat-line, etc., to distinguish them from thicker cordage...'

English:	Ropes; Cordage	Line
French:	Cordages	Ligne
German:	Taue; Tauwerk	Leine
Spanish:	Jarcias	Cordel blanco
Italian:	Cordami; Cavi	Sagola; Cordicella; Funicella

1888 CHRISTMAS AT SEA (poem) by **Robert Louis Stevenson** 1850-1894, Eighth verse;

*And well I knew the talk they had, the talk that was of me,
Of the shadow on the household and the son that went to sea;
And O the wicked fool I seemed, in every kind of way,
to be here and hauling frozen ropes on blessed Christmas Day.*

1899 HEART OF DARKNESS by **Joseph Conrad** 1857-1924 and numerous publications on ships and the sea, including **LORD JIM** 1900 and **THE MIRROR OF THE SEA** 1904-06

1905 NICHOLLS'S SEAMANSHIP by Captain Nicholls R.N. (more information required)

1912 THE DAUBER (poem) by **John Masefield** 1878-1967 Part I, Verse 34;

*Outside was the ship's rush to the wind's hurry,
A resonant wire-hum from every rope,
The broadening bow-wash in a fiery flurry,
The leaning masts in their majestic slope,
And all things strange with moonlight; filled with hope.*

1922 A DICTIONARY OF NAVAL EQUIVALENTS covering English, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, German [Volume 1 - English Section] by [the British] Naval Staff Intelligence Division, March 1922

p260 R. Rollers - Rope

English:	rope	line
French:	cordage; filin; manoeuvre	ligne cargue; ligne
Italian:	cavo; manovra; cord	line sagola; cordi-cella
Spanish:	cabo; beta; jarcia	line (u orden) de frente
Swedish;	tåg; tåg-virke; lina; tross;	linie; lina
Danish, Norwegian;	tov	linie snøre; line; ende
Dutch;	touw	linie; lijn
German, Austrian;	leine; tau	linie; leine; schnur

1930 BY WAY OF CAPE HORN by **Alan Villiers** (1903-1982) *Henry Holt and Co.*
Villiers published a total of forty-four books on the sea, published between 1925 and 1975 including THE CRUISE OF THE CONRAD 1937, THE SET OF THE SAILS 1949 and THE WAY OF A SHIP 1953

1938 MASTING AND RIGGING THE CLIPPER SHIP by **Harold. A. Underhill** 1897- c.1965
Brown, Son & Ferguson, Ltd, Glasgow

1940 HANDBOOK OF SEAMAN'S ROPEWORK by **Sam Svensson** 1896 - c.1990.
Foreword (p7) 'Through his work the sailor gained a practical knowledge of rope and its treatment....'
Materials & Tools (p21) 'Almost all rope is right handed....'
TABLE A - Breaking load in metric tons for various ropes... (from 1¾ inch circumference up to 6 inch circumference)

1956 THE LAST GRAIN RACE by **Eric Newby** 1919-2006 *originally published by Secker & Warburn (UK) and Houghton Mifflin (USA) followed by the photographic sequel LEARNING THE ROPES published in 1999 by John Murray, London.*
 Eric Newby joined the 3,000 ton four-masted barque Moshulu in 1938 as an eighteen year old cadet on a circumnavigation, taking grain from South Australia to Britain via Cape Horn. He later wrote about his adventure and published his photographs.

1960 THE MARLINE SPIKE SAILOR by **Hervey Garrett Smith** 1896-1979. *Published 1960*
Foreword (p v) by Boris Lauer-Leonardi

'Rope is a difficult subject to draw...'
Introduction (p vii) '...and the tarred rope used by sailors for a thousand years has suddenly become obsolete'
Chapter 1 - Making Rope Behave - 'ROPE is probably the most remarkable product known to mankind....' (scan on p3 of this article)
Rope is mentioned in the index (p131) but line is not, except as heaving line.

1979 EAGLE SEAMANSHIP - A Manual for Square-Rigger Sailing, *Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland USA 1979, third edition 1990, revised by Lt. Edwin H.Daniels, Jr., USCG*

Refers almost exclusively to running rigging as 'lines' (eg Chapter 3, p27, Sails & Running Rigging)

1984 SEAMANSHIP IN THE AGE OF SAIL by **John Harland**, illustrated by **Mark Myers**, Conway Maritime Press Ltd., London, published 1984, reprinted 1985, 1987. The text is largely quoted from 18th and 19th century texts;

p 78 "Clew rope"...

p 94 "Nor should the topmen's predeliction to sing out from aloft, be at all indulged. Ropes are much sooner disengaged on deck by means of a tell-tale shake from overhead, than by individual hails..." (quote from W. N. Glascock's **Naval Officer's Manual**, second edition 1848 p317.

p94 "At the end of an evolution, the pipe 'Haul taut and coil down ropes' sent the men to their stations...' (quote from Glascock 1848)

2001 LEARNING TO SAIL THE DUYFKEN REPLICA by **Nick Burningham** in collaboration with **Captain Gary Wilson**, published by the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, volume 30.1 p76 discusses the use of hemp rope, shroud-laid rope, tarred rope and bolt rope

2004 THE ART OF SQUARE-RIGGED SHIP MANAGEMENT - A collation by **Philip Rose-Taylor** b.1942. Printed by *Sealine Publications, Weymouth, England*
Compares methods and descriptions of handling a ship by Darcy Lever' in **YOUNG SEA OFFICER'S SHEET ANCHOR** 1819 with Richard H. Dana Jr's **THE SEAMAN'S FRIEND** 1841 and **NICHOLLS'S SEAMANSHIP** 1905, in addition to Rose-Taylor's notes.
