

# Seminário Permanente de História do Brasil

*"SHIP OWNING IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BRAZIL TRADE:  
COSTS, CARGOS AND PROFITS."*

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## Resumo/Abstract

Despite its unquestionable importance, merchant shipping is the least known aspect in early modern Portuguese economic history. Virtually nothing is known about the mechanics of merchant shipping: who were the owners, how were ships bought, sold and manned? What was the makeup of their cargos? What were the costs associated with buying and maintaining vessels along with labor costs for crews? How profitable was ship owing in light of its hazards and costs? This paper uses Portuguese and Brazilian manuscript sources to address these questions and to present a framework for further research.