

# Bill of Lading for 100 enslaved people for a slaving ship known as the Sa[nta] Clara bound from Kingston, Jamaica to Havana, Cuba in 1738. Gifted to the Lloyd's Collection in 1941.

## The Bill of Lading

This Bill of Lading, referred to here as a 'Bill Loading', is for a slaving ship known as the Sa[nta] Clara bound from Kingston, Jamaica to Havana, Cuba in 1738. It records the shipping of 100 enslaved people who are only described according to whether they were men, women, boys or girls and as being marked with an 'A' on their right shoulder.

The enslaved were branded to signify they were the property of the Royal British Asiento Company, and the bill of lading was made out to its 'account and risque'. The Royal British Asiento Company is believed to be the South Sea Company (this could also be a mis-translation from the Spanish) and the ship was captained by John Wyllys, or Willis. This represents an example of an intercolonial slave trade across the Americas, although there is no record of this voyage on the [Slave Voyages database](#)

The Bill of Lading records 'Merewether and Manning' as the slave traders who delivered the enslaved to the ship in Jamaica. [Edward Manning](#) (d.1756) and James (or possibly his father John d.1739) Merewether were the South Sea Company agents for Jamaica. The 100 enslaved people were to be delivered to Anthony

Welden, who was the South Sea Company's agent in Havana. South Sea Company employees, such as Edward Manning, played a key role in developing extensive transnational slave-trading networks. Manning's work, under the Asiento, saw him acquire a small fortune by the end of the 1730s, as well as the ownership of three Jamaican sugar estates. In his probate inventory 609 enslaved people were listed under his ownership.

### Provenance

The document was gifted in 1941 by J W Oliver, an associate of Lloyd's. The date of this item is unknown. The Bill of Lading is dated 6 March 1738 which indicates the time of the voyage. This document is a duplicate of the one received in Jamaica on 28 March 1738 and is dated 4 June 1739. There is a watermark of Britannia, on the handmade blue laid paper. Britannia was commonly used as a watermark and it has not been determined whether this record was created in Jamaica or London.

A bill of lading is a document that has developed in maritime trade over several hundred years. 'Lading' specifically refers to the loading of cargo aboard a ship.

### Lloyd's Collection

We have been exploring our archive to better understand our historical links to the transatlantic slave trade through a research collaboration with Black Beyond Data, from Johns Hopkins University, and independently funded by the Mellon Foundation.

The research will be published in November 2023 along with our plan of action to create a more inclusive and equitable future for Black and ethnically diverse individuals in our market and communities.

### Harmful content

You may encounter harmful content and language especially as we contextualise items in Lloyd's Collection which records enslaved people experiencing trauma and harm. We believe it is important to bring to the foreground the absent and hidden histories of enslavement. If you have any feedback or comments about the issues raised please email [archives@lloyds.com](mailto:archives@lloyds.com)