

Editing principles

In editing the customs books, keeping as close as possible to the original has been a priority. Since each volume usually consists of two separate books, certain concessions had to be made. In terms of the structure, the organisation of the main journal has been followed, but the sums of the customs duty on the bottom of the page that continue in the next page has been left out. The following editing principles have been observed:

1. The data contained in the additional journal, which does not reflect in the main journal, is presented in italics in the entry from the main journal, or in standard script in the footnote. For instance, the information of the value of the merchandise, its quality, type and quantity has been presented in italics. The list of goods, which in the main journal appear in the shortened form (e.g. *Noch an Krahm-Waren*), or when the value of several goods is combined, are presented as footnotes. In addition, footnotes contain the parameters of docked ships (type, name, draught, size, size of the crew, starting point, destination, duration, and, in some cases, also course of the voyage and the recipient); in later Journal volumes, ship's provisions and the equipment for the ship's maintenance are also mentioned.
2. Gothic and Latin fonts are not distinguished in the transcriptions.
3. In general, the orthography has not been changed; only the ligatures *æ* and *œ* are written separately (*ae* and *oe* accordingly), and in the case of *i* and *j*, the following pronunciation has been observed: before the vowel *j* and before the consonant *i*.
4. Interpunction has not been changed.
5. Abbreviations used in the customs books are shown in the list of abbreviations; in the case of Latin names for plants and substances, the case endings have been abbreviated and written out in brackets. In the case of Latin words ending in *us*, the figure 9 that has been used to designate the case ending has been written out without commentaries (*novus pro nov9*).
6. Since the capital and the lower-case letter are not always clearly distinguished, a lower-case letter has been assumed in such problematic situations.
7. Supplements/corrections in the additional journal made in different handwriting, or with different writing implements and materials have been presented in curly braces {}.
8. Square brackets [] have been used for publisher's remarks, for example: [?] indicates difficulties in deciphering the text; [!] stands for an unusual writing style or a difference of the text between the main and the additional journal; and [...] refers to an omission executed by the publisher. Ruined (unreadable) text has been supplemented on the basis of the additional journal and appears in the text in the brackets. In the event that there is no information about the weight of goods or an entry differs from the report of the weigher, the information of the weigher is given in brackets. Provided that certain parameters of a ship, as presented in the additional journal, are missing, or they differ from the data presented in the reports of the pier or pilot taxes, they are added to the text in brackets and originate from the mentioned report at the end of the main journal.
9. Round brackets () are used in footnotes when referring to the pages of the additional journal. The full archival reference of the additional journal is given in the first note of the footnote and it is not repeated.
10. Mathematical inaccuracies have been indicated in the footnotes.
11. Accidental word repetitions have been omitted.
12. Since in Pärnu's customs books no distinction has been made when using the *albertus taler* and the *state taler* currencies, they have accordingly not been identified in the

column of the goods' values. Only in the footnotes and entries added to the text of the main journal, the currency of the additional journal is conveyed (in the brackets, if instead of the currency a sign representing the repetition has been written originally).

13. In the case of time definition, such as *13. Sept vel ante* where we do not know when the ship arrived in Pärnu, the date is taken from the report of the goods that arrived with the ship. Similarly, as in *ante 1. Jun* where we again do not know when the ship arrived in Pärnu. The date is extrapolated from the report of the port official in the additional journal, or the ship departed at that day or the next ship arrived at that day.
14. Symbols used for pharmacy products have been expressed in symbols that are as close to the originals as possible. Since the meaning of these symbols is not often clear, one has to consider the speculative nature of the transcription.