[Review] Kaori Nagai, editor. *Maritime Animals: Ships, Species, Stories*. Animalibus of Animals and Cultures Series, General Editor Nigel Rothfels. University Park, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2023. 229 pp, ISBN 9780271095370.

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Two pigs stand stolidly onboard ship in an early twentieth century photograph on the cover of *Maritime Animals*. At liberty, they face separate ways and seem unfazed by their location next to a bollard, but no sustenance for them is evident and they can only be commodities, a living meat supply for the helmeted men out of focus in the background. *Maritime Animals* shows that for more-than-human animals there has never been any benefit to being transported in ships. Drafted into colonial projects they were rendered specimens, dead or living, 'livestock' for new colonial settlements, a means of transport like sled dogs. Horses were deployed as war machines or for breeding. Whales became maritime rather than marine animals through being hunted. The only nonhumans on board ships with any potential agency were rats, shipworms, and sponges on shipwrecks. Snails sneak in as unlikely mariners themselves.

As Nancy Cushing observes, writing an 'animal-sensitive history' (Sandra Swart's phrase 58) which conveys embodied animal experiences is undermined not only by our own human identities but the human origins of often scarce source material. Even when diaries are extant, like the shipboard diary of James White, who was tasked with transporting sheep from the Isle of Wight to Sydney, Australia in 1826, the sheep are regarded as commodities, mere 'imperial animals' (57) not sentient beings. As Cushing presciently suggests, this projection of 'passivity'

onto the travelling sheep, the lack of empathy for them, often seasick and diseased, living in damp, confined spaces, foreshadows current treatment of farmed animals and those in the live export industry.

Donna Landry's key question 'What can make maritime voyaging acceptable to horses?' (76) could be asked of all the larger species. Nothing is more contrary to their usual (ideal) environments than confinement deprived of movement, grazing, companionship, feelings of safety, plus the consequence of seasickness and the hazards of being loaded and unloaded. In her engaging essay Landry analyses horses as 'Weapons, Commodities, Subjects' in accounts of shipping horses to the Napoleonic and Crimean campaigns. Horses were being appreciated as subjects in the early nineteenth century, which makes these sources more fruitful to examine; the narratives of bringing characterful Arabians to England for breeding are especially revealing.

Anna Boswell, in 'Repatriating Castaways: Travel Tales of the Tuatara' deftly analyses an unpopular text by the unethical and rapacious Andreas Reischek in Aotearoa New Zealand from 1877-1889. Yet Boswell advocates a 'thinking with' (98) and an imagining of the reptiles' experience in a fine reading against the grain of Reischek's journal and in her foregrounding of the effects of colonialism on indigenous lives. The transporting of tuatara to Europe in huge numbers as a significant species scientifically in order to 'preserve' them, discounted the reptiles themselves as well as their embodiment of the sacred for Māori.

David Haworth and Lynette Russell in 'Islands, Oceans, Whaling Ships, and the Mutable Ontologies of the Galápagos Tortoise' have recourse to ships' logbooks as they imagine the ontology of tortoises trapped for months in dark holds before slaughtering. From the late eighteenth century, whaling vessels removed tortoises often in their hundreds at a time, taking many species to the brink of extinction and beyond. This essay has Galapagos tortoises as 'a palimpsest of island, ocean and maritime stories' (32) as well as inhabiting their own narratives.

Kaori Nagai, in her study of rats as 'seafarers', reads a 'Rattus-Homo-Machine' in nineteenth century literary texts by Joseph Conrad and Daniel Defoe. Some companionship existed between sailors and rats, before rats were known to transmit the plague via their fleas. Like many of the essayists in this collection, Nagai foregrounds the destruction of indigenous

wildlife by colonial endeavour. Rats have caused havoc in the more-than-human world: 'In ship rats, the European came to see their own shadow as the deadliest invasive species' (122) as Nagai graphically puts it.

In Lee Edgar's '"Beloved Member of Our Team": The Sled Dogs of the *St Roch*', the sentimental title-quotation occludes the suffering of these dogs in the remote Arctic in the first half of the twentieth century, deployed for police purposes in the Canadian Arctic and 'symbolic' of what the Canadian state promoted as a 'civilizing mission' (135). Although the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment learned from Inuit practice about dogsledding and training, they generally had little respect for either indigenous people or their dogs. In what Edgar rightly calls a 'cultural genocide' (150) of Inuit, their sled dogs were massacred between the 1950s and the 1970s.

Jimmy Packham and Laurence Publicover consider 'the epistemological questions posed by raising creatures from watery depths' (156), cogently analysing nineteenth century writing by Charles Darwin, Herman Melville and seafarer Edward Beck. In 'The Decontextualized Deep: Fathoming the Whale' they foreground these writers' problems in perceiving whales whole. Darwin's writing on whales reveals only 'distorted forms of encounter' (161) but all human perceptions of whales can only be partial and limited given our inability to understand them in the depths they inhabit.

Killian Quigley brings home an unexpected consequence of not taking nature-culture and fauna into account. Only by taking seriously the invertebrate ecologies which cover protect submarine shipwrecks can these wrecks be protected. In Quigley's essay on 'The Encrusting Ocean: Life-Forms of the Spongy Wreck' he suggests a theorizing of 'encrusted poetics' (180) as he argues for the imperative to '[r]ead[] spongy stories' (185) extending maritime narratives into unexpected realms.

If spongy forms have some agency, perhaps shipworms (actually marine molluscs) have the most. Like Packham and Publicover, Derek Lee Nelson and Adam Sundberg suggest a way to make animal histories more significant in the history of seafaring as 'shipboard life' (39)

remains unexamined by maritime historians and marine environment historians. 'Shipworms and Maritime Ecology in the Age of Sail' argues for ships as 'ecosystems' with shipworms crossing the apparent boundaries between ship and ocean (39).

As the essays in this collection bring to light new narratives, Thom van Dooren's delightful 'Drifting with Snails: Stories from Hawai'i' is a fitting final essay. Snails are unlikely maritime animals but van Dooren asks us to imagine forest snails on an uprooted tree sailing to Hawai'i. Snails' apparent 'passivity' is an evolutionary achievement, he suggests. With stories a small hedge in the face of extinction, maritime animal stories have a 'disruptive scope' (211).

The essays in *Maritime Animals* certainly disrupt any theorising of maritime history as exclusively human; they challenge binary thinking in critical perspectives, which fix rigid boundaries between human and more-than-human animals, between nature and culture, between ship and ocean. Ecological urgency permeates the collection in repeated instances of the undermining and destruction of species who were rendered maritime passengers, mostly unwillingly. But the newly salvaged narratives of the more than human animals collected in *Maritime Animals* will persist.