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# **British Apothecaries and the Atlantic Slave Trade 1650-1833**

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# Outline



- Supplying the slave ships with medicines;
- Supplying the forts and settlements on the African coast with medicines;
- Supplying the plantations in America and the Caribbean where they worked;
- Going out to work on the plantations;
- A few became plantation owners; and
- Bringing about the abolition of the slave trade.

# Sir John Hawkins 1532 – 1595



# Sugar plantation Barbados

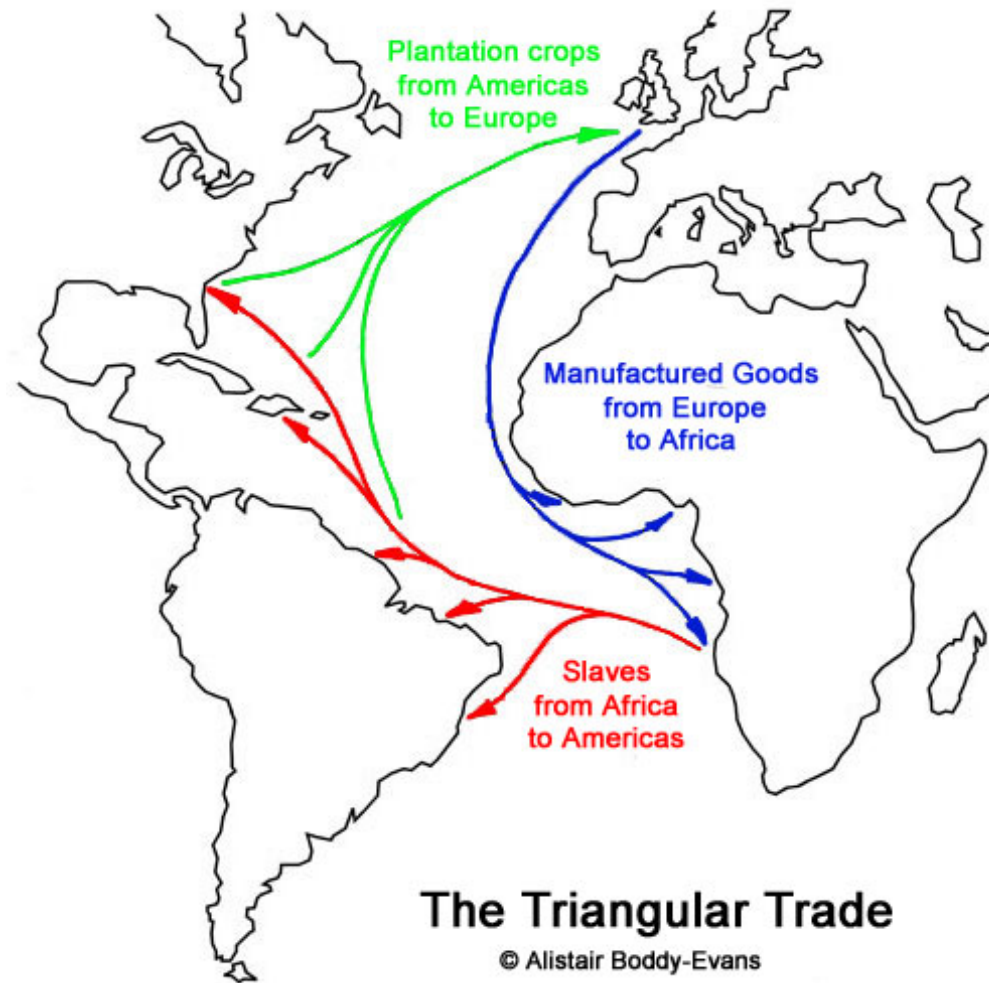


# King Charles II 1660 - 1685





## The triangular trade

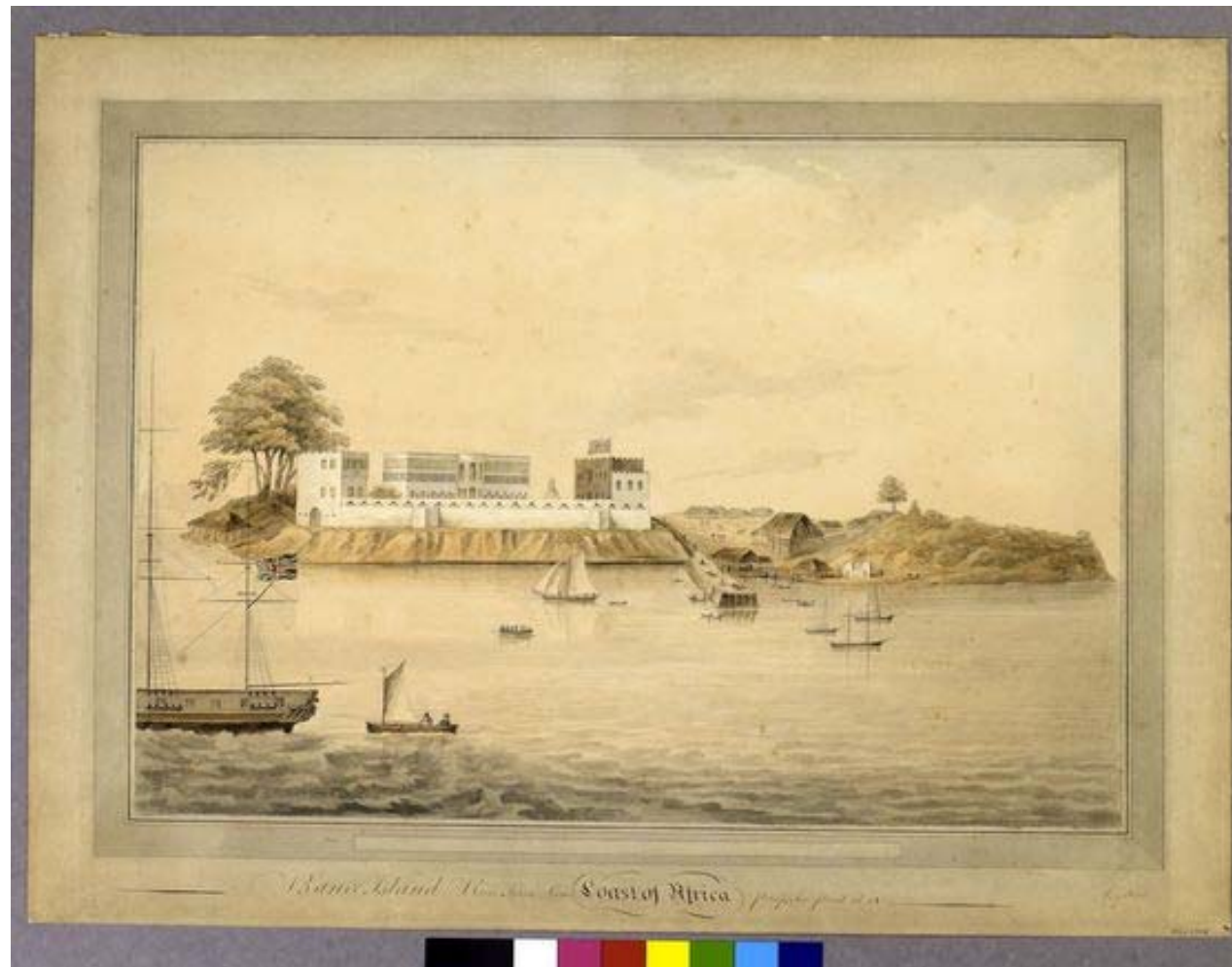


# Ship's travelling medicine chest



# Bance Island. River Sierra Leone, Coast of Africa 1805 (RAC)

(National Maritime Museum)





# West Indies Fleet 1702



# William Cookworthy 1705-1780



# Apothecaries' Hall Yard



# Shipping Sugar 1823

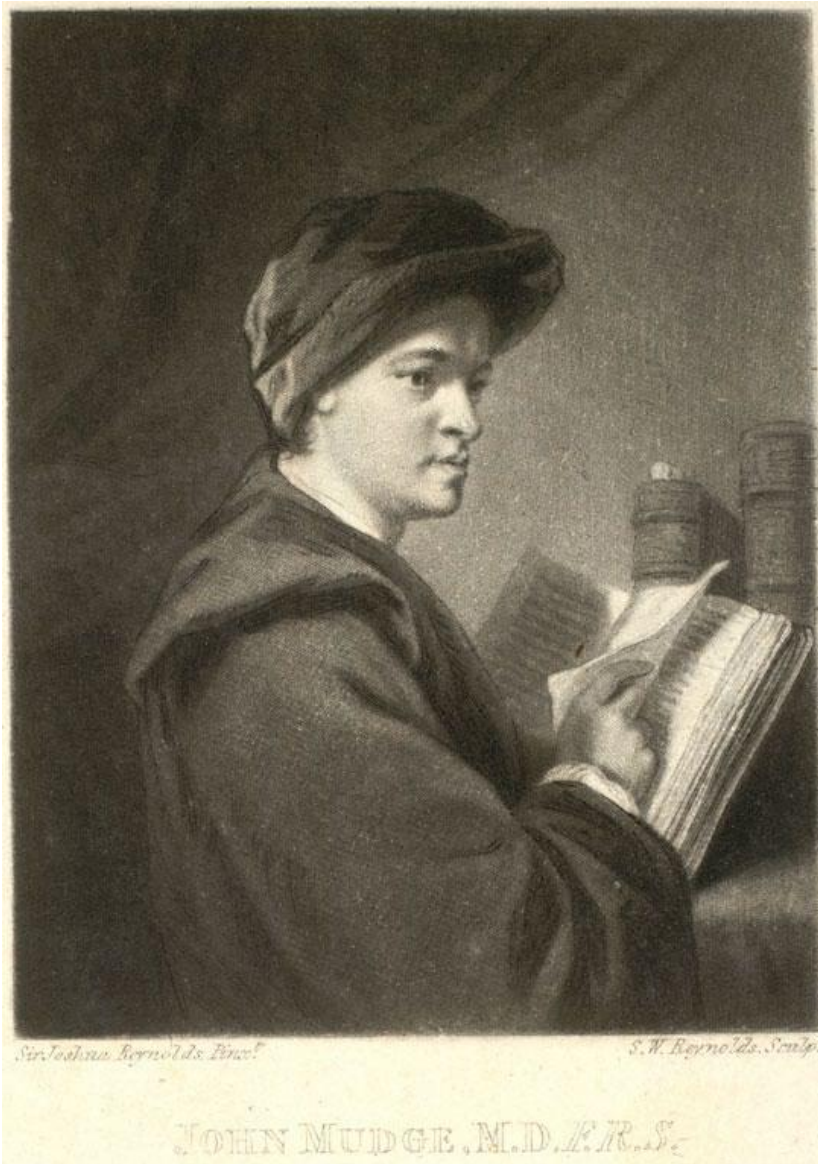
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London



Richard Smith, Engraver, Proprietor, 25, Chancery Lane, London.  
SHIPPING SUGAR.



# John Mudge (1721-1793) physician



# Plough Court pharmacy, London



THE OLD PLOUGH COURT PHARMACY

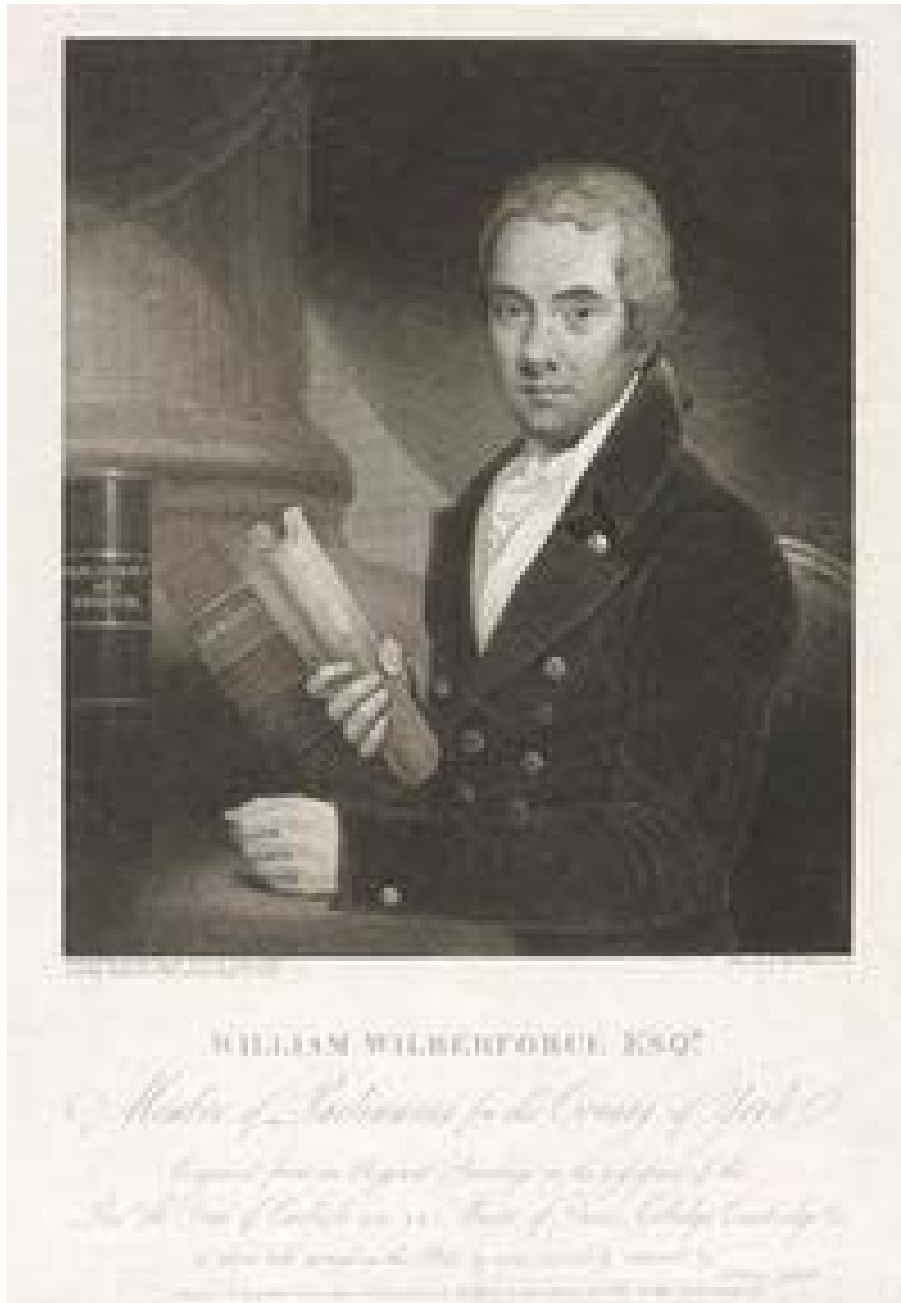


**Thomas  
Clarkson  
1760-1846**  
(National Maritime  
Museum, London)



# William Wilberforce 1759-1833,

by James Heath  
(National Maritime  
Museum, London)





# Abolition of Slavery in Jamaica

(Repro ID: F0750 © National Maritime Museum)



ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN JAMAICA.

PROCESSION of the BAPTIST CHURCH and CONGREGATION in SPANISH TOWN under the pastoral care of THE REV. J. B. PHILLIPS with about 3000 children of their  
School and some hundreds of the Garrisonians on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1834, when they were received by the Governor the Honorable SIR ALFRED SMITH who after addressing them read to them the  
DECLARATION of FREEDOM which the happy occasion of our late date 1834 presents the majority of whom had previously attended Brown Maning, and who independently returned to their respective homes  
gratified and happy. The Governor, The Rev. J. B. Phillips and the Bishop are seen standing in front of the Palace thus representing the happy Union of God's Religion being on this joyful occasion.

334 1742

# Conclusions



- Apothecaries were heavily involved in the slave trade
- They supplied medicines to slave ships, forts and the navy
- Some apothecaries owned plantations
- Some went to work on plantations but later returned to practice in Britain
- Key apothecaries later played crucial roles in the abolition of slavery

# Contact



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# Slave trafficking 1711

S. Hutchinson (National Maritime Museum)



# Shipping Slaves off the Pitons, St Lucia 1771

(National Maritime Museum, London)



The capture of slaves by an African slaver in Africa 1860 (Wellcome Library)



Views of Forts and Castles along the Gold Coast, West Africa  
© National Maritime Museum

