

BOX 9.2 IDENTIFYING PIRATES IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

Pirates, especially those of the “golden age of piracy” in the Caribbean and the Americas – from about 1650 to 1750 – have been firmly embedded in popular culture. With advances in underwater archaeology in recent decades, these pirates and their material have become an area of interest for historic archaeologists, especially those focusing on doing archaeology underwater.

Some archaeological research concentrates on pirate lairs, but mostly the archaeology of pirates focuses on the identification, documentation, and interpretation of the wrecks of their vessels and the remains found onboard. One of the most obvious things that has resulted from the archaeology of pirates is the knowledge that identifying people, ships, and cargo as being associated with