This User Guide provides a summary of the following types of records held here:

- Shipbuilding
- Marine Engineering
- Ships Outfitting
- Ship Repairing
- Ship Registration
- Professional and Employers Association

Please check all sections as a number of companies were involved in more than one activity.

Information about navigation and maritime trade records, may be found in User Guide 6.

Please note it is not normally possible to produce unlisted collections for consultation in the Search Room. A microfilm reader should be booked in advance in order to view documents which have been microfilmed.

1. Shipbuilding


Refs 31, 130, 450, 1027, 1990, 3935 (unlisted), D. VA, DF.A, DS.VA, PA1777 (Barrow rough list including gun mountings)


Andrew Boult, Gateshead: deeds, 1832 Ref DT.SC/33-34

S P Austin and Son Ltd, Sunderland: ship contracts, 1904-1906, annual reports 1900-1954, prospectuses, 1899-1901 Refs 621, 2296 (unlisted)

Austin and Pickersgill, Sunderland: safety and welfare committee minutes, 1962-1985; press cuttings, 19th-20th centuries; general arrangement plans for SD14/SD14 Mark IV, SD15, SD18 bulk carrier B26, B35 and barges; yard nos 847-912, 1377-1430, selected ships plans, nd, board minutes, 1925-957, directors cash books, 1951-1955 Refs 1708 (unlisted), 2141, 2376 (unlisted), 2521, 2296 (unlisted), 3544 (unlisted)

William Barkley, shipbuilder, Sunderland: business letters, 1864-1869 etc Ref DX1196


British Shipbuilders: slides, films, trade literature, c1980 Ref 2544 (unlisted)

D F and A Black: photographs of ships, c1905; personal papers of D F Black, 1872-1915, invitations to ship launches; Armstrong Mitchell/Armstrong Whitworth, Hawthorne Leslie, Palmers, Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson, 1885-1914 Ref 696


Clelands Shipbuilding Co Ltd, Willington Quay: photographs, plans etc, c1935f; register of members and transfers, 1872-1891, registers of members and transfers, 1872-1891 Refs 2534 (unlisted), DS.CLE [1615], DX888/5

William Dobson and Co Wincomblee, Walker: photographs and papers, 1890-1978 Ref DS.DB

William Doxford and Sons Ltd, Sunderland: Board of directors minutes, 1891-1966; general meeting minutes, 1891-1937; share ledgers and registers of members, 1900-1936; private ledgers, 1891-1969; balance sheets, 1864-1956; ships specifications, 1944-1965; ships particulars books, 1871-1942; general arrangement plans, c1907-1965; ships plans nos 400-789 (1909-1952); register of turret-deck type vessels, 1892-c1904; photographs, 1875-1969 etc, slides, 1968-1985 Refs 898, 1338, 1581, 1722, 1811, 1882, 3544 (unlisted)


G W and W J Hall, Sunderland: papers, 1858-1912 Ref 1581


Andrew Leslie: wages books, 1855-1857; journal, 1864-1865; estimates books, 1862-1876; ship plans - Calais-Douvres ferry Ref DS.LES

Lumsdon, Edward and Roger, Monkwearmouth Shore: commission in bankruptcy, 1830 Ref 753

T Mitchison Ltd, Friars Goose slipway, Gateshead, shipbuilders, repairers and engineers: photographs, 1957-1958 Ref DX1014

North East Shipbuilders Ltd: Personnel records, c1920-1989; inventories of plant and equipment yard layouts, 1971-1990; plans of type SD14 and engineroom arrangements of ship nos 1407-1431 (incomplete) Refs 2487, 2509, 2642, 2744, 2755 (all unlisted)

company; prints of vessel John Bowes Refs 1211, 1357, 1479, 1645, 1810, 1969, T10, DX10


Correspondence, of Lord Stuart Rendel: partner, director and international emissary for naval ordnance, Armstrong Whitworth: concerning Chinese gunboats, 1874-1879; armaments for the warship Italia, 1877-1882; Canadian steamship scheme, 1904; Argentine Dock Scheme, 1909; shipbuilding policies in Canada, 1910-1912; submarines, 1912; orders from Argentina, 1876-1879, 1883; orders from Greece, Turkey and Egypt, 1877-1880; orders from the admiralty, 1877-1881; orders from Brazil, Portugal and Russia, 1877-1882, 1896-1912; orders from Belgium and France, 1878; orders from Sweden and Norway, 1878-1880; orders from the Australian colonies, 1878-1881, etc (Access requires depositors' consent) Ref 31

Charles Rennoldson & Co, South Shields: photograph of the yard, 1914 Ref DX1073/1

J Rennoldson, South Shields: subscription by workmen to Newcastle Infirmary, nd Ref HO.RVI


R Stephenson and Co Ltd, Hebburn: specification of steamer, 1907, deeds and court papers, 1837-1887 Ref 1810

Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Ltd, Wallsend: minutes, 1903-1950; ships particulars books, 1873-1902; Neptune Yard ships particulars books, 1860-1966; Neptune Yard ship plans, c1860f; salaries book, 1875-1890; Swan Hunter News, 1974-85, annual accounts, wage books, ships contracts, ships specifications, ships plans, photographs, material relating specifically to the "Mauretania" yard plans, tender books, press cuttings - nineteenth and twentieth centuries (The collection also includes records of Wallsend and Neptune Yards, Redheads and Hawthorn Leslie) Refs 964, 1266, 1304, 1727 (unlisted), 1826, 1836, 1989, 2029, 2046, 2263, 2335 (unlisted), 2931 (unlisted), 4055 (unlisted), DS.SWH, DX888


Robert Thompson, Sunderland: list of ships built, 1855-1933; facsimile will of Robert Thompson, 1910; day book of ironwork for Thompson’s ships, 1874-1877 Refs DS.RT, 1508, DX1075

Tyne Iron Shipbuilding Co: lithograph of shipyards, St Peters, Newcastle, c1865 Ref DT.SC/389


Records of their employee W Clouston: notebooks, 1876-1888; repair schedules, 1885-1888 Ref DX32

2. Marine Engineering

George Clark Ltd, Southwick Engine Works: directors report and accounts, 1937; private cash books, 1895-1910; index to contracts, 1883-1907; plans, 1896-1927; photographs, 1887-1960 Refs 1811/284, 1993

Clarke Chapman Marine: directors’ minutes, 1893-1948; general meeting minutes, 1893-1948, AGM papers 1899-1967; memoranda and articles of association, 1893-1975;


Emerson Walker Ltd (formerly Emerson Walker and Thompson Brothers Ltd) engineers and forge masters, Dunston: directors and general meeting minutes, 1884-1936; annual report and balance sheet, 1957; share certificates, 1936-1964; orders, 1904-1909; photographs, 1964 Ref DS.CC5


North Eastern Marine Engineering Co Ltd, Wallsend and Sunderland: memorandum and articles of association, 1865; minutes, 1865-1924; shareholders registers, 1912-1924; engine plans, c1880s etc Refs 1304, 1361, 1993

Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Co Ltd, Wallsend: plans of the steam yacht Turbinia, 1893-1904; data sheets, 1905f; HMS Viper, photograph, 1903 Refs 927, 1321, 1361, 2321


Shields Engineering and Dry Dock Company Ltd: memorandum and articles of association, 1899 Ref DX815/1


Sunderland Forge & Engineering Co Ltd: memorandum and articles of association, 1954-1959 Ref 1811/275

Sunderland Magnetic Ltd: memorandum and articles of association, 1962 Ref 1811/272

Sunderland Shipbuilding Co Ltd, South Dock: sale particulars, 1926 Ref DX22

Wear Winch & Foundry Co Ltd: memorandum and articles of association, 1956 Ref 1811/273


3. Ships Outfitting


R and W Hutchinson, Sunderland: ship outfit book, 1846 Ref 712

Linkleter's Patent Ships Fitting Co, North Shields: registers of directors and annual reports, 1934-1948; ledgers, 1913-1952; journals, 1917-1942; profit and loss accounts, 1907-1934; stock sheets, 1924-1940; photographs, 1900-1940 etc, wages book, 1934-1939; patents, 1884-1924; board of trade certificate, 1910-1930 Ref 694

J W MacDonald (1866-1942) & J MacGregor (1883-1967), papers re hatch covers etc Ref DX10


George Parker, Sunderland: letter book, 1891-1929 Ref 713

Isaac Taylor, Newcastle: printed advertisement, c1834 Ref 116

4. Ship repairing


Law Brothers, marine plumbers, South Shields: day book, 1958-1965 etc. Registration certificates, 1899-1928 Ref 247


see also section 1

5. Ship Registration

The shipping registers date from 1786 and were originally held by HM Customs and Excise. The registers prior to 1824 include basic information such as number, name, port and date after which they give details of tonnage and rigging, together with hull, stern, galley and figurehead dimensions. A separate series of transaction books dates from 1855 and indicates sales, mortgages, shares etc.

Port of:-

Newcastle upon Tyne (includes entries for the whole river to 1848): registers, 1786-1989; transaction books, 1855-1931; transfer book 1874-1989; appropriation book 1900-1994Ref 2870 (unlisted), 4290 (unlisted), EX.NC (part microfilm)


South Shields: registers, 1859-1986; transaction books, 1869-1900; ship registration files, 1860-1961Ref 4290 (unlisted), EX.SS (part microfilm)


6. Professional and Employers' Association

Associated Shipwrights Society: minutes and financial reports, 1885 Ref DX32

Association of Employers of Shipbuilding and Engineering Labour on the Tyne: minutes, 1873-1891 Ref EM.EN4

Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen: Monthly News (Newcastle area), 1951-56, papers, 1920-1951, notes, 1936 Ref ASX1

Border Counties Engineering Employers Association: minutes, 1899-1924, 1946-1964; circular letters, 1920-70 Ref EM.EN2
Committee of North East Shipbuilders' Employers' Associations: minutes, 1900-1918 etc Ref 895

North East Coast Engineering Trades Employers Association: minutes, 1915-17, 1935-70; circular letters, 1890-1970; booklets, handbooks, reports, 1872-1922; working rules, 1915-24 Ref EM.EN1

North East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders: council minutes, 1884-1990; general meetings minutes, 1885-1992; finance committee minutes, 1885-1991; financial records, 1884-1982; lists of members, 1886-1968; registers of membership applications, 1914-1976; honorary fellows register, 1904-1984; records of Summer Meetings and Institution Dinners, 1910-1988; photographs of presidents and members, 1901-1992; transactions volumes, 1885-1966; invention application files, 1940-1948; measured mile posts records, 1885-1981; photograph and postcard albums of battleships and passenger vessels, early 20th century; etc Ref AS.IES

North East Coast Ship Repairers' Association: minutes, 1903-1977; correspondence, 1889-1976; schedule rate for steamers and sailing vessels, 1911-1961 etc Ref 978

Newcastle Shipwrights Union Society: articles, 1853 Ref 373

Shipbuilders Employers Federation: minutes, 1899-1903 Ref EM.SH1

Shipconstructors' and Shipwrights' Association, Tyne and Blyth area: working rules, bye-laws and agreements, 1936 Ref 1737

Tyne Shipbuilders' Association: minutes, 1892-1965; letter books, 1930-1944 etc. Local agreements with trade unions, association cash book Refs 895, 978, EM.WS

Tyne and Wear Shipbuilders' Association: Boilermakers' wage standing committee minutes, 1895-1919 etc Ref 895

Tyne, Wear, Tees and Hartlepool Shipbuilders' Associations: Joint meetings minutes, 1885-1922 Ref 895

Tyneside Shipwrights, Joiners and Employers Demarcation of Work Standing Committee: Board decisions, 1894-1930 Ref 1810

Wear Shipbuilders' Association: minutes, 1853-1970 etc committee minutes, 1918-1943; wages committee minutes, ledger, 1919-1931; cash book, 1919-1939; Tyne, Wear and Tees Shipbuilders Association joint meetings minutes, 1892-1911 Ref EM.WS

Tees and Hartlepool Shipbuilders' Associations: Joint meetings minutes, 1906-1911; employers' and representatives of shipwrights joint meetings minutes, 1909-1911; standing committee and reference board, shipwrights', joiners' and employers' minutes, 1895-1914 etc Ref 895
The Incorporated Company of Sailmakers

The Department also holds records for the Company of Sailmakers of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1662-1859 and the Company of Shipwrights of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1613-1945
Ref GU.SL and GU.SH

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