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MOSS HUTCHISON LINE

**Reference Code: B/MHL
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**Listed by Sarmistha Mukherjee, LUCAS Student
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MARITIME ARCHIVES & LIBRARY**MOSS HUTCHISON LINE****Introduction**

The company was founded in 1815 by Mr. James Moss, a Liverpool ship chandler, who wanted to charter a sailing vessel to trade in the Mediterranean ports. In 1823, he was joined in partnership by Mr. Thomas Hampson, and the company became known as Moss & Hampson. After its dissolution in 1833, it continued its business under the name of James Moss & Co., with Messrs. William Moss and Richard Spencer as the new partners. The new firm continued to run sailing ships from Liverpool to the Mediterranean ports until c.1849, when the *Nile* and *Orontes* steamers were built by Messrs. Dennys of Dumbarton. This eventually led to a working arrangement between the two companies; continuing to launch steamships into the Mediterranean. In 1873, after the Companies Limited Liability Act, the Moss Steamship Co., Ltd., was registered at the Customs House, Liverpool, with James Moss & Co. being Managers for the limited company.

In 1916, both the Moss Steamship Co., Ltd. and Messrs. James Moss & Co. were taken over by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Ltd., with the second-names becoming a private limited company. However, both companies suffered the economic depression at the end of the First World War, as well as the Royal Mail financial crash. This then led to the formation of James Moss & Co. (Moss Line) Ltd. It was in 1934 that this firm amalgamated with J. & P. Hutchison Ltd. (as the former held the shares of the latter), and established a new company, registered as Moss Hutchison Line Ltd. on the 5 April 1934. At the end of 1935 the General Steam Navigation Co. purchased the company, which traded mainly to France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, the Mediterranean and Black Sea ports. Upon the collapse of the Royal Mail Group in 1935 the company was purchased by P. & O. and became a subsidiary company.

The collection includes minutes and annual reports of the company. It also contains books regarding launches and cargo holdings from the Mediterranean, as well as general information on voyages and landings. The collection comprises thirty items, dated from 1833-1979. It is of interest to those researching shipping companies and their voyages.

These records were part of the P. & O. company archive at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London. In 2007, they were transferred to the Maritime Archives & Library, National Museums Liverpool.

The collection is accessible to any reader within the Maritime Archives & Library Searchroom.

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Title of Deposit: MOSS HUTCHISON LINE

Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/1/1 - 2	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>1934 - 1972</u>
1	Memorandum and Articles of Association (with amendments 1946, 1955, 1958 and 1969).	1934 - 1969
2/1 - 3	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>1941 - 1972</u>
1	Directors' Minute Book.	1941 - 1964
2	Folder containing Minutes of Board Meetings and supporting papers.	1964 - 1966
3	Folder containing Minutes of Board Meetings and supporting papers.	1966 - 1972

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/2/1 - 2	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>1934 - 1941</u>
1	Accounts and correspondence with Mr. McAllister re payment of Directors' fees, and the purchase of Moss Hutchison Line Ltd.	1934 - 1941
2	Memorandum to the General Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., by Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co. (with schedules).	1935

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/3/1 - 3	<u>FINANCE</u>	<u>1916 - 1972</u>
1/1 - 6	<u>Annual Reports and Accounts</u>	<u>1916 - 1970</u>
1	Annual Reports and Accounts: James Moss & Co., Ltd.	1916 - 1928
2	Annual Reports and Accounts: James Moss & Co., Ltd., Bordeaux.	1920
3	Annual Reports and Accounts: James Moss & Co. (Moss Line) Ltd.	1929 - 1932
4	Annual Reports and Accounts: Moss Hutchison Line Ltd.	1934 - 1939
5	Annual Reports and Accounts: Moss Hutchison Line Ltd.	1940 - 1960
6	Annual Reports and Accounts: Moss Hutchison Line Ltd.	1961 - 1970
2	Folder containing Annual Returns - company accounts.	1941 - 1964
3	Voyage Accounts.	1965 - 1972

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/4/1 - 5	<u>OPERATIONAL</u>	<u>1911 - 1971</u>
1	James Taylor's reminiscences as an employee of James Moss & Co., 1855-1911.	1911
2/1 - 3	<u>General Information - Notebooks</u>	<u>1935 - 1970</u>
1	Notebook re exported cargo from Africa and the Middle East.	1935 - 1949
2	Notebook re exported cargo from the Middle East.	1935 - 1962
3	Notebook containing information about lands visited in different voyages.	1953 - 1970
3	Annual comparisons re cargo carrying outwards [1 roll].	1958 - 1971
4/1 - 2	<u>Voyage Information - Mediterranean Voyages</u> Records departure and arrival dates and time for ship voyages. No index.	<u>1965 - 1976</u>
1	Mediterranean service.	1965 - 1968
2	Mediterranean service.	1968 - 1971
3	Mediterranean service (cover loose).	1971 - 1975
4	Mediterranean service	1971 - 1976
5/1-4	<u>Voyage Information - Peninsular Voyages</u> Records departure and arrival dates and time for ship voyages. No index.	<u>1967 - 1978</u>
1	Peninsular service.	1967 - 1970
2	Peninsular and French service.	1970 - 1974
3	Peninsular service.	1974 - 1978
4	Peninsular service.	1978

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/5/1-2	<u>FLEET</u>	<u>1950s</u>
1	Fleet Data Book.	1950s
2	'Hutchison's, French & Peninsula Steam Packet Company: a preliminary chronology & fleet list, 1859 - 1950', believed to have been compiled by Mr John Cook(e).	n.d.

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/6/1	<u>PUBLICITY</u>	<u>1971 - 1972</u>
1	Correspondence and publicity re the launch of ships <i>Melita</i> and <i>Makaria</i> .	1971 - 1972

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MHL/7/1 - 3	<u>HISTORY</u>	<u>1833 - 1979</u>
1	Letter announcing the formation of James Moss & Company and providing samples of the signatures of the firm's partners, James Moss, William Miles Moss and Richard Spencer	15 July 1833
2	Correspondence, Asia Minor Steam Ship Co., Ltd. with James Moss & Co. in 1911 [copies] and covering correspondence with Captain Harris in 1978.	(1911) - 1978
3	Articles re the history of Moss Hutchison Line.	1969 - 1979