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**MARITIME ARCHIVES & LIBRARY**

**MANCHESTER LINERS LTD., RECORDS**

**Reference Code: B/MAN  
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**Listed by  
Sarah Starkey, Curator of Maritime Archives  
10 October 2003**

## **MARITIME ARCHIVES & LIBRARY**

### **MANCHESTER LINERS LTD., RECORDS**

#### **Introduction**

In 1897 the Manchester business community decided to form their own shipping company to increase the amount of trade reaching the city through the recently opened Manchester Ship Canal. Manchester Lines Ltd. was founded in 1898 with Sir Christopher Furness of Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd., being appointed the first Chairman. Other interested parties included the Manchester Ship Canal Co. and Salford Town Council. The company was independent from Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd., but the two had close connections, for example, using the same agents at various destinations and selling vessels between the companies as business needs dictated. In 1970 Manchester Liners Ltd. formally became a subsidiary of Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd. The last ship to bear the Manchester Liners Ltd. name, was the *Manchester Challenge* in 1989, as part of the Combined Container Services Group.

The collection consists of 29 volumes, including: minute books, 1898-1974; registers of directors, 1901-1980; various financial records including indexed ledgers, 1918-1960; summary of annual accounts, 1920-1957 and salary cash books, 1899-1955. The collection was donated by Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd., in October 2001.

The records have been catalogued according to the general arrangement scheme for business records used by the Maritime Archives & Library. The collection is accessible to any reader within the Maritime Archives & Library Searchroom, Merseyside Maritime Museum.

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**Contents**

Reference	Title	Extent	Dates
<b>B/MAN/1/</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>14 Volumes</b>	<b>1898 - 1980</b>
	1 Minute Books (Indexed)		1898 - 1975
	2 Registers of Directors		1901 - 1980
	3 Register of Seals		1973 - 1980
	4 Newspaper Cuttings		1903 - 1961
	5 Scrap Agenda Book		1933 - 1965
<b>B/MAN/2/</b>	<b>INVESTMENT</b>	<b>2 Volumes</b>	<b>1898 - 1980</b>
	1 Shareholders Minute Book		1898 - 1921
	2 Register of Directors Share and Debenture Interests		1967 - 1980
<b>B/MAN/3/</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>6 Volumes</b>	<b>1918 - 1979</b>
	1 Annual Accounts		1920 - 1957
	2 Various Accounts		1918 - 1960
	3 Register of Mortgages		1968 - 1979
	4 Freight Book		1932 - 1939
	5 Steamer Depreciation		1924 - 1931
<b>B/MAN/4/</b>	<b>STAFF AND WAGES</b>	<b>5 Volumes</b>	<b>1899 - 1961</b>
	1 Salary Cash Books		1899 - 1961
<b>B/MAN/5/</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>2 Volumes</b>	<b>1925 - 1983</b>
	1 Visitors Book		1970 - 1983
	2 Committee Proceedings		1925
<b>B/MAN/6/</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>		<b>c.1970s</b>
	1 Photographs of Vessels and Containers		

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/1/1 - 5	<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>	<b><u>1898 - 1980</u></b>
1/1 - 5	<u>Minute Books [Indexed]</u>	<u>1898 - 1975</u>
1	Minute Book.	5 May 1898 - 6 Jul 1911
2	Minute Book.	6 Jul 1911 - 18 Jan 1929
3	Minute Book.	18 Jan 1929 - 17 Oct 1939
4	Minute Book.	17 Oct 1939 - 6 Nov 1958
5	Chairman's Minute Book.	29 Sept 1961 - 11 June 1975
2/1 - 3	<u>Registers of Directors</u>	<u>1901 - 1980</u>
1	Register of Directors or Managers. [only 1 page used]	9 Jan 1901
2	Register of Directors or Managers.	10 Dec 1929 - 4 Dec 1947
3	Register of Directors and Secretaries.	2 Oct 1947 - 8 Dec 1980
3/1	<u>Register of Seals</u>	<u>1973 - 1980</u>
1	Register of Seals.	Apr 1973 - 29 Feb 1980
4/1 - 4	<u>Newspaper Cuttings</u>	<u>1903 - 1961</u>
	Volumes include copies of some incoming letters and press releases issued by the company.	
1	Newspaper Cuttings. [indexed]	29 Dec 1903 - 12 Mar 1913
2	Newspaper Cuttings.	2 Dec 1932 - 25 Nov 1944

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/1/1 - 5	<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b> (cont)	<b><u>1898 - 1980</u></b>
4/1 - 4	<u>Newspaper Cuttings</u> (cont)	<u>1903 - 1961</u>
3	Newspaper Cuttings.	2 Aug 1934 - 31 Mar 1954
4	Newspaper Cuttings.	10 Sept 1954 - 21 Oct 1961
5/1	<u>Scrap Agenda Book</u>	<u>1933 - 1965</u>
1	Scrap Agenda Book.	12 Sept 1933 - 15 Mar 1965

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/2/1 - 2	<b><u>INVESTMENT</u></b>	<b><u>1898 - 1980</u></b>
1	Shareholders Minute Book.	26 Aug 1898 - 12 Dec 1921
2	Register of Directors Share and Debenture interests, with inserted letters at the rear. [indexed]	27 Oct 1967 - 14 Aug 1980

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/3/1 - 5	<b><u>FINANCE</u></b>	<b><u>1918 - 1979</u></b>
1/1	<u>Annual Accounts</u>	<u>1920 - 1957</u>
1	Accounts Folio 31.	1 Jan 1920 - 30 June 1957
2/1 - 2	<u>Various Accounts</u>	<u>1918 - 1960</u>
1	Ledger. [indexed]	Mar 1918 - 1951
2	Ledger. [indexed]	Jul 1952 - Jul 1960
3/1	<u>Ledger of Mortgages</u>	<u>1968 - 1979</u>
1	Register of Mortgages.	24 Oct 1968 - Dec 1979
4/1	<u>Freight Book</u>	<u>1932 - 1939</u>
	Listing vessels, sailings, freight carried, profit, loss, etc.	
1	Freight Book.	4 Apr 1932 - 31 Mar 1939
5/1	<u>Steamer Depreciation</u>	<u>1924 - 1931</u>
	Includes vessels built in the 1890s.	
1	Steamer Depreciation Book.	30 June 1924 - 31 Mar 1931

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/4/1	<b><u>STAFF AND WAGES</u></b>	<b><u>1899 - 1961</u></b>
1/1 - 5	<u>Salary Cash Books</u>	<u>1899 - 1961</u>
1	Cash Book.	Jan 1899 - June 1910
2	Cash Book.	Jul 1910 - Sept 1921
3	Cash Book.	Oct 1921 - Dec 1934
4	Cash Book, includes Superannuation, National Insurance and Income Tax payments.	Jan 1937 - May 1961
5	Cash Book, with inserted letters.	Dec 1954 - Apr 1955



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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/5/1 - 2	<b><u>MISCELLANEOUS</u></b>	<b><u>1925 - 1983</u></b>
1	Visitors Book.	8 Jan 1970 - 17 June 1983
2	Committee Proceedings, Parliamentary Session, 1925: "Special Committee appointed to consider the resolution to give the Government of Canada control over certain ocean rates".	1925

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Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/MAN/6/1	<b><u>PHOTOGRAPHS</u></b>	<b><u>c.1970s</u></b>
1	Black and white photographs of Manchester Liners Ltd's container vessels, containers, etc.; includes images showing the transportation of their containers in Turkey, Cyprus, Malta and Canada. [37 items]	c.1970s