

MARITIME ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

INFORMATION SHEET NO. 32

SHIP PLANS COLLECTIONS

Collection Overview

The Maritime Archives & Library's ship plan collection contains original architect's drawings from some of the major names in British merchant shipping history. The Brocklebank Archive represents one of the earliest and finest collections of liner and sail plans of merchant ships, starting with the *Nestor*, 1792, through to the *Everest*, 1863.

The Ocean Archive contains a large selection of general arrangement and capacity plans of 20th century vessels for companies such as the Blue Funnel Line, Elder Dempster and the Glen Line.

The Cunard Archives comprises a wide selection of general arrangement plans drawn by Cunard's Naval Architect's Department in Liverpool. Most classes of vessels are included with the majority of the collections dating c.1890, but including many of the early transatlantic liners such as the *Calabria*, 1857, and the *Cephalonia*, 1882. Also included are accommodation plans, construction plans and fittings for the *Queen Mary*, 1936, *Queen Elizabeth*, 1936, and *Mauretania*, 1938.

The Cunard Collection also contains a large number of White Star Line plans, including over one hundred construction plans of the *Olympic*, 1912, along with a *Titanic*, 1912, lifeboat arrangement and midship section. Plans of Anchor Line and White Star Line vessels taken over in the merger of 1934 are also present.

The Maritime Archives & Library also holds a large miscellaneous plan collection that covers many of the other major Liverpool shipping companies, including Lamport and Holt, Harrison Line and P.S.N.C. Foreign companies represented include Hamburg-America Line, Holland-America Line and Italian Line. The collection also includes plans of smaller craft such as Mersey flats, Lancashire nobbies and other examples of local fishing craft.

Conservation Survey

The Cunard Ships Plan Collection is currently the subject of a conservation survey in order to ascertain the overall condition of the plans and drawings and to identify any plans deemed too fragile to be reproduced. The plans come in many different formats, materials and sizes, with varying levels of ageing, decay and fragility. Many of the plans are in a fragile condition and cannot be reproduced.

In addition many of the original builders plans are large scale drawings and their sheer size can prevent hard copy reproduction. In some cases, where a plan has been classified as fragile, researchers may be allowed to use their own photographic equipment to capture an image or set of images provided that the photographic process does not put undue strain or stress on the original item

Personal Research Visits

Maritime Archives & Library is open to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays, 10.30am – 4.30pm (closed 12.30 -1.30pm). To view material from some of the ship plans, maps and charts collections it is advisable that an appointment is made by telephone (0151 478 4424), giving as much notice as possible to ensure that a curator is available.

Enquiries

Requests for reproduction plans for specific vessels should be addressed in writing to Maritime Archives & Library, Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AQ. Please provide as much information as possible regarding the vessel's date of build and name. It is also useful to tell us what you need the plans for, as a model maker, for example, needs a different set of plans to a Marine Archaeologist.

How to Order

A reply listing the plans available for reproduction, together with a copyright declaration and order form will be sent within 20 working days. The customer should return the copyright declaration and order form listing the plans wanted, along with the remittance. The plans will be dispatched within 28 working days from the receipt of the order forms. **Plans can only be sent out after receipt of a signed copyright declaration form and payment.**

Reproduction of any plan is dependent upon the size and condition of the original. Plans are normally supplied at the same scale as the original, but can be reduced if requested. The standard reproduction rate is £12.00 per plan, plus a charge for postage, packing, research and handling. Some larger plans and any plans intended for commercial purposes may incur additional charges.

Each reproduced plan: £12.00

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Non EU Europe: £20.00

USA / Canada and the rest of the World: £22.00

Payment should be made in pounds sterling, with cheques payable to National Museums Liverpool

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