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BLUE STAR LINE

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**Listed by
John Winrow, Assistant Curator
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BLUE STAR LINE

Introduction

The Blue Star Line was founded by the Vestey family to carry their chilled beef from Argentina and other South American countries, where they had large cattle ranches and freezer works. The company was formally registered on 28 July 1911 and the first ships were registered with Lloyd's Register of Shipping between 1912-1913.

By the First World War it had 12 vessels, all their names starting with "Brod". It was not until 1920 that the familiar "Star" began to appear, the first being the *Albion Star*.

By 1939 the fleet numbered 39 and totalled over 380,000 tons, and in 1944, the company became the majority shareholder in Lamport & Holt but suffered heavy wartime losses of 29 ships and 646 Blue Star personnel, including 11 captains, 47 navigating and 88 engineering officers.

The company continued trading successfully during the post-war years, with operations as far a field as Australia, New Zealand, West and East Coasts of the USA, South America and Central America, the latter on the banana trade.

In 1998 the company was bought by P & O Nedlloyd.

The collection consists of 10 volumes including Appointment Records for Deck Officers, a detailed fleet list, wages books, company rules and regulations, and engineering notebooks. Copies of the company's staff magazine *Gangway* are held in the library journal collection.

The collection was acquired from Captain T.H.L. Jones in 2005 and is accessible to any reader within the Maritime Archives & Library Searchroom, Merseyside Maritime Museum, subject to restrictions under the Data Protection Act (1998).

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Title of Deposit: **BLUE STAR LINE**

Item No.	Description	Date(s)
B/BLU/1/1 - 4	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>1949 - 1981</u>
1/1 - 6	<u>Staff Records</u>	<u>1949 - 1975</u>
1	Staff and Wages - staff current as at 1975. [Restricted Access under the Data Protection Act (1998) until 2050.]	1949 - 1975
2	Staff Left Employ, A to F. [Restricted Access under the Data Protection Act (1998) until 2050.]	1949 - 1975
3	Staff Left Employ, G to O. [Restricted Access under the Data Protection Act (1998) until 2050.]	1949 - 1975
4	Staff Left Employ, P to Z. [Restricted Access under the Data Protection Act (1998) until 2050.]	1949 - 1975
5	Deck Officers Service Records. [Restricted Access under the Data Protection Act (1998) until 2050.]	1960 - 1975
6	Wages Book, N to Z. [Restricted Access under the Data Protection Act (1998) until 2050.]	1970 - 1975
2	Blue Star Management Ltd., Rules and Regulations Notebook; includes staff duties, regulations and engineering maintenance instructions.	n.d.
3	Engineers Notebooks; contains ships data, engine and other technical details. [3 vols.]	1955 - 1981
4	Fleet List Card Index.	n.d.