

NATIONAL MUSEUMS **LIVERPOOL**

MARITIME ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

BOOTH STEAMSHIP COMPANY

Reference Code: B/BOOTH

**Listed by
Gordon Read and Ken Garner**

**Relisted by
David Govier, Curator of Maritime Archives
March 2006**

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BOOTH STEAMSHIP COMPANY

Introduction

After a business apprenticeship with Lamport and Holt and then as a leather merchant, Alfred Booth, with his brother Charles, started a two-ship steam service from Liverpool to north Brazil and the Amazon in 1866. In 1881 it became a limited company with a substantial Holt (Ocean) shareholding; and by 1903 it dominated the Amazon trade after taking over the Red Cross Line and the Liverpool and Maranharn Steam Ship Co. Its cruises up the Amazon were a popular feature. Their fleet was reduced to four ships through enemy action during the Second World War and in 1946 it was taken over by the Vestey Group. It continued to run to north Brazil with chartered tonnage until 1989.

The Merseyside Maritime Museum holds four models of its ships including the *Lanfranc* of 1884 and some paintings of the Line's Amazon cruises. Although parts of the collection were deposited in 1990, the bulk arrived in 1991 from Lamport & Holt Ltd.

The reference number of the much larger Booth Steamship Co.'s collection at Liverpool Record Office is 387.BOO. Various smaller deposits (DX) in the Maritime Archives & Library relate to the Booth Line: these include publicity, passenger ephemera and business records. The Maritime Archives & Library also holds the records of Lamport & Holt Ltd., reference B/LAH, and Booth Line passenger and staff ephemera and photographs, reference D/CAN.

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Ref. Code	Description	Date(s)
B/BOOTH/1/1 - 2	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>1901 - 1959</u>
1/1 - 44	<u>Reports and Accounts</u>	<u>1901 - 1942</u>
1	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Dec 1901
2	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1903
3	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1904
4	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1905
5	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1906
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12	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1913
13	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1914
14	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1915
15	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1916
16	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1917
17	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1918
18	Report and Accounts for period ending [2 copies]	31 Mar 1919
19	Report and Accounts for period ending [2 copies]	31 Mar 1920
20	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1921

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Ref. Code	Description	Date(s)
B/BOOTH/1/1 - 2	<u>ADMINISTRATION (cont)</u>	<u>1901 - 1959</u>
1/1 - 44	<u>Reports and Accounts (cont)</u>	<u>1901 - 1942</u>
21	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1922
22	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1923
23	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1924
24	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1925
25	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1926
26	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1927
27	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1928
28	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1929
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Ref. Code	Description	Date(s)
B/BOOTH/1/1 - 2	<u>ADMINISTRATION (cont)</u>	<u>1901 - 1959</u>
1/1 - 44	<u>Reports and Accounts (cont)</u>	<u>1901 - 1942</u>
41	Report and Accounts for period ending	31 Mar 1942
42	Report and Accounts for Manaos Harbour Ltd., for period ending	30 June 1905
43	Report and Accounts for R. & J. Evans & Co., Ltd., for period ending	31 Dec 1934
44	Report and Accounts for Alfred Booth & Co., for period ending; includes Investment Schedules, 1938	31 Dec 1938
2/1 - 4	<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>1946 - 1959</u>
1	Copy of a letter from the General Manager to the Registrar of Shipping at the Port of Liverpool, cancelling W.J. Moynihan's authorisation to make and sign all Declarations of Ownership on behalf of the company following his resignation.	30 Jan 1946
2	Letter from the Registrar of Shipping to the Secretary of Lamport & Holt Line, confirming the change of name for the vessel <i>Benedict</i> to <i>Bronte</i> .	11 June 1948
3	Copy of a letter sent to the daily newspapers and to the <i>Journal of Commerce</i> re the renaming of the <i>Bronte</i> .	16 June 1948
4	Counter indemnity by Lamport & Holt to Lloyd's Bank re purchase tax and duty on surplus stores by various vessels proceeding from Liverpool, for £10,000. [fragile]	23 Nov 1959

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Ref. Code	Description	Date(s)
B/BOOTH/2/1 - 4	<u>LEGAL</u>	<u>1882 - 1969</u>
1/1 - 9	<u>Cunard Buildings</u>	<u>1916 - 1969</u>
	For all leases in this section the parties are Cunard Steamship Co., Ltd., and Booth Steamship Co., Ltd.	
1	Specification of work to be done, Cunard Steamship Co., Ltd., to Booth Steamship Co., Ltd., site being Cunard Buildings.	3 Jul 1916
2	Lease for 21 years.	3 Jul 1916
3	Lease for 18 years.	23 Jul 1919
4	Lease for 5 years. Lease for 5 years.	21 Sept 1937 16 Sept 1942
5	Lease for 5 years. Lease altered, in order to reduce rental in proportion to loss of area by James Booth.	13 Oct 1947 18 June 1952
6	Lease for 7 years.	29 Sept 1954
7	Lease for 7 years.	29 Aug 1961
8	Certificate of Safety for the premises, with covering letter.	24 Oct 1969
9	Rough plans for the 2 nd Floor of the Cunard Buildings. [9 sheets]	c.1937 - c.1957
2/1 - 2	<u>Royal Liver Building</u>	<u>1940 - 1951</u>
1	Licence from Inland Revenue to Lamport & Holt Line to deal in stamped Bills of Lading at Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, and at branch offices in London, Manchester and Bradford.	6 May 1940
2	Lease (including plan and enclosed correspondence) for 21 years between Alfred Byrne, Frederick Hales and William Matthias Newham (Trustees of the Royal Liver Friendly Society) and Lamport & Holt Line for office space on ground, first and second floors of the Royal Liver Building, Pier Head, Liverpool.	21 May 1951

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B/BOOTH/2/1 - 4	<u>LEGAL (cont)</u>	<u>1882 - 1969</u>
3/1 - 4	<u>Credit Certificates</u>	<u>1940 - 1941</u>
	Issued under the Government Tonnage Scheme by the Ministry of Shipping.	
1	The loss of the <i>Polycarp</i> - £15,500 credited.	5 June 1940
2	The loss of SS <i>Grishin</i> - £39,000 credited.	4 Feb 1941
3	The loss of the <i>Dunstan</i> - £18,900 credited.	6 Apr 1941
4	The loss of the <i>Crispin</i> - £52,500 credited.	5 Jul 1941
4/1 - 2	<u>Agreements</u>	<u>1882 - 1945</u>
1	Agreement and rules for the regulation of the sheds at the east side of Brunswick Dock; the berths by steamers belonging to Messrs. R. Singlehurst & Co., Booth Steamship and the Liverpool and Maranharn Steam Ship. [fragile; Xerox copy enclosed]	10 May 1882
2	Memoranda of Agreement and cancellation of the purchase of SS <i>Empire Franklin</i> by Lamport & Holt from the Government.	24 Feb 1943 - 22 Jan 1945

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Ref. Code	Description	Date(s)
B/BOOTH/3/1	<u>OPERATIONAL</u>	<u>1909 - 1960</u>
1	Booth Steamship volume entitled <i>Analyses of Voyages</i> , enclosing loose, yearly voyage summaries.	1909 - 1960

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Ref. Code	Description	Date(s)
B/BOOTH/4/1 - 3	<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	<u>1910 - 1973</u>
1	Volume entitled <i>An Amazon Andes Tour</i> , by Margaret and George M. Booth, published by Edward Arnold for private circulation, 1 st Edition.	1910
2	Pamphlet entitled <i>1000 Miles up the Amazon</i> , advertising a Booth Line Amazon Cruise on the RMS <i>Hildebrand</i> . [fragile]	n.d.
3	Volume entitled <i>World Atlas of Shipping</i> , edited by W.O. Ewart and H. Fullard, published by George Philip, London, 2 nd Edition.	1973