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WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD.

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October 2008

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WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD.

INTRODUCTION

In the 1940s, the Thames Stevedoring Co., Ltd. moved to Merseyside and was based at S.W. Alexandra Dock. It merged with the Booth Steamship Co. (the first of several mergers) in its early stages. By 1962, the company was known as the West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd., and had premises in Union House, Victoria Street, Liverpool. In 1965 there began a series of mergers with South End and Central Stevedoring, with West Coast acting as senior member of the merger. In 1966 the company merged with the Canadian Pacific Co., again as a senior partner, and moved to Bootle. Finally, the company merged with Cunard Stevedoring in April 1968.

The late 1960s were peak trading years for West Coast Stevedoring. During this period the company handled an average of 541 vessels per annum. This figure declined gradually until 1982 when only 114 ships passed through the company's hands. The company closed on 31 December 1982.

The collection includes financial records, some general information re staff and working conditions, photographs, operational records including sample complete sets of documents relating to incoming and outgoing cargos. Within the collection are some records of the Master Porters and Master Stevedores' Association, 1902-1963.

The collection was deposited with the Maritime Archives & Library in 1983 by a director of the company.

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

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WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD.

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
B/WC/1 - 11	<u>WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD.</u>	<u>1902 - 1982</u>
1/1 - 2	<u>Administration</u>	<u>1976 - 1982</u>
1	Letter from Blue Star Port Lines, signed by M.S. Lake re port productivity study.	18 May 1976
2	Memorandum from R.C. Hunnisett to all staff re inadvisability of industrial action due to the economic situation.	20 Aug 1982

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2/1 - 6	<u>Finance</u>	<u>1902 - 1982</u>
1	Master Porters and Master Stevedores Association Ledger, Cash Book and Balance Sheets, plus income and expenditure accounts.	1902 - 1933
2	Master Porters and Master Stevedores Association Hon. Treasurer's Cash Book.	1934 - 1963
3	West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd. (W.C.S.) Cash Book re payments.	1950 - 1964
4	Journal re expenses and accounts.	1966 - 1976
5	Mersey Docks & Harbour Board (MDHB) deposit account ledger.	Jan 1970 - Dec 1971
6	Log Book re financial dealings of the West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd., with other firms, i.e. Securicor, Esso. Payment record book.	1982

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B/WC/1 - 11	<u>WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD. (cont)</u>	<u>1902 - 1982</u>
3/1 - 22	<u>Operational</u>	<u>1937 - 1982</u>
1	Black & White Photographs re palletisation. [36 items]	n.d., c.1960
2	Various Black & White Photographs; includes ship loading and steam engine. [38 items]	c.1960
3	Ms. Book of loading rates.	1961
4	Log Books re berthing of ship, its name, operation, tonnage, remarks.	
	(a)	1961 - 1962
	(b)	1962 - 1964
	(c)	Feb 1964 - Dec 1964
	(d)	1965
	(e)	1965 - 1966
	(f)	1966
	(g)	1966 - 1967
	(h)	June 1967 - Dec 1967
	(i)	Jan 1968 - June 1968
	(j)	Oct 1982 - Nov 1982
5	Log Book re loading of a vessel, name, tonnage	
	(a) 1 Volume. [damaged]	1971 - 1977
	(b) S7 Volume, berth.	1976 - 1982
	(c) Volume Alexandra Branch Dock.	1977 - 1982
	(d) 1 Volume.	1976 - 1977
	(e) 1 Volume.	1982
6	Log Book re loading and discharging.	1972 - 1982
7	Log Book re discharging of a vessel, name, tonnage. [1 volume]	1976 - 1982
8	Log Book for Gladstone Dock.	Jan 1978
9	Log Book re berth cleaning and routine maintenance.	
	(a) S7 Seaforth Dock. [1 volume]	1978 - 1981
	(b) N3 Gladstone Dock. [1 volume]	1978 - 1981

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3/1 - 22	<u>Operational (cont)</u>	<u>1937 - 1982</u>
10	Duplicate Book re ship, cargo, tonnage.	7 Nov 1978
11	Log Book re berth records, Seaforth 2 Dock.	Mar 1978
12	Book re containers on quay: when received, when delivered.	n.d., c.1980
13	Log Book re arrival and commodities carried by the ship.	1982
14	Log Book re weights and discharge rates: tables; includes sheets re cost to ship-owner of gangs working overtime. [7 sheets]	n.d., ?1970
15 - 19	<u>Booklets</u>	<u>1937 - 1976</u>
15	By Port of Liverpool Employers Association of Port of Liverpool	
	(a) Deep sea trades, working rules.	Nov 1960, Jul 1964
	(b) Overtime working by day gangs.	Jul 1964
	(c) Coastwise trades, bonus payments, port working rules.	Jul 1966
	(d) Revision of hours of work and rates of pay of registered dock workers.	Oct 1971
16	Mersey Docks & Harbour Board re Master Porters. [2 volumes]	1937 - 1966
17	Mersey Docks & Harbour Board re rates and dues on goods.	Dec 1969
18	Mersey Docks & Harbour Board re charges on vessels. [2 copies]	1 Jan 1972
19	Cargo handling re code of practice.	May 1976
20 - 22	<u>Folders</u>	<u>1979</u>
20	Outline of Portage invoicing system; includes:	
	(a) Regulations and Rates applying to cranes; authorised hours for custom work.	n.d.
	(b) Instructions to checkers on import and export operations. [2 copies]	n.d.
	(c) Report on Master Portage documentation.	n.d.

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3/1 - 22	<u>Operational</u> (cont)	<u>1937 - 1982</u>
20 - 22	<u>Folders</u> (cont)	<u>1979</u>
21	Of Stevedoring system.	1979
22	Of Master Porterage system.	1979

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B/WC/1 - 11	<u>WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD. (cont)</u>	<u>1902 - 1982</u>
4/1 - 13	<u>Staff and Wages</u>	<u>1967 - 1982</u>
1	Booklet re principal provisions of agreement governing working hours, rates of pay, and conditions applicable to registered dock workers.	Sept 1967
2	Piecework rules for loading of cargo into deep-sea vessels at Liverpool and Birkenhead.	Mar 1968
3	Sheets re Coastwise trades bonus payments, from the Dock Labour Joint Committee. [2 copies]	1968
4	Booklet re the procedure agreement of clerical, technical and supervisory staff.	1971
5	Trading conditions of Liverpool Master Porters' and Master Stevedores Association re handling of goods on quays and in craft, following discharge from vessels having arrived from foreign ports. [6 booklets]	1974, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981
6	Instructions to checkers on import and export operations.	1975
7	Holiday Book.	1977 - 1979
8	Sickness Book.	1978 - 1979
9	Book re quay bosses.	1978 - 1982
10	Bonus tariffs and flat rate allowances applicable to registered dock workers employed on deep-sea general cargo operations.	Apr 1979
11	Pad of crane drivers' time sheets, mostly filled in, some blank.	c.1980
12	Time-keepers call on book.	1981
13	Duplicate book re notes to wages department.	1981 - 1982

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5/1 - 3	<u>Advertising Material</u>	<u>c.1964 - c.1977</u>
1	Booklet: advertisement for <i>Cunard Service to New York</i> .	c.1964
2	Booklet: <i>Advertising West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd.</i> [2 copies]	c.1975
3	Booklet: advertisement for <i>Starman Shipping Ltd.</i> (heavy lift operators), owned jointly by Blue Star Line, and Sloman Neptun Schiffahrts AG, Bremen, West Germany; includes a black and white leaflet and Starman advertisement leaflet.	c.1977

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B/WC/1 - 11	<u>WEST COAST STEVEDORING CO., LTD. (cont)</u>	<u>1902 - 1982</u>
6/1 - 4	<u>Newspaper Articles, Cuttings and Journals</u>	<u>c.1980 - 1982</u>
1	Photocopy of newscutting re reallocation of West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd. men.	c.1980
2	<i>Port News</i> , Special: (a) Special issue. [2 copies] (b) Special issue, No. 7. (c) Issue No. (?)1. (d) Issue No. 2. (e) Issue No. 3. (f) Issue No. 4.	Feb 1981 Aug 1981 Feb 1981 Apr 1981 May 1981 June 1981
3	<i>Port News</i> , Bulletin, No. 3.	Jan 1982
4	<i>Port News</i> : (a) Vol. 4, No. 1. (b) Vol. 4, No. 2. (c) Vol. 4, No. 3. (d) Vol. 4, No. 4. (e) Vol. 4, No. 5. (f) Vol. 4, No. 7. (g) Vol. 4, No. 10.	Jan 1982 Feb 1982 Mar 1982 Apr 1982 May 1982 Jul 1982 Nov 1982

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7/1 - 12	<u>Books in the Technical Library</u>	<u>1930 - 1982</u>
1	<i>Stowage - the Properties and Stowage of Cargoes</i> , by Captain R.E. Thomas.	1930
2	<i>Dangerous Goods</i> , by Dr. Jules Aeby.	1938
3	<i>The Merchant and Ship's Masters Ready Calculator and Complete Pocket Assistant</i> , by J. Goodfellow.	n.d., (?)c.1940
4	<i>The New Ship-masters Business Companion</i> , by Captain W.C. Aubrey-Rees.	1941
5	<i>Shaw's Wire Ropes</i> , by John Shaw Ltd.	n.d., c.1950
6	<i>Stowage - the Properties and Stowage of Cargoes</i> , by Captain R.E. Thomas. [revised and enlarged edition]	1952
7	<i>Code of Safe Practice for Bulk Cargoes</i> .	1965
8	<i>Code of portable tanks and road tank vehicles for the carriage of liquid dangerous goods in ships</i> , by the Department of Trade.	1977
9	<i>Standard terms and conditions for handling general cargo</i> , by the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company.	June 1978
10	Pamphlet: <i>Instructions for handling export vehicles in U.K. ports or container bases</i> , by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd.	Apr 1980
11	Booklet: <i>Recommendations for safe slinging</i> , by the National Association of Port Employees, General Council of British Shipping.	June 1980
12	Booklet: <i>Handling of goods on quays and in craft following discharge from vessels having arrived from foreign ports</i> .	17 May 1982

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8/1 - 11	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>1912 - 1982</u>
1	Rubber Stamps for the West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd.	n.d.
2	West Coast Stevedoring Co., Ltd. Seal, with red wax.	n.d.
3	Rate of Wages from 1912 to the present day for Shipmen and Porters.	1912 - 1982
4	A Dockers' Dictionary - list of "slang" vocabulary.	n.d., c.1950
5	Map: "Liverpool - focal point of world shipping", produced by the Mersey Docks & Harbour Board.	c.1950
6	Explanatory notes on certain extra charges, i.e. made to shipowner and agent.	1967
7	Sheets re memo of arrangements agreed between the British Railway Board and the Liverpool Steamship Owners Association.	c.1970
8	Photocopy of Lloyd's List, Special Report re Merseyside.	27 Apr 1981
9	List of commodity categories.	1982
10	Terms and Conditions of Work (overtime and relief, etc.).	1982
11	English/Spanish translation sheet of certain common commodities.	n.d.

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9/1 - 37	<u>Sample Operational Records</u>	<u>1979 - 1982</u>
1 - 10	<u>Brazil</u>	<u>1979 - 1982</u>
1	Inward Documents.	1979
2 - 3	Inward Documents.	1980
4	Inward Documents.	1981
5 - 6	Inward Documents.	1982
7	Outward Documents.	1979
8	Outward Documents.	1980
9	Outward Documents.	1981
10	Outward Documents.	1982
11 - 27	<u>River Plate</u>	<u>1979 - 1982</u>
11 - 13	Inward Documents.	1979
14 - 15	Inward Documents.	1980
16 - 17	Inward Documents.	1981
18 - 20	Inward Documents.	1982
21 - 22	Outward Documents.	1979
23 - 24	Outward Documents.	1980
25 - 26	Outward Documents.	1981
27	Outward Documents.	1982
28	<u>Ethiopia</u> : Outward Documents.	1980
29	<u>Far East</u> : Inward Documents.	1982
30	<u>Far East</u> : Outward Documents.	1982

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9/1 - 37	<u>Sample Operational Records</u> (cont)	<u>1979 - 1982</u>
31	<u>Iran</u> : Outward Documents.	1980
32	<u>Pakistan</u> : Inward Documents.	1979
33	<u>Pakistan</u> : Outward Documents.	1979
34	<u>South Africa</u> : Outward Documents.	1981
35	<u>Sudan</u> : Inward Documents.	1979
36	<u>Sudan</u> : Outward Documents.	1979
37	<u>West Indies</u> : Inward Documents.	1979

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10/1 - 3	<u>Sample Ships' Files</u>	<u>1979 - 1980</u>
1 - 2	The Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay, India, <i>Jalpankhi</i> , Job No. 2032.	Mar 1979 - Apr 1979
3	Lamport & Holt Line Ltd., Liverpool, <i>Sudelimar II</i> , Job No. 3174.	Nov 1980

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11/1 - 6	<u>Supplementary Items</u>	<u>1966 - 1982</u>
1	Import / Export Tonnages.	1966 - 1982
2	Newspaper cuttings from the <i>Liverpool Echo</i> , of articles written by Derek Whale.	1977
3	Loading Book.	1976 - 1977
4	Imports Book.	1982
5	Twilight Shift Book.	n.d., c.1977
6	Dock Labour Joint Committee, Deep Sea Trades: bonus payments and piecework conditions, port working rules. [2 editions]	May 1966 - 17 June 1968

