

Infosheet No. 43 *Mercantile Navy List*

The *Mercantile Navy List* was first published by the Board of Trade in 1857. The publication's content is similar to that of *Lloyd's Register of Ships*. However, where the *Lloyd's Register of Ships* lists all vessels over 100 gross tons, which are self-propelled and sea-going, regardless of their country of registration, the *Mercantile Navy List* records all **British** registered vessels over one quarter of a ton, including coastal vessels and pleasure craft.

The *Mercantile Navy List* shows vessels' official numbers as assigned by the Registry of Shipping and Seamen. This annual publication can also be a source for information on masters and mates, as well as serving as a source of reference for tracing the ships that individual merchant seamen served on.

Between 1875 and 1904 a list of vessels removed from the British

register whilst the current issue was going to press was published giving brief reasons why, for example if they were wrecked or broken up. Separate monthly returns, listing vessels added or removed were also printed. The National Archives (see below) has bound volumes of these for the period 1875 to 1890 and the Guildhall Library (see below) has them for 1890 to 1946. These are particularly useful for vessels not actually lost, but hulked, laid up or condemned as unseaworthy.

Copies of the *Mercantile Navy List* are held by the institutions listed in the following table. This is not an exhaustive list and we are always grateful to receive news of archives holding the *Mercantile Navy List* so that we can add them to our information sheet. Alterations and additions should be emailed to: hinfo@lr.org.

Researchers should check availability, accessibility and opening times with the repositories listed before making a personal visit.

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	Contact details	Collection
Cornwall	The Bartlett Library National Maritime Museum Cornwall Discovery Quay Falmouth Cornwall TR11 3QY T: +44 (0)1326 214579	1855; 1857; 1858; 1859; 1861; 1864; 1866; 1867; 1870; 1872; 1874: 1875 to 1917; 1919 to 1940; 1947; 1949-1951; 1953; 1955; 1957; 1958; 1960; 1964; 1965; 1970; 1972 & 1973
Cumbria	The Beacon West Strand Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 7LY T +44 (0)1946 592 302 E thebeacon@copelandbc.gov.uk www.thebeacon-whitehaven.co.uk	Please contact the institution for details of their holdings
Glasgow	Mitchell Library City Library North Street Glasgow G3 7DW T +44 (0)141 287 2999 F +44 (0)141 287 2815 E archives@csglasgow.org www.mitchelllibrary.org	1857, 1862, 1878, 1881-1884, 1886, 1889, 1891-1892, 1895-1896, 1898-1909, 1911-1922, 1930-1969, 1971-1976.
Kent	The World Ships Society PO Box 706 Gravesend Kent DA12 5UB www.worldshipsociety.org	Extensive collection. Members only.

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London	<p>Lloyd's Register Foundation Heritage & Education Centre 71 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 4BS T +44 (0)20 7423 2457 F +44 (0)20 7423 2039 E info@lr.org www.lrfoundation.org.uk</p>	1882, 1911, 1919-20, 1928, 1932-40, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1961, 1963, 1969, 1974-76.
	<p>Caird Library National Maritime Museum Park Row Greenwich London SE10 9NF T +44 (0)20 8858 4422 F +44 (0)20 8312 6632 library@nmm.ac.uk www.nmm.ac.uk</p>	1857-1869, 1871-1872, 1875, 1877-1879, 1881-1883, 1885-1889, 1891, 1894-1897, 1899-1966, 1968-1975, 1979 to date.
	<p>Guildhall Library Aldermanbury London EC2P 2EJ T +44 (0)20 7332 1850 www.cityoflondon.gov.uk</p>	1857-1976, 1979-1983.
Portsmouth	<p>Admiralty Library PP 20, Main Road HM Naval Base Portsmouth PO1 3LU T +44 (0)23 9272 5297 http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org/research_library.htm</p>	1857-1862, 1865, 1876, 1883, 1885, 1894-1895, 1897, 1899-1913, 1916-1924, 1926-1935, 1937-1939, 1947-1957.
Surrey	<p>The National Archives Ruskin Avenue Kew Surrey TW9 4DU T +44 (0)20 8876 3444 www.pro.gov.uk</p>	1857, 1859-1864, 1866-1868, 1870, 1872-1875, 1879, 1881, 1884, 1889, 1894, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1913, 1925, 1933, 1949.
Wales	<p>Gwynedd Archives Service – Dolgellau Archifdy Meirionnydd Archives Cae Penarlag Dolgellau Gwynedd LL40 2YB T +44 (0)1341 424 682 F +44 (0)1341 424 683 E archives.dolgellau@gwynedd.gov.uk www.gwynedd.gov.uk/archives</p>	1896 to 1917.