

## **Baltic Exchange**

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THE BALTIC MERCANTILE &  
SHIPPING EXCHANGE LIMITED  
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LONDON, E.C.3A 8BU.

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THE RECORDS OF THE BALTIC MERCANTILE AND SHIPPING EXCHANGE LTD.

INTRODUCTION

The Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange has its origins in the use, by merchants and ships' captains, of seventeenth century London's taverns and coffee-houses as business premises. These activities became concentrated in a number of establishments, among them the Virginia and Maryland coffee house, the proprietors of which provided newspapers and commercial information as well as refreshments. The Virginia and Maryland later changed its name to the Virginia and Baltic (these being the major sources of the merchandise traded in), and then simply to the Baltic. In 1823, to control the important tallow trade with Russia and the Baltic countries, a committee drew up the rules and regulations of the 'Baltic Club', with a limited membership of 300. This regularisation of procedures increased its pre-eminence in its particular sphere.

In 1857 the Baltic Club purchased South Sea House, but the continued expansion of the Exchange's business (with the freeing of the grain trade after the repeal of the Corn Laws, and the general expansion of world trade) led to its increasing inadequacy as a meeting place for London's merchants and shipowners. In addition, the London Shipping Exchange was founded in 1891 to meet the needs of liner shipping, a function which overlapped that of the Baltic. It was decided to merge the two institutions, and to construct new premises to house the enlarged organisation. In 1900 the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange Ltd. (B.M.S.E. Ltd.) was established, and in 1903 the opening of the new exchange on St. Mary Axe signalled the demise of the eighty year old 'Baltic Committee'. The Baltic Exchange now includes air chartering among its activities and has

over 700 corporate and 2,500 individual members.

The Baltic Exchange holds an extensive collection of records, a selection of which is listed here. Those items not listed include numerous modern financial, personnel and general administrative records, papers relating to charities and appeals administered by the Exchange (c.1930 - date), records of staff societies (c.1960 - date), and members' dispute and complaint files (c.1920 - date). Other records which are of interest but which are not listed in detail are noted at the end of each section. The documents can be located in the records room by the use of the shelf location map.

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1/1		<u>Coffee-house and other early records.</u>
1/1/1	1799-1809	Volume entitled 'The Jerusalem Register of Shipping'; Lists arrival of vessels and passengers carried. Other information, probably supplied by the ships' captains, includes departures of vessels from foreign ports, reported dispositions of French warships and losses of cargo ships.
1/2	1757-1833	Lists of ships in the service of the East India Co.; includes the vessel's tonnage, managing owner, commander, date of sailing, destination, and numbers of crew and guns. Also lists of directors of the Company.
1/3	1733-1828	Letter book of the Society of East India Commanders, mostly of letters to the directors of the Company. Also includes resolutions of the Society, and statements of its affairs and of sums payable to members, and: n.d., c.1825 Rates of pay for officers in the East India Co. 1826 Freight rates charged by the Company.
1/4	1813-1829	Volume (signed 'Horatio Hardy, Jerusalem Coffee House') containing lists of sailings from England, including the names of the ships' captains, and dates of arrival at destination and return to the home port.
1/5	1823-1832	Rules and regulations and visitors' book of the Baltic Coffee House.
1/6	1807-1809	Log of a return voyage by the vessel <u>Walmer Castle</u> from London to Penang, including a list of the ship's company and passengers.
1/7	1776	'Great Britain's coasting pilot, being a survey of the sea-coast of England and Scotland from the river of Thames westward and northward', compiled by Capt. Greenville Collins, His Majesty's hydrographer (printed volume).
1/8	1838	Robson's London Directory (printed volume).

1/2	<u>Minute and agenda books.</u>					
1/2/1	1857-1872	Minute book of the meetings of the Baltic Committee.				
2/2	1872-1883	"	"	"	"	
2/3	1883-1896	"	"	"	"	
2/4	1896-1903	"	"	"	"	
2/5	1903-1906	Minute book of the meetings of the Board of Directors, B.M.S.E. Ltd.				
2/6	1906-1910	"	"	"	"	
2/7	1910-1913	"	"	"	"	
2/8	1858	Minute book of the meetings of the weekly sub-committee of the Baltic Committee.				
2/9	1900-1903	Minute book of the meetings of the Managing Committee.				
2/10	1903-1906	Minute book of the meetings of the Catering Committee.				
2/11	1926-1935	"	"	"	"	
2/12	1935-1948	"	"	"	"	
2/13	1900-1903	Minute book of the meetings of the Building and Finance Committee.				
2/14	1947-1954	Minute book of the meetings of the Building Committee.				
2/15	1941-1944	Minute book of the meetings of the Tenants' Committee.				
2/16	1931-1970	Minute book of the annual general meetings of B.M.S.E. Ltd.				
2/17	1905-1907	Minute book of the meetings of the Share Transfer Committee.				
2/18	1925-1934	"	"	"	"	
2/19	1948-1960	"	"	"	"	
2/20	1940-1941	Minute book no.1 of the meetings of the Chartering Pool Finance Committee.				
2/21	1941-1942	"	"	"	"	no.2.
2/22	1942-1943	"	"	"	"	no.3.
2/23	1943-1946	"	"	"	"	no.4.
2/24	1946-1948	"	"	"	"	no.5.
2/25	1948-1949	"	"	"	"	no.6.
2/26	1949-1951	"	"	"	"	no.7.

1/2/27	1951-1954	Minute book no.8 of the meetings of the Chartering Pool Finance Committee.
2/28	1954-1961	" " " " " " no.9.
2/29	1961-1964	" " " " " " no.10.
2/30	1917-1922	Minute book of the meetings of the Institute of Shipbrokers' Pool Committee.
In addition to the minute books, the following agenda books are held:		
	1870-1961	Baltic Committee/Board of Directors, B.M.S.E. Ltd. (33 volumes).
	1900-1903	Letting Committee (2).
	1917-1920	Institute of Ship Brokers' Pool Committee (1).
	1925-1929	Catering Committee (1).
	1927-1962	Share Transfer Committee (2).
1/3	<u>Financial records.</u>	
1/3/1	1859-1898	Volume containing balance sheets and annual reports of the Baltic Exchange Co. Ltd., and copies of notices issued and special resolutions passed by the Company.
	(i) <u>The Baltic Committee.</u>	
3/2	1867-1893	Balance sheets of the Baltic Committee.
3/3	1893-1903	" " " " "
3/4	1871-1874	Statements of accounts of the Baltic Committee.
3/5	1870-1877	Cash book.
3/6	1877-1883	" "
3/7	1883-1889	" "
3/8	1889-1896	" "
3/9	1896-1902	" "
3/10	1902-1903	" "
3/11	1866-1891	Ledger.
3/12	1891-1903	"
3/13	1866-1880	Account current book.
3/14	1866-1891	Journal.
3/15	1891-1903	"
3/16	1878-1883	Sundries account journal.

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1/3/17	1879-1887	Sundries account cashbook.
3/18	1887-1898	" " "
3/19	1882-1886	Secretary's sundries accounts.
3/20	1886-1891	" " "
3/21	1891-1899	" " "
3/22	1899-1903	" " "
3/23	1857-1862	Details of disbursements.
3/24	1862-1868	" "
3/25	1868-1878	Details of expenditure.
3/26	1878-1887	" "
3/27	1887-1896	" "
3/28	1895-1902	" "
3/29	1858-1892	Summary of disbursements.
3/30	1896-1903	Newspapers account book.
3/31	1857-1887	Receipts from subscribers and visitors.
3/32	1900-1903	Sale room account book.

(ii) The Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange Ltd.

3/33	1900-1903	Cashbook.
3/34	1925-1929	"
3/35	1929-1935	"
3/36	1935-1940	"
3/37	1940-1946	"
3/38	1946-1951	"
3/39	1951-1956	"
3/40	1956-1960	"
3/41	1900-1907	Petty cash book no.1.
3/42	1932-1937	" " " no.6.
3/43	1937-1941	" " " no.7.
3/44	1941-1947	" " " no.8.
3/45	1947-1954	" " " no.8 (sic).
3/46	1954-1963	" " " no.10.
3/47	1900-1903	Ledger.
3/48	1903-1909	"
3/49	1909-1916	"

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1/3/50	1916-1925	Ledger.
3/51	1925-1934	"
3/52	1934-1941	"
3/53	1941-1948	"
3/54	1948-1955	"
3/55	1955-1961	"
3/56	1923-1931	Sundries Ledger.
3/57	1931-1940	" "
3/58	1940-1952	" "
3/59	1952-1959	" "
3/60	1903-1912	Journal.
3/61	1939-1950	"
3/62	1950-1964	"
	<u>(iii) Other records.</u>	
3/63	1893-1903	Cashbook, Catering Committee.
3/64	1903-1909	" " "
3/65	1909-1917	" " "
3/66	1917-1925	" " "
3/67	1893-1899	Ledger, Catering Committee.
3/68	1899-1903	" " "
3/69	1903-1907	" " "
3/70	1907-1911	" " "
3/71	1911-1915	" " "
3/72	1915-1919	" " "
3/73	1919-1922	" " "
3/74	1923-1927	" " "
3/75	1928-1937	Catering Dept. stock book.
3/76	1905-1924	Departmental accounts.
3/77	1925-1943	" "

In addition to the above, accounts for the period 1955 - date are held.

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1/4	<u>Share records, Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange Ltd.</u>	
1/4/1	1900-1975	Share register books (Ordinary Shares) (10 volumes).
4/2	1900-c.1940	Registers of 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % first mortgage debenture stockholders (2).
4/3	1900-c.1940	Registers of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % B & C debenture stockholders (3).
4/4	1900-1932	Register of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % B & C debenture stock transfers.
4/5	1929-1973	Registers of ordinary share transfers (4).
4/6	1900-1924	Volume containing prospectuses, memorandum and articles of association, share certificates, special resolutions etc., relating to B.M.S.E. Ltd.
4/7	1905-1945	Box containing special resolutions passed by the Company.
4/8	1902-1905, 1928-1958	Registers of probates (6).
	In addition to the above, dividend lists and papers relating to stock and share transfers are held (1900 - date), and there is a large collection of memorandum and articles of associations of companies which are members of the Exchange (c.1910 - date).	
1/5	<u>Membership records.</u>	
1/5/1	1857-1960	Subscribers registers (41 volumes).
5/2	1903-1963	Resignation books (4).
5/3	1863-1958	Members elected Books (17).
5/4	1870-1930	Visitors books (16).
5/5	1874-1917	Substitutes registers (6).
5/6	1872-1903	Registers of members, indexed by the street locations of their companies' offices (7).
5/7	1837-1875	Volumes listing candidates for election to the Exchange (2).
5/8	n.d.,c.1900-1930	Registers of firms represented on the Exchange (2).
5/9	n.d.,c.1894	Index of members (by surname).

1/5/10	1890-1895	Folder entitled 'Baltic Exchange; Historic Papers', containing, inter alia:
	1889	Proposed new rules and regulations, Baltic Subscription Rooms.
	1890	Rules and regulations of the Baltic Subscription Rooms.
	1903	Rules and regulations of B.M.S.E. Ltd.
	1905	" " "

In addition to the above, recent membership lists and rule books are held.

1/6	<u>Letter books.</u>	
1/6/1	1866-1876	Letter book, Baltic Committee.
6/2	1876-1882	" " " "
6/3	1883-1902	" " " "
6/4	1901-1903	" " " "
6/5	1912-1914	Letter books of the Secretary of the Board of Directors, B.M.S.E. Ltd.
6/6	1916-1928	" " " " "
6/7	1900-1932	Letter books, B.M.S.E. Ltd. (65 volumes).
6/8	1900-1932	Incoming letter books, B.M.S.E. Ltd. (320).
6/9	1907-1923	Letter books, Catering Dept. (2).
6/10	1911-1913	Private letter book of J.A. Findlay, Company Secretary of B.M.S.E. Ltd.
6/11	c.1850-1950	Deed box ('B.M.S.E') containing a large number of unsorted papers, mostly routine correspondence from the period 1850-1900 on such subjects as applications for membership, staffing, catering, building alterations and the general administrative affairs of the Exchange.

In addition to the above, outgoing letters from 1932 are held.

1/7	<u>Property records.</u>	
1/7/1	1917-1930	Rents received book.
7/2	1930-1944	" " "
7/3	1944-1958	" " "

In addition to the above, there are modern accounts relating to property owned by B.M.S.E. Ltd., and a number of boxes containing leases and similar legal papers (c.1850 - date).

1/8	<u>Photographs.</u>	
1/8/1	1917	'B' (Baltic) Coy. 6th Battalion City of London (National Guard) Volunteer Regiment.
8/2	1916	Staff of the Baltic and Corn Exchange Base Hospital.
8/3	1917	Baltic Unit of the Ambulance Column attached to the London District.
8/4	n.d., c.1905	Interior and exterior views of the Exchange floor and offices (17 photographs).
8/5	n.d., c.1900	Views of unidentified offices and street scenes, probably in the vicinity of the Baltic Exchange (in bundle entitled 'Photographs re ancient lights') (18).

In addition to the above, there are a number of photographs (c.1930 onwards) of the Baltic Exchange buildings, and of visits by prominent persons (including the Duke of Edinburgh and Sir Winston Churchill). There is also a large collection of drawings and caricatures by 'Spy', and a volume of caricatures of members of the Baltic Exchange (c.1910).

1/9	<u>Miscellaneous records.</u>	
1/9/1	1854-1939	Box of papers ('Leases and old papers'), mostly leases and other documents relating to property owned by the Baltic Exchange, and including: 1903, 1906, 1911 Contracts of appointment of the Secretary.
9/2	1904-1962	Directors' fees and attendance sheets.
9/3	1877-1892	Ships cards books (a register of ships for which cargoes were fixed on the Baltic Exchange) (3 volumes).
9/4	1900	Inventory of cargo transported on voyage from London to the Far East, aboard the S.S. <u>Merionethshire</u> .
9/5	1919-1938	Volume of authorities to sign charter parties.
9/6	c.1905-1930	Volume entitled 'Staff record', containing details of the ages, dates of commencement and resignation etc. of persons employed in the Exchange.

## Reference

1. RECORDS OF THE BALTIC EXCHANGE

12.

1/9/7	1882	J.E. Beerbohm's Evening Corn Trade List (printed volume).
9/8	1914-1919	Box entitled 'Papers and accounts re Baltic and Corn Exchange Base Hospitals, 1914-1919', containing, inter alia:  1914-1919 Minute book of the meetings of the Hospital Committee.  1916-1918 Ledger.  1917-1919 Incoming letter files (2).  1918-1919 Monthly statements of expenditure, No.8 Red Cross (Baltic and Corn Exchange) Hospital.
9/9	1946-1955	Fixtures books (record of cargoes and charters fixed on the Exchange) (22).

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**Reference**2. RECORDS OF THE LONDON SHIPPING EXCHANGE LTD.

13.

2/1/1	1900-1903	Cash book.
1/2	1892-1903	Ledger.
1/3	1896-1903	Petty cash book.
1/4	1892-1903	Members registers (4 volumes).
1/5	1899-1903	Incoming letter books (9).
1/6	1897-1903	Letter books (6).

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**Reference**3. RECORDS OF THE CITY OF LONDON EXCHANGE SYNDICATE LTD.

14.

3/1/1	1899-1900	Cash book.
1/2	1899-1900	Ledger.
1/3	1900	Journal.

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4. RECORDS OF THE PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW  
UNDERSHAFT.

Reference

15.

4/1/1	1874-1936	Ledger.
1/2	1934-1947	Minute book of the meetings of the churchwardens.
1/3	1946-1963	Cash book.
1/4	1937-1955	Church accounts.
1/5	1870, 1873-1896	Annual parish valuation lists (25 volumes).
1/6	1912-1918	Tithe rate books (8).
1/7	1889-1910	Box of correspondence and other papers relating to the Charities Commission, regarding charities administered in the parish.
1/8	1870-1920	" " " " "
1/9	1871-1891	" " " " " including: 1880, 1890-1891 Parish balance sheets.
1/10	1840-1939	Box of correspondence and other papers to the St. Andrew Undershaft tithe rate and trust accounts, including: 1840, 1845-1846, Balance sheets of 1852, 1870, 1872- the trust account. 1875, 1880-1890 1875-1891 Trust account bank pass books (London Joint Stock Bank) (3 volumes). 1881-1892 Cash book of the trust account. 1866-1885 Cash book, recording Charity payments. 1897, 1905, Balance sheets of the 1919-1939 tithe rate account. 1890-1899 Tithe rate account bank pass book (London Joint Stock Bank).

In addition to the above, there is a number of boxes containing leases, titles, wills, general correspondence, vouchers and other papers relating to the parish, c.1850 - date.

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