

Lloyd's Register of Shipping

Introduction

Lloyd's Register owes its name and foundation to a 17th century coffee house owned by Edward Lloyd and in which merchants, marine underwriters and others connected with shipping would meet to transact business and learn the latest news and gossip. In 1760 the Register Society was formed by customers of the coffee house. The Society printed the first edition of the *Lloyd's Register of Ships* in 1764 in order to give both underwriters and merchants an idea of the condition of the vessels they insured and chartered. From then on, volumes exist for 1768 and for 1775 onwards (apart from the years 1785, 1788 and 1817).

Between 1800 and 1833, as a result of a dispute within the shipping community, two separate register books were published. These were known as the 'Red Book' (issued by a society consisting primarily of shipowners), and the 'Green Book' (issued by a society consisting primarily of underwriters).

In 1834 a new society, Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, was formed, and the first 'Rules' for the classification of ships were published. 63 surveyors were employed in the first year and by 1840, 15,000 vessels had been surveyed in accordance with the Rules. The 100 A1 classification symbol was first used in 1870 when classing the iron sailing vessel *Lizzie Leslie*.

Format

Printed volumes, listing merchant vessels alphabetically. Initially one volume per year; from 1890 two volumes divided between sail and steam. Later volumes have column headings in French as well as English. The volumes we hold for 1764-1833 are reprints published by the Gregg Press.

Content

- **Information provided (1835):**
 - Name of vessel / master.
 - Tonnage.
 - Built (where / when).
 - Owners.
 - Home port.
 - Voyage / trade route.
- **Information provided (1992):**
 - Name / former name of vessel.
 - Owners / managers.
 - Port of registry.
 - Tonnage (gross / net / dead weight).
 - Classification (hull / special survey / machinery / refrigeration cargo installation).
 - Hull (date of build / shipbuilders / yard number / length / breadth / depth / superstructure / decks / riveted or welded / rise of floor / keel alterations / additional dimensions / bulkheads / ballast / conversions).
 - Ship type or cargo facilities (propulsion / ship type / passengers / ro-ro / holds & lengths / cargo tanks & types / grain or liquid / bale / insulated spaces / heating coils / container & length / hatchways & sizes / winches / cargo handling gear / cargo discharge pumps).
 - Machinery (design / designation / type & number of engines / power / engine builders / where manufactured / boilers / pressures / heating surface / furnaces / auxiliary electrical generating & plant / special propellers / fuel bunkers / speed).
- **Dates:** 1764-2005 [incomplete].
- **Closure Period:** None.

Content (continued)

- **Points of Interpretation:**
 - **1860** - shipbuilders' name included.
 - **1875** - non-classed British merchant ships included.
 - **1876** - change of name appendix.
 - British 'classed ships' only until **1890**. Anomalies such as Cunard owned and Napier built vessels not included because exceeded standard.
 - Since **1890** - all British and foreign sea-going merchant vessels of 100 tons and over listed.
 - **1932-47** - fishing vessels and smaller ships listed.

See also the guide on the Port Cities site: www.plimsoll.org/RegistersAndRecords/LloydsRegisters/

Related Material

- Captain's Register, 1869
- Lloyd's Yacht Register, 1889-1978. [incomplete]
- Lloyd's Calendar, 1921-77. [incomplete]
- Lloyd's Rules 1876-1974. [incomplete]
- Lloyd's List Law Report Digest, Vols. 1-12, 1924-65

Access elsewhere?

A complete collection of *Lloyd's Register of Ships*, from 1764 to date, is held in the Information Services Library at:

Lloyd's Register Information Services
71 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 4BS

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7423 2475

E-mail: histinfo@lr.org

and they maintain a list of holdings elsewhere:

<http://www.lr.org/documents/173528-collections-of-the-lloyds-register-of-ships-and-associated-publications-in-uk-and-ireland.aspx>

Official number

The Register includes the ship's official number, which can be useful when searching websites relating to crew lists. Sources for the official number in addition to the Register are:

[The Global Ship Number index system](#)

[The Miramar Ship Index](#)