Marine Technology Special Collection, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Shiprepairing: some example resources

The British shiprepairing industry is not as well documented as shipbuilding, so we have made a special effort to collect material on it. Such companies might be divisions of shipbuilders, e.g. Swan Hunter, or might be independent companies, e.g. Mercantile Drydock of Jarrow. The larger companies owned their own drydocks, but smaller ones leased them when needed, usually from port authorities. At its peak, the industry in the north east had over 50 drydocks.

Shiprepairers kept docking books which recorded all the ships they drydocked, with names and dates.

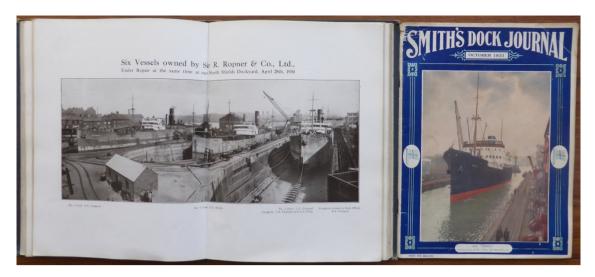
We have some, e.g. from Brigham & Cowan, South Shields.



Corporate records include ledgers with lists of shareholders, directors board minutes etc.



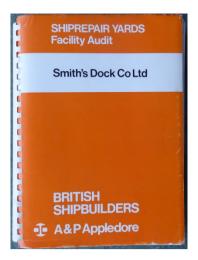
Smith's Dock was once the largest shiprepair company in the world, with yards on both the Tyne and the Tees. It published an eclectic house journal "Smith's Dock Monthly/Journal", which carried news on major work undertaken, as well as 'improving' articles on topics such as Egyptian archaeology and beekeeping. The Collection has a complete run of bound volumes from 1919-1933.



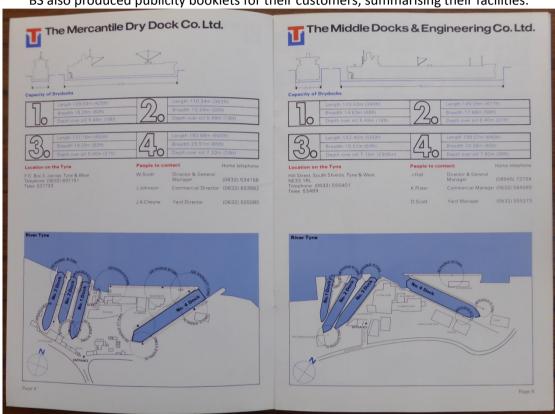
In our collection of works plans, we have drawings of ship repair yards and drydocks, e.g. Middle Docks in South Shields.



The nationalised British Shipbuilders also included shiprepair companies. BS commissioned a 'facility audit' in the late 1970s.



BS also produced publicity booklets for their customers, summarising their facilities.



How to contact the Collection

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