

# Library Research Guides: Maritime History of Merchant Marine Service

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*Merchant Marine is a phrase defined as “...1. the vessels of a nation that are engaged in commerce...”, and “... 2. the officers and crews of such vessels...” in the Random House Dictionary of the English Language, 1966, on page 896. The concept of merchant ships in the service of the military developed during and after the Civil War, yet the American history of merchant shipping dates back to the early 1600s (see John Spears, The Story of the American Merchant Marine). Ocean-going commerce expanded up until the 1850s, due to the highly-valued craftsmanship of wooden ships (see Benjamin Labaree, America and the Sea: A Maritime History), which later could not compete with new technologies of steam and industrial shipbuilding enjoyed by other maritime nations. The 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 and the later recognition of the United States Merchant Marine veterans by President Reagan in 1988 for service in World War II.*

*This selection from the Library includes ship registers, histories and periodicals, among the many topics of merchant ships and crews, incorporating a section on the Merchant Marine of the Second World War. Not all books on the subject of the merchant marine are included here: if you do not see what you are looking for, please call the Library at 310-54807618 x 215.*

## **Reference Works:**

### **Bibliography:**

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See also Lloyd's Register of Shipping, at <http://www.lamaritimemuseum.org/libcollection.htm> on the Library Collections web page, by selecting “shipping”.

See also American Record of Shipping, at <http://www.lamaritimemuseum.org/libcollection.htm> on the Library Collections web page, by selecting “shipping”.

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Merchant ships 1949-1950./ Edited by E.C. Talbot-Booth, 1949, c1939.

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Merchant ships 1978, volume 1 & 2. / Edited by E.C. Talbot-Booth, 1978.

Merchant ships: world built vessels of 1000 tons gross and over .... / Compiled by the Publishers, 1954-1965, c1952.

## **Topics and Commentaries:**

### **Biography:**

The Abraham Lincoln of the sea : the life of Andrew Furuseth. / by Arnold Berwick.

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## Biography, continued:

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The sea years of Joseph Conrad. / by Jerry Allen, 1965.

## Education and examinations:

American merchant seaman's manual, for seamen by seamen. Edited by Felix M. Cornell and Allan C. Hoffman.

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The H. W. McCurdy marine history of the Pacific North west. / edited by E.W. Wright.

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Heroes in dungarees : the story of the American merchant marine in World War II. / by John Bunker, 1995.

A history of the merchant navy, by H. Moyse-Bartlett.

Merchant steam vessels of the United States, 1790-1868 : "The Lytle-Holdcamper list," initially compiled from official merchant marine documents of the United States and other sources. / by William M. Lytle and Forrest R. Holdcamper ; rev. and edited by C. Bradford Mitchell, with the assistance of Kenneth R. Hall, 1975, c1952.

Navy and Merchant Marine. / by W.J. Henderson ..., 1918.

Queens of the western ocean; the story of America's mail and passenger sailing lines. / By Carl C. Cutler With a foreword by Chester W. Nimitz.

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## **Legal status, laws, etc.:**

Brutality on trial : Hellfire Pedersen, Fighting Hansen, and the Seamen's Act of 1915 / E. Kay Gibson ; foreword by James C. Bradford and Gene A. Smith.

## **Lifeboats:**

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Merchant marine laws, 1939-1940. The Merchant marine act, 1936, as amended; the Transportation act, 1940; Neutrality act, 1939; Dangerous cargo act, 1940; and other laws affecting the marine industry enacted by the Seventy-sixth Congress, with appendix containing the Shipping act, 1916, the merchant marine acts, 1920 and 1928, Carriage of goods by sea act, amendments to the Seamen's act and other previously enacted legislation. / United States Marine Progress, Inc., 1941.

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The U.S. maritime industry in the national interest. / by Irwin M. Heine.

## **Navigation:**

The merchant marine manual. / by Capt. Eugene E. O'Donnell, 1918.

Merchant marine officers' handbook, by Edward A. Turpin and William A. MacEwen ..., 1942.

## **Periodicals:**

Professional mariner : the journal of professional seamanship. Volumes:

Pacific Maritime : the journal of record for the West Coast commercial maritime industry.

Volumes:

The Anchor Light. Volumes:

The Compass. Volumes:

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## **Radar:**

Radar training school for American Merchant Marine Officers. / U.S. Department of Commerce Maritime Administration

## **Sailors Salaries, etc. :**

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Standard seamanship for the merchant service, by Felix Riesenber ... 625 illustrations.

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## **Shipping—History:**

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The story of the American merchant marine, by John R. Spears.

## **Ships:**

American mariner : a documentary biography of her role as liberty ship, training ship, missile instrumentation ship, mystery ship, test target / Herbert Paul Hahn, 1980.

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The last of the windjammers, v.1. / by Basil Lubbock Merchant fleets, a survey of the merchant navies of the world, by Critchell Rimington ... with numerous contributed articles.

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