

Kingsley Navigation Company collection [textual records, graphic materials] / Kingsley Navigation Company

COLLECTION NUMBER

VMM14

DATE(S)

1912-1975; predominantly 1918-1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

0.45 meters of textual records and graphic materials

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION NOTE

129 photographs : b&w, col, 2.5x3.5" – 8x10"

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Kingsley Navigation Company Ltd. was established in 1918 as a subsidiary of the Pacific Lime Company Ltd. (incorporated in 1910), which owned the lime deposits at Blubber Bay, Texada Island, BC and had a plant on Granville Island. The company was named after E.D. Kingsley, President of the Pacific Lime Co. Kingsley Navigation built its first deep-sea ship, the *E.D. Kingsley* on the east coast in 1919 and in 1920 it started a regular service from BC ports to California. It carried a cargo of lime products and lumber and other diverse outbound cargoes including grain, pulp, canned fish, and asphalt roofing. Inbound manifests included varied cargoes such as salt, glycerin, asphalt, vegetables, canned goods, dried fruit and general cargo for Victoria and Vancouver. The company had its own deep-sea wharf at the foot of Campbell Avenue known as the Kingsley Wharf.

In 1924 Kingsley Navigation added the freighter *Rochelie* to its fleet and in 1928 the *Texada* (previously the *El Cicuta*). In 1929 the company acquired the coastwise service vessels of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine Ltd., including the freighters *Canadian Coaster* – renamed the *Kingsley* and the *Canadian Observer* – renamed the *Rosebank*. A third vessel, the *Canadian Rover*, was not operated by company and sold to the Coastwise Steamship and Barge Co. who renamed her the *Bornite*. After refit, the vessels carried oil and paper products from Powell River to California. With the addition of these vessels, the smaller *E.D. Kingsley* was sold and later renamed the *Southholm*. In 1938 the *Rochelie* was sold to a Hong Kong company and renamed the *Kathleen Moller*.

With its three remaining ships, Kingsley Navigation maintained its trade route until 1942 when the vessels were requisitioned for war service. After the war, Kingsley Navigation did not resume operating the ships so the vessels were sold and the company became a shipping agency only. The Pacific Lime Co. sold its interest and controlling shares were eventually acquired by Frank McNicholl. McNicholl joined Kingsley Navigation as the radio operator on the *Canadian Coaster*. He became the Freight Solicitor for Kingsley on the Prairies and later the company representative at San Pedro, California. In 1939 he was appointed Freight and Operating Manager and in 1947, the President and Chief Executive Officer. By the 1970s McNicholl had become the chief shareholder of the company and in 1974 oversaw its sale and transition to the Olympic Steamship Co. of Seattle. Although Olympic Steamship now owned them, the Kingsley corporate name remained and they operated independently under local management. In 1988 Kingsley Navigation was sold again to Vancouver-based Greer Shipping Ltd.

Kingsley Navigation acted as agents for a number of well-known steamship companies – their first contract was in 1922 with the McCormick S.S. Co. of San Francisco. Over the years they handled other lines, some of which included the Canadian Gulf Line Ltd, Puget Sound Freight Lines, Showa Line, Nippo Kisen Co., Gypsum Carrier Inc., Belships Co. Ltd, China Merchants Steam Navigation Co., Stove Shipping, Herukuni Kaiun Kaisha Ltd, Chapman & William Ltd., and Sigurd Herlofson & Co.

SCOPE & CONTENT

The collection consists of records related to the corporate history of the Kingsley Navigation Company and includes minutes and special resolutions from Director's and Shareholders' meetings; lists of shareholders and directors; contracts and stock certificates; correspondence by Frank McNicholl about the sale of the company; newspaper clippings and journal articles about the history of the company; and a logbook containing notices and instructions to the company's Masters about the operation of vessels and the transportation of cargo. Also included are some personal records belonging to Frank McNicholl – a certificate of discharge from the Canadian Army Reserve and a manual he used as a radio operator while serving on the Canadian Trooper.

Photographs in the collection consist of company business events (dinners), staff and social functions. Included are images of unidentified ships at sea, shipyards, ships crews at work. The only identifiable vessels are the *Kingsley*, *Canadian Trooper*, and the P&O Liner *Mooltan*. There are a number of unidentified persons in some of the photographs (from Frank McNicholl's personal collection?) as well as staff photographs from the Showa Line Company, Nissan Line Company, and the McCormack Steamship Company.

ARRANGEMENT

Records arranged by Archivist.

LANGUAGES

English

RELATED MATERIALS

See donor file "McNicholl, Cpt. George"

RELATED PEOPLE

Kingsley Navigation Company

Collection Contents

Kingsley Navigation Company collection

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Directors' meeting minutes logbook

File consists of the minute book of the Kingsley Navigation Company, containing minutes of Directors' meetings, November 5, 1929 to November 1, 1944.

Director's meeting minutes logbook

File consists of the minute book of the Kingsley Navigation Company, containing minutes of Directors' meetings from February 5, 1945 to the Final Meeting of the Shareholders on February 10, 1972. Also included are records relating to the final winding up of the company.

List of shareholders and directors

File consists of 4 handwritten and typescript lists of shareholders from April 21, 1942 to February 28th 1945.

Legal documents and sale of company

File consists of legal documents relating to the ownership and final sale of the company, including a copy of the Memorandum of Association of the Company originally dated March 8, 1918 and certified as a true copy on January 5, 1942 and a copy of the Articles of Association of the Company, originally dated March 8, 1918 and certified as a true copy on May 1, 1928. The file includes the original Provincial authority to commence business, April 4, 1918 and the original Provincial certification of the conversion of the company from a public company to a private company on April 21, 1947. There is a typescript copy of an agreement relating to the transfer of shares among owners dated June 5, 1947 and two original share certificates of F.M.

McNicholl for 11 shares dated April 14, 1948 and 300 shares dated April 22, 1959. There is an original contract between the Company and the Powell River Company Limited for the provision of freight services to California, dated November 26, 1925 and two pieces of original correspondence from and to Frank McNicholl upon the wind-up of the company, from Canadian Gulf Line Ltd., December 12 1973 and to King Bros. Ltd., June 14, 1974, and a company envelope.

History of company

File consists of photocopies of 4 articles related to the history and sale of the Company, including an undated copy of a column by Norman Hacking entitled "Old agency taken over", describing the purchase of the company by the Olympic Steamship Co. of Seattle, a 1-page item from May Day Pictorial News, June 1974 with a short article and pictures of a social event, a 1-page item from Pacific Shipping, May 6, 1974 and a 7-page article with illustrations of Company ships, by Frank A. Clapp, entitled "Kingsley Navigation Co. Ltd.", in Steamboat Bill, Summer 1975.

"Instructions and information for masters" logbook

File consists of the Instructions and Information for Masters logbook which contained operational information and procedures for company Masters. A copy of the manual was issued to each of the company's vessels, to be updated from time to time.

Frank McNicholl - certificate of discharge from Canadian Army Reserve and handbook for wireless telegraph operators

File consists of a typescript copy of the certificate of discharge from the Canadian Army Reserve issued to Frank McNicholl, dated June 16, 1941, and a copy of the Handbook for Wireless Telegraph Operators, published by the British Government in 1916, reprinted in 1923.

Frank McNicholl/Kingsley Navigation Company - photographs

File consists of photographs from Frank McNicholl and the company, and covers ships, docks, special occasions with staff and friends, awards, a formal photograph of McNicholl in uniform as well as more informal shots. Most are b&w, a few in colour. Many are unidentified.