

## MARITIME HISTORY

This reference guide provides an overview of the types of records from the City of Vancouver Archives that relate to researching maritime history, including examples of specific fonds or collections. Please keep in mind that additional records may be found among the total Archives' holdings.

Records may be accessed either through record requests submitted for retrieval from our secure storage, self-serve microfiche access copies in the Reading Room, or, if digitized, viewed as a digital copy from our online database. Record retrievals run Monday-Friday, 10:00-4:30.

### PRIVATE SECTOR HOLDINGS

Private records used as primary sources on vessels, shipping companies, industry groups, and other topics related to maritime development in Vancouver and British Columbia. Our holdings of private records, identified as "AM" (or formerly "Add. Mss." for "Additional Manuscripts") can be searched using our online database. Suggestions of related fonds are:

- **Maritime Museum Collection ([AM335](#))**
  - Includes records related to a variety of topics including vessels, crew, shipping operations, companies, harbours, lighthouses, and other subjects
  - Collection includes records of logbooks, diaries, financial records, correspondence, ships plans and other records
- **Major Matthews Collection ([AM54-Series 23 - Topical and categorical files](#))**
  - See Subseries 1 - Categorical files re: "Ships" which are subcategorized by name or by type, primarily merchant marine, e.g. "Ships-merchant marine-bridge ships"
  - Subseries 2 - Topical files also includes records on various companies and individuals involved in the shipping industry and maritime history
  - Files contain compilations of notes, correspondence, pamphlets, and ephemera
- **H. L. Cadieux fonds ([AM782](#))**
  - Includes records on ships involved in accidents as well as other records related to harbours, tugboats, lighthouses and other maritime subjects for British Columbia
  - Fonds contains primarily notes, but also includes photographs, maps, news clippings and other records
- **B.C. Marine Shipbuilders fonds ([AM717](#))**
  - Includes records of ship repairs and employee payroll ledgers
- **Thomas Guns fonds ([AM407](#))**
  - Includes records related to pilots and pilotage

## CITY RECORDS

City records used as primary sources related to City operations and development of the maritime industry in Vancouver. Search the Archives' database for Departmental records, including maps and photographs.

- **City Council Minutes** ([COV-S31](#))
- **City By-laws** ([COV-S36](#))
- **Business License Registers** ([COV-S383](#))
- **City Publications Collection** ([PUB](#))

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Used for images of specific ships or aspects of maritime activity. A large number of photographic material has been digitized to search, view, and download directly from our database. Suggestions of related records are:

- **Major Matthews Collection** ([AM54-Series 4 - Collected Photographs](#))
  - Photographs available online from the Archives' database or access prints can be viewed in the Reading Room, categorized under "Boats", "Beaches", "Bridges" or "Waterfront" in the photo binders; or by ship name or marine activity in the card index
- **City of Vancouver Archives Photograph Collection** ([AM1376](#))
  - Photographs available online from the Archives' database; a smaller amount of access prints can also be viewed in the Reading Room
- **H. L. Cadieux fonds** ([AM782](#))
  - Fonds includes photographs arranged in multiple series; includes views of ports, lighthouses, shipwrecks, vessels listed by ship name
- **Walter E. Frost fonds** ([AM1506](#))
  - Series 3 - Ships includes over 10,000 images of ships that have been digitized
- **Union Steamship Company of British Columbia fonds** ([AM75](#))
  - Series 1 - Photographs includes views of ships, harbours, company activities etc.

## SHIP'S PLANS

Used for reviewing schematic drawings of individual vessels. Plans include inboard and outboard profiles, lines, body, rigging, sail and deck plans and details. Dated ca. 1770-1980.

- **Maritime Museum Collection** ([AM335](#))
  - Collection includes over 600 ship's plans that have been microfilmed (M-106); see Private Sector Holdings section of guide for more description of this collection
- **William M. Reid fonds** ([AM858](#))
  - Consists of plans for over 100 ships

## NEWS CLIPPINGS

Used for information about maritime issues, businesses, individual ships etc. There are different sets of clippings, each with its own alphabetical sequence:

- Major Matthews Collection ([AM54-Series 17- News clippings](#)) 1860-1970
- City of Vancouver Archives News Clippings Collection ([AM1519-S1](#)) 1919-2007
- Pacific Press newspaper clippings ([AM1616-S3](#)) 1930-1973

## CITY DIRECTORIES

Annual directories (1886-1996) produced by private firms listing names of residents, properties, and business listings. For lists of firms by type see the Classified Business Section under terms such as boats, ferries, fishing, ships, etc.

See also our reference guide on city directories for more a more detailed overview. City directories for the years 1860-1955 have also been digitized and can be [viewed online through the Vancouver Public Library](#).

## PAMPHLETS

Used for information about maritime issues from various sources. Includes brochures, advertisements, reports, invitations and more. Pamphlets can be searched through our online Archives' database.

- City of Vancouver Archives Pamphlets Collection ([AM1519](#))

## BOOKS

Secondary sources used for overviews of the maritime history of Vancouver and the region. The Archives' has its own reference library collection that can be accessed when visiting the Archives.

- City of Vancouver Archives Library Collection ([online here](#))
  - *Down Our Ways* West Coast Shipbuilders newsletter No. 1-79 (VM 1 .D 6 no. 1-79)
  - *Harbour Burning: A Century of Vancouver's Maritime Fires* by William Hagelund
  - *Historic Shipwrecks of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia* by Andrea Hamel et. al (FC 3845 .L69 Z68 2007)

## BOOKS continued

- *Launching History: The Saga of Burrard Dry Dock* by Francis Mansbridge (VM 301 .B87 M36 2002)
- *Port Watch: A Retrospective Look at 100 Years of Ships and Shipping in Vancouver Harbour* by James Burrows (HE 554.V3 .P69 1986)
- *The Port of Vancouver: Canada's Global Gateway* by Barbara Duggan and Jim Lyon (HE 554 .V3 p67 1992)
- *Waterfront: The Illustrated Maritime History of Greater Vancouver* by James Delgado (FC 3847.55 .D44 2010)

Search our holdings: <https://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/>

Please contact the Archives for further questions about our holdings or to discuss your research topic with an archivist.

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