

BRITISH SHIPPING LAWS

13

Shipowners

By

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AND

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PREFACE

“ Far-called, our navies melt away,
 On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
 Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!”

THE object of this volume is to inform; to inform shipowners of the world and their professional and business advisers. It is to inform them on matters of vital importance to them that are not readily available elsewhere.

This book is centred on London because the shipping trade of the world remains centred in London. This is not Gentile boasting, but hard fact. While Britain no longer rules the seas, maritime trade rests based on the bastion of English shipping law built over the last two centuries. However, this is a world book and its principal author is a world figure in shipping who has for years represented his fast developing country in the councils of the world, having been President of the IMCO Assembly (1963–65).

Margaret Patey, Barrister-at-Law, dispels for ever in her contribution on P. & I. Clubs the myth that Lloyd's insure everything. This was the kind of thing this book was after. Lloyd's have their fair say too, and I am most indebted to the Corporation of Lloyd's for all the assistance they have given me. I am indebted too to similar assistance from the Institute of London Underwriters and from the Government on Export Credit Guarantees.

But this is primarily a law book. The principal author is one of the world's leading jurists, and he deals with such controversial matters as the conference system and flag discrimination. Knowing the heated feelings in St. Mary Axe, a small lane in the City of London, I consider it best that the views of a neutral nation are expressed on these matters. St. Mary Axe has been magnificent in supplying the authors with information hitherto undisclosed. The work of collecting this has been largely done by Michael Summerskill, Barrister-at-Law, and a leading personality in P. & I. Club business.

Other P. & I. Clubs have given the authors invaluable assistance. The Baltic loom large in the shipping world, and Mr. D. J. Walker, Assistant Secretary, the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange,

supplied their contribution. Mr. R. B. C. Farthing of the Chamber of Shipping writes both of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom and its international counterparts. Cyril Miller, formerly a practising barrister of the Commercial Bar and for many years Vice-President of the Comité Maritime International, has written a particularly important contribution on this organ for lubricating the wheels of international maritime commerce. Geoffrey Cook, also of St. Mary Axe, Chairman of one of the largest firms in the world dealing with the sale of ships, has generously given his contribution on how ships are in fact bought and sold. I have added a modest contribution on the English law relating to the sale of ships, which is not apparently dealt with elsewhere. Among the objects of this book is to fill in any gaps that are not filled in other volumes of *British Shipping Laws*.

Anthony Colman, a youthful but already eminent member of the Commercial Bar, reveals the secrets of practice in the Commercial Court of London. These have hitherto been the prerogative of barristers in two sets of Chambers in the Temple. The Hague Rules of 1924 attempted to provide a model bill of lading for international use. They failed. For generations since, members of the Commercial Bar, several now still surviving as judges of the Supreme Court, have attempted to improve upon it. The fruition of their efforts in the form of a model all-purpose bill of lading for international use is set out and explained in this work. I am told that this form has already been adopted in a number of countries around the world. The law relating to the issue of bills of lading is fully dealt with by a learned contribution from Mr. Anthony Hallgarten, another member of the Commercial Bar, on "Agents of cargo and ship," and a most valuable contribution on the practice in this matter comes from Mr. Denys Godin, a Director of Killick Martin & Co. Ltd., the world-known forwarding agents.

Mr. R. A. H. Clyde is the spokesman for the London Maritime Arbitrators. He has always spoken well.

There is no British corporation concerned with maritime matters I have approached for assistance who have not readily granted it, but some of the authors would prefer to remain anonymous. I can only express my heartfelt thanks to them.

I must give special thanks to my co-editor of the *British Shipping Laws* series, Mr. Kenneth McGuffie, Registrar of the Admiralty

Court, for the enormous labour of reading every word of the proofs of this work sent to him, and for the number and freedom of his comments.

I must also acknowledge, last but not least, my debt to a personal friend, Mr. Brian Turner of The Baltic, for his constant encouragement and help in preparing this volume.

RAOUL COLINVAUX.

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August 17, 1967.

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