

Series: Alumni Papers

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INVENTORY/REGISTER

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to the  
Miscellaneous Papers of  
William F. Warm '44  
Concerning  
Containerization

*by Nicholas J. Falco, Archivist*

*June 1995*

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"During the regular meetings of our various technical committees in the fall of 1960, the subject of cargo containers was discussed and the impression left with the Staff was that the Bureau should explore further the possibility of certifying containers, particularly when the time should come that they may be exchanged among shipping companies".

From a letter from David B. Bannerman, Jr., Vice President - Technical of the American Bureau of Shipping to Captain William Warm of the Marine office of America, inviting him to become a member of a Panel set up to discuss the above. Dated February 28, 1967.

"The Container Committee was appointed at the "Rotterdam Conference", one year ago. The Committee is "to deal with Container Transport in all its aspects, involving design, standardization, classification, handling and stowage of containers, as well as loss prevention and finally questions of marine law".

From Report from Dale E. Taylor, chairman of the Container Committee, to the President of the International Union of Marine Insurance. Dated 1968.

### Objective

Promote and support efforts to achieve national and international acceptance of those features of intermodal transport which will ease flow of containers moving via surface means through interchange terminals and trans-shipping points between modes and across national frontiers. This is to include those elements of size, structural strength, lifting and securing devices, and similar considerations that aid and abet compatible interchange between the various means of transport and by the trading countries; yet not impede technological development nor the initiate of manufacturers and owners."

From the Transportation Facilitation Program Prepared by the Office of Facilitation, Department of Transportation. Dated ca. 1968

## Introduction

In the 1950s and 1960s, the use of ship containers to transport materials locally and globally became more common. This new trend, quite naturally, was not without certain problems which had to be addressed, and were, indeed addressed during the course of the decades, especially in the 1960s. Captain William F. Warm, a 1944 graduate of Maritime College, because of his experience in maritime transportation (he was associated with the Marine Office of America at 123 William Street in New York City in the Engineering and Survey Department), became immersed with some of these problems, and was soon appointed to important committees dealing with the subject. This small collection of his personal papers reflects on this interest, concern, and involvement with the work of committees to which he had been appointed.

These papers consist essentially of reports, memoranda (most of which are lengthy and entail the submission of further reports), and some correspondence and other miscellaneous documents. Many of these documents are photocopies and not original, and were made during the course of office procedure. The majority of the collection is dated 1966 - 1969. There are, however, several documents dated 1970 and 1972; one document dated 1965 and two documents dated 1973. There are no documents for 1971. The Collection measures one cubic foot.

These documents are arranged basically around the organization or group for which they were generated. This is to say, to use one example, the Economic Commission For Europe was one organization under whose scrutiny the subject of containerization fell, and it produced or generated a number of reports or documents on the subject. These were then collected by Captain Warm, either because of his direct involvement as a committee member, or through associates working on them and thus these items, will then be found grouped under the name, Economic Commission For Europe. There are eight Series all told, the last two not grouped by specific organization but rather under two subjects, Classification Societies, and Container Losses. Though the Series various in quantity, none is particularly large.

Box 1

I. American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)

Included in this file are such documents as letter, dated February 28, 1967 from David B. Bannerman Jr., V.P. Technical of the Bureau to Captain Warm inviting the latter to become a member of the Bureau's panel being formed "on Cargo Containers"; Minutes of the Panel's meeting of April 9, 1968 discussing aspects of a guide being prepared "for Certification of Dry Cargo Containers"; a Paper prepared for the "Container Marking and Certification Panel of National Defense Transportation Association's Industry - Government Container Seminar, 3 November 1969 at Washington, D.C...."; and a Memorandum regarding the Commonwealth of Australia's Structural Requirements for Certification of Cargo Containers, dated January 19, 1970.

Four folders as follow:

1967 (6 items)  
1968 (5 items)  
1969 (3 items)  
1970 (1 item)

II. American Institute of Marine Underwriters (AIMU)

Included in this file are a letter, dated January 6, 1965 (error - it is really 1966) from John C. Herman, Secretary of the Institute informing Captain Warm of his appointment to the Institute's Technical Sub-Committee of the Cargo Loss Prevention Committee; Meeting Notice, dated December 12, 1966 with enclosure of a five-page definition of a "Seaworthy Container Shipment"; a Memorandum, dated January 10, 1967 enclosing copy of a Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers on November 10-11, 1966; copy of a May 20, 1968 Report on containers prepared by Captain Warm titled "The Box Itself"; a Memorandum, dated October 21, 1969 enclosing a copy of the proposed Trade Simplification Act of 1969; and a Memorandum regarding Draft of a Reply concerning "The Right to Carry The Goods In Containers Under Deck or on Deck...", dated July 7, 1969.

Eight folders as follow:

1966 (9 items)  
1967 (16 items)  
1968 (15 items in 2 folders)  
1969 (20 items in 2 folders)  
1970 (1 item)  
1972 (2 items)

III. Economic Commission For Europe (ECE)

Included among the documents in this small file are a copy of a lengthy Resolution (No. 24) "concerning the use of foreign containers in internal traffic", adopted by the Working Party on Customs affecting Transport, a subsidiary of the Inland Transport Committee of the Commission, dated May 1968); and Minutes of the April 15, 1969 meeting of the Marine Section of the National Safety Council.

Two folders as follow:

1968 (8 items)  
1969 (3 items)

IV. Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

Among the documents found in this file are a copy of a Proposal, dated February 2, 1967, on the Use of Cargo Containers for the Consignment of Goods by Sea; copy of a Report of the United States Delegation to the Organization's Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping held in London, submitted June 27, 1972; Press Release issued January, 1970; and a Memorandum to Captain Warm submitting a report of the Organization's Working Group of the Sub-Committee on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods (1973).

Six folders as follow:

1967 (2 items)  
1968 (4 items)  
1969 (1 item)  
1970 (2 items)  
1972 (5 items)  
1973 (1 item)

Box 2

V. International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI)

Among the documents in this small file are found Reports of meetings held in Antwerp and Monte Carlo in 1968, and in Amsterdam and London in 1969; and letter dated July 27, 1973 from Robert A. Murphy, Chairman of the Union's Container Committee, enclosing draft of the Committee's report for a forthcoming meeting in Venice.

Seven folders as follow:

1966 (2 items)  
1967 (1 item)  
1968 (11 items)  
1969 (3 items)  
1970 (1 item)  
1972 (2 items)  
1973 (1 item)

VI. Department of Transportation - Facilitation Committee (DOT)

Among the documents in this file are a letter, dated June 3, 1968 from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation inviting Captain Warm to participate in the work of the Task Force on Intermodal Transport, a part of the Facilitation Committee; a draft of a document setting forth requirements for Certification of Freight Containers, dated June 19, 1968; Summary Minutes of a meeting of the Work Group on Surface Intermodal Container Systems of the Task Force on Intermodal Transport, dated September 18, 1968; mimeographed booklet setting forth the Transportation Facilitation Program, undated but ca. 1968; and letter regarding Plan for a Baltimore meeting to discuss a text of the Customs Convention on Containers (text attached), dated October 28, 1968.

Three folders as follow:

1968 (17 items in 2 folders)  
1969 (5 items)

## VII. Classification Societies

This unit does not refer to any one specific organization but is a subject category resulting from the placing of publications from various organizations dealing with the subjects into it. Among some of the publications or related documents found are Extracts from the Rules For the Construction and Classification of Steel Ships, Extracts from the pub by Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 1966; Specifications for Cargo Containers, pub by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1965; Publication titled Containers for the Carriage of Perishable Goods, pub by Bureau Veritas, Dec 1969; Letter of enclosure to Carl E. McDowell, Executive Vice President of the American Institute of Marine Underwriters, dated November 8, 1967, from Lloyd's Register of Ships enclosing "a copy of the latest revised provisional requirements for freight containers..."; and two booklets issued by Bureau Veritas of Paris in 1969 titled Containers - Homologation and Inspection, and Containers for the Carriage of Perishable Goods.

Six folders as follow:

1965	(1 item)
1966	(1 item)
1967	(1 item)
1969	(3 items)
1970	(3 items)
1972	(i item)

## VIII. Container Losses

Like unit VII, these documents as well do not refer to any one specific organization but is a subject category resulting from the placing various informational data into it. Among some of these documents are Photocopies of tearsheets from Jul 1969 issue of "Shipping World and Shipbuilding" of article titled "Container Damage and Repair"; Photocopy of Report issued December 14, 1967 by the Universal Testing and Superintending Company, Inc. to Messrs. Kawasaki Kiser Kaisha, Ltd of Tokyo regarding extent of damage to fourteen vans on board the TREFUSIS which arrived in Yokohama November 23, 1967; Office Correspondence File containing several attachments

(I.C.C.C. Receiving and Inspection Reports; memoranda; and correspondence), dated ca. 1967; Photocopy of letter from the Exec. Dir. of the Marine and Fire Insurance Association of Japan to Mr. Dale E. Taylor, Chairman, Container Committee of the International Union of Marine Insurance, dated February 26, 1968; Photocopy of letter, dated February 14, 1968, with attachments from Insurance Brokers, March & McLennan, Inc. to Mr. B.J. Barrett of the Marine Office of America re: Loss of containers on board the S.S. HAWAIIAN MERCHANT; Inter-office Correspondence, with attachments, from J.A. Potts to Captain Warm regarding container damage aboard the ORIENTAL JADE in Nov, 1968; and Memorandum, dated September 9, 1966, regarding container loss in Norfolk when container "buckled in the Center".

Four folders as follow:

1966 (2 items)  
1967 (5 items)  
1968 (2 items)  
1969 (3 items)

CONTAINER LIST (Shelf List)

For Staff Use Only

Box 1

Series - American Bureau of Shipping; American Institute of Marine Underwriters; Economic Commission For Europe; Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

No. of Folders - 20

Box 2

Series - International Union of Marine Insurance; Department of Transportation - Facilitation Committee; Classification Societies; Container Losses

of Folders - 20

No.