

QUALITY ASHORE

A history of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers

Stephanie Zarach



In the beginning ‘...we were told to remember stowage factors of such unlikely things as Blue Bill, Dragon’s Blood, Moon Stone, Rice and Rock Phosphates together with many, many others.’

How the shipping world has changed in the hundred years since the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers began. What shifts there have been in mercantile prowess, types of trade, seats of manufacturing and ship design. All that was familiar in the shipping industry in Britain’s Edwardian era – marvellous feats of engineering and shipbuilding, large numbers of innovative and resourceful tramp shipowners and powerful production and manufacturing companies – has altered. It seems that only the sea and the inevitability of economic cycles remain: but there is still professionalism.

Although the number and influence of shipowners and shipbuilders has declined alarmingly in Britain during the last century, the calibre and strength of the professionals who underpin the UK maritime industry has increased and spread its message across the globe. Among these professionals are shipbrokers and shipagents. Their role is little understood by most people outside the industry: yet it is their expertise that ensures the smooth operation of transportation by sea. There is hardly a commodity that a shipbroker hasn’t found a ship for, or a ship that an agent hasn’t met.

Formed in 1911 to raise standards and create a community of professionals, the Institute was granted a Royal Charter in 1920 in order that it would become ‘the authority responsible to the world for the character and ability’ of its members. With its all important motto of ‘Our word our Bond’, it has duly become the standard bearer of the profession across the globe.

This book is its story.

Pre-publication offer



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Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers

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