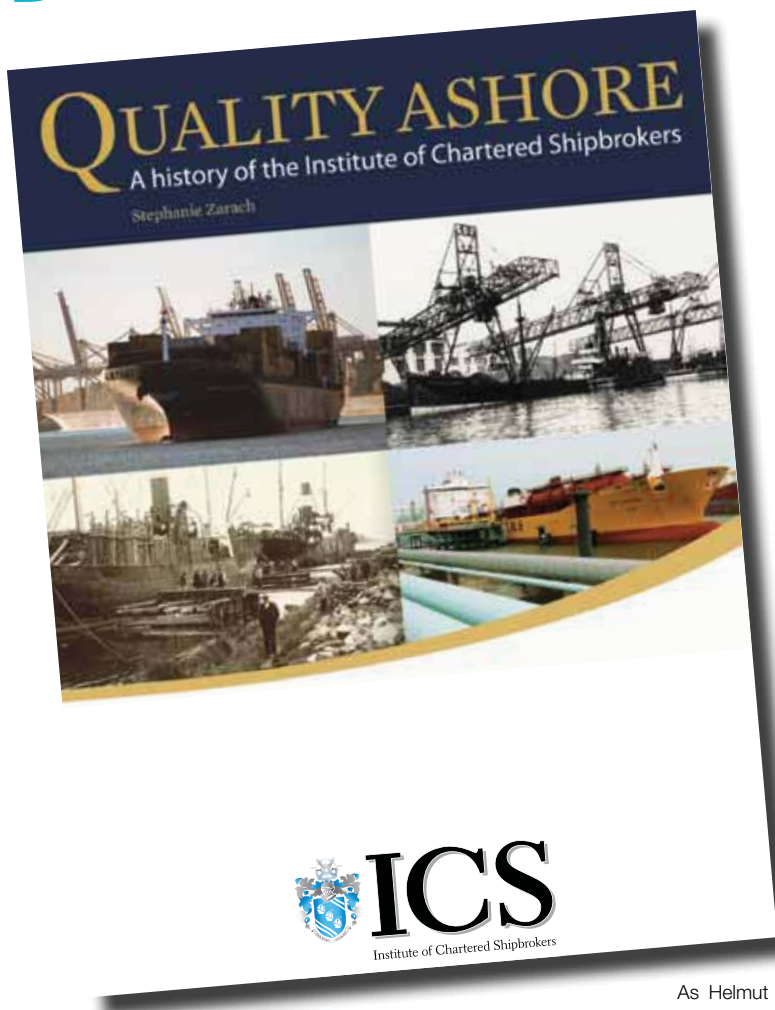


Celebrating 100 years of success



There are more pieces to the maritime jigsaw than have so far met the layman's eye. So says Stephanie Zarach in *Quality Ashore: a history of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers*, published to celebrate the institute's centenary. She remarks upon the fact that most people outside the maritime industry (and even some within it) know little about the support system on which the maritime industry relies. Shipbrokers and ship agents underpin the industry with their wide knowledge and expertise and this is the story of their professional body.

As Helmut Sohmen remarks in his foreword to this book, broking is a very ancient activity. Brokers based in the City of London had to be licensed from the end of the thirteenth century, promising to abide by certain rules and behave in an honourable fashion. This remained the case until 1888, when the system was condemned for obstructing business, but after a couple of decades without any licence, there was some unease among shipbrokers about the growth of 'dubious practices'. David G Pinkney, shipbroker and long time member of the Baltic Exchange, conceived the idea of a professional institute to regulate and improve standards of brokers and agents. His initiative, launched in the columns of

Fairplay, attracted much support, not only from shipbrokers and agents, but also from a number of prominent shipowners and philanthropists associated with the industry.

And so the Institute of Shipbrokers was formed in 1911 as a membership organisation open to shipbrokers and ship agents. It was granted a Royal Charter in 1920 and, as the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS), achieved full professional status as "the authority responsible to the world for the character and ability" of its members. Initially, the criteria for membership was a candidate's experience in and knowledge of the industry, but by the mid 1920s new generations of members qualified through written examinations.

The story of ICS is set against the background of the history of the shipping industry where many radical changes have taken place in the last 100 years in ship design and size, logistics, mechanisation and the proliferation of regulations for safety and security at sea. Tally clerks and dockers have given way to container counters and cranes; trading floors and the BOE code have been replaced by computers and mobile telephones. The ICS has adapted to all this accordingly, altering its syllabus as necessary and widening its reach globally: through all this time it has continued to educate new generations to a high standard. In celebrating its centenary with a Gala Dinner on 26 May and the publication of its history, ICS looks forward to the next hundred years.

Quality Ashore: A history of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, 128 pp, 100 pictures, full colour throughout. Foreword by Dr Helmut Sohmen.

Available in limited edition hardback (ISBN 978-0-901772-01-5 £40) and softback (ISBN 978-0-901772-02-2). Orders and information from a.begum@ics.org.uk.

For information on the Centenary Gala Dinner, contact Jonathan C. Williams FICS, London Branch chairman.
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