Tracing Staff and Crew

The Cunard Line archive contains the administrative papers of the company and therefore reflects the management and operational activities of the company. Unfortunately individual staff records for most staff (i.e. those who were not captains, pursers or engineers) did not survive and these records cannot be found in the archive.

To locate voyages staff worked on, crew lists are a valuable source of information. Crew lists, although not retained by Cunard can be found elsewhere. The following links are useful sources of information for those looking to find information about members of crew:

**The National Archives (UK)**
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU
Tel: 0208 876 3444
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

The National Archives (TNA) holds surviving merchant crew lists and agreements prior to 1860. From this date onwards TNA holds a 10% specimen group of crew lists for each year from 1865 to 1938. Crew lists from the First and Second World War are also held here.


**National Maritime Museum**
Romney Road
Greenwich
London
SE10 9NF
Email: library@rmg.co.uk; manuscripts@rmg.co.uk
[www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

The National Maritime Museum holds 90% of agreements and crew lists for the years 1861 to 1862 and 90% of those ending in a ‘5’ from 1865 to 1935 and from 1955 to 1995.

The museum also holds surviving applications for certificates of contemporary masters and mates of foreign-going vessels from the nineteenth century, certificates of vessels registered from 1786 - 1800, and registers of certificates of competency for cooks from 1915 – 1958.
Note: The National Maritime Museum no longer answers general family history enquiries and they advise that you either visit them in person or use a paid researcher.

For further details on how crew lists have been divided between institutions see the Research Guide on the National Maritime Museum: http://www.nmm.ac.uk/researchers/library/research-guides/the-merchant-navy/tracing-people-crewlists-agreements-logs

Maritime History Archive
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL
A1C 5S7
Tel: 709 864 8428
http://www.mun.ca/mha/about.php
Email: mha@mun.ca
The Maritime History Archive holds remaining crew lists (about 70% of the total).

Crew List Index Project
Peter and Jan Owens
Glan Aber
Aberffraw
Ty Croes
Ynys Mon, LL63 5LX
United Kingdom
Tel: 01407 840628
http://www.crewlist.org.uk/
Email: Contact@crewlist.org.uk
The Crew List Index Project is an online database for crew lists for British Merchant Seafarers. It also contains information about what crew lists are and has contact details for other similar resources.

Note: Post 1977 crew agreements which have not been deposited at The National Archives or the National Maritime Museum, have been destroyed. This makes up 90% of all years not ending in 5. Enquiries regarding recent crew lists should be sent to the Registry of Shipping.

Register of General Shipping Seamen
Anchor House
Cheviot Close
Parc-Ty-Glas
Llanishen
Cardiff, CF4 5JA
Tel: 01222 747333
Register of General Shipping Seamen holds large quantities of merchant shipping and seamen records. The Registrar General holds all agreements and crew lists from 1990, as well as those for 1939-50.