

## Infosheet No. 29 Passenger lists

### National Archives

Ruskin Avenue  
Kew  
Surrey TW9 4DU  
T: +44 (0)20 8876 3444  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
[www.ancestorsonboard.com/](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com/)

### Inwards

There are very few records relating to passengers entering the United Kingdom before 1878 at The National Archives. What remains is held under the following references:

- FO 83/21-22: lists of aliens arriving at British ports between August 1810 and May 1811.
- HO 5/25-32: index to Aliens Certificates of Arrival 1826 to 1849 (original certificates pre-1836 have been destroyed).
- HO 2: original certificates of arrival for individual aliens arranged under port of arrival 1836 to 1852.
- An alphabetical index of alien certificates of some German, Polish and Prussian persons, 1847 to 1852, compiled by the Anglo-German Family History Society is available in the research enquiries room.

### Outwards

Most of the records of passengers leaving the United Kingdom are distributed among a variety of references at The National Archives. The majority of emigration passenger lists from 1776 to 1889 have not survived. The following are references for the records that are available:

- E 157: Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Registers of Licences to pass beyond the seas. This contains several registers of passengers

travelling from UK ports to New England, Barbados and other colonies for 1634-9 and one for 1677.

- CO 1: Privy Council and related bodies: America and West Indies, Colonial Papers (General Series).
- T 47/9-12: Treasury register kept by port customs officials showing emigrants going from England, Wales and Scotland to the New World between 1773 to 1776. A card index exists for the information from England and Wales and is available from the General Enquiries Room. The series also gives names of passengers to Europe.
- CO 208: New Zealand Company Original Correspondence, 1839 to 1858: registers of cabin passengers emigrating between 1839 and 1850 (CO 208/269-272); applications for free passage, 1839 to 1850 (CO 208/273-274, index CO 208/275).

### Board of Trade passenger lists

These relate mainly to arrivals in and departures from UK seaports and were deposited by various passenger ships lines. Knowledge of the year, month and port of departure or arrival is essential to search some of these records. However, information on BT27 Outward Passenger Lists for long-distance voyages leaving the British Isles from 1960 to 1890 can now be searched online.

The database has been created by Findmypast.com, in association with The National Archives and it can be searched at:

[www.ancestorsonboard.com/](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com/)

Lloyd's Register Foundation  
Information Centre  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BS  
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475  
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039  
E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)

# Infosheet

Lloyd's Register Foundation  
Information Centre  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BS  
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475  
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039  
E: [hinfo@lr.org](mailto:hinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)



The BT passenger lists are arranged in two series:

- BT 26: arrivals 1878 to 1960.
- BT 27: departures, 1890 to 1960.
- BT 32: Register of Passenger Lists, 1906 to 1951: contain names of ships for which passenger lists are available in BT 26 and BT 27. They are not complete.

In general, passenger lists **do not** exist for the following:

- Ships travelling between ports in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England
- Ferries including those on the English Channel, North Sea and Irish Sea
- Feeder ships carrying passengers across the North Sea for onward passage by transatlantic steamers
- Ships sailing between Britain and all European ports, or those which lie on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, including all islands in the Mediterranean such as Malta unless the ship's voyage started or ended outside that area
- Cruise ships
- Troop ships – although there are some 20<sup>th</sup> century records for civilian passengers on troop transports
- Ships bound for Britain but which sank before they reached their port. (This means there is no arrival list for the Lusitania's last voyage, not for any other ships which did not reach its British destination for whatever reason).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Taken from Fenton, Briody and Macdonald (eds) *Maritime Information: A*

## Overseas archives

Information relating to emigrants may be found in the national archives of the destination country. Contact details for some useful sources follow:

### The National Archives and Record Service

Constitution Avenue  
General Services Administration  
Washington DC 20408  
USA

- Customs Passenger Lists, 1800-1890  
Not all ports are covered for all of this period. Details given for each passenger (all travellers, not just emigrants) are: name, age, sex, occupation, country of origin, country of destination. Details also given of deaths on passage.
- Immigration Passenger Lists, dating from 1890.
- These give all the above information and also place of birth, last place of residence and sometimes the address of a relative in the country of origin.
- Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths before 1900.
- Census records for the years 1790-1877.
- Also hold microfilm copies for 1880 and 1900.

### Immigration and Naturalisation Service

New York  
NY 10007  
USA

- Passenger lists less than fifty years old.

### The Department of State

Washington DC 20520  
USA

- Information concerning births, marriages and deaths after 1900.

---

*guide to libraries and sources of information in the United Kingdom* (Maritime Information Association, London: 2004).

# Infosheet

## **The British Library of Political and Economic Science**

(The London School of Economics)  
Houghton Street  
London, WC2A 2AE  
T: +44 (0)20 7405 7686

- Holds microfilm copies of the USA National Archives passenger lists for a number of years.

## **The New York Public Library**

The Research Libraries  
5th Avenue and 42nd Street  
New York  
NY 10018

- See the 18 volume Dictionary Catalogue of Local History and Genealogy Division.

## **The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Library**

122 East 58th Street  
New York  
NY 10022

- Produces the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, which publishes queries.

## **The American Irish Historical Society Library**

991 Fifth Avenue  
New York  
NY 10028

## **The Local History and Genealogy Section**

Library of Congress  
Washington DC 20540

## **US National Park Services Immigration Museum**

Ellis Island  
New York

## **The National Immigration Archives and the Balch Institute**

185 Seventh Street  
Philadelphia  
PA 19106

## **Canada**

### **Public Archives of Canada**

395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa  
Ontario K1A 0N3

- Juvenile Emigrants to Canada:
- Often orphans and thus the subject of a special series of archives which are indexed for personal names. 1869-1900 sent out by emigration societies.
- 1889-1916 sent out by Boards of Guardians of the Poor.
- Other Emigrants:
- Passenger manifests contain similar information to the USA passenger lists. Details of major ports from 1865 or later till 1908.
- Census Records 1666-1881.
- Lists of voters prepared during the federal election years since 1935.

### **Records of Entry Unit**

Canada Employment and Immigration Commission  
10th Floor  
140 Place du Portage  
Phase IV  
Ottawa K1A 0J9

- Information regarding emigrants to Canada after Spring 1908.

### **Archives Nationales de Quebec**

PO Box 10450  
Sainte-Foy  
Quebec G1V 4N1

### **Provincial Archives of Alberta**

12845-102 Avenue  
Edmonton  
Alberta T5N 0M6

Lloyd's Register Foundation  
Information Centre  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BS  
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475  
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039  
E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)

# Infosheet

## Australia

### New South Wales Record Office

The State Archives  
2 Globe Street  
The Rocks  
Sydney  
NSW 2000

- Convicts Indents 1788-1842, 1849. From Botany Bay, NSW, which was appointed a convict colony in 1786.
- Passenger Lists (Free Passengers) July 1826-December 1922. Post 1923 see Federal Archives.
- Immigration Lists (Assisted Passengers) 1826-1896: Detailed records including men and women on early migrant ships, persons on Government ships and Bounty ships, lists of immigrants and wives and families of convicts.

### Public Record Office of Victoria

80 Collins Street  
Melbourne  
Victoria 3000

- Passenger Lists (unassisted) 1852-1923
- Passenger Lists (assisted) 1839-1871
- Index to Passenger Ships 1880-1924
- Card Index to Naturalisation Certificates 1851-1900

### Battye Library of West Australian History and Archives

102 Beaufort Street  
Perth  
Western Australia 6000

- Passenger and convict lists for Fremantle and Albany 1829-1932.

## Queensland State Archives

Anerley Road  
Dutton Park  
Queensland 4102

- Immigration Department Records 1848 to date
- Passenger Lists 1848 to date
- Records of Immigration Agents 1848 to date often give details of where immigrants went after arrival
- Land Orders (mainly unassisted passengers) 1848 to date

## South Australian Archives

State Library of South Australia  
Northern Terrace  
Adelaide  
SA 5000

- Unofficial Passenger Lists 1836-1845 (very incomplete)
- Official Lists (Assisted immigrants) 1847-1886
- Passenger Lists (newspapers) 1888-1940
- Applications for assisted passage to Australia
- Lists of Ships' Arrivals 1836-1849

## The Australian Archives Office

Federal Archives  
(National Archives)

- Records of ships' passenger lists from 1924-1964.

Lloyd's Register Foundation  
Information Centre  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BS  
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475  
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039  
E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)



## New Zealand

### Archives of New Zealand

PO Box 6162  
Te Aro  
Wellington

- New Zealand Company Register passenger lists for major ports from 1840-1850.
- Embarkation Registers (assisted passengers) 1871-1888
- Shipping lists - Auckland 1882-1887, Wellington 1857-1910. (These give the name of crew and assisted and unassisted passengers.)

### Archives Office of Tasmania

91 Murray Street  
Hobart 7000

- Convicts lists 1803-1853
- Governors Despatches received by Colonial Office 1825-1855
- Board of Immigration Records 1840-1887. The major source for assisted passengers.
- Passenger lists of trade and customs departments 1903-1921, 1923-1938 & 1946-1951.

## Suggested reading

Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall  
*Immigrants and Aliens* (PRO Publications, 2000)

Roger Kershaw  
*Emigrants and Expats: A guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas* (Public Record Office, Surrey, ISBN: 1 903365 32 5)

*Morton Allen Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1979)

Marten A Syme *Shipping Arrivals and Departures: Victorian Ports Volume 2 1846-1855* (Roebuck, Melbourne: 1987)

J C Hotten *Original Lists of Persons Emigrating to America, 1600-1700* (London: 1874)

P.W. Filby & M.K. Meyer, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* (Gale Research Co.: Detroit, 1981)

V. Greenwood, *The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy* (Baltimore: General Publishing Co., 1973)

V. Greenwood, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (Washington DC, 1982)

A.S. Mountfield, *Western Gateway: A History of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board* (1965)

**Researchers should check availability, accessibility and opening times with the repositories listed before making a personal visit.**

Lloyd's Register, its affiliates and subsidiaries and their respective officers, employees or agents are, individually and collectively, referred to in this clause as the 'Lloyd's Register Group'. The Lloyd's Register Group assumes no responsibility and shall not be liable to any person for any loss, damage or expense caused by reliance on the information or advice in this document or howsoever provided, unless that person has signed a contract with the relevant Lloyd's Register Group entity for the provision of this information or advice and in that case any responsibility or liability is exclusively on the terms and conditions set out in that contract.

Lloyd's Register Foundation  
Information Centre  
71 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BS  
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475  
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039  
E: [histinfo@lr.org](mailto:histinfo@lr.org)  
[www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)