

Information on series of documents

Series	BT 112- 116 & BT 120 (index BT 119)
Title	<p>BT 112: Register of seamen, Series II (Part 1, 1835 to February 1840 & Part 2, December 1841 to 1844)</p> <p>BT 113: Register of Seamen's Tickets 1845-1854</p> <p>BT 114: Alphabetical Index to Registers of Seamen's Tickets, 1845-1854</p> <p>BT 115: Alphabetical Registers of Masters, 1845-1854</p> <p>BT 116: Register of Seamen, Series III, 1853-1857</p> <p>BT 119: Alphabetical Index of Seamen, 1835-1844</p> <p>BT 120: Register of Seamen, Series I, 1835-1836</p>
Structure	<p>BT 112: Register in two parts, Part 1 covers 1835 to Feb 1840 and Part 2 ,Dec 1841 to 1844 (there appears to be no material covering the gap between these parts). Part 1 is arranged numerically by reference number, and is indexed alphabetically in BT 119. Part 2 is arranged alphabetically with some indexing in BT 119. The series is somewhat disordered due to an historical attempt whilst the registers were in use, to recombine the volumes into one series, and a finding aid (held at TNA) is currently required to find relevant records within it. Letter A of Part 1 did not survive this reorganisation.</p> <p>BT 113: Arranged by ticket number order and indexed in BT 114</p> <p>BT 114: Index to BT 113 arranged alphabetically by surname</p> <p>BT 115: Alphabetic by surname</p> <p>BT 116: Alphabetic by surname</p> <p>BT 119: Index to BT 112 (may be of use for validation rather than scanning purposes)</p>
Size/Scope	<p>Total 350,100 images approx</p> <p>These registers cover various attempts to register merchant seamen between 1835 and 1857, giving a wealth of information on ordinary seamen. The series are broken down as follows:</p> <p>BT 120: 5 volumes, 6 films approx 5400 images Compiled from agreements and crew lists filed with the Register Office of Merchant Seamen (forerunner of Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen - the RGSS). Usually provides Name, Age, Where born, Quality (e.g. Cook), and Ship belonging to. This system was overwhelmed and replaced by series BT 112, which replicates all of these entries and may provide further voyage details for some. The voyage details in BT120 remain easier to interpret than within BT</p>

Series BT 112 - 115, BT 116 & BT 120

Series	BT 112- 116 & BT 120 (index BT 119)
	<p>112.</p> <p>BT 112: 81 volumes, 56 films, approx 50,400 images Compiled from crew lists and agreements filed with the RGSS. Usually provides Name, Age, Where Born, Reference to Voyages (a cross reference to the ship sailed on including the name of ship sailed on and year). Contains all of the entries from BT 120 and many further entries continuing on from that series.</p> <p>BT 113: 283 volumes, 227 reels of microfilm, approx 204,300 images These are register tickets required for all British Merchant Seamen before sailing, filed with the General Registry and Record Office of Seamen. They usually provide Name, date and place of birth, where Born, county, date and capacity of first going to sea and capacity since, the ships he had served in the Royal Navy, if any, and his capacity, his current employment at sea, and home address. They also give details of voyages made after 1847, but in a coded form, which is now not fully intelligible. As the Ticket system was greatly disliked by seamen and there was widespread evasion of the law</p> <p>BT 114: 22 volumes, 10 films, approx 9000 images This is the name index to BT 113 and it also provides information (e.g. Name, place of birth) on individuals with Ticket numbers > 546,000 for whom there are no register entries in BT 113. In addition it provides names for some individuals for whom the name has been omitted from the register in BT 113.</p> <p>BT 115: 12 Volumes, 9 films approx 8100 images Compiled from crew list and agreements filed with the RGSS. Usually provides name, age, place of birth and ship.</p> <p>BT 116: 106 volumes, 81 films approx 72,900 images A simplified system this series usually give age, place of birth, details of voyages (ship's name and port of departure) and any existing ticket number (see BT 113)</p> <p>BT 119: 81 volume(s), 10 films, approx 9000 images This is the index to BT 112 and provides an alphabetical list of seamen for parts 1 and 2 of BT 112. This may be useful for validation purposes and is not proposed for digitisation</p>
Physical Format and Condition	<p>All on microfilm - Mainly printed format containing handwritten information</p> <p>Condition is generally good, however the registers in BT 113 are not believed to be complete, and some lack any name or details. BT 114 lists men within the index who are not listed in the registers.</p> <p>Format is usually images taken from large sheets, generally foliated.</p>
Popularity	<p>A survey was conducted on the records available on microfilm in The National Archives Reading Rooms, between 17th and 23rd February 2007. BT 113 ranked 19th overall in terms of popularity. BT 114, 112 and 119 were ranked numbers 32 and joint 33 respectively. Popularity would be greatly increased by improved ease of access.</p>
Copyright clearance	Crown Copyright
Research Guide	Merchant Seamen: Registers of Service, 1835-1857

Series BT 112 - 115, BT 116 & BT 120

Series	BT 112- 116 & BT 120 (index BT 119)
	<p>Merchant Seamen: Interpreting Voyage Details in the Registers of Seamen, Series II</p> <p>Merchant Seamen: Interpreting the Voyages in the Registers of Seamen's Tickets and the Alphabetical Registers of Masters</p> <p>Merchant Seamen: Officers' Service Records 1845-1965</p>
Possible areas for indexing	Full name, date and place of birth, In BT 120, BT112, BT 116 the ship served on can also be indexed
Other Information	<p>In BT 114 & BT 116, names with a prefix have been listed alphabetically under the initial of the second part of the surname (e.g. McKenzie is under K)</p> <p>For some periods those serving in the Royal Navy or coastguard may also be listed (BT 113).</p> <p>These registers are of great interest for family history as they often provide the place of birth, prior to the beginning of civil registration in England and Wales (1837).</p> <p>The registers do in several places refer back to the crew lists and agreements under headings such as "reported voyages" (see BT 113) but this is coded and may not always be intelligible.</p> <p>Further Reading: Christopher T and Michael J Watts, <i>My Ancestor Was a Merchant Seaman</i> (Society of Genealogists, 2nd edition with addendum, 2004)</p>