

WEST HARTLEPOOL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY LIMITED

W.H	13,10	WH	15,11
Co	7,4	Co	8,6
S.N	9,10	SN	13,14
3mm.		4½mm.	

Cat. No. 357.1

Cat. No. 357.2

A circular issued in 1856 by Ralph Ward Jackson, announced the inauguration of the steam service between West Hartlepool, Hamburg and St. Petersburg, by the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company. Jackson, who was born in 1806, was the first Member of Parliament for West Hartlepool, and although he owned, with Robinson Jackson, a fleet of five screw steamships, the administration and control appears to have been in the hands of the West Hartlepool Harbour & Railway Company.

About 1862 the Shipping Line was disposed of, to Pyle, Spence and Company. Following the failure of Overend, Gurney & Company, the banking concern, the Line found a new owner in the shape of Christopher Maling Webster. The management was entrusted to Captain W.J. Young who, in a statement issued on 12th January 1867, announced that the Company would continue trading, adopting the title "The West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company".

When Captain Young died in 1886, Mr T. Barraclough was appointed to the post. C.M. Webster passed away in August 1893, leaving an estate valued at £257,000. He was succeeded by his son Ernest Alfred Webster.

On March 2nd 1899 a new company was formed under the chairmanship of Sir Christopher Furness, with a share capital of £500,000. The title changing to West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company Limited. At this time the fleet consisted of twenty vessels.

In 1902, besides the branch office at Newport, it was decided to open another at Cardiff. Sir C. Furness disposed of his shares in 1904. A subsidiary was formed in 1906, The Dinsdalehall Shipping Company. This was managed by J.E. Guthe.

At the beginning of the first world war the fleet consisted of sixteen vessels, three of which were owned by the subsidiary. In November 1914 another subsidiary appeared, the Wiltonhall Shipping Company Limited. With the loss of the 'Wiltonhall' by a torpedo in the Mediterranean on July 16th 1916 this company lost its entire fleet.

The other subsidiary was left vessel-less in 1919 when the 'Kepwickhall' was sold to Town Line of Cardiff and the 'Cliftonhall' to the Trowbridge Shipping Company Limited.

Only one member reported having stamps :

Cat. No. 357.1	Queen Victoria	1d red Plate 190
	Telegraphs	3d rose 3/- slate
	Postmarks:	West Hartlepool 12 Dec 1877

Cat. No. 357.2	Queen Victoria	1d red Plates 177, 192, 200, 201.
	Postmark:	West hartlepool 27 Jan 1879

S/Co/W1