

Scott Misener Steamships Co. Ltd.  
Records, 1965, 1967, 1972-1977, 1987, n.d.

*Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds*

RG75-10

Brock University Archives

**Creator:** Ontario Editorial Bureau

**Extent:** 1 cm of textual records (1/4 box)  
5 photos: b&w

**Abstract:** This archive is a part of the larger Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds (OEB) housed at Brock University. The bulk of the collection is correspondence relating to the *Scott Misener Steamship Co. Ltd.* Publications and Speeches were also retained.

**Materials:** Typed and handwritten correspondence; including media releases, and clippings, photographs, and publications.

**Repository:** Brock University Archives

**Processed by:** Jen Goul

**Last updated:** December, 2005

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**Terms of Use:** The Scott Misener Steamships Co. Ltd. fonds are open for research.

**Use Restrictions:** Current copyright applies. In some instances, researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the Brock University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.

**Preferred Citation:** RG75-10, Scott Misener Steamships Co. Ltd., 1965, 1967, 1972-1977, 1987, n.d., Brock University Archives, Brock University.

**Acquisition Info.:** This collection is part of the Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds, donated by Lou Cahill in November 1997.

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**Administrative History:**

Robert Scott Misener Steamships began in 1914 when an ambitious Scott Misener turned to the seas as the value of his land investments plummeted with the war. Misener began with the purchase of a share in the ship the Overland in 1917 which could carry a load of 1,000 tons. Two years later Misener sold his share and was able to purchase the Simon Langell, a much larger ship. In 1919 Misener officially had his own steamship company. He and John O. McKellar, an engineer from the Overland, sailed the Langell for three years together. In 1921 the pair purchased their first steamer the Claremont, a turning point for the company.

By 1928 the team had the financial backing of John J. Boland of Buffalo, N.Y. This support allowed them to acquire more ships and further establish themselves as a respectable Great Lakes shipping company. As they were building up their company John North McWatters of Sarnia joined them and brought along his financial savvy to carry them through the depression.

During the 1940s and 1950s Misener purchased as well as merged with several other shipping companies expanding his fleet into 34 ships. As the company grew so did the draw to the Great Lakes. It had become the world's most important waterway. After establishing a thriving company Scott Misener died in June of 1963. His oldest son Ralph succeeded him and continued bringing the company success. He joined the Board of Directors for the company when in 1970 J.N. McWatters took over as President. In 1976 the third and final generation of Miseners Scott A. Misener, the oldest son of Ralph Misener, took over the company and remained President until 1981. In 1978 the company name changed to Misener Transportation Limited to reflect the changing dynamics of the company and water transportation.

During the early 1980s shipping demands were changing and many Lakers were not seeing a full season of sail. Things picked up again in 1983 when 3 new fleets were added opening up deep sea trading. Once again during the early 1990s things began slowing down for the company. In March 1994 the remaining ships of the Misener fleet were divided between Algoma Central Marine and the Upper Lakes Group Inc.

*The Saga of a Steamship Company*  
For a complete history: *The Ships of the Misener Fleet*

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**Scope and Content:**

Fonds contain materials related to the rise and eventual dissolving of the Misener Steamship Company. The collection is arranged chronologically by year within each series. Series I, Correspondence contains typed and handwritten letters, clippings, media releases and photographs. Series II,

Public Relations, contains any materials that were made available to the public; including publications and speeches and addresses.

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**Organization:** The records were arranged into two series:

Series I, Correspondence, 1973-1977, 1987

Series II, Public Relations, 1965, 1967, 1972-1975, 1977, 1987

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**Inventory:**           **Series I.       Correspondence, 1963, 1969-1976, 1980**

1.1-1.4           Correspondence, 1973-1977, 1987; includes clippings, media releases, inaugural passage through the by-pass section, speech, 5 photos.

**Series II.       Public Relations, 1962-1963, 1969-1971, 1973-1976, n.d.**

1.5-1.6           Publications, 1972-1973, n.d.; includes *Fourth Coast Seaway Systems Requirements Analysis vol. I-II, Inland Waterborne Commerce Statistics, Traffic Report of the St. Lawrence Seaway, The Saga of a Steamship Company.*

1.7               Speeches and Addresses, 1965, 1967, 1974-1975, 1977, 1987

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**Added Entries:**

600   Misener, Ralph Scott, 1908-1997

600   Misener, Robert Scott, 1877-1963

600   Misener, Scott A., 1938-

**Subject Access:**   650   Cargo ships -- Great Lakes (North America) -- History.

650   Misener Transportation Limited -- History.

650   Scott Misener Steamships Limited -- History.

650   Shipping -- Ontario -- Welland Canal.

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**Related O.E.B. Collections:**

RG 75-28, [City of] St. Catharines 1952-1983

RG 75-6, Niagara Region (Municipality) 1969-1975

**Related Materials:**

Gillham, Skip. *The ships of the Misener fleet*. Vineland, Ont.: Glenaden Press, c2005. SPCL HE 566 F7 G557 2005

Misener, Ralph Scott. *Remarks by Mr. Ralph S. Misener, Chairman, Scott Misener Steamships Limited, presented to the Rotary Club of St. Catharines, coinciding with the opening of the 1974 shipping season*. St. Catharines, Ont.: The Author, 1974. SPCL HE 630 G7 M57 1974

Ontario Editorial Bureau, *Public Relations in the Making: A review of significant events in Canadian communication* (Toronto:1976?). SPCL FC 3140.7 P82056

*The saga of a steamship company: the story of Scott Misener Steamships Limited*. -- [s.l. : s.n., 1971?]  
SPCL HE 945 S325 S345

*The Spearpole*. St. Catharines, Ont.: Misener Transportation, 1978- PER SPCL FC 3155.123 M57 S63