

PHILIP M. SKEET,
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N.S.W. AUSTRALIA

DEAR SIR:

FOR OVER 40 YEARS NOW I HAVE BEEN COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THE PASSAGES OF DEEP WATER SQUARE RIGGED SAILING VESSELS; THEIR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES, MASTERS NAMES, CARGOES OR BALLAST CARRIED AND ANY OTHER OUT OF THE ORDINARY INCIDENTS THAT OCCURED ON THESE VOYAGES. I HAVE GOT RECORDS ON OVER 2000 VESSELS OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES.

THE NEAREST PORT TO WHERE I LIVE IS NEWCASTLE, WHICH YOU KNOW WAS AND STILL IS A LARGE COAL EXPORTING PORT. DURING THE DAYS OF SAIL MANY VESSELS SAILED FROM HERE TO SAN DIEGO CARRYING COAL. I HAVE A COMPLETE LIST OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES OF SAILING VESSELS IN NEWCASTLE FROM AROUND 1830 UNTIL 1910, WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO NOW IS TO GET ARRIVAL DATES OF THESE VESSELS THAT SAILED TO SAN DIEGO. WOULD YOU HAVE RECORDS IN YOUR MUSEUM DEALING WITH THIS PART OF YOUR MARITIME HISTORY? IF SO, HOW COULD I GET A COPY OF THEM.

LATELY I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THE MARITIME MUSEUM AT SAN FRANCISCO, I ASKED THEM FOR THE SAME INFORMATION AND HAVE SENT A LONG LIST OF VESSELS THAT SAILED FROM HERE TO THEIR PORT, WITH THE AMOUNT OF COAL CARRIED BY EACH VESSEL. IT SEEMS THAT A LOT OF THEIR RECORDS WERE DESTROYED IN THE EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE EARLY IN THE CENTURY. IN RETURN THEY HAVE SUPPLIED ME WITH THE ARRIVAL DATES OF A NUMBER OF VESSELS THAT WENT FROM HERE. PERHAPS WE COULD DO THE SAME TYPE OF THING OR PERHAPS YOU COULD PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN THE SAME INFORMATION THAT I'M WORKING ON.



PHILIP M. SKEET
CONTINUED

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME WRITING TO YOU IN THIS MANNER BUT ONE HAS TO TRY AND GET AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THE OLD WINDJAMMERS AS POSSIBLE FOR IT IS GETTING HARDER TO GET EVERY YEAR.

HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU,

YOURS SINCERELY,

PHILIP M. SKEET