

Industrial Relations

The Port and River Archive at the Museum of London Docklands, holds records of the Thames Navigation Committee and private dock companies from the nineteenth century and the Port of London Authority, who took over control of the Docks and tidal Thames in 1909.

Although the archive holds only a small snapshot of dock strikes, trade unions and their interactions with the Port of London Authority, it can be a useful resource for researching industrial relations within the Port of London.

These records cover the major dock strikes across the twentieth century, including the General Strike of 1926. The records also detail the Great Dock Strike of 1889 and more specific topics such as the decasualisation of dock labour, agreements between the various trade unions and the Port of London Authority, and reports on wages and working conditions.

The records include examples of letters written by dock and warehouse labourers requesting a return to work following strikes. It is rare to find letters from this section of the workforce within the rest of the collection.



General Strike: May 1926

Image reference: 001514 © PLA collection/Museum of London

The archive catalogue is not currently available to researchers. Please email portriverarchive@museumoflondon.org.uk (or write to Port and River Archives, Museum of

London Docklands, West India Quay, London E14 4AL) for more information on the content of these records and how to access them.

Please note that some of the collection may be closed due to the sensitive nature of the records and inclusion of personal data. If you are enquiring about an individual, please note that the person about whom you are asking for information must be deceased in order for us to assist you. If you are requesting information about a living individual, under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, the person in question or individual acting on their behalf must submit a Subject Access Request. Guidance on how to do this will be provided upon request.

If you are looking for particular information regarding the various trade unions themselves, please try Warwick Records Centre, who have many collections relating to trade unions:

<https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/ASD> **National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers**

<https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/TGW> **Transport and General Workers' Union**

<https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/DWR> **Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union**

<https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/records/AML> **Association of Master Lightermen and Barge Owners**