

**Ref. code:** HKMM 2006.0154

**Submitted title:** The Captain Fung Collection.

**Date:** 1949 – 1983 predominantly 1960-1972

**Level of description:** fonds\*

**Extent of medium:** 3 box files containing 372 paper documents and 1 large envelope containing 159 photographs.

**Name of creator:** Fung Yu-chan also known as Fung U Chan also Fung Yu Chun  
[1910- ]

**Language:** Predominantly English also Chinese, Spanish, Indonesian  
Telegraphic code used by British Petroleum [BRITTANKOL] for communication with ship's masters chartered by them.

**Source of Acquisition:** Gift of Fung May Woon [daughter of Fung Yu Chan].  
To HKMM at its former Stanley location in 2006

**Administrative history/biography:** A Merchant Sea Captain Fung Yu Chan was in command of some 29 commercial vessels between 1949 and 1976. A number of these ships were chartered from the principal Chinese family Shipping Dynasties founded in the late 40's, early 50's including the Wah Kwong group, Taiship and the Swire owned China Navigation Company.

Fung was born 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1910 in Hong Kong or Guangdong to a family from Nan Hai, Guangdong. He attended Queens College in Hollywood rd. Central HK and later graduated from Whampoa Naval College. [No dates available] The Naval College may have been attached to Whampoa Military Academy in Guangdong although no other references to this establishment have been found. Photographic evidence shows that Fung was serving as a naval officer for the Republican military as late as 1946 in North Vietnam.

The first entry in Fung's Seaman's Discharge book as a civilian, records that from 1949 to 1951 Fung was 2<sup>nd</sup> officer for Wo Lun Ferries operating in South China [Shatao, Amoy, Fujian] He was then engaged as 2<sup>nd</sup> officer on the bulk carrier SS'Hanyang' owned by China Navigation Company which carried cargo between Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and Indonesia.

In the late 1960's Fung first began operating as the Captain of a series 'Permina' tankers between 1961 and 1966, carrying crude oil for the Indonesian National Oil Company It was during this period that he was issued with official certificate ship's Master or Captain

Certificate by the Ministry of Communications of the China Republic and dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 1967. The certificate records that he was a resident of Taiwan at this time. In 1971- 72 Fung was in the command of the 'Ivory Venture' a tanker transporting crude oil from Kuwait, Iran and Saudi oil terminals in Persian Gulf to Uruguay and Argentina for British Petroleum as well as from BP terminal in Aden, Yemen to the Republic of Congo, South Africa and Australia. This was the first of the 'Venture' ships owned by Wah Kwong Shipping Group that Fung captained. Though a relatively stable period preceding the oil crisis of 1973; Fung there are a number of urgent telegraph exchanges with BRITTANKOL when Fung reports his crew's refusal to sail to the 'Pakistan war zone' d in 1971. [War of Independence of Bangladesh].

Fung captained his second 'Venture' ship in 1973; the bulk carrier 'Simsmetal Venture' chartered by the then Sydney based Simsmetal scrap metal business from Hong Kong to Australia.

The last dated recorded in the Seaman's Discharge book is Master of the 'Prince of Tokyo' from 1974 to 1975 when Fung would have reached the age of 65. There is one further entry as Master of the 'Pageant of the World' – the only recorded engagement without a date. He is presumed retired at this point. No date of death has been given. The last date stamped in Fung's Chinese passport was a visitor to China in 1983.

### **Scope of Content:**

#### **File 0001-0372: Paper items**

Captain Fung's documents form an artificial collection comprising printed and hand written documents,[see photographs and personal items in separate file/catalogue] accumulated during the course his working life as a Merchant Sea Captain. The collection is fragmenery and contains a number of incidental items. However, the Captain Fung's seaman's discharge book provides a full records ships served between 1949 and 1973 and serves to contextualize certain miscellaneous items. There ID documents including British HK and Chinese passports. As well as correspondence of various kinds The Collection represents the routine day to day activities of life onboard ship. has few personal items but the day to day routines of

The bulk of documentation relates to Fung's command of the oil tanker "Ivory Venture' a Panamanian flagged vessel and Captained by Fung from 1971-2. Items include a list of ship's papers. Crew list; noon day reports, engine room reports, 372 ship to shore telegrams from Captain Fung to charterers BP and shipping agents/owners Frantonios and various port authorities. The material makes reference to the 'Pakistan war" and Typhoon 'Agnes', crew disputes, medical emergencies. Also extracts from BP Circular letters'; rules to be observed by vessels loading/carrying/discharging of crude oil. Correspondence relating to the ship.

Fragmentary documentation for SS'Hanyang' 1954-5 – a British flagged bulk carrier owned by China Navigation Co. used for carrying cargo between Hong Kong, Singapore,

Japan and Indonesia; A full list of 64 crew as well as 12 first class passengers. Cargo includes vehicles, mail bags and a yacht.

SS 'Waywind' 1968-9. Used for transporting logs from Zamboanga, Philippines to Iwakuni, Japan. Ship owned by Taiship Company, crew lists. Monthly Portage bills from May 1968 to June 1969.

MV 'Ruby Star' [ex Burman Star] oil tanker renamed 'Permina 101' one of a series of Permina named ships contracted by Indonesian National Oil Company. Ship registered in Monrovia. Identity passes for 1964 and 1966.

SS 'Lucky Carrier' 1955 several documents including crew list and cargo.

MV 'Simsmetal Venture' 1973. Ship's hand-over papers, mariner's ticket for Australia and correspondence related to spillage incident. Simsmetal is a scrap metal business originating in Sydney in 1911 and still operates with an office remaining in Hong Kong.

Other documents include the particulars for 12 unidentified ships. Correspondence and circulars concerning Captain Fung's membership of the United Nations. Miscellaneous items and ephemera

**File: 0373-0531 black and white photographic images.**

5 large board mounted images which include a 'vertical lift' bridge over the Musi River, Djambutan, Indonesia.

A group portrait with Fung with other uniformed naval officers and sailors grouped under a banner that reads 'Commemorative photo of Officers of Guangdong and Vietnam region Naval Special Commission in Northern Vietnam Office. 15<sup>th</sup> June 1946. A large photo of SS 'Burman Star' later renamed "Ruby Star" and "Permina 101 and photo of a second unidentified tanker that is thought to have been converted to a bulk carrier.

The bulk of the photo's measure 11cm x 7cm and probably date from late 1960's. None bear captions or dates but some have numeric markings on the reverse. Some also have location markers or provide other visual clues to aid identification.

There are several groups of similar and related images. The largest of these groupings show various angles of a ship's deck in the process of being loaded and unloaded with timber. The ship in question seems to have been the SS 'Windward' since it features a life boat with that name. [The 'Waywind' transported mangrove logs between the Philippines and Japan]

There are several scenes of Rizal Park monument in Manila [to Jose Rizal- nationalist leader of Philippines] probably taken when Fung was on shore leave. Also in the same numeric series are a number of views of the Kintaikyo Bridge, Iwakuni, Japan.

An unfolding series of images shows Fung on a river trip to a logging camp probably in the Philippines. There are also several images of small local catamarans native to this region and a group of men displaying large bows.

There are a number of portraits of Fung aboard ship and other locations frequently carrying a small camera. Also Fung with probably family members outside the Sha Tin floating restaurant in Hong Kong.

There are 5 additional small images which measure 5.5x5 depicting Captain Fung in naval whites with caption on reverse which reads 'SS 'Kelly' ex-'Clan Kennedy' from Rotterdam to Kaoshing 1959' written record shows that Fung had been delivering the ship from Rotterdam

**File/catalogue** 3; Personal possessions and clothing

**Finding Aids:** MOMA Archival Description See 'Special Collections'

**Allied Materials:** Book: 'Unseen Riches' by Dr. Stephen Davis pp 57  
Published by Hong Kong Maritime Museum Ltd  
ISBN 978-988-98611-9-3

**Accruals:** No further accruals likely

**Conditions of Access and Use:** This collection is the property of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. The copyright and legal rights of use have been transferred by the heirs of the original owner to the Museum.

The materials can only be used for research purpose. The Museum reserves the right of using the photographs; therefore the interest party would require obtaining permission from the Museum with the CSSC Maritime Heritage Resource Centre.

**Related materials:** The Museum holds the personal artefacts of the owner. Some of the objects are currently on display on Deck A of the Museum.

**Archivist Note:** Prepared by - Heather Adams 2015 on ships histories

Photograph can be found at [www.varvshistoriska.com/?p=visa-nyherlikel&n=138andreas](http://www.varvshistoriska.com/?p=visa-nyherlikel&n=138andreas)

The MV 'Ivory Venture' was built by ORESUNDSVARVET, Landskrona, Sweden and launched in 1955. Originally named 'ANDREAS,' was delivered to West African Steamship Company of Liberia in 1956. Sold to Summit Carriers Wah Kwong Shipping in 1964 when it was renamed the "Ivory Venture" It was then sold to Singaporean Vinstra Shipping Corp. and renamed 'Cherry Vinstra' in 1973 when sold to Vinstra Shipping Company of Singapore. Destroyed in 1974 following explosion in engine room and fire in the Persian Gulf – the wreck was towed by its sister ship to India reportedly with its oil cargo intact and broken up on Gadani Beach 1975. Details CTX CASUALTY DATA BASE.

[www.c4tx.org/ctx/job/cdb/cas-list/precis.php.id=19751205\\_001](http://www.c4tx.org/ctx/job/cdb/cas-list/precis.php.id=19751205_001)

**‘Simsmetal Venture’** built 1971 by Sanoyas Mizushima Ship Yard, Kurashiki, Japan photograph on maiden voyage from Japan to Australia.

[www.simsrecycling.com/about-us/sims-metal.mangement](http://www.simsrecycling.com/about-us/sims-metal.mangement)

‘Simsmetal Venture’ IMO7110098

Photograph: [www.shipspotting.com/gallery](http://www.shipspotting.com/gallery) added August 1980

**SS ‘Hanyang’** built 1940 name appears in Lloyds Register for the year 1942-3. Owned by China Navigation Company. Requisitioned by the British Government in 1943 and became part of Pacific Fleet for USA identified as X8. Returned to owner in 1946 and used as bulk carrier.

### **Terms and locations referred to in Telegrams from Captain Fung of the ‘Ivory Venture’**

**Aden, Little Aden** oil refinery and tanker port operated by BP until 1977 when Yemeni Government took control.

**Agnes** cyclone in Indian Ocean category 1 March 1971

**Aramco** – Arabian American Oil Company from 1948. Stake holders included Exxon, Mobil, Texaco. Saudi Government took control 1980.

**Banana-** small oil refinery near Kinshasa in then Republic of Congo

**Bandamashar;** [Banda mah Shahr] Oil terminal, tank farm in Iran ADCO

**‘bunkering’** – refueling of ship

**BRITKANOL-** name of oil operation of British Petroleum. BP code using capitalized letters is used throughout the telegrams e.g. KACNY acknowledge Brittankol’ and KIZTO ‘full stop’ of ship. Other company’s developed there own code.

**Das Island** – oil terminal Emeriti Island in Persian Gulf

**Frantonio’s** – company based in HK in recipient of Captain Fung’s telegram oversaw operations

**‘gas freed’** – practice of purging emptied tanks of crude oil of remaining flammable hydrocarbon vapours.

**‘In ballast’** a ship sailing without cargo –heavy material most often water is used to weight the ship to maintain stability when empty.

**Jebeldhanna** [Jebel Dhanna] – port and oil terminal of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company UAE

**Kharg Island** – oil terminal in Persian Gulf, Iran

**Kwinana** port in Western Australia

**‘lightening’** [lightering] – practice of transferring cargo to smaller ship off shore in order to decrease ships draft and enter shallower waters of port.

**‘Little Aden’** Aden in red sea BP owned oil terminal

**‘Minaalmadhi’** [Mina al Amadhi] Oil tank farm in Iran

**‘Pakistan War’** [Bangladesh war of Independence of 1971]

**‘PANDI’ Club [P&I Club]** Ship owners club

**‘Rasturna’** [Ras Tanura] oil port of Aramco – Arab American oil

**WAH KWONG & co.** Ship owners and operators of bulk carriers, tankers and LPG carriers established 1952 by T Y Chao. Ships often suffixed ‘Venture’

Currently operates as Wah Kwong a family run business