

# Containers: The first 50 years

*Photos and reminiscences from Ulrich Cramer*



*The first MAFI “rust brown” steel containers arrived in Port Newark in 1967 with ACL, the first European Container Carrier. ACL was a consortium of: Wallenius Line in Stockholm, Swedish America Line and Transatlantic in Gothenburg, Holland American Line in Amsterdam, Cunard in Southampton and French Line/CGM in Paris. As product manager of MAFI, I (Ulrich Cramer) developed ACL’s containers and Ro-Ro-Cargo handling system. On 22 February 1966, I invented the so called “Rolltrailer” or “MAFI Trailer” to handle containers and flatracks on board the Ro-Ro-decks. In 1967 ACL placed orders with MAFI for Rolltrailers, foldable flatracks, platform flats, 40ft steel dry cargo, open-top and insulated containers*



*ACL's first MAFI "aluminum grey" steel containers arriving in Rotterdam in 1967*



*Ulrich Cramer (MAFI), Bob Gets (ACL-NY), Winfried Fiala (part owner of MAFI) at the first Container Exhibition in New York in 1967. The steel container was still "grey" and carried extra plates for the ACL logo*



*The first “rust brown” MAFI Steel Container with the “flat panel” for a company’s logo and container marking*



*MAFI presenting their container and container handling equipment at the Hanover Fair 1967*