

VMM Special Collections [graphic materials, textual records]

COLLECTION NUMBER

VMM100

DATE(S)

ca. 1780s - 1992

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

50 cm. of textual records; 8 small b&w prints; 13 med. b&w prints.

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collection consists of rare historical materials housed at the Vancouver Maritime Museum, including first editions of several works related to B.C. coastal history; original materials created by the crew of the *St. Roch*, including letters, photographs, and materials related to the *St. Roch's* voyages; and materials related to colonial exploration of the Arctic.

Collection Contents

VMM Special Collections

Parks Canada *St. Roch* collection

Series consists of rare materials largely related to the *St. Roch* and the early days of the National Historic Site.

Henry Larsen, private log of *St. Roch*, Vancouver to Herschel Island

Item is a logbook kept by Captain Henry Larsen of the *St. Roch*. In it, Larsen records the daily operations of the ship. The log also served as a kind of personal diary for Larsen, in which he shares details beyond the ship's daily goings-on.

***St. Roch* logbook**

Item is a ledger-style "minute book" printed with ruled pages. The book is approximately one-third filled with handwritten descriptions of the *St. Roch's* daily operations. The logbook was presumably written by Captain Henry Larsen.

Extract of log from RCMP *St. Roch* by Henry Larsen

File consists of typewritten daily records of the ship's operations.

Typed logbook entries

File consists of typescript entries logging the daily operations of an unknown vessel.

***St. Roch's* radio messages "In" and "out"**

File consists of radio messages from the *St. Roch's* last season in the Western Arctic and its last winter in the north. This is part of the George S. Menzies donation.

***St. Roch* original documents**

File consists of a sketch map labelled as De. Salis Bay; a rough sketch of a map of Nordenskjold Island; navigation notes for a journey from Peterson Bay to Cambridge Bay, and from Cambridge Bay to King William Land; a poem entitled "Mother" by Henry Larsen from the master's cabin of the *St. Roch*; and a handwritten letter to the *St. Roch* National Historic Site from Captain F.J.J. Henderson. Henderson donated the materials to the National Historic Site in 1988, having previously found them in a drawer under the captain's desk.

***St. Roch* tour slides**

A note in the file indicates that the slides are arranged to represent a tour of the *St. Roch*. Each slide is individually numbered. The note also indicates that the slides are copies and not suitable for reproduction. Slides 14 and 88 are noted as missing.

Map of Larsen Sound

Item is a printed map of Larsen Sound, Northwest Territories.

"The Quest for the Northwest Passage" timeline

Item is a typescript outlining significant dates related to the discovery of the Northwest Passage from 1497 to 1906.

"The Arctic Anthem" poem

Item is a typescript poem by an unknown author.

Arctic Schooner for R.C.M.P. rigging plan

File consists of two copies of the ship plan.

Calendar Print: *St. Roch*, Franklin Strait

Item is a calendar page depicting the *St. Roch*, which has been affixed to a cardstock map depicting the route taken by the *St. Roch* through the Northwest Passage on its 1944 voyage from Halifax to Vancouver.

[Inuktitut] Words

Item is a handwritten record of English-Inuktitut translations. While this appears to be the original item, each page has been separated and laminated, and the entire contents are housed in a custom box. A note on the front page reads "Western Arctic." File also includes a set of laminated photocopies that appear to have been taken of a pocketbook, not originals.

Viewers should note that this file contains the use of a term that was historically used by colonial-settlers to describe both the Inuit and the Inuktitut language, but is now considered outdated and offensive.

Abridged [Inuktitut] Grammar

File consists of a typescript originally prepared by a Post Manager for his own use in his studies of Inuktitut in the early days of the fur trade. An introductory note by the Fur Trade Commissioner's Office indicates that it concerns the "Chesterfield" dialect (Indigenous name not provided). The text was apparently reproduced to assist apprentices and other settlers hoping to study the language. No reference is made to any consultation with the Inuit.

Viewers should note that this file contains the use of a term that was historically used by colonial-settlers to describe both the Inuit and the Inuktitut language, but is now considered outdated and offensive.

Instructions for Toledo no. 0

Item is a pamphlet printed by the Toledo Pipe Threading Machine Co. A handwritten note containing symbols and illegible handwriting was tucked inside the pamphlet. It is not clear who the creator of this note was.

Extract from the Engineer's "Log" of the R.C.M.P. Ship ____ - blank logbook pages

File consists of blank log pages, presumably kept as an example of the kind of log that would have been used on the *St. Roch*.

Blank ledger, "Diesel-Generator log"

Item is a blank ledger, presumably kept as an example of the kind of ledger that would have been used on the *St. Roch*.

Regulations relating to the issue of Motor Engineer Certificates, M.F. Foster

Item is a booklet printed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Handwritten on the front cover are Foster's name and "*St. Roch*".

Larsen passport

Item is a passport issued to Henry Larsen at the age of 17. It contains personal information and a black-and-white portrait of him at the time.

Envelopes addressed to Henry Larsen from his wife

File consists of the envelopes of letters sent to Larsen from his wife, Mrs. H.A. Larsen, at his Halifax location. The letters themselves are not included.

Address given by Inspector Henry A. Larsen Before the Hill Men's Forum, British Columbia University

Item is a typescript of a speech written and delivered by Larsen.

The Big Ship

Item is a copy of *The Big Ship* by Henry Larsen, which he autographed on the occasion of the official opening of the *St. Roch* as a National Historic Site. Accompanying his autograph is an inscription in Norwegian. This copy has been retained as an archival item due to the significance of its provenance.

Souvenir Menu of Luncheon to Staff Sargeant Larsen and Crew of the R.C.M.P. *St. Roch*

Item is a laminated menu commemorating the luncheon held by The Navy League of Canada, Vancouver Branch, to honour the crew on the occasion of their history-making trip from Halifax to Vancouver in 86 days via the Northwest Passage.

Dean Hadley's logbook, vol. 1 and vol. 2

File consists of two black-bound, ruled notebook filled with handwritten entries related to Hadley's travels. The first page begins, "The Beginning of an Arctic Voyage." The logbook acts partly as a scrapbook, with typewritten slips, pieces of correspondence, magazine articles, and telegrams interfiled throughout. The second volume is accompanied by a printed map of Canada on which Hadley has hand-notated the *St. Roch's* route through the Northwest Passage. Two excerpts of the logbooks have been typewritten and are entitled "The First Winter, Walker Bay, Northwest Territories" and "The Beginning of an Arctic Voyage" respectively.

Parks Canada *St. Roch* photographs (21 records)

File consists of images that appear to have been taken mostly by Dean Hadley during a hiking and camping trip between Walt Cozens, Don Hyde, Dean Hadley, Donnie Donaghue near Port Radium.

- [RCMP men]
- [RCMP men]
- [Hunting animals]
- [Hunting animals]
- [Hunting animals]
- [Hunting animals]
- [Men outside a log cabin]
- [Deboarding a plane]
- Hadley and Hyde after a climb
- [Encampment]
- Cook tent and store tent
- [Encampment]
- Ellice Walker and Dean Hadley near Eldorado Mine
- Dean Hadley, Port Radium
- [Dean Hadley seeing plane off]
- [Boarding seaplane]
- [Boarding seaplane]
- Walt Cozens, Don Hyde, Dean Hadley, Donnie Donaghue
- [Dean Hadley resting]
- [Donnie Donaghue, fishing haul]
- [Hiking trip]

Letter to Dean Hadley from Jane Klingenberg

Item is a handwritten letter detailing personal news.

Letter to Mr. Hartley from Jane Klingenberg

Item is a handwritten letter detailing personal news.

Pat Hunt letters

File consists of typewritten letters written by Hunt to a Mrs. McDonald and other "folks." One letter is a photocopy.

John (Jack) Duke letters

File consists of two letters written by Duke. The first was written to a Mr. Bloomfield and included four photographs taken in the Arctic, including one of the *St. Roch* and two which appear to depict Inuit men. The photographs and pages of the letter have been pasted onto a sheet of paper and, as such, are deteriorating. The second letter was written to a Mrs. E.B. How, who was a ham radio operator, and was donated to the *St. Roch* National Historic Site by her son.

W.S. Carter letters

File consists of handwritten letters sent by Carter to the *St. Roch* National Historic Site containing details of his service on the *St. Roch*.

J.M. Monette letter to *St. Roch* National Historic Site

File consists of a typewritten letter and envelope written to the *St. Roch* National Historic Site by Monette to establish contact.

M.J. Olsen letter to Gordon DeJean

File consists of a typewritten letter and envelope written to the *St. Roch* National Historic Site by Olsen which lists the crewmembers of the 1940-1942 voyage and the 1944 voyage.

D. Parkes letter to the Maritime Museum

File consists of a typewritten letter and envelope written to the Vancouver Maritime Museum in response to a request for information regarding the crewmembers of the *St. Roch*. Parkes lists information that he remembers from the 1930s.

A.F.G. Tudor letter to *St. Roch* National Historic Site

File consists of a typewritten letter and envelope written to the *St. Roch* National Historic Site by Tudor in response to receiving a *St. Roch* educational kit.

William Francis Driscoll letter to *St. Roch* National Historic Site

File consists of a typewritten letter and photocopies of a Continuous Certificate of Discharge for Seamen for Driscoll. The letter responds to a call for information from crewmembers of the *St. Roch* that was apparently listed in the *RCMP Quarterly*.

Larsen, H. "The North-West Passage."

Item is a pamphlet that was presented to the Vancouver Maritime Museum by Major J.S. Matthews in September 1967. Although multiple copies are housed in the library and archives, this one has presumably been retained as an archival item due to this provenance.

Canadian Geographic Journal, vol. LIX, no. 4

Item is an issue of the Canadian Geographic Journal depicting Henry Larsen on the front cover in honour of his receipt of the Society's Massesey Medal. The issue also contains a two-page spread detailing the presentation of the medal, including a photograph of Larsen receiving it.

Newspaper clippings

File consists of newspaper clippings related to the *St. Roch's* final voyage. Clippings are part of the George Menzies donation.

Newspaper article on "Northern Passage" in *Weekly Scotsman*

Item is a newspaper clipping related to the west-to-east route of the Northwest Passage by James Seton-Anderson.

Newspaper clipping, "Hamilton Spectator"

Item is a newspaper clipping entitled, "Shining Prize of Centuries Won by Police Patrol Ship: R.C.M.P. Craft Completes Northwest Passage in Less Than Four Months."

Newspaper clipping, "The Province"

Item is a newspaper article depicting the *St. Roch* being hoisted onto its "final resting place" in what would later become

the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

Newspaper foldout, "The Star Weekly"

Item is an article entitled, "She Led an Enchanted Life" about the completion of the *St. Roch's* career.

Newspaper clippings, "Los Angeles Times"

File consists of one article in two parts entitled "On Top of the World in Canada" by William Claiborne about Arctic culture.

Magazine, "At the Top of the World"

Item is a magazine article about a visit to the western Arctic in 1936 written by Reverend A.L. Fleming, D.D. Bishop of the Arctic.

Newspaper clipping, "Polar Medal awarded to E.C. Hadley"

Item is a newspaper clipping entitled, "Medal is Presented by the Earl of Athlone" related to Dean Hadley receiving the Polar Medal from the governor-general of Canada.

Newspaper, "The War Cry"

Item is a newspaper article entitled, "Across the Roof-top of the World" about the west-to-east voyage through the Northwest Passage.

Newspaper, "Halifax Herald"

File consists of one article in two parts entitled "Reaches Halifax: Sailed Over 'Roof' of North America"

"Weekend Magazine," vol. 12, no. 18

File consists of several copies of the same article run in different newspapers entitled, "How the Tiny *St. Roch* Sailed Into Fame".

Newspaper, "The Sun"

File consists of a copy of the newspaper that contained an article announcing Henry Larsen's death.

Scrapbook - newspaper clippings, etc.

Item is a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings related to the *St. Roch* and its crew. The name Clarence Bell is handwritten on the first page.

Newspaper, "The Wayburn Review"

Item is a newspaper containing an article entitled, "1941 Letter from RCMP arctic expedition", which features Dean Hadley.

Arctic History collection

Series consists of rare materials related to Arctic exploration and colonization. Viewers should note that a number of rare books are included in this series, and can be found by searching the library catalogue. Consult the Librarian & Archivist for more information.

Captain Richard Collinson, Journal of the H.M.S. Enterprise vol.2

Item is the original handwritten journal kept by the captain of the H.M.S. Enterprise, Captain Richard Collinson, during the ship's voyage to the North Pole. The ship was sent out by the Admiralty to search for Sir John Franklin and his missing ships and was marooned herself for four years. A note has been added to the in the first page of the book that reads "To Superintendent Larsen in congratulations on his many successful Arctic voyages" from Margaret Glelonburg(?). The inside cover of the book contains a pencil sketch of a group of walruses. The last page of the book contains a log of all the game that the crew hunted for each year of their voyage, as well as a total for all four years and the total weight.

Colonial Exploration collection

This series consists of rare materials related to colonial exploration. Viewers should note that rare books are also included in

this series and can be found in our library catalogue. Please consult the Librarian & Archivist for more information.

Joseph Baker signal book

Item is a signals and instructions book, hand-written, illustrated, and leather-bound. On the inside of the front board is a bookplate bearing the coat of arms and name of Joseph Baker. At the top right-hand edge of the flyleaf in faint lettering (possibly pencil) is the name Casper (the name of Baker's father-in-law and third child); over-written in (now) brown ink is the name Edward. Scattered throughout the book are illustrations of signal flags, done in watercolour, alongside associated texts. A major illustration in the form of a circle or wheel is in the centre of the book. Many pages bear cutaway tabs for identification.

Tracing of the tracks of the *H.M.S. Stork*

Item is a tracing of tracks of the *H.M.S. Stork* travelling along Zambesi River and labelled as being from Chart #1810, dated July 1889. The item is heavily creased and folded, already broken into two sections but otherwise very clear in draftsmanship. The item was originally loose inside the signal book in the previous file, but has been removed due to its fragility; however they remain intellectually associated. Due to the fragility of this item, physical access is not recommended.