

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Morton, Arnold N.

Papers of Arnold Morton, 1937

**[Relating observations and oceanographic
research on an Arctic cruise of
U.S. Coast Guard cutter NORTHLAND]**

MS 105

1 box
0.2 linear ft.

Processed By: Staff

ACQUISITION: The Arnold Morton papers were donated to the Alaska Historical Library in February 1987 by his wife, Bernice Morton.

Scope and Contents Note

Nearing graduation from the University of Washington, Mr. Morton sailed with other scientists on the 1937 Arctic cruise of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter NORTHLAND. The papers describe his responsibilities as an oceanographer testing temperature and chemical characteristics of water at oceanographic stations in the Arctic. His letters and diary describe the cruise and impressions of various locales which include in part, the Inside Passage, Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Golovnin Bay, King Island, Little Diomede, St. Lawrence Island and Arctic villages.

The NORTHLAND was under the command of F.A. Zeusler, who also served as a U.S. commissioner for the Nome District handling various court matters. Medical personnel from the ship treated people in the villages and Mr. Morton describes operations and care provided. Also on board the vessel was Father Bernard Hubbard, destined for King Island, and the noted anthropologist, Dr. Ales Hrdlicka. The newspaper clippings describe the work of these men in Alaska.

Inventory

Folder 1. Morton, Arnold. Letters to his father. 6 letters.

1. Undated (leave from school to make cruise).
2. May 25, 1937, Juneau (comments on trip and talks with Father Hubbard and Dr. Hrdlicka).
3. June 2, 1937, Unalaska (comments on Unalaska, Aleuts, going to mummy caves with Father Hubbard).
4. June 10, 1937, Nome (comment on water tests, Nome medical .activity). -
5. July 21, 1937, Unalaska (rough seas and equipment broken, rowing .race).
6. September 2, 1937 (ice found for a month near Wainwright and Barrow, comment on Soviet ice breaker KRASSIN, describes coral and other fauna in ocean tests, Eskimos of Siberia and Alaska, medical activity).

Folder 2. Zeusler, F.A., Commander of-NORTHLAND. [Instructions to oceanographers on water testing at oceanographic stations.] 1 p.

Folder 3. Morton, Arnold. DIARY/JOURNAL, 21 May - 30 Sept., 1937. 109 p.

Daily entries with details on shipboard activity, ports of call, ship personnel and passengers, oceanographic research and general observations on native peoples. Mr. Morton observed and assisted with some medical treatment and operations performed by the ship doctor.

The clearly written diary has the cruise location/village indicated at the top of the diary page. There are brief comments on the villages which include Nome, Teller, St. Michael, Unalakleet, Savoonga, Gambell,,. Unalaska, Wainwright, Point Lay, with more extensive comment on Point Hope, Elim and the Akutan whaling station. There is a good description of Natepelmer, East Cape and Whalen in Siberia. Mr. Morton visited the Russian schools and hospital at Natepelmer. In Nome, Mr. Morton meets Father Cunningham and Father LaFortune. On the cruise, villages were often visited more than once so references to a community are recorded in several parts of the diary/journal.

Folder 4. Newspaper clippings. 8 items.

- 1-2. "NORTHLAND, U.S. Floating Court, to sail. Cutter will 'fill all needs' of Eskimos." From SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES. n.d.
3. "Glacier priest to make film record of Coast Guard work," From THE SEATTLE DAILY TIMES. n.d.
"Oceanographic volume ready." Source unknown. n.d.
4. "Notable group of scientists sailing north." Source unknown. n.d.
5. "From the Crow's Nest." Source unknown. n.d.
"Foxes too friendly on tiny Alaska isles, says Hrdlicka." Source unknown. n.d.
6. "Cutter to take Hrdlicka north." Source unknown. n.d.
"Bering 'dentist' solders inlay in palls tooth." Source unknown. n.d.
"Scientist 'races time' in Alaskan exploration." Source unknown. n.d.
7. "Explorers ready for trip; Hubbard sails tomorrow on Alaskan trip." From SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER. n.d.
8. "Eskimos said to respond readily to Asiatic films." From WATERLOO DAILY COURIER(?). n.d.
"Seattle cutter reaches Nome." Source unknown. n.d.