

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Burrus, Donald Leonard, 1904-

Donald Burrus Papers, ca. 1917 - 1975. bulk 1942 - 1972

MS 229

4 boxes
3 cu. ft.

Processed By: James Simard
July 2007

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Donald Burrus' daughter Jean Kline in May, 2007. (Acc. # 2007-014)

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however; the photographs may not be photocopied.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: Original order was maintained. Photographs in original envelopes were housed in acid free boxes. Twenty-two boxes of photographs were separated from the papers, and designated PCA466.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Donald Burrus was born in Alta, Iowa in 1904, and educated in Washington State, with a BA from Spokane University in 1931 and an MA in education from Washington State in 1935. He became the manager of Alaska Native Arts & Crafts in 1944, retiring on December 31, 1971 at the age of 67.

Prior to arriving in Alaska, Burrus climbed both Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams in 1939. Upon arriving in Juneau he continued to climb and ascended most of the peaks in the Juneau area. He build a cabin in the Lena Beach area with his wife and friends.

Burrus traveled in northern coastal Alaska on the Alaska Native Service vessel North Star and in interior Alaska with several of the famous bush pilots, photographing the communities which he visited.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House was established in 1937 by the Arts and Crafts Division of the Alaska Native Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs to help Alaska Natives crafts persons find markets for their work and supply raw materials. Virgil Farrell was the Bureau's Seattle officer, and was the agency's first arts and crafts supervisor in Alaska.

ANAC was reorganized in 1956 as Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, becoming a private cooperative, separate from the BIA. In 1961, the cooperative's only retail shop, ANAC Cache, was opened to test the retail market and acquaint the public with Alaska crafted products.

In 1984 the name was changed to Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Association, Inc.

SUBJECTS

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Alaska Native Service. Arts and Crafts Division
Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association
Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House
Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Association, Inc.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1937 - 1938 Arts and Crafts Division was set up by Alaska Native Service in Juneau, Alaska. Virgil R. Farrell appointed supervisor, Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House established in Juneau.
- 1939 Government trademark issued for Alaskan Indian/Eskimo products to guarantee authenticity.
- 1940 Indian Arts and Crafts Board based in Washington, D.C. appointed arts and crafts demonstration teacher to position in Nome, Alaska.
- 1944 Managerial position instituted at Clearing House, salary furnished by ClearingHouse earnings.
- 1947 Clearing House redesignated from Education Division of Alaska Native Service to Native Resource Division.
- 1949 Adopted Alaska Native Arts and Crafts trademark.
- 1950 Eliminated 2% service-charge on merchandise and implemented conventional retail mark-up policy.
- 1956 Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Association, Inc., formed.
- 1961 ANAC received loan from Bureau of Indian Affairs. Discontinued policy of taking arts and crafts on consignment and began to purchase work directly from members.
- 1972 - 1973 Moved general operations to Anchorage, Alaska. ANAC Cache continued to do business in Juneau.
- 1974 Constructed warehouse which served as office headquarters and wholesale outlet, and opened retail gallery in downtown Anchorage.
- 1975 ANAC Cache in Juneau and Anchorage warehouse sold. Wholesale and retail operations consolidated in single gallery space into downtown Anchorage.
- 1984 Corporate structure changed from Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., to ANAC Association, Inc.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection consists of records relating to the operation and activities of the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House and the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association. Included are letters concerning the arts and crafts program, general reports, annual reports (1952, 1954), reports and correspondence on promotion and marketing, correspondence and regulations on the use of government marks of genuineness, monthly reports (1946-1956), and circulars (1938-1946). The collection also contains some camera ready materials, including photographs, for catalog production.

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folders

- 1 Guide to the historical records of the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House, 1938 to 1956, prepared by Christina F. Kreps, Oct. 1984. The guide includes a 7 page History of ANAC Association, Inc., 1937 to 1984. [Includes microfiche. Guide also found at E78.A3K74]
- 2 Anthropology
- 3 Anthropology
- 4 Art
- 5 Primitive Art
- 6 Tribes
- 7 Anthropology & Religion
- 8 Aleuts
- 9 Argillite
- 10 Babische
- 11 Baleen
- 12 Bidarkas, Beading, Boat building, Burning

- 13 Boxes, Buckets
- 14 Canes, Chests, Chilkat blankets, Copper
- 15 Canadian handicrafts
- 16 Canadian Indian fables
- 17 Design
- 18 Indian designs
- 19 Down
- 20 Dyes
- 21 Eskimos (Eskimos of Alaska, compiled by Office of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs Field Service)
- 22 Dolls
- 23 Exploration
- 24 Gut sewing, gunnysack sewing
- 25 Harpoons
- 26 Houses
- 27 Indians
- 28 Jade
- 29 Kayaks
- 30 Legends / Myths [How King Island was inhabited, The mosquito – a Tlinget legend by Walter Austin]
- 31 Lamps, Lapidary, Luggage
- 32 Media

- 33 Metal work
- 34 Models
- 35 Oogruk [Bearded seal]
- 36 Petroglyphs
- 37 Pipes, Porcupine quills, Pottery, Ptarmigan quill
- 38 Reindeer, Reindeer horn
- 39 Sealskins
- 40 Silver
- 41 Sinew
- 42 Ski climbers
- 43 Skin boats
- 44 Snow shoes
- 45 Anaktuvuk Pass
- 46 Sled dogs
- 47 Tanning
- 48 Tools
- 49 Traps
- 50 Walrus ivory, Walrus teeth
- 51 Weaving
- 52 Wood carving
- 53 "The American Designs"
- 54 Arts & Crafts Handbook

- 55 Stories
- 56 Marketing
- 57 Craft Goods, Info
- 58 Notes on carvers and craftsmen

Box 2

Folders

- 59 Articles requested
- 60 A & C Board
- 61 Receipt for Genuineness Trade-mark issued
- 62 Trademarks
- 63 Philosophy-Theory
- 64 Terminology
- 65 Reports-Info-Suggestions
- 66 A & C References
- 67 A & C Supervisor
- 68 Publications-Other Organizations
- 69 A & C Policy
- 70 Packaging
- 71 A & C Organization
- 72 Marketing & Pricing
- 73 Frank Long

- 74 Regulations
- 75 Instruction
- 76 Illustrations
- 77 History of Ivory Prices
- 78 History-Alaskan-Other Information
- 79 Handmade?
- 80 Field Reports
- 81 Culture, Native
- 82 Commercial Art & Possibilities [empty]
- 83 Native Attitudes, Opinions
- 84 Village Info, Misc.
- 85 ANAC, Misc.
- 86 Alaskan A & C INC.
- 87 Mukluk Telegraphs
- 88 Nome Skin Sewer History
- 89 Catalogues
- 90 ANAC Price Lists

Box 3

Folders

- 91 Masks
- 92 Masks

- 93 Masks
- 94 Shaman
- 95 Spirits, Shades, Etc.
- 96 Watts
- 97 Marsh
- 98 Fetish, Effigy, Amulet, Talisman, Magic
- 99 Skin Sewing
- 100 Customer: Marvin S. Peter, Barrow, Alaska
- 101 Basketry
- 102 Information – North Star - Voy. #43 - 1948 – R. McKay
- 103 Information – North Star - Voy. #51 - 1950 – R. McKay
- 104 Prerogative
- 105 Basketry Info
- 106 References For Study
- 107 Reviews
- 108 References
- 109 [articles?]
- 110 [more articles?]
- 111 [ANAC Quiz]
- 112 Arts & Crafts – Articles
- 113 New Items
- 114 To File

Box 4

Folders

115 Pictures

116 Mammoth Ivory

117 Ivory

118 Ivory Carvers & Shipments

119 Ivory Carvings

120 History

121 Clippings - ANAC

122 Radio Programs, Cache

123 ANAC Radio

124 Craft Talks

125 Legends

126 ANAC Articles

127 The Periods

128 Legends

129 Billikens

130 L. Prater

131 Notes - [mayac?]

132 Station: Kwinhagak

133 Station: King Island

134 Introduction & Reasons for Booklet

135 Topics – General Theory – Promotion – Etc.

136 Specific Products

137 Specific Media

138 Topics - Specific

139 Mechanics

140 Vocabulary

141

- Correspondence to and from: Don Burrus, Roger Menadelook, Ira M. Rank, Mr. Farrell.
- Group of 26 pages of notes which appear to be captions to photographs of George Dale. A copy of these notes has been placed in the index to PCA 466, the Donald Burrus Photograph Collection.