

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Grainger, John H.**

**John Grainger Photograph Collection, ca. 1904-1918**

**PCA 118**

423 images  
6 albums + 67 individual photographs

Processed by: Staff

**ACCESSION:** These photograph albums and miscellaneous views were donated by John Grainger of Ketchikan, Alaska, in October, 1975. Other Grainger collections include PCA 255 and MS 23. (Acc. # 1975-004)

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

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The leather albums were left intact and photographs were numbered. The pages are interleaved with tissue. The 67 miscellaneous views were sleeved in Mylar. The inventory is incomplete.

### Biographical Note

John Grainger moved to Alaska in 1940 to work at the new Metlakatla airfield with the Civilian Conservation Corps. He began collecting Alaskan postmarks as a hobby, then, as postmarks became harder to acquire, he began collecting Alaskan postcards. By 1997, his collection of over 10,000 postcards spanned 90 years of Alaskan history. Mr. Grainger also collected information about postcard publishers, photographers and manufacturers which he documented in, *Collecting Alaska Postcards* (Historical Collections, NC1875.G7).

After serving in WWII, he resumed the position of advertising manager for Alaska Sportsman magazine, eventually becoming a partner in the magazine. He also worked as a linotype operator, a private pilot, and for the State of Alaska.

Grainger and his wife, Frances, have resided in Ketchikan and southeast Alaska for over 50 years. He served as Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of Masonics for Alaska (Free and Accepted Masons), and contributes historical articles to various publications. [From: PCA 255 and The Southeastern Log, Mar. 1976, v. 6, no. 3.]

### Scope and Contents Note

Mr. Grainger acquired these photographs while working on an Alaskan postcard history. The collection includes 6, paper- and/or leather-covered photo albums and 67 loose photographs of Ketchikan and other southeast Alaskan locations. Subjects include street scenes, people, events, planes, ships, fishing, whaling and the *Princess Sophia* wreck. Photographers include P.C. Coffman, H.E. Hunt, J.E. Worden, Winter & Pond, and others. The inventory is incomplete.

### Inventory (*Incomplete*)

*Album 1: Ketchikan, Alaska, 1913.*

- 1 Library and Council Building, School House, and private residence. 1913.
- 2 New cement building of Tongass Trading Co. Corner Dock and Front Streets. 1913.
- 3 View up Market Street.
- 4 Looking west from school house. May 12, 1913.
- 5 Ketchikan Cannery looking east. 1913.
- 6 Concrete Electric Power House of C.L.P.&W. Co.
- 7 View up Ketchikan Creek. June. 1913.
- 8 Twin Falls, Ketchikan Creek.

9 Lake at head of Ketchikan Creek. July-13,1913.

10 [Unidentified vessel anchored near derrick.]

*Album 2: Ketchikan, Alaska 1904-1918.*

11-97 [Street scenes, buildings, vessels, people and scenics]

29-32 Loring Hatchery. H.E. Hunt.

93-94 [Princess Sophia on Vanderbilt Reef, 1918] Winter and Pond.

95 Wrangell, Alaska. May, 1914. Showing wharves, cold storage and saw mill. J.E. Worden.

96-97 [Princess Sophia on Vanderbilt Reef] 1918. Winter and Pond.

*Album 3: Ketchikan, Alaska, ca. 1910*

98-135 [People, buildings, waterfront views, snow-covered street scenes]

102 [Bell Island Hot Springs, 1902]

103 [Loring Hatchery]

107,8 [Loring Hatchery]

*Album 4: Ketchikan, Alaska, ca. 1915*

136-252 [People, scenics, waterfront views, recreational activities in summer and winter]

*Album 5:*

253 Harpooned sperm [in water]. P.C. Coffman.

254 Head of finback whale [on beach]. P.C. Coffman.

255 Head of sperm [whale] [on dock] P.C. Coffman.

256 Tearing blubber from sperm whale. P.C. Coffman.

257 Cutting off flukes of the tail [man using a hooked pole]. P.C. Coffman.

258 [Whaling vessel, *Star I*] P.C. Coffman.

259 Finback whale on dock. U.S. Whaling Co. P.C. Coffman.

260-283 [Salmon fishing aboard the *Ella Rolff* including views of traps, cannery equipment, crew members, fishing procedures. Ketchikan, Alaska, ca. 1912]

*Album 6:*

284-355 [Buildings, scenics, general views and people of Ketchikan, Loring, Kasaan and Juneau; winter mining activities at McKinzie's camp.]

*Miscellaneous view: Ketchikan, Alaska, ca. 1913.*

356-423 [Buildings, waterfront views, residences, people, street scenes, fishing vessels, airplanes, fish traps]

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