

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA  
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DIVISION DES MANUSCRITS

WHALING LOGS COLLECTION

MG 29, A 58

Finding Aid No. 1362 / Instrument de recherche no 1362

Prepared in 1982 by  
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#### Historical Introduction:

Arctic whaling out of Dundee began as early as 1750. By the last half of the nineteenth century Dundee had become pre-eminent in Arctic whaling, the peak years being 1880-1884. Thereafter the industry entered a long but steady decline. By 1913 the Dundee whaling fleet finally succumbed to the falling price of whale bone and whale oil, over fishing, and the more efficient techniques of their Norwegian competitors. The logs in this collection chronicle the last thirty years of the industry.

The Dundee whalers were also active in sealing, many of them making a voyage early in each year to Newfoundland before heading north to Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. Indeed, as time went on the catches of such animals as walruses and polar bears became more and more important to the "whalers".

The collection includes 42 log books from 38 different voyages. These voyages were made between 1873 and 1910 by 8 different ships. The ships (with their registration nos.) and the voyages they made are listed below.

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Voyages</u>
<u>Diana</u>	99211	1898-1900, 1902-04, 1910
<u>Eclipse</u>	55345	1893-97, 1899, 1903-06
<u>Esquimaux</u>	52562	1885-91, 1895, 1899-1900
<u>Laura</u>	registry unknown	1898
<u>Maud</u>	45743	1890-92

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Voyages</u>
<u>Morning</u>	114847	1905-07, 1909
<u>Polynia</u>	29451	1890
<u>Victor</u>	19540	1873-74

These vessels were crewed by experienced officers and men. The list of captains and the ships they commanded is given below.

<u>Captains</u>	<u>Ships</u>
Adams, William	<u>Maud</u> , 1890-92
Adams, William, Jr.	<u>Esquimaux</u> , 1895 <u>Diana</u> , 1898-1900, 1902-04 <u>Morning</u> , 1905-07, 1909
Edwards, John	<u>Victor</u> , 1873-74
MacKay, Harry D.	<u>Esquimaux</u> , 1899-1900
Milne, William F.	<u>Esquimaux</u> , 1885-1890 <u>Polynia</u> , 1890 <u>Eclipse</u> , 1893-97, 1899, 1903-06 <u>Diana</u> , 1910
Phillips, Jeffrey	<u>Esquimaux</u> , 1891

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Originals, n.d., 1873-1874, 1885-1913, 1938, 1944. 75 cm. Finding Aid No. 1362.

Arctic whaling out of Dundee began as early as 1750. By the last half of the nineteenth century Dundee had become pre-eminent in Arctic whaling, the peak years being 1880-1884. Thereafter the industry entered a long but steady decline. By 1913 the Dundee whaling fleet finally succumbed to the falling price of whale bone and whale oil, over fishing, and the more efficient techniques of their Norwegian competitors.

The Dundee whalers were also active in sealing. Many of them making a voyage early in each year to Newfoundland before heading north to Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. The logs in this collection chronicle the last thirty years of the Dundee whaling fleet.

The papers were acquired in 1980.

Finding Aid No. 1362 is a file list.

Ships' Logs, n.d., 1885-1910, 1944. 45 cm (volumes 1-5).

Printed form "Rough Book" logs providing entries under date, course and distance, total compass error, ship's head, winds, barometer and thermometer readings, clouds, weather and sea surface observations and any important remarks as to "phenomena" including wind condition, port arrivals and departures, ice positions and derelict vessels. Note is also taken of the day's catch including unsuccessful attempts at harpooning whales. A number of logs included notes made /post-1910?/. These notes have been placed in separate files, one file for each vessel. (This procedure has been followed throughout the entire collection).

Master's Logs, n.d., 1873-1874, 1890-1902, 1938. 6 cm (volumes 5-6).

Manuscript volumes kept by the vessel's master dealing with all matters on board ship including navigation and weather conditions and also details of the daily catch.

Mate's Logs, n.d., 1891-1913, 1944. 12 cm (volumes 6, 8).

Manuscript volumes kept by the first mate containing information on a vessel's activities. These logs are similar to the Master's logs listed above but they are generally not as detailed. The Mate's log of the Esquimaux for 1891 was also used as a scrapbook for press clippings and postcards relating to whaling. This scrapbook was compiled (c.1910-1913) by David Moore Lindsay author of A Voyage to the Arctic in the Whaler Aurora (Boston: 1911, Dana Estes & Company). Several of the press clippings also relate to Lindsay's book Camp Fire Reminiscences (Boston: 1912, Dana Estes & Company).



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Private Logs, n.d., 1898-1899. 2 cm (volumes 6-7).

Personal records of voyages made by A. Barclay Walker on board the Laura, 1898 (to the Barents Sea and Novaya Zemlya) and the Esquimaux 1899 (to Davis Strait and Baffin Bay). The information contained in these private journals is quite extensive and includes details of hunting and life on board ship.

Workbook, c.1892, 1901-1908. 2.5 cm (volume 7).

Rough workbook kept by William Adams, jr. during sailings.

Manuscripts, 1899-1900. 6.5 cm (volume 7).

Three manuscripts (including one partial typescript) of A. Barclay Walker's journal of his voyage aboard the Esquimaux, 1899 (to Davis Strait and Baffin Bay). One copy is edited for publication. The journal was published as The Cruise of the Esquimaux, Steam Whaler, to Davis Strait and Baffin Bay, April-October 1899 (Liverpool: 1900, Liverpool Printing and Stationery Co.).

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<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>File Titles</u>	<u>Dates</u>
SHIP'S LOGS			
1	1	Dundee Whaling	n.d.
1	2	DIANA: Notes to Ship's Logs	n.d.
1	3	DIANA: Ship's log MORNING: Ship's Log Note: Also see vols 4 and 5 for ship's logs of the MORNING.	1899 1909
1	4	DIANA: Ship's Log	1900
1	5	DIANA: Ship's Log	1903
1	6	DIANA: Ship's Log	1904
1	7	DIANA: Ship's Log	1910
1	8	ECLIPSE: Notes to Ship's Logs	n.d.
1	9	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1893
2	1	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1894
2	2	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1896
2	3	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1897
2	4	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1899
2	5	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1903
2	6	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1904
3	1	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1905
3	2	ECLIPSE: Ship's Log	1906
3	3	ESQUIMAUX: Notes to Ship's Logs	n.d.
3	4	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Log	1885
3	5	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Logs Note: Also see vol. 3 file 7	1885, 1887

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
SHIP'S LOGS			
3	6	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Log	1886
3	7	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Log	1887
4	1	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Log	1888
4	2	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Log	1889
4	3	ESQUIMAUX: Ship's Log POLYNIA: Ship's Log	1890 1890
4	4	MAUD: Notes to Ship's Log	n.d.
4	5	MAUD: Ship's Log	1891
4	6	MAUD: Ship's Log	1892
4	7	MORNING: Notes to Ship's Logs Note: Also see vol. 1 file 3 for MORNING Ship's log 1909	n.d., 1944
4	8	MORNING: Ship's Log	1905
5	1	MORNING: Ship's Log	1906
5	2	MORNING: Ship's Log	1907
5	3	MORNING: Ship's Log	1909

MASTER'S LOGS

5	4	DIANA: Master's Log Note: Also see vol. 5 file 6 for DIANA: Master's Log 1902	1898
5	5	ESQUIMAUX: Notes to Master's Log	n.d.
5	6	ESQUIMAUX: Master's Log DIANA: Master's Log	1895 1902



<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MASTER'S LOGS			
5	7	MAUD: Notes to Master's Log	n.d.
5	8	MAUD: Master's Log	1890
5	9	VICTOR: Correspondence Master's Log	1938
5	10	VICTOR: Master's Log I	n.d., 1873
5	11	VICTOR: Master's Log II	1873
6	1	VICTOR: Master's Log III	1873
6	2	VICTOR: Master's Log	1874
MATE'S LOGS			
6	3	DIANA: Notes to Mate's Logs	n.d.
6	4	DIANA: Mate's Log	1900
6	5	DIANA: Mate's Log	1902
6	6	ECLIPSE: Notes to Mate's Logs	n.d.
6	7	ECLIPSE: Mate's Log	1894-1895
6	8	ECLIPSE: Mate's Log	1906
6	9	ESQUIMAUX: Notes to Mate's Logs	n.d., 1944
8	1	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log I Note: This Log also includes a scrapbook and press clippings relating to whaling (c. 1903-1913) and number of press clippings concerning David Moore Lindsay's book <u>Camp Fire Reminiscences</u> (Boston: 1912)	1891

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MATE'S LOGS			
8	2	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log II	1891
8	3	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log III	1891
8	4	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log IV	1891
8	5	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log V Includes Scrapbook I	1891 n.d., 1913
8	6	Scrapbook II	n.d., 1903-1909
8	7	Scrapbook (copy)	n.d., 1903-1913
8	8	Press Clippings: Whaling	n.d., 1907-1908
8	9	Press Clippings: <u>Camp Fire Reminiscences.</u>	1912
6	10	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log I	1900
6	11	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log II	1900
6	12	ESQUIMAUX: Mate's Log III	1900
PRIVATE LOGS			
6	13	ESQUIMAUX: Notes to Private Log	n.d.
6	14	ESQUIMAUX: Private Log	1899
7	1	LAURA: Notes to Private Log	n.d.
7	2	LAURA: Private Log	1898
WORKBOOK			
7	3	Adams, Captain William, jr.: Workbook	c.1901-1908

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MANUSCRIPTS			
7	4	Manuscript: "Steam Whaler ESQUIMAUX: Voyage to Davis Straits & Baffin Bay. Diary of A. Barclay Walker 1899"	1899
7	5	Manuscript: "Steam Whaler ESQUIMAUX: Voyage to Davis Straits & Baffin Bay. Diary of A. Barclay Walker 1899" (typescript, incomplete)	1899
7	6	Manuscript: "The Cruise of the ESQUIMAUX: Steam Whaler to Davis Straits & Baffin Bay April - October 1899. Notes from the Diary of A. Barclay Walker" (corrected for publi- cation)	1899