

# Alexander Spanos Collection

**Dates of Creation:** 1874-1987; predominantly 1938-1987

**Physical Extent:** 0.20 meters of textual records, 811 photographs, 2.5x3.5"-8x10" (b&w); 200 negatives (b&w)

## Biographical History:

Alexander Euphrates Spanos was born on January 20, 1918 in New Westminster, B.C. His father James and mother Maude had five children: Peter, Alexander, Marion, Minerva and George. His father was born in Patras, Greece and owned a candy factory and the Blue Moon Restaurant in New Westminster, while his mother had family roots that reached back to the early days of the founding of the province of British Columbia. His maternal grandfather, Sergeants Maynard came to British Columbia as part of the B.C. Detachment of the Royal Engineers who built roads and surveyed cities including, the then-capital of the province, New Westminster.

Alexander worked as a blaster for Britannia Mines from 1935-1938 and at Boeing Aircraft of Canada Limited from 1942-1945 as Stores Clerk, later transferring to the Machine Shop as a Journeyman.

From 1951-1978 Alexander served on a number of vessels that plied British Columbia's coastal waters and those in Southeastern Alaska. He began his career as an oiler and received promotions up to the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> engineer. Some of the vessels he served on included the *S.S. Chilcotin*, *SS Lady Cynthia*, *Princess of Nanaimo*, *SS Lakemba*, *A.G. Garish*, *Alaska Prince*, *Prince George*, *Globe VII*, *MS Ancora*, *Northland Prince*, *MV Skeena Prince*, *Northern Prince*, *Northern Prince II*, *MV Tahsis Prince*, *MV Hecate Prince*, and the *MV Klondike*. He also served overseas on the *SS Waitomo* between 1955-1957.

In 1959 Alexander completed a Vancouver Vocational Institute diploma for "Fourth Class Stationary Engineer" and in 1964 a Certificate of Competency for "Fourth Class Engineer of a Steam-Driven and of a Motor-Driven ship".

A recognized musician and photographer, Alexander Spanos passed away on May 11, 2009 after a short illness.

## Scope and Content:

Records in this collection include the personal papers, correspondence, and maritime service records of Alexander Spanos. A considerable portion of the collection is comprised of photographs (loose and in bound commercial scrapbook photo albums) – both personal, depicting family members and Alexander during his maritime career, and photographs of vessels - mainly sternwheelers and steamers. Of special note in the collection is an original (signed) bound photograph album from Thompson's Photography Studio, Vancouver.

Identifiable vessel photographs in the collection include:

A.G. Gar	Doutrofsky	Lusitania	Sampson V
Active	Eliza Anderson	Lytton	Sarah
Aksala	Elraesenga	Monarch	Sechlelt
Aleutian, SS	Ethel Ross	Monte Cristo	Senator Jansen
Alida	Geo. F. Starr	Motor Princess	Shepody
Amelia	Gladys	Nanana	Sicamous, SS
Aorangi	Gleaner	New Delta	Sifton
Bailey Gatzert	Gleeful	Okanagan	Skagit Belle
Baramba	Glengarry	Olympian	Skagit Queen
BC Express	Hazelton	Omineca	Skeena
Beaver	Huronic	Operator	Sophia

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Bonanza King	Inlander	Peerless	Strathcona
Bowena	Isabel, SS	Point May	Surrey
Brittania	Joan, SS	Port Simpson	Thompson, SS
C.R. Lamb	K.D.K. (ferry)	Princess Alice	Tutshi
Canadian No. 3	Kamloops	Princess Joan	W.K. Merwin
Cape Cook	Keno	Princess Louise	Western Slope
Casca	Kirkland	Princess Patricia	Westminster Monarch
Chilco	Klondike	Princess Sophia	Whitehorse
Chilcotin	Kokanee, SS	R.P. Rithet	William Irving
Cougar B	Kuskanook	Ramona	Wilson G. Hunt
Dawson	Ladner Ferry	Ripple Rock Drill Barge	Yosemite
Distributor	Lady Alexandra	Rosadie	Yukoner
Dola	Lady Evelyn	Rosedale	

### Notes:

*Source of Title:* Title based on the name of the creator of the records.

*Immediate source of acquisition:* Prior to his death, Alexander Spanos donated his personal belongings to the Salvation Army who in turn, contacted the Vancouver Maritime Museum and donated the maritime photographs and records in this collection.

*Arrangement:* Records arranged by the Archivist. The photographs and negatives included in this collection have been labelled as "Alexander Spanos Collection" and filed by vessel name into the larger Vancouver Maritime Museum photograph/negative collection.

*Language:* The records are in English.

*Restrictions on access:* None.

*Terms governing publication:* None.

*Finding aids:* A box-file list exists for this collection.

*Accruals:* No future accruals are expected.

# Alexander Spanos Collection

## Box / File List

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 1   | <b>Date:</b> 1938-1978 |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - personal records and maritime service records                      |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 2   | <b>Date:</b> 1874-1987 |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - family records   |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 3   | <b>Date:</b> 1938-1954 |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - correspondence   |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 4   | <b>Date:</b> [19--]    |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - unidentified vessel photographs                                    |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 5   | <b>Date:</b> 1920-1958 |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - personal photographs, vol. 1                                       |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 6   | <b>Date:</b> 1932-1935 |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - personal photographs, vol. 2                                       |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 7   | <b>Date:</b> [19--]    |
| <b>Title:</b> Alexander Spanos - photographs - views and locations                                  |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 1        |
| <b>File No:</b> 8   | <b>Date:</b> [19--]    |
| <b>Title:</b> Photograph album #1: commerical scrapbook album - China, Hong Kong, Peking, Asia      |                        |
|   |                        |
| PartOf <b>Alexander Spanos Collection</b>   | Location: Box 2        |
| <b>File No:</b> 9   | <b>Date:</b> [19--]    |
| <b>Title:</b> Photograph album #2: commerical scrapbook album - British Columbia general & Victoria |                        |

## Alexander Spanos Collection

PartOf **Alexander Spanos Collection**

Location: Box 2

**File No:** 10

**Date:** [19--]

**Title:** Photograph album #3: commerical scrapbook album - Hawaii, Ceylon, China

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Location: Box 2

**File No:** 11

**Date:** [19--]

**Title:** Photograph album #4: commerical scrapbook album - "Thompson's Celebrated Views", Victoria, Vancouver, BC scenic, Alberta scenic & Alaska