

British Columbia Whaling Collection **(Victoria Whaling Company & Consolidated Whaling Co. Ltd.)**

Dates of Creation: 1913-1964, predominantly 1915-1916

Physical Extent: 1.65 meters of textual records

Administrative History:

The pioneers of British Columbia's modern shore-based whale fishery were Captain Spratt Balcom and Captain William Grant who formed the original Victoria Whaling Company in 1905. They established whaling stations on Vancouver Island and in the Queen Charlottes at Sechart (1905), Cachalot – also called Kyuquot (1907), Rose Harbour (1909), and Naden Harbour (1911). The Victoria Whaling Company built a processing station at Sechart and used steam-powered chaser boats and large harpoon cannons to hunt all types of large whales.

In 1915 Balcom's company went into receivership and William Schupp acquired the company's assets. Schupp was the owner of the Seattle-based American Pacific Whaling Company that operated whaling stations at Akutan and Bay City (Gray's Harbour, Washington). From 1915-1918 he reorganized the Canadian operation as a subsidiary of the American Pacific Whaling Co., renaming it the Consolidated Whaling Corporation Ltd. Operations of the Consolidated Whaling Co. remained headquartered at Point Ellice, Victoria, while the legal offices of the Consolidated Whaling Co. were in Toronto.

The Consolidated Whaling Co. wharf outside of Victoria's Point Ellice bridge was home to their Norwegian-built whaling vessels *Black*, *Blue*, *White*, *Brown*, and *Green*. The *Gray* (ex *Petriana*) was a company tender that traveled between Victoria's main wharf and the whaling stations with supplies; returning with oil, whalebone and other by-products from the whaling industry. At the end of the whaling season the *Gray* would travel south to San Francisco with a mixed cargo of whale oil and fertilizer for sale. Other vessels later owned by the company included the *Orion*, *St. Lawrence* and *W. Grant*.

The internment of Japanese-Canadians in 1942 deprived Consolidated Whaling Co. of its most skilled station hands. Whaling continued until 1943 when the boats were docked for the last time. By 1945 the boats were rusty from inactivity and interested parties tried to revive the whaling fishery, but response was indifferent. In 1947 Schupp sold the company's remaining assets and the boats were sold for scrap in a public auction. The only vessel purchased was the *Green*, however she remained inactive and eventually sank in Victoria's harbour. William Schupp passed away in 1948.

After World War II, a consortium led by B.C. Packers continued British Columbia's whaling fishery. During the 1960s production shifted from oil and fertilizer manufacturing to the processing of edible whale meat for export. By 1967 the declining market for these products and a lack of whales in the area ended the whale fishery and the last west coast whaling stations closed.

British Columbia Whaling Collection

(Victoria Whaling Company & Consolidated Whaling Co. Ltd.)

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of records relating to the daily operational activities of the Victoria Whaling Company and its successor, Consolidated Whaling Corporation Ltd. Records include correspondence sent and received by the whaling company with suppliers, other whaling companies, staff, insurance companies, and large organizations including Canadian North Pacific Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries. The collection also includes a series of reports on the weekly catch statistics and the processing of whale products, station reports, whale meal analysis for quality purposes, a whale fishery license, newspaper clippings on the whaling industry, and templates for packing labels used to ship whale oil and other by-products from the whale fishery.

The records have been arranged into two series:

Series 1 • Correspondence, 1915-1916

Series 2 • Reports, 1913-1964

Notes:

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Records were acquired (salvaged) by Leonard McCann in the 1970s while on a site visit to one of the closed whaling stations.

Arrangement: Records arranged by the archivist and all original file titles for the correspondence series were maintained.

Related Records: See the VMM Photo Library “Whaling Photos” for images of the whaling industry from various sources.

The BC Archives has records from the Consolidated Whaling Company (1907-1943) in their holdings. A copy of their finding aid for these records is included with this finding aid.

Language: English

Restrictions on access: None

Terms governing publication: None

Finding aids: A box/file list exists for these records.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

British Columbia Whaling Collection
(Victoria Whaling Company & Consolidated Whaling Co. Ltd.)

Box / File list

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 1** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - "A" letters sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 2** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Accident reports and annual reports for Kyuquot Whaling Station

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 3** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Aetna Insurance Company, San Francisco

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 4** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - J. Arvesen

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 5** **Date: 1916**
Title: Correspondence - Balfour Guthrie & Co. (U.S. Whaling Co., Seattle)

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 6** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Bodwell & Lawson (Victoria)

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 7** **Date: 1916**
Title: Correspondence - R.D. Baldwin

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 8** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Cpt. B. Balcom

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 9** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - "B" letters sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No: 10** **Date: 1916**
Title: Correspondence - George E. Billings Co.

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PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 11 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Canadian North Pacific Fisheries, re: accounts

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 12 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Canadian Northern Railway

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 13 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Canadian Tugboat Company (E.T. McLennan)

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 14 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Comstock Engineering Co. (Michigan)

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 15 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Ry. Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 16 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry. Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 17 **Date:** 1915
Title: Correspondence - Canada Fish & Cold Storage Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 18 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Canadian Fishing Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 19 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 20 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - "C" letters sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

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PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 21 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Walter T. Dawley

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 22 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Draney Fisheries Ltd.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 23 **Date:** 1915
Title: Correspondence - Dingwall Cotts & Company

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 24 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - H.W. Duckitt

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 25 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - "D" letters sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 26 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - "E" letters sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 27 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Evans, Coleman & Evans

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 28 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - "F" letters sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 29 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Fish Canneries By-Products Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 30 **Date:** 1915
Title: Correspondence - Harvey Fitzsimons

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PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 31	Date: 1916
Title: Correspondence - Frizzelis	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 31.5	Date: 1916
Title: Correspondence - "G" correspondence sent by Victoria Whaling Co.	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 32	Date: 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Government	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 33	Date: 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - W.R. Grace & Co.	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 34	Date: 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - S.S. Gray	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 35	Date: 1916
Title: Correspondence - Great Northern Cannery	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 36	Date: 1916
Title: Correspondence - Grand Trunk Pacific Coast Steamship Co.	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 37	Date: 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - James Griffith & Sons (Coast Steam Ship Co.)	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 38	Date: 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Cpt. Hawes (S.S. Gray)	
PartOf British Columbia Whaling Collection	Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 File No: 39	Date: 1916
Title: Correspondence - Cpt. Heater	

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PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 40 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - "H" correspondence sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 41 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - "I" correspondence sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 42 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Imperial Oil Company

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 43 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - "J" correspondence sent by Victoria Whaling Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 2
Series No: 1 **File No:** 44 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Johnson Wharf Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No:** 45 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - W.N. Kelly

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No:** 46 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Isak Kobro

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No:** 47 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - Kerr Steamship Line

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No:** 48 **Date:** 1916
Title: Correspondence - Lloyd's Registers

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No:** 49 **Date:** 1915-1916
Title: Correspondence - ship repairs and maintenance

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PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No: 50** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Simson Balkwill & Co.

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No: 51** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Suppliers

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 3
Series No: 1 **File No: 52** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Vancouver Insurance & Vessel Agency Limited

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 1 **File No: 53** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - Victoria Whaling Consolidated Co. staffing

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 1 **File No: 54** **Date: 1915-1916**
Title: Correspondence - whaling (general)

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 55** **Date: 1952**
Title: Whale catch

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 56** **Date: 1956**
Title: Whale catch

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 57** **Date: 1959**
Title: Whale catch

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 58** **Date: 1962-1963**
Title: Whale meal analysis

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 59** **Date: 1953**
Title: Whaling station reports

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PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 60** **Date: 1954**
Title: Whaling station reports

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 4
Series No: 2 **File No: 61** **Date: 1955**
Title: Whaling station reports

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 62** **Date: 1956**
Title: Whaling station reports

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 63** **Date: 1957**
Title: Whaling station reports

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 64** **Date: 1958**
Title: Whaling station reports

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 65** **Date: [19--]**
Title: Maps of whaling stations in Pacific Northwest

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 66** **Date: 1964**
Title: Whale fishery license

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 67** **Date: [19--]**
Title: Western Canadian Whaling Co., packing label stencils

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 68** **Date: [19--]**
Title: Whaling newspaper clippings

PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection** Location: Box 5
Series No: 2 **File No: 69** **Date: 1913**
Title: Canadian North Pacific Fisheries Ltd. (Kyuquot, BC) weekly reports

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PartOf **British Columbia Whaling Collection**

Location: Box 5

Series No: 2

File No: 70

Date: 1914

Title: Canadian North Pacific Fisheries Ltd. (Naden Harbour, BC) weekly reports