

Captain John Park Fonds

Dates of Creation: 1906-1980

Physical Extent: 0.33 meters of textual records
323 photographs; b&w, colour, 2x2" – 8x8"

Biographical History:

John J. Park was born in Tilly Keira, Lonmay, Scotland on September 30, 1880. He first went to sea in December 1897 as an apprentice on the bark *Inverurie*. After four and a half years Park sailed his last voyage on her as Third Mate. He then went on to obtain his First Mate and Second Mate's certificates and sail on the bark *Inversnaid*, sister ship to *Inverurie*. Park then returned home and obtained his Master Square Rigged Foreign Going Certificate #03703. In 1906 he joined Blue Funnel Line, arriving in British Columbia as officer on the liner *Titan*. In 1909 he left Blue Funnel to join the Union Steamship Company where he served as Master of the *Capilano* in 1910 and in 1911, the *Venture*, for five years. Park then joined Griffiths (Coastwise Steamship and Barge Co.) as Master of the *Turret Crown* stationed on the BC - Alaska route. In 1919, he returned to the deep sea as Master of the *War Cavalry*. During this time, Park met and married his wife, Kate Mary Park (b. 1885, d. 1970).

In August 1921, John Park was appointed Pilot in the BC Pilots Ltd. In 1942, due to a shortage of deep sea masters, Park was asked by the Royal Canadian Navy and British Ministry of Shipping to command the *Ocean Venus*, transporting her from Union Bay, B.C. to Halifax, via Panama Canal. On May 3, 1942, the *Ocean Venus* was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Florida by a German submarine U-564, with a loss of 5 crew members. For his war services, Park received a special citation from Winston Churchill.

Park retired as Senior Pilot on September 30, 1948 after twenty-eight years with the B.C. Pilotage Service. For many of those years he was chosen to pilot to berth the big liners *Niagra* and *Aorangi* and the famous Princess vessels that sailed in and out of Vancouver. After his retirement, Park continued to work - conducting trial runs on B.C. Ferries built at Burrard Dry Dock.

John Park passed away on November 29, 1980 at the age of 100.

Scope and Content:

Records in this fonds consist of personal papers and correspondence related to Captain John Park's maritime career as a vessel Master and marine Pilot in the B.C. Coast Pilotage Authority. Also included are immigration papers for his wife Kate Park; family photographs; a guest book from the Park household; notice of awards received by Park while in the Merchant Navy during World War II; and notebooks used to record navigation calculations.

Records in this fonds have been arranged into the following series:

- Series 1 – Personal papers and correspondence (1916-1980)
- Series 2 – Maritime service records and BC Coast Pilotage employment (1906-1964)
- Series 3 – Photographs ([19--])

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Notes:

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Records were donated to the Vancouver Maritime Museum by the estate of Captain Park after his death in 1980.

Arrangement: Records were arranged by Archivist based on subject of the materials. Original order of records was not clear as materials were loosely packed into a box.

Related Records: Photographs of Captain John Park may also be found in the VMM Union Steamship Collection – Photo Series, Box 7.

Language: Records in this fonds are in 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.

Captain John Park Fonds

Box / File list

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 1 **Date:** 1937-1980
Title: Captain Park - immigration and identification/membership papers

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 2 **Date:** 1916-1970
Title: Kate Park (wife) - citizenship papers and will

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 3 **Date:** 1917-1956
Title: Merchant Service Guild & Company of Master Mariners

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 4 **Date:** 1943
Title: Merchant Navy awards

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 5 **Date:** 1955-1965
Title: Personal correspondence - guest book

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 6 **Date:** [19--]
Title: Personal correspondence - cards from wife and friends

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 1 **File No:** 7 **Date:** 1921-1978
Title: Personal correspondence

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 2 **File No:** 8 **Date:** 1906-1921
Title: Maritime service records - employment letters

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 2 **File No:** 9 **Date:** 1921-1924
Title: BC Coast Pilotage Authority

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds** Location: Box 1
Series No: 2 **File No:** 10 **Date:** 1919-1935
Title: Logbooks - navigation calculations

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PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds**

Location: Box 1

Series No: 2 **File No:** 11

Date: 1964

Title: Captain Park - Court Assessor in accident between "Western Spray" and "Ivanhoe"

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds**

Location: Box 1

Series No: 2 **File No:** 12

Date: 1954-1957

Title: Blue Funnel Line - calendar and "Staff Bulletin" magazines

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds**

Location: Box 2

Series No: 3 **File No:** 13

Date: [19--]

Title: Photographs - family and friends, vol. 1

PartOf **Captain John Park Fonds**

Location: Box 2

Series No: 3 **File No:** 14

Date: [19--]

Title: Photographs - family and friends, vol. 2