

INVENTORY OF THE
CHARLES FOSTER BATCHELDER PAPERS
IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Chiefly correspondence and reading notes of a
Milton, Mass., businessman, book collector, and
amateur whaling historian, 1712-1973.

Volume: 4 linear feet.

Provenance: Gift of Mrs. Charles F. Batchelder on 22
December 1975.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Barbara E. Austen.

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National Endowment for the Humanities.

INTRODUCTION

Materials in this collection were given to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Mrs. Charles F. Batchelder on 22 December 1975.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles Foster Batchelder was born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1898. He received his degree in civil engineering from Harvard in 1922 and eventually formed a company that developed shoe-lasts. He was active in Milton, Mass., town politics, serving as selectman for fifteen years, as well as holding other offices, and served as overseer of Old Sturbridge Village from 1953, president of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities from 1961, and trustee of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society from 1969 until his death in 1973. However, he was perhaps best known for his knowledge of whaling history and for his library of whaling books, pamphlets, and journals, both of which he pursued as a hobby.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Of primary importance in the papers of Charles Foster Batchelder is incoming and outgoing personal correspondence, 1922-1973. These letters principally consist of requests for or an exchange of information on whaling vessels, captains, whaling terms, whaling grounds, and ports of call with museum professionals, an author, and researchers. The correspondents include Ernest Stanley Dodge (1913-1980), Edouard Alexandre Stackpole (1905-), and Marion Vernon Brewington (1902-1974). Additional letters concern his collection of books and articles on whaling or request that he review works on whaling for the AMERICAN NEPTUNE or the AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRAL PACIFIC, 1790-1870, series. Batchelder arranged his incoming correspondence by subject or by writer, usually attaching his response and notes to the letter. In most instances, this arrangement has been retained. The incoming letters have been arranged chronologically by year and then alphabetically arranged by writer with Batchelder's responses or initial inquiries attached.

Other materials in this collection include bills for books, 1922-1926, and Old Dartmouth Historical Society material consisting of incoming and outgoing correspondence, 1923-1973; treasurer's reports, 1969-1973; trustee meeting minutes, 1970-1972; budgets, 1970-1972, material concerning a whaling symposium, 1972; and notices, notes, lists, flyers, and similar materials, 1944-1973. In addition, this collection contains substantial reading and research notes kept by Batchelder, probably between 1952-1973. These

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE (cont.)

notes, primarily about whaling vessels, their locations on the ocean, and ports of call, were taken from information in books, serials, and pamphlets both within and outside of Batchelder's collection. They have been arranged alphabetically by author. This material is supplemented by research notes, which do not appear to be taken from a single specific source; bibliographic material, ca. 1950; an annotated index to American Activities that Batchelder was compiling, 1968-1969; lists of rare books, 1967; clippings and a picture, ca. 1925, 1960-1971; and original documents or copies of originals, 1712, 1830-1869, ca. 1880, 1922, such as pages from an account book, a bill of lading, a Seamen's Protection Paper, and a letter, presumably used by Batchelder in his research.

The materials in this collection were given to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society as part of Batchelder's larger collection of books, serials, and pamphlets. The reading notes were removed from this collection, and some may still be in the volumes.

Series A. Correspondence, 1922-1973. Incoming and outgoing personal correspondence. 17 inches.

Series B. Bills, 1922-1926. 5 items.

Series C. Old Dartmouth Historical Society Material, 1923-1973. Incoming and outgoing correspondence; notices; notes and clipping; flyers, announcement, and newsletter; lists; committee reports; treasurer's reports; trustee meeting minutes; budgets; materials concerning whaling symposium; and docent training program. 5 inches.

Series D. Reading and Research Notes, Ephemera, Clippings, and Miscellany, 1712-1972. Reading notes and ephemera; research notes; bibliographic material; annotated index; lists; clippings and picture; and original documents. 24 inches.

DESCRIPTION

Box 1

Series A. Correspondence, 1922-1973

Sub-series 1. Incoming, 1922-1973

Folder	1.	1922-1923
"	2.	1924
"	3.	1925, 1936-1940
"	4.	1943, 1948
"	5.	1949-1950
"	6-8.	1951
"	9.	1952
"	10.	1953
"	11-12.	1954
"	13-16.	1955
"	17-18.	1956
"	19.	1957
"	20.	1958
"	21.	1959

Box 2

Folder	22.	1960
"	23-25.	1961
"	26.	1962
"	27.	1963
"	28.	1964
"	29-30.	1965
"	31-33.	1966
"	34-36.	1967
"	37-38.	1968

Box 3

Folder	39-42.	1969
"	43-46.	1970
"	47.	1970-1971. Concerns Edouard Stackpole's manuscript <u>Pursuit of Whales and Destiny</u> , being considered for publication
"	48-50.	1971
"	51-55.	1972
"	56-57.	1973

Box 4

Sub-series 2. Outgoing, 1945-1973

Folder	1.	1945, 1951-1954
"	2.	1955
"	3.	1956-1958
"	4.	1959-1960
"	5.	1961-1963
"	6.	1964-1966
"	7.	1967-1969
"	8.	1970-1971
"	9.	1972-1973

Box 4 (cont.)

Series B. Bills, 1922-1926

Folder 1. 1922-1926

Box 5

Series C. Old Dartmouth Historical Society Material, 1923-1973

- Folder 1-9. Incoming correspondence, 1923-1973
- " 10-11. Outgoing correspondence, 1959-1972
- " 12. Notices of appeals and annual meetings, 1944-1957
- " 13. Notes and clipping, 1955, 1968-1972
- " 14. Flyers, announcements, and newsletter, 1968-1973
- " 15. Lists of staff, officers, and trustees, 1968-1973
- " 16. Committee reports, 1969, 1972
- " 17-19. Treasurer's reports, 1969-1973
- " 20. Trustee meeting minutes, 1970-1972
- " 21. Budgets, 1970-1972
- " 22. Correspondence concerning and papers delivered at the Whaling Museum Symposium, 1972
- " 23. Docent training program, 1973

Box 6-9

Series D. Reading and Research Notes, Ephemera, Clippings, and Miscellany, 1712-1972

Envelope 1-973. Reading notes and ephemera, ca. 1952-1973

Box 10

- Folder 1-9. Research notes, ca. 1952-1973
- " 10. Bibliographic material, ca. 1950
- " 11-12. Annotated index of American Activities in the Central Pacific, 1790-1870, 1968-1969
- " 13. Lists of rare books, 1967
- " 14. Clippings and picture, ca. 1925, 1960-1971
- " 15-16. Original documents, 1712, 1830-1869, ca. 1880, 1922. Includes bill, bill of lading, Seamen's Protection Paper, letter, order of payment, and copies of account book and Dennis Wood abstracts

ADDED ENTRIES

Authors--Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.
 Batchelder, Charles Foster, 1898-1973--Library
 Bibliophily SEE Book collecting
 Book collecting
 Book collectors--Mass.--Milton
 Book reviews SEE Books--Reviews
 Books--Collectors and collecting SEE Book collecting; Book
 collectors
 Books--Reviews--Mass.--Milton
 Brewington, Marion Vernon, 1902-1974
 Civil engineers--Mass.--Milton
 Clark, Eugene Seymour, ca. 1905-1982
 Clough, Benjamin Crocker, 1888-1975
 College teachers--U.S.--Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.
 Crosby, Everett Uberto, 1871-1960
 Curators, Museum SEE Museum curators
 Dahl, Curtis, 1920-
 Directors of museums SEE Museum directors
 Dodge, Ernest Stanley, 1913-1980
 Dorsett, Edward Lee
 Gregg Press, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey
 Heflin, Wilson L 1913-
 Historians--Conn.--Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.
 Historians--Mass.--Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.
 Historians--Mass.--Milton
 Historical research--Mass.--Milton
 History--Research SEE Historical research
 Home libraries SEE Libraries, Private
 Kaplan, Sidney, 1913-
 King, S Clyde
 Kugler, Richard Cory, 1930-
 Libraries, Private--Mass.--Milton
 Lothrop, Francis B
 Mason, Francis Van Wyck, 1897-
 Mason, Van Wyck, 1897- SEE Mason, Francis Van Wyck, 1897-
 Milton, Mass.--Officials and employees
 Museum curators--Conn.--Mystic
 Museum curators--Massachusetts
 Museum directors--Massachusetts
 Museum trustees SEE Museums--Trustees
 Museums--Mass.--New Bedford--Trustees
 Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, Mass.
 Private libraries SEE Libraries, Private
 Purrington, Philip Foster, 1912-
 Research, Historical SEE Historical research
 Reviews SEE Books--Reviews
 Richards, Rhys
 Smith, Philip Chadwick Foster, 1939-
 Stackpole, Edouard Alexandre, 1905-
 Trustees, Museum SEE Museums--Trustees
 Van Wyck Mason, Francis, 1897- SEE Mason, Francis Van
 Wyck, 1897-
 Whalers
 Whaling
 Whaling in literature
 Sherman, Stuart C 1917-1983