Leuman Maurice Waugh Collection, 1909-1963

by Gayle Yiotis

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Collection Overview

Repository: National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center

Creators: Waugh, Donald.
Waugh, Leuman Maurice, 1877-1972.

Title: Leuman Maurice Waugh Collection

Dates: 1909-1963

Quantity: 1,746 photographic prints
2.1 linear feet (5 boxes; 1 map case drawer)
1,036 lantern slides
80 film reels, 16mm
1,622 negatives (photographic)

Abstract: The Leuman Maurice Waugh papers supplement his related photograph and film holdings through the materials generated by Waugh’s dental expeditions to Labrador and Arctic Alaska to treat members of Inuit communities.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The National Museum of the American Indian purchased the Waugh collection in 2001 from the Rankin Museum of American and Natural History in Ellerbee, N.C.

Related Material

The National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution hold twenty Waugh photographs which located in the Division of Physical Anthropology Photograph Collection #NAA2223a. NAA also has Waugh material in the Henry Bascom Collins, Jr. Papers, #NAA3131. The Archives and Special Collections at the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library, Columbia University holds the School of Dental and Oral Surgery Records, 1892, 1915-1976 as well as the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, Historical Collection, 1892-1989.

Processing Information

Processed by Gayle Yiotis and Michael Pahn with various updates by Jennifer O'Neal in 2010.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions on Access

Access restricted. Researchers should contact the NMAI Archivist for an appointment to access the collection.

Access restricted. Some dental records may be restricted from access, reproduction, or publication under personal health information privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. Researchers should contact the NMAI Archivist at 301-238-6624 or archives@nmai.si.edu for an appointment to access the collection.

Ownership & Literary Rights

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish or broadcast materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to nmaiarchives@si.edu.

Biographical Note

Born on March 6, 1877 in New Dundee, Ontario, Canada, Leuman Maurice Waugh, moved to Rochester, New York, with his family at the age of nine. He acquired his love for photography in Rochester, which always attributed as the “Kodak city.” Following in his father’s dentistry footsteps, Waugh attended the University of Buffalo, from which he received his D.D.S. in 1900. He took postgraduate studies in Histology, Bacteriology, and Pathology at Buffalo’s School of Medicine, and within two years was appointed Professor of Histology and Embryology at his alma mater. In 1912, Waugh pioneered the design of a unit-type x-ray machine for use at the dental chair, which was later studied and adopted by large dental apparatus manufacturers. By the time he left Buffalo in 1914 to specialize in the infant field of orthodontics in New York City, he had served as Professor of Special Pathology and Officer of the Governing Faculty at the university.

In 1915, Waugh served on the Organization Committee of the Columbia Dental School and shortly thereafter became its Secretary of the Dental Faculty, and sequentially Secretary of the Administrative Board and Professor of Histology and Embryology. In 1921 he was appointed Professor and Director of the Orthodontic Division of the school, and later served as Associate Director, Acting Director and Associate Dean. Waugh’s affiliation with Columbia lasted through 1945. He served as Director of the American Board of Orthodontics from 1949 to 1953, and was asked to serve as Secretary-Chairman of the Orthodontia section of the American Association of Dental Schools in 1930, and as President in 1935. Waugh married Helen “Esty” Marshall, and had a son, Donald (also a dentist), and a daughter, Dorothy.

An active member of the Explorer’s Club and Commodore of the Yachting Department of the New York Athletic Club, Waugh volunteered to undertake Alaskan studies on caries research among the Inuit for the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1929, the Health Service appointed Waugh Dental Director (Reserve) at the rank of Colonel. Waugh was apparently inspired by a lecture he heard as a student in 1908 from Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, Smithsonian Curator of Physical Anthropology at the Institute of Dental Pedagogics, on the dental conditions of human populations. Waugh privately carried out a Labrador study between 1921 and 1927 over the course of five summers. Under the sometimes-partial aegis of the U.S. Public Health Service, Waugh also studied twelve Alaskan Inuit communities between 1929 and 1938. He was the first dental officer in the U.S. Public Service ever assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter Northland’s cruise area of the Bering Sea and Alaska Arctic regions. During his trips, Waugh compiled data on the teeth, mouth, and diet of indigenous communities. In addition, he took many photographs and films of both dental subjects and indigenous communities.
Waugh’s son, Donald, accompanied him on his 1935 expedition up the Kuskokwim River (Alaska) in their custom designed and built 29 foot yacht Nanuk Mi-kin-inni (Polar Bear Cub). In 1936, Waugh was appointed to a position with the Alaska Health Service by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior via the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This position allowed him to further his studies of tooth decay throughout Alaska and the Bering Sea region. Waugh’s 1937 expedition included three dentists (one a biochemist), a physician and a nurse, and involved extensive air travel in small planes. A popular lecturer and prolific writer, Waugh continued to advocate for the health of the northern indigenous communities he visited long after his trips ended. He spent the remainder of his professional career at Columbia University, where he rose from Professor of Orthodontia (1923-19435) to (concurrently) Chief of Orthodontia and Director of the Department of Orthodontics. Waugh continued to be active in professional organizations well after his retirement, until a few years before his death at his home in Betterton, Maryland, on May 6, 1972.

Scope and Content Note

The Leuman Maurice Waugh papers supplement his related photograph and film holdings through the materials generated by Waugh’s dental expeditions to Labrador and Arctic Alaska to treat members of Inuit communities. The materials consist of raw dental data and community census information, professional and personal correspondence, clippings and essays, reports and lectures, and logistics and trip planning documents, in addition to correspondence (letters received and sent), postcards, press clippings, essays, reports, speeches, articles, journals, logs, sketches, drawings, and other materials collected and compiled by Waugh detailing his experiences as a dentist in Arctic Alaska region and Labrador, his dental methodologies, and his personal attitudes towards the individual Inuit and Inuit communities he encountered. The materials reveal the complexities of missionary, anthropology, and other “Lower 48” institutional interactions with indigenous Arctic communities.

Arrangement

Waugh’s original order was disturbed over the years after his death and during transfer from the Waugh family to the Rankin Museum. NMAI archivists elected to arrange the collection chronologically.

The records are organized in the following series: I. Dental study data and logistics, II. Correspondence, III. Writings, IV. Realia and ephemera, V. Press clippings and public relations materials, VI. Maps and other oversized materials. Chronological arrangement.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Anthropology -- Alaska
Anthropology -- Labrador (N.L.)
Dentistry -- Alaska
Dentistry -- Labrador (N.L.)
Dentists
Inuit -- Census -- Alaska
Inuit -- Dental care -- Alaska
Inuit -- Names, Personal
Missions, Medical -- Alaska
Missions, Medical -- Kuskokwim River (Alaska)
Missions, Medical -- Labrador (N.L.)
Nutrition and dental health -- Alaska
Nutrition and dental health -- Labrador (N.L.)
Orthodontists
Teeth -- Radiography

Cultures:
Inuit.

Types of Materials:
  Clippings
  Correspondence
  Maps
  Realia
  Writings
dental records
printed ephemera

Names:
  American Association of Dental Schools
  American Board of Orthodontics
  Columbia University
  Nanuk Mi-kin-inni (Yacht)
  New York Athletic Club
  Northland (Coast Guard cutter: WPG-49)
  United States Public Health Service

Occupations:
  Dentist

Geographic Names:
  Alaska
  Labrador (N.L.)
Container Listing

Series 1: Dental Study Data and Logistics, 1924-1937
Arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1  Photo Log, 1924
Box 1, Folder 2  Dental Study Trip to Labrador, 1927
Box 1, Folder 3  Data Charts and Essays Relating to Eskimos Health, Culture and Diet, 1929-1937
Box 1, Folder 4  Ship Log with Field Notes, Jul 1929-Aug 1930
Box 1, Folder 5  Dentistry Log, 1930
Box 1, Folder 6  Study Materials, 1930
Box 1, Folder 7  Dental Survey Reports and Correspondence Relating to Alaskan Natives, 1934-1936
Box 1, Folder 8  Alaska Expedition Materials, 1934-1936
Box 1, Folder 9  Alaska Trip Diary and Related Materials, 1935-1936
Box 1, Folder 10  Travel Diary: Bethel to Hooper Bay and Related Materials, 1934-1937
Box 2, Folder 1  Health and Diet Field Data, 1935-1937
Box 2, Folder 2  Drawings by Hooper Bay Eskimos, c.1936
Series 2: Correspondence, 1923-1937

Contains correspondence (letters send and received), postcards, and telegrams in addition to speeches, press clippings, articles, notes, statistical data, diaries and other materials relating to L. M. Waugh’s expeditions to Labrador in the 1920s and to Arctic Alaska in the 1930s and his study of Inuit (Eskimo) nutrition and dental health.

Arranged Chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 3    Correspondence, 1923
Box 2, Folder 4    Correspondence, 1924
Box 2, Folder 5    Correspondence, 1925
Box 2, Folder 6    Correspondence, 1927
Box 2, Folder 7    Correspondence, 1928
Box 2, Folder 8    Correspondence, 1929
Box 2, Folder 9    Correspondence, 1929
Box 2, Folder 10   Correspondence, 1930
Box 2, Folder 11   Correspondence, 1931
Box 2, Folder 12   Correspondence, 1932
Box 3, Folder 1    Correspondence, 1933
Box 3, Folder 2    Correspondence with Alaska Survey Data and Expedition Logistics, 1934
Box 3, Folder 3    Correspondence with Alaska Survey Data and Expedition Logistics, 1935
Box 3, Folder 4    Correspondence with Expedition Documentation, 1936
Box 3, Folder 5    Correspondence with Expedition Documentation, 1936
Box 3, Folder 6    Correspondence with Expedition Diary and Documentation, 1937
Box 3, Folder 7    Correspondence with Expedition Diary and Documentation, 1937
Box 3, Folder 8    Correspondence with Expedition Diary and Documentation, 1937
Box 3, Folder 9    Correspondence, 1938
Box 3, Folder 10   Correspondence, 1939
Box 3, Folder 11   Correspondence, 1949-1963
Box 3, Folder 12   Letter Fragments, undated
Series 3: Writings, 1920s-1940s

Arrangement is generally chronological.

Box 4, Folder 1  Writings, 1920s
Box 4, Folder 2  Writings, 1930s
Box 4, Folder 3  Writings, undated
Box 4, Folder 4  A Study of the Nutrition and Teeth of Eskimos of the North Bering Sea and Arctic Alaska, c.1929-1930
Box 4, Folder 5  Poems by Leuman Waugh and Others, undated
Box 4, Folder 6  Waugh Biographical Materials, c.1930-1937
Box 4, Folder 7  The Winged Foot Burgee in Labrador, c.1933-1934
Box 4, Folder 8  Writings, 1939
Box 4, Folder 9  Writings, 1940-1941
Series 4: Realia and Ephemera, 1913-1937

Box 4, Folder 10  Medical Handbook: Alaska School Service, 1913
Box 4, Folder 11  Maps of Alaska, 1917-1937
                   Moved to map case drawer 8.
Box 4, Folder 12  Labrador Negatives, 1923-1925
                   Moved to NMAI Photo Archives
Box 4, Folder 13  Miscellaneous Study Materials, 1929-1931
Box 5, Folder 1   Photography Equipment Brochures and Manuals, c.1929-1935
Box 5, Folder 2   Alaska Travel Brochures, Maps and Boating Catalogs, c.1931-1934
Box 5, Folder 3   Newsletters, Journals, Directories, Menus, etc., 1932-1945
Box 5, Folder 4   Color Postcards, Dental Negatives, Local Cultural and Social Materials, Empty
                   Envelopes and Blank Stationary, c.1936
                   Dental negatives moved to NMAI Photo Archives
Box 5, Folder 5   Articles Relating to Eskimos, c.1941
Box 5, Folder 6   Business Cards, Greeting Cards, Canadian Postage Stamps, Name and Address
                   Stencil, undated
Series 5: Press Clippings and Articles, 1909-1938

Box 5, Folder 7  Press Clippings and Articles, 1909-1924
Box 5, Folder 8  Press Clippings and Articles, 1930-1934
Box 5, Folder 9  Press Clippings and Articles, 1935-1938
Series 6: Photograph Collection

The photo collection contains around 2000 items including prints, negatives and tinted glass plate negatives. The images have been individually catalogued and their numbers are listed by image type.

Box 6  Original Image Sleeves, undated

Lantern Slides: L01787-L02822
  1,036 lantern slides

Negatives: N20150-N20192, N42600-N44178
  1,622 negatives (photographic)

Prints: P03420, P30042-P31788
  1,746 photographic prints
Series 7: Media Collection

80 film reels, 16mm; In need of preservation

The media collection contains 80 items but are in need of preservation and can not be viewed.