

Ken Crassweller
An Inventory of His Research Collection on Inuit Arts and Crafts
in
The Library of the University of British Columbia
Special Collections Division

Prepared by

Ruth Lovell

April, 1978

Ken Crassweller Papers
Research Collection on Inuit Arts and Crafts

The Ken Crassweller Papers consist of a research collection created during his employment as Programme Development Officer, Arctic District Office, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), Centennial Towers, Ottawa, and the Department of Industry and Development, government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, NWT, 1967-1972. The papers relate to his involvement in the development of Inuit (Eskimo) arts and crafts programmes.

The papers are divided into four basic areas: 1) the Project Index; 2) Handbook of Eskimo Artifacts and related; 3) Working papers for arts and crafts by subject area; and 4) Printed material. The type of material contained in these areas varies, but basically it consists of correspondence (both Business and inter-office), which is largely carbon or xerox copies; reports and surveys; and xeroxed periodical articles and bibliographies.

The Project Index was compiled to document projects set up by the government in the area of Eskimo arts and crafts. It was to be presented with no person's names mentioned unless as contacts or when giving credit for successes. It was supposed to present pure raw information, e.g. duties, places, action taken, results, etc. Entries were to be listed in alphabetical order, by subject, in brief paragraphs that would be no longer than one page per project and organized in dictionary-like form.

The Index, as it exists in this collection, appears to be the working copy. There is no indication in Crassweller's papers if the index ever reached print or near-print form. The file consists of numerous scraps of paper, handwritten, typed or reproduced, which have been cut out and glued or taped onto tissue paper. They are organized in alphabetical order. Many of the entries are not dated or referenced, but there is no chronological order in any case. Some interesting material on the "Ookpik" and also on protection of Eskimo crafts can be found here, though (under the headings 'Mark', 'Protections,' and 'Reproductions.')

The Handbook of Eskimo Artifacts and related data are a useful section of the collection. The related data is organized alphabetically, with a "miscellaneous" section at the end. The Handbook itself is not in very good condition, as the paste used has turned brown and is starting to seep through the backing paper. Mr. Crassweller wishes to retain the copyright on the Handbook, but it is still useful for research purposes. In its present form, the Handbook is organized in much broader areas than the background data would indicate. Artifacts are grouped under the headings: "Food, heat, light," "Hunting gear," "Leisure," and "Transportation." Descriptions and felt pen illustrations are included for most of the artifacts.

The related data consists of information gathered by Crassweller in preparation for his manuscript on artifacts. Many periodical articles are included in the various folders. There is also a large number of bibliographies, which include lists of names (both contacts and officers), addresses, books, and periodical articles. More specifically, there are film striplists, population figures, film lists, early efforts to reduce the Eskimo language to writing, etc. Many of the "Item Lists" relate to artifact kits that were set up for the educational system, but an index to the Handbook is also contained herein. The "Transportation" file contains an 8" x 10" photo of an Eskimo sled and seven polaroid photos of kayak frame construction.

The miscellaneous folders contain a wealth of information, and should not be overlooked when the "Related Data" is used. A few of the interesting areas included here are: baskets, dolls, games, musical instruments, weapons (harpoons), entertainment, recreation, raw materials, photo of ivory carving of a kayak, kayaks, description of kayak in both English and Eskimo syllabic, rough draft of Handbook, dwellings, tools, etc.

The weakness of this section lies largely in the poor quality of reproductions. There is a wealth of information on Eskimo artifacts, however, with many illustrations.

The Working Papers for arts and crafts by subject area are organized, as largely as possible, by Crassweller's system. "Miscellaneous" and bound information, as well as folders with no numbering sequence are at the end of the sequence, in their original order in the collection. The Working Papers make up the bulk of the collection, as well as providing the most varied, extensive, and practical information. Some examples of the variety of info. to be found: "Hunting and fishing gear" contains info on seal hunting, the harpoon, the bow, and various types of spears. "Carving" includes auction material; "Stone" deals largely with sources of stone for carving. "Garment standard sizing" includes charts for shoes and mitts; "Parkas" includes patterns, pattern information, and how to measure a person for a parka. Ookpik is well-documented in both "Souvenir production" and "Volume production."

Also included in the Working Papers is a large amount of administrative material, such as policy, terms of reference, contracts, reports, etc.; information on some specific programs is also located here.

The remainder of the collection consists of printed material, which is a variety of publications, many of which are put out by different branches of the government. All are pre-1972 publications.

There are several names which appear with some frequency in the collection. These are: A. Stevenson, Chief, Northern Services Division, Territorial Affairs Branch; Gunther Abrahamson; and Dave Fisher.

This is a fairly compact collection, contained in eight Hollinger boxes. Its strengths lie largely in the Related Data and Working Papers sections. Its major weakness is the poor condition of much of the collection. Much of the correspondence consists of carbon copies on tissue paper, making it very fragile and easily smudged or torn.

Ken Crassweller Papers
Research Collection on Inuit Arts and Crafts

| <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> | <u>Heading</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | <u>PROJECT INDEX</u> |
| 1 | 1 | Index Proposal and Subject Headings List |
| | 2 | Project Pink Cards (H only). |
| | 3 | File 'A' -Architecture -Article -Artifacts -Artists -Arts-Performing -Assessments -Associations |
| | 4 | File 'B' -Bank -Bibliography -Biography -Boat -Boots -Buying |
| | 5 | File 'C' -Cap -Carving -Ceramics |
| | 6 | File 'C' cont'd -Collections -Committees -"Company" -Competition -Conference -Co-op -Council |
| | 7 | File 'D' -Design -Drawings -Duffle |
| | 8 | File 'E' -Education -Eiderdown -Eskimo -Exhibit -Experiment -Expo |

| <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> | <u>Heading</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 9 | File 'F' -Fabric -Film -Finance |
| | 10 | File 'G' -Galleries -Games -Garments |
| | 11 | File 'H' -Handbook -History |
| | 12 | File 'I' -Identification -igloo -Imitations -Institutions |
| | 13 | File 'J' -Jewellery |
| | 14 | File 'L' -Language |
| | 15 | File 'M' -Mark (trade mark) -Marketing -Material (ivory, hide, antler, skins, tusks, etc.) -Material - beads -Material - Cloth -Material - Fur - Hair -Materials - Sewing |
| | 16-18 | File 'P' -Painting -Parka -Policy (govt. policies mainly) -Pricing (mainly mark-ups) -Prints -Production -Production centres -Program -Promotion -Protection -Publication |
| 2 | 1 | File 'R' -Reports -Reproductions -Resource People (contacts, supervisors) |

| <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> | <u>Heading</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2 | 2 | File 'S' -Shipping -Souvenir (a lot pertaining to Ookpik) -Stationery -Stone -Symbols |
| | 3 | File 'T' -Tags (labels) -Tanning -Tanning - taxidermy -Tariff -Tours -Tours - lecture -Toys -Training |
| | 4 | File 'W' -Whalebone |
| | | <u>HANDBOOK OF ESKIMO ARTIFACTS AND RELATED DATA</u> |
| | 5 | <u>Handbook of Eskimo Artifacts</u> and file cards relating to organization of manuscript. |
| | 6 | Adornment |
| | 7 | Artifacts (includes material on the setting up of model artifact kits for marketing) |
| | 8-11 | Bibliographies |
| | 12 | Clothing |
| | 13 | Decorative Art (includes some photos) |
| | 14 | Item Lists |
| 3 | 1 | Lamps and Pots and Utensils |
| | 2 | Transportation (includes some photos) |
| | 3-4 | Miscellaneous - baskets, dolls, games, musical instruments, weapons (harpoons), entertainment and recreation, raw materials, kayak, tools, artifacts. |
| | | <u>WORKING PAPERS FOR ARTS & CRAFTS BY SUBJECT AREA</u> |
| | 5 | Hunting and fishing gear |
| | 6-7 | Carving |
| | 8 | stone |

| <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> | <u>Heading</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| 3 | 9 | Ceramics (includes two photos) |
| | 10 | Artifacts |
| | 11 | Garment Projects |
| | 12 | Garment Standard Sizing (includes charts) |
| | 13 | Parkas (includes sample pattern) |
| | 14 | Waterproofing |
| | 15 | Eiderdown |
| | 4 | 1 |
| 2 | | Drawings |
| 3 | | Baker Lake Prints |
| 4 | | Cape Dorset |
| 5-6 | | Souvenir Production |
| 7 | | Product Lists |
| 8-9 | | Volume production (includes info on Ookpik, with photo of production) |
| 10-11 | | Tags and Labels (contains examples) |
| 12 | | Tools |
| 13 | | Buyer's Guide |
| 14 | | Price Guides |
| 15 | | Research Guide - "Architecture" |
| 16 | | Illustrations |
| 17 | | Buying and Marketing |
| 5 | 1 | Shelter |
| | 2 | Entertainment and Recreation |
| | 3-6 | Miscellaneous |
| | 7-9 | File Numbers |
| | 10 | Policy - Administration, Terms of Reference |
| | 11 | Policy - Terms of Ref., Rankin Inlet Workshop |
| | 12 | Policy - Frobisher Bay Info. |

| <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> | <u>Heading</u> | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| 6 | 1 | Policy - Baffin Island project, More Frobisher Bay. | |
| | 2 | Policy - Code of Ethics for Arctic artists | |
| | 3 | Policy - General Policy | |
| | 4-6 | Terms of Reference - Job descriptions | |
| | 7 | Contracts - Eskimo language glossaries, business cards. | |
| | 8-9 | Reports and Studies | |
| | 10 | Program to maintain & improve quality - Eskimo carving | |
| | 11-12 | For filing | |
| | 7 | 1-2 | Frobisher |
| | | 3 | Report on the Eskimo Rehabilitation Centre. Frobisher Bay, NWT. 1956-1957-1958-1959. |
| 4 | | Frobisher Plan 1967 | |
| 5 | | Arts and Crafts Program, Part B, Arctic District Office. | |
| 6 | | Reference. Arts & Crafts. Ken Crassweller, 1969-70-73. | |
| 7 | | Bibliography | |
| | | <u>PRINTED MATERIAL</u> | |
| 8 | 8 | <u>North</u> (Nov. -Dec. 1968), <u>Sculpture</u> (a catalogue of a competition/exhibition held for the Centennial of the Northwest Territories). | |
| | 9 | <u>Sculpture/Inuit</u> (this folder contains info on trade marks and labels rather than its original material). | |
| | 1 | <u>Canadian Eskimo Carving in Historical Perspective.</u> by Charles A. Martyn. Xeroxed manuscript. | |
| | 2 | <u>Q-Book</u> (Quajivaallirutissat) - handbook of the Welfare Division of the Dept. of Northern Affairs and National Resources (bilingual). | |
| | 3 | <u>Imperial Oil Review, Oct. 1960; Masterworks Exhibition. Canadian Eskimo Carvers and their Arctic Communities; Indians of British Columbia.</u> | |
| | 4 | <u>Helps for Arts and Crafts Program Managers, Booklet "C" - Stone Carving.</u> | |

| <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> | <u>Heading</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 8 | 5 | Govt. of the Northwest Territories, Dept. of Industry and Development. Arts and Crafts Section, <u>Arts and Crafts Source Finder.</u> Dec., 1969. |

Ken Crassweller fonds
Accrual 1
Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia Library

Prepared by Sarah Romkey
March, 2007

Ken Crassweller fonds (Accrual 1). 1973 – 2004. 2.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content:

The accrual reflects Crassweller's research interests in Inuit art, and some of his activities surrounding that research from 1973 to 2004. These activities include a 1973 trip to Greenland during which Crassweller accompanied three Inuit artists attending a seminar and the compilation of Crassweller's research paper "Peetakvik: Inuit Arts and Crafts History for the Future." Records include correspondence, diary entries, reports and manuscripts. The accrual is divided into three series: Greenland trip, Peetakvik, and Grise Fiord.

Notes:

Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

Series descriptions:

1. Greenland trip. 1973. – 0.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content:

Series reflects Crassweller's 1973 trip to Greenland, where he accompanied three Inuit artists to a seminar in Holsteinsborg. Series consists of a report of the trip, as well as pages from Crassweller's diary during the trip. Series is contained in one file.

Notes:

Title based on the content of the series.

2. Peetakvik. 2002 – 2004. – 1.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content:

Series reflects Crassweller's compilation of the unpublished research paper "Peetakvik: Inuit Arts and Crafts History for the Future." The paper deals with artistic and cultural initiatives in the North, and recommendations for the survival of these initiatives in the future. Series consists of correspondence regarding this paper, and a manuscript of the paper itself. Series is contained in one file.

Notes:

Title based on the content of the series.

3. Grise Fiord. 1994. – 0.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content:

Series consists of a photocopy of a piece of correspondence to Peter and Barbara Scott from Larry Audlaluk, and describes life in Grise Fiord from the 1960's to the 1990's. Series is contained in one file.

Notes:
Title based on the content of the series.

File list:

| File | Location (Box-file) |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Greenland trip | 9-1 |
| Peetakvik | 9-2 |
| Grise Fiord | 9-3 |

Ken Crassweller Fonds

Addendum

RBSC-ARC-1146

University of British Columbia Library

Rare Books and Special Collections

January 2019

Prepared by Claire Williams

Addendum to Ken Crassweller Fonds

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Title and Statement of Responsibility Area:

Title Proper: Ken Crassweller fonds

General material designation: Textual records.

Title notes: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Level of description: Fonds

Reference code: RBSC-ARC-1146

Dates of Creation Area:

Dates: 1967-2015

Physical Description Area:

Extent: 1.5 cm of textual records

Archival Description Area:

Name of creator: Ken Crassweller

Ken Crassweller was employed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as Programme Development Officer, Arctic Division Office, and by the Northwest Territories government

between 1962 and 1972. His task to evaluate the existing artistic and cultural situation of the North generated the papers in his collection.

Scope and content: The addendum to the fonds consists of an unpublished manuscript by Crassweller entitled “Peetakvik: Inuit Arts and Crafts History for the Future”, as well as a file containing material related to Inuit sculptor’s traveling exhibition.

Notes Area:

Physical condition: Materials are in good condition.

Finding aids: RBSC staff created an inventory for the fonds in 1978 (see attached PDF). This was appended with an initial accrual to the fonds in 2004. In 2019 a second accrual was made to the fonds, and a finding aid for this has been added as an addendum to the original finding aid, available as attached PDF.

Access Points:

Canada. Dept. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Subject)

Control Area:

Dates of creation, revision, deletion: Addendum created by Claire Williams in January 2019.

File List

| File | Date | Location |
|--|------|----------|
| Inuit Sculptor's Traveling Exhibition | 1971 | 09-04 |
| Peetakvik-Inuit arts and crafts history for the future | 2015 | 09-05 |