

National Oceanographic Library – Archive

Dr Neil McLeod Collection

Archive Location	Archive A – Individual Collections
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Dr Neil McLeod worked on the whaling factory ship “*Southern Harvester*” where he met Malcolm Clarke from the Whale Research Unit, National Institute of Oceanography, Wormley, who had spent the 1955/56 season collecting whaling samples for returning to the Whale Research Unit, at Wormley; his main interest was sperm whales. Neil McLeod joined NIO in 1961, and worked with Malcolm Clarke, and he worked on identifying squid beaks from sperm whale stomachs throughout his career.

He spent some five months with the Whaling Station at Durban in 1964, collecting and sampling. The photographs and slides of whaling operations at Durban originate from this time. His bird observation logs are a fascinating insight to bird distribution techniques of the time. These logs are a detailed example of how bird observations were kept on board whaling ships, and aided scientific research in this field. It was common practice for crew of whaling ships to take bird observations, and pass the data onto scientists. Neil McLeod was a talented draughtsman, as the sketches of maps, birds, whales and ships show.

Items	Box
<p>Handwritten Bird Log by Neil McLeod in his own hand, whilst on the whale factory ship <i>Southern Harvester</i> in, 1952-1953. (The factory ship was operating in the Weddell Sea area)</p> <p>Bird Logs from whaling voyages – South Atlantic Ocean, April 1952-April 1953; November 1953-April 1954; October 1955-April 1956; December 1956-March 1957.</p> <p>Contents – introductory notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Log of Passage, United Kingdom to 25°S (November 1952) - Log of Passage home, 27°S to United Kingdom (April 1953) - Map of track: United Kingdom/South Georgia and Charter voyages - Map of track: whaling grounds - Log, Southern Ocean and whaling, November-December 1952. - Log, whaling, January 1953 - Log, whaling, February 1953 - Log, whaling and Southern Ocean, March 1953 - Log, Charter voyages to Caribbean, April-July 1952. <p>A fascinating account of bird observations; and finely draughted maps</p>	1
<p>“Folder” – Envelope of sketches of whales, whalers, “<i>Southern Harvester</i>”, ships, whales and Seabirds, with notebook including two photographs (postcard format) of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Third Reich whalers “<i>Scout</i>” and “<i>Unitas1</i>”, Bremen (“<i>Unitas1</i>” flying the Swastika, on the stern), Autumn 1937 2) Whale catchers, place unknown, Autumn 1937 <p>Notebook of sketches/notes, seabirds, whalers and ships, 1949-50</p>	1

Papers	
<p>“Folder” - Papers, notes and correspondence (mostly from wildlife and conservationist organisations worldwide, 1973-1978)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Miscellaneous National Institute of Oceanography/Institute of Oceanographic Sciences material – including Staff NIO Telephone Directory. - NIO Photograph No. 2907/25 of the “OVARIUM” 1970 (Whale Research Unit, which moved to the British Museum, Natural History 1963) – Work in the “OVARIUM” continued until 1970 when it was demolished. It was used for the slicing of whale ovaries to establish the breeding cycle of Fin Whales. After the transfer of the Whales Research Unit in 1963, it continued in use for sorting the contents of sperm whale stomachs until 1970. 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copy of the National Institute of Oceanography, Annual Report, 1966-67, and 1967-68 (In 1 volume) 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantity (package) of notes with photograph (print) labelled ‘Sperm whales off Durban 1964’ 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantity (package) of photographs (prints) of squid and whaling operations, Durban, 1964 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantity (package) of 6 envelopes with standard negatives of photographs for prints – squid and whaling operations 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantity (package) of negatives and notebook – squid and whaling operations, one negative of Neil McLeod with a flensing knife, whaling operations, Durban, 1964 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three packets of glass photographic slides, whaling operations - Fragile 	2