

**AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
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RESOURCE GUIDE: CROCKER LAND EXPEDITION (1913-1917)

Manuscripts

compiled by Joanna Rios, August 2011

American Museum of Natural History Crocker Land Expedition financial records, 1912-1922.

Call number: DR028C

From the transfer from Special Funds to the Crocker Land Expedition Fund in May 1912, the ledger books document all the income and expenses related to the expedition. There are three volumes: two volumes are organized by month and by category (from May 1912 to December 1922); the third volume covers the same date range, but the expenses are organized by year and by category. The books also refer to one another as the items in the by-month ledger include the page number on the by-year ledger.

The income comes from interest on credit balances at the U.S. Trust Co., subscription fees paid by institutions and individuals (and also from the Museum's own General Accounts and Morris K. Jesup Fund), and tourist passage fees. As the expedition gets underway, they receive additional income from providing "first exclusive news" of the expedition to the Tribune Association. Once the expedition returns, there are new sources of income from the sale of specimens and the sale of materials, supplies and equipment.

Expense categories include can be broken down into four main categories. **Materials, supplies and equipment** includes clothing, snow shoes, tents, field note books, dog biscuits and collars, books, photographic supplies, rifles and ammunition, food stuffs including Borden's bitter chocolate and assorted canned goods, thermometers and chronometers, insect pins, fleshers, scrapers, surgical supplies, microscopes, binoculars, Barclay atomizers, alcohol, tobacco, etc. **Incidental expenses** relates to the costs of telegrams, car fares, postage, etc. In the early months, under the heading of **Salaries**, names are listed individually, but eventually the expense is itemized as payroll of employees and of faculty. Finally, there is the **Transportation** category. There are the original expenses hiring the S.S. Diana (and after an accident, the hire and transfer to the S.S. Erik), paid on a monthly rate and with the listed cost of coal priced by the ton. The George B. Cluett from the Greenfell Association of America was hired in 1915; the S.S. Danmark from the Greenland Mining Company, in 1916; and Capt. Robert Bartlett and the S.S. Neptune, in 1917. As unfortunately became a recurring expense for the expedition, a related category emerges with the expenses for salvaging the different hired vessels.

Borup, George, 1885-1912. Correspondence, 1908-1912.

Call number: MSS .B67

From the catalog: George Borup was a geologist and explorer. Borup participated in Robert E. Peary's 1908-1909 North Polar expedition aboard the S.S. Roosevelt; his book, *A tenderfoot with Peary*, was published in 1911. Borup was appointed assistant curator in the American Museum of Natural History's Department of Geology and Invertebrate Paleontology on Dec. 20, 1911, and was chosen to lead the 1913-1917 Crocker Land Expedition. He drowned on April 28, 1912, in a boating accident in Long Island Sound.

The collection consists of handwritten and typewritten letters (some carbon copies). In some letters to his father, Borup describes his experiences on the North Polar expedition. One letter from Edmund Otis Hovey mentions the name "Jesup Land" for Axel Heiberg [Is]land and says there is no authority for using it. Two letters from Hugh J. Lee, who accompanied Peary on his expeditions to Greenland between 1893 and 1895, discuss the conflicting demands of exploration and family. Included are one short handwritten, signed letter from Robert Falcon Scott and one from Lincoln Ellsworth.

Crocker Land Expedition (1913-1917). Papers, ca. 1911-1922.

Call number MSS .C76

The collection consists of 20 boxes of documents removed from the central archives. All materials related to the expedition have been pulled together and organized by subject. Folders are identified by subject number. From the earliest planning of the expedition in 1911, this collection contains the correspondence and all related materials, in particular to financial and administrative matters.

There is an oversize box with this collection which contains receipts and copies of the accounting documents (included in the financial records); copies of articles related to the expedition, mostly published in the Museum's publications; photocopies of the field books of Allen, Comer, Hunt, and MacMillan (originals are in the rare books collection); and one leather case, possibly from Hovey's office, contains a copy inventory list of the photographs, with negative numbers and captions, and correspondence between Borup and equipment vendors, including catalogs for expedition supplies.

From the catalog: Chiefly correspondence of the expedition staff (Donald B. MacMillan the leader), representatives of the sponsoring institutions (American Museum of Natural History, American Geographical Society of New York and University of Illinois), incumbents of corporations involved, and interested individuals. Concerns various aspects of the expedition including its proposal and planning; budgeting; funding; recruiting and training of personnel; purchasing of food, medicine, appliances and scientific equipment; arrangement and maintenance of transportation tools (steamers, sledges, etc.); management of residential accommodations; collecting of geographical and meteorological information; reporting and publication of expedition stories, etc. Also included are conference reports, funding records, statement to contributors, budget accounts, corporation catalogs, list of photographs, maps, newspaper and magazine clippings, papers and articles including "Crocker Land Expedition relief" and "Greenland journal and note book" by Edmund Otis Hovey, curator of geology and vertebrate paleontology of the American Museum of Natural History, and copies of printed expedition reports.

Crocker Land Expedition to the north polar regions

Call number: G670 1913 .C717 1913.

(George Borup Memorial) : statement to contributors. Drafts of this document are available in Crocker Land Expedition papers.

Hovey, Edmund Otis, 1862-1924. Manuscript material on the Crocker Land Expedition.

Call number: 17-G

Location: Rare Book Collection

From a descriptive list of most of the items included in the collection by Herma Briffault entitled "The cardboard portfolio of Dr. Hovey papers: brief summary of contents" (2 p.); both dated Aug. 1956.

- [1]. Crocker Land Expedition, 1913-1917 [summary account].
- [2]. Crocker Land Expedition relief.
- [3]. Cluett voyage, cont. : copied from Martinique book, 1915.
- [4]. Copy of Greenland journal and note book no. VI : 24 March to 29 May, 1917.
- [5]. Two years in the far Arctic. [1918].
- [6]. Two years in the far Arctic [list of 114 slides]. [1918].
- [7]. Some sledging experiences in Arctic Greenland.
- [8]. A Greenland sledge trip.
- [9]. The children of the North. [1918].
- [10]. Geology of Northwest Greenland and its relation to the flora, fauna, and people of the region. [1923].
- [11]. Geology of Northwest Greenland and its relation to the flora, fauna, and people of the region [version with slides]. [1923].
- [12]. Extracts, [July 26, 1915-Mar. 1, 1916].
- [13]. [Article on time spent aboard the Cluett. 1915].
- [14]. Babbitt letter, 10 October 1915.
- [15]. Crocker Land Expedition to the north polar regions: statement to contributors. [1913].

Hovey, Edmund Otis, 1862-1924. Edmund Otis Hovey records, 1890-1919

Call number: MSS .H683 (finding aid available)

Contains materials related to the Crocker Land Expedition. There is a copy of Hovey's obituary (mentioning his involvement in the expedition); a copy of Fitzhugh Green's account of the expedition, *The Crocker Land Expedition: The Story of the Last Extensive Dog-Sledge Expedition in the Arctic*; linen maps of Greenland (from 1914; folded and brittle along the fold lines); drafts of the prospectus or description of the expedition; two manuscript copies of the Geographical Report of the Crocker Land Expedition by Donald MacMillan.

From Hovey's time in Greenland, there is a U.S. Geological Survey field notebook with his notes from April 1915 to May 1916. In addition to his observations and calculations, there are notes from Hovey

about what materials are to become available to the *Tribune* reporter, honoring the earlier contract, and what materials should be saved for *Harper's Magazine*.

Hovey kept two sets of field notebooks: those originally written in the field and those rewritten (and cleaned up?) at a later time. The notebooks entitled Greenland 1, from August 3 to November 12, 1915; Greenland 2, roughly from April 5, 1916 to March 7, 1917 (?); Greenland V, from August 15 to August 20, and the mostly made up of lists of women, events and words, seem to be from the field. At some point, Hovey rewrote these journals, first in a stack of three-hole punched sheets, from July 19 to November 19, 1915 (413 pages), and then (starting on page 415) a black notebook, from November 20 to February 13, 1916 (ends in page 610). Greenland III, February 14 to July 12, and Greenland IV, July 13 to March 23, continue these series. Greenland VI, written in Crocker Land field note book number 52, covers from March 24 to May 9, 1917.

There are three field note books from the Crocker Land Expedition (51, 52, and 53; number 54 is in the Department of Mammalogy Library Field Note Book Collection). In no. 51, Hovey has compiled a dictionary and phrase book (Green compiles a similar list in his field notebooks). No. 52, also identified at Greenland VI, covers from Etah to Godhavn, from March 24 to May 29, 1917. No. 53 contains a seismographic record, from October 19, 1916 to July 10, 1917 compiled by Hovey, and Comer.

Hovey used the leftover pages of field notebooks from other journeys to document the Cluett Voyage. A notebook with "Guadeloupe" on the cover, has 54 pages on Guadeloupe and then he begins his account of the Artic Voyage of the Cluett. The notebook titled "Martinique" begins with 134 pages on notes of that trip, but at 134 he continues page 131 of the Cluett Voyage narrative. These notebooks also include pages which Hovey has crossed out, noting that he has "rewritten" these thus, these are drafts.

Together with the Crocker Land materials, there is a folder of photographs (not sleeved or interleaved) of various sites, unrelated to Crocker Land.

Other materials consist of field notes and travel journals from both Edmund and his first wife Esther (Ettie). These are unrelated to the Crocker Land Expedition.

Field books and Journals (organized by author)

Allen, Jerome Lee.

[Journal of the Crocker Land Expedition] 1913-1914

Call number: GG-4

Location: Rare Book Collection

"Jerome Lee Allen, U.S.N., wireless electrician" on front free endpaper. Period covered: July 28-Sept. 13, 1913 and Nov. 15, 1913-May 20, 1914. Pages 18-49 and 145-361 blank.

Comer, George.

Field note books Crocker Land Expedition, 1913-1915.

Call numbers: GG-1 v.1 and v.2. (Notebooks number 56 and 57).

Location: Rare Book Collection

[1.] Tides at Etah, 1917 May & June (May 1-June 17, 1917)

[2.] Tide charts of the tides at Etah, North Greenland, May and June 1917 (May 2-June 16, 1917)

Private journal of George Comer while on the Relief Schooner George B. Cluett for the Crocker Land Expedition party at Etah, North Greenland, 1915-17.

Rare Book Collection call numbers: GG-4 and GG-4 correspondence and miscellanea

Caption title: Voyage of the Schooner George B. Cluett for the relief of the Crocker Land Expedition

party, 1915. Period covered: July 2, 1915-Aug. 26, 1917. "Up to October 1916, this book has been copied from the old book, because the other had been used to the finish." Pages 319-361 blank.

Inserted are: 3 typewritten letters, one to Comer from Edmund Otis Hovey, dated March 19, 1917, one to MacMillan from Hovey dated March 19, 1917, one to Comer from MacMillan dated March 23, 1917; a holograph letter to Comer from Peter Freuchen dated July 27, 1917; 3 holograph letters to Comer by Hovey and dated April 1, 1917, April 4, 1917, April 27, 1917; a list of goods handwritten by Hovey dated April 2, 1917 and signed upon receipt (Apr. 8, 1917) by Comer; a map "drawn by a native, Oudy"; a biography of Knud Rasmussen; a paper entitled The II. Thule Expedition to North Greenland, by Rasmussen; and an article entitled Exploration of northern Greenland (extracted from: *The Field*, Feb 5, 1916, p. 215).

[Journals and notebooks] [microfilm] Volume 8 includes "Voyage of the George B. Cluett for the relief of the Crocker land Expedition, 1915-16" (July 2, 1915-Oct. 4, 1916).

Archives Microfilm #1, volume 8.

"This book not being large enough was rewritten in a larger one (Crocker land Expedition Book) so this book is of no account"--leaf preceding the account of the voyage on the Cluett.

Green, Fitzhugh, 1888-1947. Engineer and physicist with the U.S. Navy; topographer and second in command of the Crocker Land Expedition.

[Journal of the Crocker Land Expedition] 1913-1915.

Call number: GG-4

Location: Rare Book Collection

Period covered: June 9, 1913-Sept. 3 1915. Starting from the back of the journal (p. 347-360) is a dictionary of 390 English-Eskimo words and expressions. Pages 286-346 and 361 blank.

Practical astronomy, Crocker Land Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History and the American Geographical Society, 1913-1915. 1916-1917

Rare Book Collection call numbers: G-5 pt.1 and pt.2

Authorship uncertain; probably Green as determined by handwriting on star charts. Book 1: [97] leaves; Book 2: [2], 157 [i.e. 145], [23] leaves. Leaves in Book 1 numbered 1 through 297 with many gaps in between. Observations made in northern Greenland, mainly in Etah, between Feb 26, 1916 and July 19, 1917.

Hovey, Edmund Otis, 1862-1924.

Field note books, Crocker Land Expedition, 1916-1917. Includes a specimen catalog, some notes, and in the folder in the back of the book, there is letter from F. Green to Hovey, mostly about the War and the Germans (1917).

Department of Mammology Library, Field note book collection. (Notebook number 54) For Hovey's notebooks 51, 52 and 53, see the Edmund Otis Hovey records, 1890-1919.

Hunt, Harrison J., 1878-1967. (Surgeon of the Crocker Land Expedition.)

Field note books, Crocker Land Expedition, 1913-1915.

Call numbers: GG-1 notebook no.1, no.2 and no.3. (Notebook numbers 68, 70 and 65)

Location: Rare Book Collection

- [1.] [First journal] (Dec. 6, 1913-[June 1, 1914?])
- [2.] Caribou hunt (Sept. 11-Sept. 25, 1914)
- [3.] North Star Bay, 1916 (Apr. 23, 1916-June 8, 1917)

MacMillan, Donald Baxter, 1874-1970. (Leader of the Crocker Land Expedition.)

Field note books, Crocker Land Expedition, 1913-1915.

Call numbers: GG-1 no.1-no.6 (Notebook numbers 22, 38, 28, 71, 59 and 55).

Location: Rare Book Collection

- [1.] Crocker Land trip (Feb 12-May 21, 1914)
- [2.] Dr. Kane's Expedition (Apr. 18-Dec. 19, 1915)
- [3.] Notes for the spring trip, King Christian Island (Mar. 22-Apr. 18, 1916)
- [4.] Journal of trip to Finlay Land (Apr. 18-May 16, 1916)
- [5.] Jones Sound, 1917 (Mar. 25-May 29, 1917)
- [6.] Clarence Head (Apr. 26-July 18, 1917)