

**College of the Holy Cross
Archives and Special Collections
Collection Inventory**

Accession Number: **SC2000-33**

Collection Name (Title): **William A. Lewis' Journey to the Arctic Journal**

Dates of Material: **1923-1924**

Size of Collection: **1 Box**

Arrangement:

Restrictions:

Related Material:

Preferred Citation:

Processed on:

Biography/History:

William Alfred Lewis (c. 1861-) was born in Digby, Nova Scotia, Canada and became an American citizen later in life. He started sailing the age of twelve and continued to do so professionally into the late 1920s. His most noteworthy voyage was a trip to the Arctic aboard the *Bowdoin* with Captain Donald MacMillan in 1923-1924.

The *Bowdoin* Expedition was commissioned by the National Geographic Society to place a tablet in memory of the members of the Lady of Franklin Bay Expedition who died on Ellesmere Island in North Greenland in 1884. MacMillan and his crew also explored the region in North Greenland to study the native people and wildlife that inhabit the area. The *Bowdoin* sailed from Maine on June 23, 1923 and returned from the Arctic on August 20, 1924.

Scope and Content Note:

Contained in the collection is a typed copy of William Lewis' daily journal of his Arctic Voyage under Captain Donald MacMillan on the vessel *Bowdoin* as the expedition's cook. As the cook, and due to his age, Lewis did not join the rest of the crew during their activities in-land to Northern Greenland. His entries are about his work and the day-to-day actions of others during the long months on the expedition. Occasionally, Lewis discusses different subjects such as the beauty of Eskimo women and the use and future of wireless communication.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection includes a letter from Dorothy Wayman donating the typescript journal and other documents to Dinand Library. There is also foreword written by Wayman describing Lewis and the importance of his journal. Wayman was interested in writing a book about the MacMillan expedition using the journal, but later found that Lewis had signed a contract with MacMillan restricting to MacMillan all publication rights of written and photographed material of his crew on that expedition. Also included in the collection are articles written by and about Donald MacMillan in National Geographic concerning the voyage to the Arctic in which Lewis took part.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Journal of Voyage of *Bowdoin* to Arctic – Foreword by Dorothy G. Wayman
- Folder 2: Journal of Voyage of *Bowdoin* to Arctic (p. 1-108), 1923
- Folder 3: Journal of Voyage of *Bowdoin* to Arctic (p. 109-187), 1923 – 1924
- Folder 4: “*Bowdoin* in the Arctic”, 1925
- Folder 5: Journals – *Olympia*, 1925 – 1926