

Acc.12696

December 2006



Inventory

Acc.12696

William Laird McKinlay

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Correspondence and papers of William Laird McKinlay, Glasgow.

Background

William McKinlay (1888-1983) was for most of his working life a teacher and headmaster in the west of Scotland; however the bulk of the papers in this collection relate to the Canadian National Arctic Expedition, 1913-18, and the part played in it by him and the expedition leader, Vilhjalmur Stefansson. McKinlay's account of his experiences, especially those of being shipwrecked and marooned on Wrangel Island, off the coast of Siberia, were published by him in Karluk (London, 1976).

For a rather more detailed list of nos.1-27, and nos.43-67 (listed as nos.28-52), see NRA(S) survey no.2546.

Further items relating to McKinlay were presented in 2006: see Acc.12713.

Other items, including a manuscript account of the expedition and the later activities of Stefansson – much broader in scope than Karluk – have been deposited in the National Archives of Canada, in Ottawa.

A small quantity of additional documents relating to these matters can be found in NRA(S) survey no.2222, papers in the possession of Dr P D Anderson.

Extent: 1.56 metres

Deposited in 1983 by Mrs A.A. Baillie-Scott, the daughter of William McKinlay, and placed as Dep.357; presented by the executor of Mrs Baillie-Scott's estate, November 2006.

Inventory

1. Typescript copies (2) of McKinlay's diary of the Canadian National Arctic Expedition, 25 July 1913 to 7 September 1914.
2. Photocopy article, R L Richards 'Rae of the Arctic', Medical History, xix, no.2, (April 1975), 176-193.
3. Printed list of the William S Bruce papers and the diary of A Forbes Mackay, Royal Scottish Museum Information series, March 1982. (NRA(S) Survey no.2406).
4. Notebook of extracts in McKinlay's hand from works of Vilhjalmur Stefansson regarding key incidents in his early life. Most of the book is blank.
5. Notebook containing notes relating to events described in Vilhjalmur Stefansson, The Adventure of Wrangel Island, interleaved with newspaper cuttings; also typescript correspondence, newspaper extracts and notes of lecture by Stefansson on the expedition, 1922-3. At the back is a transcript of the diary of Bjarne Mamen from the commencement of the Canadian National Arctic Expedition, 17 June 1913, till his death in May 1914.

6. Material relating to the 'Stefansson Arctic Exploration and Develop. Advance Party' expedition to Wrangel Island, 1921, including miscellaneous transcripts of correspondence, and a manuscript by W L McKinlay, forming part of the original manuscript of Karluk.
7. Miscellaneous fragments, transcripts and notes, relating to the Canadian National Arctic Expedition, the Wrangel Island expedition and other matters, n.d.
8. 'The Adventure of Wrangel Island' a more finished version of the MS noted in no.6 above, n.d.
9. Miscellaneous correspondence and papers (some printed), 1921, 1961-77.
10. Typescript narrative relating to 1921-2 expedition to Wrangel Island, labelled 'Adventure of Wrangel Island' by W L McKinlay (not Stefansson's book of that name), together with typescript copy of review of Stefansson's work by H H Langton in Canadian Historical Review, September 1925.
11. Miscellaneous typescript material relating to McKinlay's northern interests, including reflections on relevant publications, a critical review of Karluk, the background, early life and character of Stefansson.
12. Typescript copies of diary of John Hadley during his stay on Wrangel Island, March-September 1914, and of account furnished by Hadley to Stefansson (and drawn on by the latter in his The Friendly Arctic and Adventure of Wrangel Island).
13. Typescript work on the life and activities of Stefansson, by W L McKinlay.
14. Photocopy of article 'South to Zemlya Frantsa Iosifa! The Cruise of the SV Anna and Al'banor's Sledge Journey, 1912-14' by William Barr, Canadian Slavonic Papers XVII, no.4, Winter, 1975.
15. Two letters, 1973 from Peter Anderson, Glasgow, to W L McKinlay, regarding the part played by his great-uncle, Alexander Anderson, in the Karluk expedition, and concerning the deaths of George Malloch and Bjarne Mamen on Wrangel Island.
16. Letters from Vilhjalmur Stefansson to W L McKinlay 1915-16, 1920, and copy letter from Stefansson to William S Bruce of the Scottish Oceanographical Institute, 1919.
17. Letters to W L McKinlay from survivors of the Karluk expedition and relatives of those who died, 1915-24, n.d.
18. Various letters and papers relating to period spent on Wrangel Island by McKinlay and his companions, 1913-15, 1920, 1926, 1974, n.d.

19. Correspondence and papers mostly relating to the Canadian National Arctic Expedition, 1915-25, much of it correspondence between W L McKinlay and the Department of Naval Service, Ottawa.
20. Letters from William S Bruce LLD, FRSE of the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory, Edinburgh, 1914-15.
21.
 - (i) Photocopies and typed transcripts of correspondence between Stefansson and R J Williamson, 2nd engineer on the Karluk, regarding his experiences on Wrangel Island and his opinion on the narrative of Jack Hadley, as printed in Stefansson's The Friendly Arctic, 1941-59.
 - (ii) Typed transcripts of letters from John Munro, chief engineer on the Karluk, to Stefansson regarding a reference, and matters arising from the Karluk expedition, 1923-5.
 - (iii) Photocopy article, Robert W Mattila, A Chronological Bibliography of the Published Works of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Dartmouth College Libraries, 1978.
 - (iv) Table of daily longitude and latitude positions for the Jeanette and the Karluk.
 - (v) Photocopy article "'The Kogmollik" for Science' (Experiences of expedition by American Museum of Natural History), Natural History, April, 1980.
 - (vi) Photocopy article, Stefansson, 'Plover Land and Borden Land' The Geographic Review, xi (April, 1921), no.2.
 - (vii) Photocopy article, D M Le Bourdais, 'Staking Wrangel Island', appendix x of Stefansson, The Adventure of Wrangel Island.
22. Copy of North/Nord Nov/Dec 1978 containing article on Stefansson by R S Finnie, and photocopies of articles on Stefansson (one by Finnie) from North/Nord May/June 1978.
23. Correspondence between W L McKinlay and Richard Diubaldo, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, Concordia University, Quebec, on matters concerning Stefansson, 1974-9. Including typescript article by Diubaldo, 'Wrangling over Wrangel Island', Canadian Historical Review, xlviii, no.3 (September 1967).
24. Photocopy typescript diary (author not identified) of voyage of auxiliary ketch Albert, 10 June – 9 October 1920. (Scott Polar Research Institute ref MS.913).
25. Miscellaneous correspondence and papers, mostly copies, ca. 1903-1962.
26. Photocopy of Shannon Carst, Scott Allan, King of the Dog Team Driver, Redhill, Surrey, n.d.

27. Photocopy of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Discovery. New York, Toronto, London, 1964 (Stefansson's autobiography).
28. Original diary, entitled 'The Drift of the Karluk', comprising seven notebooks:
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|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Book I. | 13 July 1913 – 28 August 1913. |
| Book II. | 29 August 1913 – 8 November 1913. |
| Book III. | 9 November 1913 – 8 January 1914. |
| Book IV. | 10 January 1914 – 27 January 1914. |
| Book V. | 28 January 1914 – 23 May 1914. |
| Book VI. | 2 June 1914 – 2 August 1914. |
| [Book VII] | 7 September 1914 – 25 October 1914. |
- (notebook also contains meteorological observations, 8 August 1913 – 11 January 1914).
29. Volume containing transcript of the diary, 18 June 1913 – 25 October 1914 (143 folios), [with single letters inserted of Bjarne Mamen and Capt R A Bartlett, and copies of single letters of Vilhjalmur Stefansson and A Forbes MacKay and others].
30. Typescript, with manuscript additions and corrections, of Karluk: the Great Untold Story of Arctic Exploration, by William L McKinlay.
31. Typescript copy of an English translation of the diary kept by Bjarne Mamen on the Canadian Arctic expedition, 17 June 1913 – 23 May 1914.
32. Photocopy and typescript copy of John Hadley's Wrangel Island diary, 12 March – 7 September 1914.
33. Xerox copy made from a photocopy of John Hadley's account of the Karluk expedition (52 folios).
34. 'The Karluk Chronicle', nos. 1-20 (18 June – 7 July 1913).
35. Photocopies of correspondence between Vilhjalmur Stefansson and John Munro, 1923-25 (16 letters and telegrams); two related letters to William L McKinlay from Dartmouth College Library and Public Archives of Canada, 1975, 1978.
36. Copies of five testimonials in favour of R J Williamson, 1918-41; photocopies of correspondence (11 letters) between R J Williamson and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, 1959, and of a letter of Stefansson to Mrs Williamson, 1959; and photocopies of 'Private letters between Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Robert Williamson concerning certain incidents of the Expedition', 1959 (six letters, four incomplete).
37. Envelope containing copies of prints made by Ottawa Archives of negatives taken on Wrangel Island and elsewhere during expedition, August 1913 – September 1914.
38. Envelope containing:

- (i) Envelope containing letter 1975 and copy letters 1972, 1974 and lists of W S Bruce papers at Royal Scottish Museum.
- (ii) Vilhjalmur Stefansson 'Plover Land and Borden Land', from: the Geographical Review, vol.xi (April 1921), no.2.
- (iii) Notebook entitled 'documents of Canadian external affairs vol.3 1919-1925', containing copies (by WLM) of letters.
- (iv) Copy of Canada House of Commons Debates vol.LX, no.84, June 10, 1925.
- (v) Copy of Canada House of Commons Debates vol.LIX, no.26, April 7, 1924.
- (vi) Copy of Canada The Debates of the Senate vol.LVIII, no.39, May 16, 1923.
- (vii) Two copies of Diamond Jenness, 'The "Blond" Eskimos' from: The American Anthropologist, vol.23, no.3, (July-September 1921), pp.257-267.
- (viii) Photocopy of complete list of photographic negatives exposed during the Canadian Arctic Expedition by Geo H Wilkins.
- (ix) Letter 1973 to WLM of John Bockstoce, with photocopies.
- (x) Photocopy of Erhard Treude, 'The Development of Reindeer Husbandry in Canada' photocopied from: The Polar Record, vol.14, no.88 (1968), pp.15-19.
- (xi) Photocopy of 'The Reindeer Story'.
- (xii) Typed account of work of mission hospital at Unalaska, 1913-1914.
- (xiii) Typed copy and English translation of extract of letter of Henri Beuchat to C M Barbeau, 1913.
- (xiv) Letter of Newton V Blakesloe to WLM, 1974.
- (xv) Map of Arctic Ocean from National Geographic Magazine, October 1971.
- (xvi) Letter, 1974, of Grayce A Finger, of Science (periodical) to WLM.
- (xvii) Copy letters, 1974 of WLM to Secretary Royal Geographical Society and photocopy of Geographical Journal, vol.xxxvi, no.2 (August 1910), pp.147-8.

- (xviii) Copy letter, 1973, of WLM to Director, Copyright Office, National Library of Congress, with printed papers.
 - (xix) Letters between WLM and "Izvestya Akademii Nauk", 1973.
 - (xx) Fragment of letter to WLM from unidentified source, n.d.
 - (xxi) D Jenness, "The Friendly Arctic", from: Science vol.LVI, no.1436 (1922), pp.1-10.
 - (xxii) Gavin White, 'Captain W J Jackson of Baffin Island' from: Polar Record, vol.17, no.109 (1975), pp.375-81.
 - (xxiii) R L Richards, 'Rae of the Arctic' from: Medical History, vol.19, no.2, (April 1975), pp.176-193.
 - (xxiv) The Geographical Journal, vol.LI, no.5, May 1918.
 - (xxv) Copy letter of R J Williamson 1973 (of and to WLM) and letter 1976, of Mrs E S Parmi to WLM.
 - (xxvi) Envelope marked 'Red October' containing note, n.d. to WLM and description apparently of Wrangel Island.
 - (xxvii) Photocopy of review by Raymond Pearl of V Stefansson The Friendly Arctic in Science vol.LV, no.1421, pp.320 sqq and of reply by D Jenness.
 - (xxviii) Two photocopies of letter, 1913, of WLM to Andrew Paterson.
 - (xxix) Photograph of member of expedition standing by tent, n.d.
 - (xxx) Photocopy of complete list of titles and sub-titles included in the cinematographic record of the Canadian Arctic Expedition.
39. Copy of a dossier prepared by Mrs Rudolph Anderson containing correspondence and papers, 1923, concerning territorial claims to Wrangel Island.
 40. Folder containing letters and papers, 1921-8, of Helen, wife of Professor J T Crawford to WLM.
 41. Box containing letters and papers, 1914-28 of Dr and Mrs Rudolph Anderson to WLM concerning Stefansson and Wrangel Island.
 42. Copies of 5 letters of Diamond Jenness to Professor G W von Zedlitz, 1913, 1916-17, and copy of letter of R E Ballantyne to WLM, 1977.
 43. Folder, "Extracts on various expeditions", consisting of typescript and manuscript notes from works on polar exploration, including Farley Mowat, The Polar Passion, Kane, Search for Sir John Franklin, Greely, 3 Years of Arctic Service, and material by Nares and Ross.

44. Folder of letters of W L McKinlay from A G E Jones, Tunbridge Wells, relating to polar research, with particular reference to the Karluk expedition and individuals who took part in it, notably Alister Forbes Mackay, James Murray, and Captain Robert Bartlett, 1976-81.
45. Notebook containing notes on the work of Kane (see no.44 above), together with loose manuscript notes, and letter from W H Dinsmore, Glasgow, a former pupil of W L McKinlay, recalling his schooldays, 9 November 1978.
46. Notebook relating to the explorations of Greely, Ross, Parry and others, also containing material relating to the Canadian and American citizenship of Vilhjalmur Stefansson; also included are two typescript sheets relating to the works of Stefansson.
- 47-51. Files of letters to W L McKinlay, largely from admirers of his book Karluk, from those interested in Arctic exploration in general, and from descendants of those concerned in the expedition, together with some of McKinlay's draft replies, 1976-81.
52. Ring binder, containing loose folders and envelopes of papers and letters, 1972-4, relating to W L McKinlay's researches in connection with his book Karluk.
53. Ring binder with loose contents relating to W L McKinlay's researches in connection with Karluk, as follows:

Pages from The Montreal Daily Star, 20 October – 3 November 1923, containing account by Harold Noice of his expedition to Wrangel Island, 1921 and his rescue of the sole survivor of the Alan Crawford expedition, Ada Blackjack, an Eskimo seamstress.

Photocopy correspondence and telegrams involving Stefansson and others, concerning the Noice expedition, 1923; with related modern correspondence, 1975.
54. Press-cuttings relating chiefly to polar exploration particularly the Scott expedition to the Antarctic, 1911-13, and the Stefansson expedition, contained in five issues of the Nome Daily Nugget, August – September, 1914.
55. Miscellanea, mainly manuscript notebooks relating to W L McKinlay's researches, but also including marked barograph sheets dated August 1913 – January 1914 on board the Karluk, and telephone directory for the town of Nome, Alaska, ca. 1913.
56. Photocopy of typed transcript of diary of Lorne Knight, member of the Crawford expedition to Wrangel Island, 16 September 1921 – 28 August 1922, provided by Public Archives of Canada; together with MS transcripts by W L McKinlay of letters by Stefansson relating to the expedition, 1923-5.

57. Folder of miscellaneous photographs, notably negatives of photographs taken by W L McKinlay during the Karluk expedition, together with positives from them, both contemporary and modern; also included are photographs of Eskimo scenes taken on the Sandspit at Nome, Alaska, of Arctic bird life, as well as coloured photographs of the modern vessels Karluk and King and Winge.
58. Miscellanea including:
- Photocopy front cover of Childrens Newspaper, 1 November 1924 relating to bodies of party from Karluk found on Herald Island, off Siberia.
- Incomplete typescript account of Karluk expedition, apparently original version of newspaper articles by W L McKinlay, Peoples Journal, 1915.
- Table of meteorological observations taken [on board Karluk] during October 1913.
- Wallet of miscellaneous photographs, similar in content to no.57 above.
- Printed map of the Arctic Ocean.
- Booklets: Frank W Anderson, The Death of Albert Johnson, (The Story of the Hunting Down by Police of "The Mad Trapper of Rat River", 1931); "The Krasinsky Booklet", work in Russian relating to the history of Wrangel Island and Russia's claims to sovereignty, together with a synopsis and explanation in English, 1925; catalogue of exhibition by Herbert G Ponting, of his photographs taken during the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910-13.
59. Contemporary photographs, postcard size, relating to the Karluk expedition, 1913-14.
60. Typescript and manuscript notes by W L McKinlay concerning Harold Horwood, Bartlett the Great Canadian Explorer, (New York and Toronto, 1978), and McKinlay's strong disagreement with statements in the book, and refutation which he wishes published; together with typed criticism of such refutation by G[avin] W[hite].
61. Pastel sketches, on black pastel paper, of the Aurora Borealis.
62. Magazines: Nome Daily Nugget, mining and dredging edition, vol.2 (October 1911), vol.3, (October 1912), vol.4, (October 1913); Mer Douce, Toronto, April 1924, including article on Allan Crawford, and his expedition to Wrangel Island.
63. Typed transcript of journal by companion of Colonel Fawcett on exploration in the jungle of South America, October 1911 – January 1912.

64. Letter to W L McKinlay from Wally Herbert concerning his pleasure in reading Karluk, and thoughts on Stefansson and polar exploration in general, 1 December 1976; with copy reply by McKinlay.
65. Miscellanea, including:
- Correspondence between W L McKinlay and Dr Alan Cooke, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, relating to polar matters, particularly with regard to McKinlay's research for Karluk, 1973-74.
- Photocopy correspondence between W L McKinlay and Stefansson, 10 April 1919/27 May 1920, regarding the Karluk expedition, and in particular the period spent on Wrangel Island by McKinlay and his friends, during which they had seen what appeared to be land in the distance.
- Photocopy articles: William Barr, "The Voyages of Taymyr and Vaygach to Ostrov Vrangelya, 1910-15", The Polar Record, vol.16, no.101, 1972, pages 213-234; George W Scotter, "Reindeer Ranching in Canada", Journal of Range Management, vol.25, no.3, May 1972, pages 167-174, and "Reindeer Journey on the Rim of the Arctic", The Alaska Journal, 2(2): 57-60; Photocopy of part of chapter XXIV "Honors and the Recognition", from Earl P Hanson, Stefansson, Prophet of the North, New York and London, 1941.
66. Miscellaneous correspondence of W L McKinlay regarding his publication of Karluk; generally of a more personal and trivial nature than those noted in the correspondence files – many are from former pupils of W L McKinlay at Shawlands Academy, Glasgow, and the Mount School, Greenock, 1976-7; also included are a post card from M Phillips in Victoria, BC, Canada, thanking W L McKinlay for photographs, March 1915, and a colour photograph of two medals, one being the Polar Medal of Dr A Forbes Mackay, member of the Karluk expedition, for his part in the Nimrod expedition to the Antarctic, 1907-9.
67. Typescript drafts of second half of Karluk, concerning Stefansson's activities in the early 1920s, particularly relating to the sovereignty of Wrangel Island and to the Crawford expedition [not included in the final published work].