2015

Arnold (Walter L.) Papers, 1893-1980

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Arnold (Walter Lewellen) Papers

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Finding aid written in English.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository: Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
Creator: Arnold, Walter Lewellen, 1894-
Title: Walter Lewellen Arnold Papers
ID: SpC MS 0023
Date [inclusive]: 1893 - 1980
Date [bulk]: 1920 - 1959 (bulk)
Physical Description: 6 cubic feet (7 boxes)
Physical Location: 
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Personal papers and business records of Walter L. Arnold, a businessman, guide, fur trader, trapper and author from Greenville, Maine.

Preferred Citation

Walter L. Arnold Papers, SpC MS 0023, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biography

Walter Arnold was born in 1894 in Willimantic, Maine, the son of Alonzo and Alice Arnold. His father was a market hunter in the 1870s, and as a young man Walter hunted, trapped and guided with his father. After service in World War I, he started a mail order business, selling trapping supplies and animal trapping scents and lures nation-wide. In the late 1930s, he also worked for Campbell-Fairbanks Expositions, installing trapping exhibits for sportsmen's shows in New York and Boston. He was one of the original founders of the Maine Trappers Association and served as its president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as the editor of its newsletter, Maine Trapper. He was the author of several books about trapping and preparing scents as well as numerous articles published in trapping and hunting magazines.
and newspapers. His book, "Professional Trapping," which appeared in four editions between 1935 and 1947, was widely used by state and federal officials to train trappers to handle troublesome wild animals.

In 1959 he sold his business to Oscar Cronk of Wiscasset and went back to the woods, living by himself until 1980 in one of the northern townships of Maine, a place accessible only by snowmobile or airplane. His life became the subject of many articles in various magazines and newspapers, and the book, "Goodbye Mountain Man," by Donald Anderson featured him and his life style.

Walter Arnold remained active until his death in 1980. As he put it in a letter to the Fogler Library Special Collections Department in 1971, "I am not like all these woods hermits you hear about that sit around, grow fat and pass on. I am 78 and still do probably more hard work summer and winter than nearly all the men in the state do at the age of 45."

Scope and Contents

The collection contains diaries, letters, and bills, business catalogs, books and articles by and about Walter Arnold, as well as a small group of books owned by him. Arnold was very much aware of the historical value of his papers and carefully annotated many items in the collection, giving insight into their history and meaning.

Walter Arnold kept a daily diary from 1919 through 1976 in which he recorded his activities, the weather, and the wildlife he saw and hunted. Written in his vivid style, the diaries give a clear picture of his long and adventuresome life. He also kept two scrapbooks throughout his life which contain photographs, correspondence, information about other trappers all over the country, articles he wrote, etc. One of them also contains extensive information about the exhibits he installed at various sportsmen's shows.

A large part of the collection is made up of letters and bills, 1912-1980. Much of the correspondence is from trappers nation-wide who did business with Arnold and became his friends, including many he had never met in person. Found with the correspondence are lists of Arnold's supplies and equipment and an inventory of items on hand at the start of each business season. Arnold's mail-order catalogs from the 1920s through 1956 are also included in the collection, as well as many advertisements, catalogs and price lists of companies with which Arnold did business.

Arnold kept both draft copies of the numerous articles he wrote as well as the magazines in which they appeared. The collection also contains copies of the books he wrote, including the four editions of "Professional Trapping." A small group of books and magazines owned by Walter Arnold has also been kept with the collection because of the context they provide.
Conservation Note

The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5729
207.581.1686
spc@umit.maine.edu
URL: http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll/

Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Arnold papers were a gift to the Special Collections Department, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine from Walter Arnold in 1971 and subsequent years.

Restrictions on Use

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Authors, American -- Maine
- Hunting guides -- Maine
- Trapping
- Hunting
- Maine
- Personal papers
- Diaries
- Correspondence
- Bills of sale
- Articles
- Books
- Scrapbooks
- Photographs
- Business records
- Sales catalogs
- Periodicals
- Pamphlets
- Arnold, Walter Lewellen, 1894-
- Maine Trappers Association

Collection Inventory

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<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Title/Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Daily calendar, 1919</td>
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<td>Letters and bills, 1970-1980</td>
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<td>Sam White clippings and letters, 1970s</td>
<td>folder 3</td>
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<td>Letters and bills, A-W, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday letters from Walter Arnold</td>
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<td>Yearly earnings and fish caught, 1915-1952</td>
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<td>Ledger, 1950s - 1960s</td>
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<td>Walter Arnold's business catalogs, 1920s - 1940s</td>
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<td>Walter Arnold's business catalog, 1958-1959</td>
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<td>Walter Arnold's business circulars</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous circulars and advertisements for other businesses</td>
<td>folder 14-15</td>
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<td>Statistics re furs, etc., 1940-1949</td>
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<td>Record kept by Walter L. Arnold, Supr., Borestone Mt. Hatchway, 1917-1918</td>
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<td>Maine Trappers Assoc. constitution, by-laws, etc.</td>
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<td>&quot;Maine Trapper&quot;, 1948-1958</td>
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<td>Rules governing the organization and operation of ATA [American Trappers Assoc.] locals</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous articles by Walter Arnold</td>
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<td>&quot;Arnold's professional fox trapping,&quot; by WA, 1973</td>
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<td>&quot;Hunter, trader, trapper&quot;, 1934-1937</td>
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<td>Hunter, trader, trapper, outdoorsman, with articles by WA, 1938</td>
<td>folder 29</td>
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<td>North American Trapper, with article by WA, 1938</td>
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<td>The Northland trapper by WA, 1930</td>
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<td>Professional trapping, by WA, 1935; 2nd ed., 1939</td>
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<td>Professional trapping, 3rd ed., by WA, 1944</td>
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<td>Professional trapping, 4th ed., by WA, 1947</td>
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<td>Professional trapping...beaver, by WA</td>
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<td>Professional trapping...bobcat, by WA</td>
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<td>Professional trapping...mink and muskrat methods, by WA</td>
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<td>The steel trap by WA</td>
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<td>Trapping, by WA, 1921</td>
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<td>As I remember life at Borestone [Mountain Fox Ranch] by WA</td>
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<td>Ghost town at Caribou Bog; submission to Down East, by WA</td>
<td>folder 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpublished drafts of articles, A-G, by WA: About scents; Allagash waters, Part 1 and 2; Backwoods trapline; Bear pay me a visit; Camp stoves; A complicated performance; Conservation and beaver; Dirt sets; Fall trapping; Fishing news; For the common good; Forty years with small-mouth; Fox and scent; Fur and meat; Glory or dollars; Gum pails rattle again; Gumming</td>
<td>folder 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpublished drafts of articles, I-O, by WA: I worked around log haulers; Lady luck; The last trip; Life on the trap line; The lone trapper, parts 1 and 2; Looking ahead; Maine black-cat; Me and Paul; Mink raising, parts 1, 2 and 3; More about 'cats; Much ado about cats; The muskrat; Musks herbs and oils; Old eagle eye; The otter; Out of the past</td>
<td>folder 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpublished articles, P-T, by WA: The paying pages; Preparedness, no. 2; Ramming about he woods; Saucy mink;</td>
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Sir Reynard, parts 1 and 2; Some notes on the fisher; Stoves for trappers; Tales we tell; That all-around gun; Then and now; Those troublesome 'cats; Timely hints; Tonquin and Siberian musk; The trapper and his problems; Trapping equipment; Trapping tricks; Traps, gum pails and guns; Traveling in traffic; Trout and bees

Unpublished articles, U-W, by WA: Useful hints to trappers, no. 1; Watch that breath; The water set for fox; Wildcat; Wings over the woods; Winter beaver sets

Miscellaneous articles by WA

Articles about Walter Arnold

Newspaper clippings about furs, trappings, etc.

American Forests, October 1953

Brown's fox book, undated

Conner, J.D. The art of trapping, 1923

Davis, Jesse J. Facts about mink, undated

Devoe, Luther J. Fox and coyote trapping: the mystery method, 1944

Frieman, Kenneth E. Expert skunk and opossum trapping

Fur-Fish-Game, 1929-1964

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<td>Fur-Fish-Game, 1969-1971</td>
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<td>Gotch, Frank. Wrestling, 1908</td>
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<td>Hawbaker, S. Stanley. Red and grey foxes: how to trap them, 1947</td>
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<td>Hunter, trader, trapper, 1914-1915</td>
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<td>Keith, E.F. Foxology: a complete guide to successful fox trapping, undated</td>
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<td>Kreps, E.H. Woodcraft, 1923</td>
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<td>Lindroos, Ray W. Practical farmland trapping, 1946</td>
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<td>Louisiana Dept. of Conservation. The fur animals of Louisiana, 1931</td>
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<td>Michigan State Dept. of Conservation. Game Division: reprint from eleventh biennial report + other pamphlets, 1941-1942</td>
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<td>Narratives of trapping life, 1922</td>
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<td>New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish. Practical predator control, 1936</td>
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<td>North, November-December, 1966</td>
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<td>North Dakota State Game and Fish Dept. Annual reports, 1942-1947</td>
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<td>Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin, 1946</td>
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<td>Palmer, Ralph S. Rufus Philbrook, trapper, 1949; The whitetail deer of Tomhegan Camps, Maine, with added notes on fecundity, 1951</td>
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<td>The Pennsylvania trapper, 1958</td>
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<td>Pete Rickard's fox trapping methods, undated</td>
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<td>Profitable outdoor pursuits, 1922</td>
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<td>Scribner's lumber and log book, 1893</td>
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<td>Seeback, Harry. Scientific bag punching, 1905</td>
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<td>Selected vaudeville jokes, undated</td>
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<td>Singleton, Ray. Deodorizing the skunk by surgery, 1947</td>
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<td>Stephens, Gard. Trapping tips for rural trappers, 1934</td>
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<td>The trapper's companion, 1919</td>
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<td>The trapper's handbook, 1923</td>
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