



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Maps of parts of Baffin Island
collected by Franz Boas, 1883-1884

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Maps of parts of Baffin Island collected by Franz Boas
Date:	1883-1884
Identifier:	NAA.MS169270
Creator:	Boas, Franz, 1858-1942
Extent:	34 Items (graphite, ink, and photomechanical; laminated)
Language:	Maps are annotated in English, German, and Inuit languages.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Maps of parts of Baffin Island collected by Franz Boas
Container:	Folder 169270

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated by Franz Boas to the Bureau of American Ethnology on February 25, 1895, and subsequently transferred to the United States National Museum (USNM) through O. T. Mason on March 8, 1895 (USNM Accession Number 29,060). It was transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in September 1970.

Processing Information

The collection was reprocessed in 2023. The archivist replaced the titles previously assigned to the items with Boas' titles and captions when possible. Untitled items were assigned titles in square brackets []. The drawings were arranged in USNM number order.

Preferred Citation

Maps of parts of Baffin Island collected by Franz Boas (MS 169270), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Franz Boas (1858-1942) was a German-American anthropologist and pioneer of modern anthropological practice. He studied physics and geography at the universities at Heidelberg and Bonn before completing a doctoral program in physical geography at Kiel in 1881. After graduation, he joined an expedition of Baffin Island (1883-1884), which influenced his decision to focus on cultural tradition rather than biological and physical influences. In the summer of 1883 Boas traveled from Germany to Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island, aboard the sailing vessel *Germania* whose main objective was to evacuate the personnel of the German station of the First International Polar Year from Kingua Fjord. Over the winter of 1883–1884 Boas confined himself to Cumberland Sound and in the spring and summer of 1884, he crossed the Cumberland Peninsula and visited numerous Inuit communities along the Davis Strait coast.

In 1885, Boas emigrated to the United States, where he took an editorial position with the journal *Science* and started what would become his most famous ethnographic project, working among the Kwakiutl (Kwakwaka'wakw) Indians, in 1886. Boas spent three years teaching at Clark University in Massachusetts, then took an appointment at the Field Museum in Chicago in 1892. Boas then moved to New York, where he joined the American Museum of Natural History (1895-1905) and began teaching at Columbia University in 1896. For 37 years, Boas established himself as an academic and mentored numerous future influential anthropologists, including Margaret Mead, Alfred Kroeber, Edward Sapir, and Zora Neale Hurston. He also served as one of the founders of both the American Anthropological Association and the International Journal of American Linguistics.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of thirty-four (34) items, including thirty-two (32) maps of the Baffin Island coast drawn by unidentified Inuit informants and annotated by Franz Boas; and two (2) numbered lists of place names by Boas. Most of the maps are not identified as to the precise area they represent except by Inuit place names. Other notes on the maps include a short text in an Inuit language and some notes in German and English; most of these notes are illegible because Boas used a shorthand system of his own in writing many of them. Moreover, his handwriting is very difficult to read even when not abbreviated. Many of the maps consist of two or more sheets of paper that were glued together and contain notes and drawings on both sides.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

The items in the collection were numbered 1-32 when cataloged by the United States National Museum (USNM). This order has been maintained when possible. Several numbers are now missing from the series, and a few items do not have numbers. Unnumbered items appear at the end of the collection.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 169270

USNM Accession 29060

Publication Note

Some of the maps were reproduced in:

Boas, Franz. *Baffin-Land: Geographische Ergebnisse einer in den Jahren 1883 und 1884 ausgeführten Forschungsreise*. Gotha: Justus Perthes, 1885.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Baffinland Inuit

Cultures:

Baffinland Inuit

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Maps

Places:

Arctic regions

Baffin Island (Nunavut)

North America

Container Listing

[Route from Amakdjuak to Sessikdjuak]

1 Item (6 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (001)

NAA INV 08595800

Hudson Strasse und Frobisher Bay von Nijuipa

1 Item (9 x 9 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (002)

NAA INV 08595900

Küste der Hudson Strasse von King's Cape bis North Bluff

1 Item (9 x 7 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (003)

NAA INV 08596000

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (16 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (004)

NAA INV 08596100

Map is composed of at least two separate sheets of paper glued together.

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (24 x 17 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (005)

NAA INV 08599000

West Küste der Cumberlandlandes und Frobisher Bay

1 Item (21 x 19 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (007) NAA INV 08596201

NAA INV 08596202

Map is composed of at least two separate sheets of paper glued together.

Thru 31 October

1 Item (23 x 24 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (008)

NAA INV 08596301

Map is composed of at least two separate sheets of paper glued together.

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (17 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (009)

NAA INV 08596401

NAA INV 08596402

[Page of notes associated with Baffin Island maps]

1 Item (11 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Page of Annotations Associated with Eskimo Renditions of Baffin Island Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (010)

NAA INV 08596500

Notes may refer to one of the other maps in the collection.

Way von Frobisher Strait nah Amakdjuang

1 Item (5 x 7 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Abstract Doodles to One Side Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (011)

NAA INV 08596601

NAA INV 08596602

Kagiliktung [Kaggiilortung]

1 Item (8.25 x 12.5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 1690270 (012)
NAA INV 08598900

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (17 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (013)
NAA INV 08596700

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with short Inuit text on the reverse]

1 Item (8 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (014)
NAA INV 08596800

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (6 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (015)
NAA INV 08596900

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with mathematical equations on the reverse]

1 Item (6 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (016)
NAA INV 08597000

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (17 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (017)
NAA INV 08597100

Map is composed of at least two sheets of paper glued together.

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (13 x 17 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (019)

NAA INV 08597201

NAA INV 08597202

Notes are not legible, but do include the word "Tinera' kdjuak" which could be Tinikdjuarbing or Cumberland Sound. Map on front and reverse of page.

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (16 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (020)

NAA INV 08597300

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (14 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (021)

NAA INV 08597400

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (13 x 16 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (022)

NAA INV 08597501

NAA INV 08597502

Map with islands marked by numbers which appear to correspond with the numbered names in Number 26.

Suh lu ack juv

1 Item (13 x 16 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (023)

NAA INV 08597600

Kinawah [Kingowa or Kingua]

1 Item (13 x 16 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Notes; House with Smoking Chimney in Foreground Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (24)

NAA INV 08597701

NAA INV 08597702

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (6 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (025)

NAA INV 08597801

NAA INV 08597802

[Numbered list of place names]

1 Item (13 x 8.25 inches)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (026)

Appears to correspond to Map 22.

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (17 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separate Sheets\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (027)

NAA INV 08597901

NAA INV 08597902

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (6 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline lth Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (028)

NAA INV 08598001

NAA INV 08598002

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (6 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (029)

NAA INV 08598101

NAA INV 08598102

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (13 x 16 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (030)

NAA INV 08598200

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (14 x 14 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing/Photomechanical](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (031)

NAA INV 08598700

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (7 x 24 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA MS 169270 (032)

NAA INV 08598500

Küste von Hudson Bay

1 Item (8 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08598300

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (16 x 13 inches)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08598401

NAA INV 08598402

Karte 1

1 Item (19 x 23 inches)

Image(s): [Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Place Names And Notes Drawing](#)

Image(s): [Map Showing Page of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes \(Composed of Separated Sheets\) Drawing/Photomechanical](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08598601

NAA INV 08598602

[Unidentified map of part of the Baffin Island coastline with annotated place names and notes]

1 Item (14 x 19 inches)

Image(s): [Map Showing Part of Baffin Island Coastline with Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Image(s): [Map Showing Parts of Baffin Island Coastline With Annotated Place Names and Notes Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08598801

NAA INV 08598802

[Numbered list of place names and other notes]

1 Item (5.5 x 6 inches)