



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

Joseph-Fidèle Bernard photographs from Alaska

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Joseph-Fidèle Bernard photographs from Alaska
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.132
Date:	1921
Extent:	11 Glass plate negatives 11 Copy negatives
Creator:	Bernard, Joseph-Fidèle, 1878-1972
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Joseph-Fidèle Bernard photographs from Alaska consists of negatives taken by Bernard in 1921 among the Inupiaq (Alaska Inupiat Eskimo) and Siberian Yu'pik communities. Bernard was an arctic trader, trapper and captain of the schooner "Teddy Bear."

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was likely a purchase from Joseph-Fidèle Bernard around 1923 by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

Provenance

The Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation made copy negatives (acetate) of the glass plate negatives in the 1960's as part of a large preservation project. Contact prints were also made at this time.

Related Materials

Additional collections with Joseph F. Bernard materials include the Joseph F. Bernard papers, 1900-1970, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library and the Joseph-Fidèle Bernard photograph collection, 1901-1923, at the Alaska State Library.

Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Joseph-Fidèle Bernard photographs from Alaska, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Born in 1878 in Tignish, Prince Edward Island, Canada, Joseph-Fidèle Bernard was an arctic trader, trapper and captain/owner of the schooner "Teddy Bear"(based in Nome, Alaska). He assisted Canadian ethnologist/explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson (1879-1962) and anthropologist Diamond Jenness (1886-1969) on their travels in Alaska and upper Canada. Bernard was in Coronation Gulf in 1910 and remained there for extended periods between 1910-1914, trading for furs and ethnographic objects. Nearby Bernard Harbour is named for him. In 1921, Bernard and the Teddy Bear became locked in the ice on their way from Nome to Wrangell Island to rescue members of Stefansson's party. Bernard later settled in Cordova, Alaska, where he was harbor master. He died in 1972 in Sitka.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 11 black and white glass negatives, taken by Joseph-Fidèle Bernard in 1921, along with 11 copy negatives (acetate) made by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation in the 1960's. The images include scenes of daily life in Nome, Alaska among the Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) community. The majority of the image are portraits of men, women and children. None of those photographed have been identified. In addition to the photographs in Nome, there is one view of a Siberian Yu'pik vilage in East Cape, Siberia, and one view of a kayak storage location in Cape of Prince of Wales, Alaska.

Arrangement

The negatives are arranged in original catalog number order; N08110-N08120.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Indians of North America -- Alaska
Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
Photographs
Teddy Bear (Schooner)
Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik)

Cultures:

Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik)

Geographic Names:

Alaska
Siberia (Russia)

Container Listing

- Box 236 N08110: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Children, 1921
1 Glass plate negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Group portrait of Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) children standing outdoors in Nome, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
- Box 236 N08111: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Man, 1921
1 Glass plate negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Portrait of Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) man standing outdoors in Nome, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
- Box 236 N08112: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Men, 1921
1 Glass plate negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Portrait of two Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) men standing alongside a boat at a dock in Nome, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
- Box 236 N08113: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Woman and Baby, 1921
1 Glass plate negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Portrait of an Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) woman with a baby on her back standing outdoors in Nome, Alaska. See also N08118.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
- Box 237 N08114: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Young Woman, 1921
1 Glass plate negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Portrait of a young Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) woman standing in front of a wooden building in Nome, Alaska. She is wearing a parka, possibly sealskin.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)
- Box 237 N08115: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Girl, 1921
1 Glass plate negative
[Image\(s\)](#)
Portrait of a young Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) girl, wearing a parka, standing in front of a wooden building in Nome, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)

Box 237

N08116: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Kayak Storage, 1921
1 Glass plate negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

View of Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) kayak and umiak storage and cache in Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) [Kinugumiut/Kingegan/Cape Prince of Wales]

Box 237

N08117: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Children, 1921
1 Glass plate negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

Group portrait of Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) children standing in front of and on a stone dwelling in Nome, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)

Box 237

N08118: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Woman and Baby, 1921
1 Glass plate negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of an Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) woman with a baby on her back standing outdoors in Nome, Alaska. See also N08113.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)

Box 237

N08119: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) Woman and Baby, 1921
1 Glass plate negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of an Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo) woman with a baby on her back standing outdoors in Nome, Alaska.

Culture: Inupiaq (Alaskan Inupiat Eskimo)

Box 237

N08120: Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) Village, 1921
1 Glass plate negative

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scenic view of a Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik) village from the water near East Cape, Siberia.

Culture: Yuit (Siberian Yup'ik)