

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 5**

**American Whaling Company Films**

1938-1942

5 reels film; 1 folder documents  
1 linear foot  
Accession No. LB1992.81

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

Penobscot Marine Museum  
11 Church St., Searsport, Maine 04974  
penobscotmarinemuseum.org  
207-548- 2529 ext. 212 | [libraryresearcher@pmm-maine.org](mailto:libraryresearcher@pmm-maine.org)

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# PMM 5

## American Whaling Company Films

### American Whaling Company

Film and narrative, 1938-1942

One folder documents; 5 reels (approx. 1695 feet) 16mm film

Twentieth century whaling firm based in New York.

Movie footage shot by an amateur photographer from the crew of the whaling factory ship FRANGO in 1938. The film shows catcher boats killing whales, whales being processed on the deck of the factory ship, crew with tools of the trade, and a dead baby whale found in the womb of its dead mother. Documents include introduction and narration to the film in 1942. Film has intertitles.

In English

Whitney D. Pidot; Gift; 1992; LB1992.81

Finding aid available.

### Subject Headings:

FRANGO (Whaling factory ship)

American Whaling Company

Whaling.

Whaling -- Antarctica.

Whaling ships.

Voyages and travels.

Whales.

Whale oil.

Antarctica.

### Acquisition:

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Whitney D. Pidot.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. The film was copyrighted in 1942; restrictions may still apply. To protect the original film, researchers may be asked to view copies.

### Condition:

This collection is in good condition.

### Related Materials:

The original 16mm film has been copied onto MBR and VHS videocassette format.

PMM 25 contains extensive business records from the Western Operating Corporation, another American whaling firm owned by Clifford N. Carver which operated factory ships in the Antarctic. There is likely significant overlap with the whaling activities depicted here.

### Historical Note:

The American Whaling Company formed circa 1930 in order to send a whaling expedition from New York to the Antarctic in September of that year. Clifford N. Carver, an officer in the company, was a founder of the Penobscot Marine Museum. The company employed the whaling factory ship FRANGO with crews of Norwegian whalers. They intended

to sell whale oil in the United States, but, because of the Great Depression, found no purchasers for their first cargo until they sold it to European buyers in 1935. The FRANGO made more expeditions for the American Whaling Company in 1938 and 1939, which are documented in this collection.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains movie footage of whaling on an early twentieth century factory ship shot by an amateur photographer from the crew of the ship FRANGO. The film, which has intertitles, shows catcher boats killing whales, whales being processed on the deck of the factory ship, crew with tools of the trade, and a dead baby whale found in the womb of its dead mother. Documents in this collection include introductions and narrations written by W.C. Russell and others when the film was broadcast in 1942.

**Container List:**

Film Canister: 16mm film, 5 reels, taken aboard whaleship FRANGO, 1938

Box: Copy on MBR videocassette, 5 tapes

Copy on VHS videocassette, 5 tapes

Folder: Introduction and narration to film, 1942 (stored with PMM 25, box 1)