

William H. Littlewood Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2010085559>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms017019>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2017
Revised 2023 March

Collection Summary

Title: William H. Littlewood Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1904-2007

Bulk Dates: 1955-1960

ID No.: MSS85559

Creator: Littlewood, William H.

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 14 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 5.5 linear feet

Extent: 3,637 digital files (2.24 GB)

Language: Collection material in English with Swedish, Japanese, Norwegian, Danish

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2010085559>

Summary: Civilian oceanographer with the United States Navy and science attaché with the United States Foreign Service. Correspondence, cables, dispatches, memoranda, reports, journals, clippings, writings, newsletters, photographs, digital scans, maps, ephemera, planning files, and reference materials primarily related to Operation Deep Freeze between 1955 and 1959.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Littlewood, William H.

Organizations

Edisto (Icebreaker)

Glacier (Icebreaker)

Nihon Nankyoku Chiiki Kansokutai.

Operation Chipper (1959)

Operation Deep Freeze.

Operation Nanook (1946-1950)

United States. Foreign Service.

United States. Hydrographic Office.

Wyandot (Attack cargo ship)

Subjects

Geophysics--International cooperation.

Geophysics--Polar regions.

Glaciers--Polar regions.

Hydrography--Polar regions.

International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958.

Marine biology--Polar regions.

Marine ecology--Polar regions.

Meteorology--Polar regions.

Natural history--Polar regions.

Scientific expeditions--Antarctica.

Scientific expeditions--Polar regions.

Weather.

Places

Antarctica--Climate.

Antarctica--Discovery and exploration.

Polar regions--Climate.
Polar regions--Discovery and exploration.

Occupations

Oceanographers.
Science attachés.

Acquisition Information

The papers of William H. Littlewood, oceanographer and science attaché, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Eric Littlewood, in 2010. Additional materials were given in 2017 by Eric Littlewood via the National Science Foundation, Division of Polar Programs.

Processing History

The papers of William H. Littlewood were arranged and described by Nate Scheible in 2017.

Digital files were received on optical disks as part of the William H. Littlewood papers in 2010. Each were assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.digital>.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Films have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Some photographic prints, slides, and negatives have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Maps Division. Some reports have been transferred to the Science, Technology and Business Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the William H. Littlewood Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William H. Littlewood is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William H. Littlewood are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Access to digital content is available onsite only in the Manuscript Reading Room and requires advanced notice. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Digital content in the William H. Littlewood papers is also viewable onsite via a Stacks terminal at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/ms017019stacks.mss85559>. Consult Manuscript Reading Room staff in advance regarding access.

Technical Requirements

Digital files are primarily images in .jpg, .exe, and .html formats. Images in .exe format can be extracted and viewed in an image viewer.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital ID, William H. Littlewood Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1924, Apr. 16	Born, Wyandotte, Mich.
1942-1946	United States Army
1950-1959	Oceanographer, United States Navy Hydrographic Office
1960-1965	Science attaché, Stockholm, Sweden, United States Foreign Service
1966-1967	State Department detail, National Aeronautics and Space Administration foreign relations office
1967-1970	Science attaché, Tokyo, Japan, United States Foreign Service
1970-1976	Associate director of the Office of Science and Technology, United States Agency for International Development
1976-1981	Agency for International Development, Technical Assistance Office of Science and Technology, Indonesia
1981	Retired from United States Foreign Service
2012, Dec. 21	Died, Gaithersburg, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William H. Littlewood (1924-2012) span the years 1904-2007, with the bulk of the material dating from 1955 to 1960. The collection documents Littlewood's professional activities, particularly his involvement as chief oceanographer in the first United States Navy Deep Freeze expeditions to Antarctica beginning in 1955 and during the International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958. The papers are organized into the following series: [Personal File](#), [Correspondence](#), [Fieldwork Files](#), [Reference Files](#), [Digital Files](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Personal File](#) primarily includes scrapbooks arranged by Littlewood that comprise photographs and clippings from various expeditions to Antarctica along with Littlewood's background notes and annotations. Also within this series, a transcript of Littlewood's oral history interview for the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training provides details about his personal and professional life from his childhood in Michigan to his retirement from the United States Foreign Service in 1981.

The [Correspondence](#) series is limited in scope and documents Littlewood's personal relationship with friends and family. Researchers may be interested in outgoing correspondence to family members that describe in detail his expeditions to Antarctica.

The [Fieldwork Files](#) mostly document Littlewood's involvement as an oceanographer during various Arctic and Antarctic expeditions where he led research initiatives, supported logistics, and gathered data on hydrography, weather systems, glacial movements, and marine life. The documentation in the materials ranges from general observations to highly technical geophysical data. The bulk of the series relates to Operation Deep Freeze from 1955 to 1959 and includes daily plans, general operation plans, reports of oceanographic surveys, cables, memoranda, photographs, personnel lists, and newsletters from USS *Glacier* (AGB-4), USS *Edisto* (AGB-2), and USS *Wyandot* (AKA-92). Littlewood's field journals include daily accounts of activities, discoveries, observations, and weather conditions during Deep Freeze. Other materials in the Fieldwork Files include documentation of the 1950 arctic mission Operation Nanook, the 1959 Operation Chipewyan mission, and the Japanese Antarctic Research Expeditions of the late 1960s.

The [Reference Files](#) consist of materials Littlewood maintained for reference or research purposes. These include publications of the United States Navy Hydrographic Office, general materials related to the United States Antarctic Research Program, maps, handbooks, manuals, and various articles and essays on topics related to oceanography.

The [Digital Files](#) primarily consist of scanned copies of cruise books, photographs, and reports related to the USS *Edisto* (AGB-2) and its involvement in Deep Freeze expeditions between 1955 and 1965.

Only a few files in the collection relate to Littlewood's position as science attaché in Stockholm, Sweden and Tokyo, Japan. Aside from the oral history interview in the [Personal Files](#), there is no documentation of his roles at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Personal File, 1950-2005](#)
- [Correspondence, 1954-1994](#)
- [Fieldwork Files, 1949-2007](#)
- [Reference Files, 1904-1983](#)
- [Digital Files, 2002-2004](#)
- [Oversize, 1950-1980](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Personal File, 1950-2005</u></p> <p>Certificates, photographs, clippings, transcripts, correspondence, and biographical materials mostly arranged into scrapbooks focusing on Operation Deep Freeze and the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically type of material.</p>
BOX 1	<p><u>Correspondence, 1954-1994</u></p> <p>Incoming and outgoing letters and postcards, mostly informal or personal. Some correspondence to family recounts experiences during Operation Deep Freeze expeditions.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically by year.</p>
BOX 2-10	<p><u>Fieldwork Files, 1949-2007</u></p> <p>Reports, journals, memoranda, cables, dispatches, plans, surveys, track charts, maps, newsletters, clippings, writings, photographs, and ephemera related to Operation Deep Freeze, Operation Nanook, Operation Chipper, United States Antarctic Research Program, Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958, and American Geophysical Union.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by operation, topic, or type of material.</p>
BOX 10-14	<p><u>Reference Files, 1904-1983</u></p> <p>Articles, essays, handbooks, charts, maps, glossaries, and news releases about Antarctica, the Arctic, United States Navy protocol, and various topics related to oceanographic research.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by title, topic, or type of material.</p>
BOX DF	<p><u>Digital Files, 2002-2004</u></p> <p>Scanned text and image files from external media stored independent of the paper files.</p> <p>Original materials date from 1949 to 1965.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1950-1980</u></p> <p>Maps, certificate, print, and pennant.</p> <p>Organized and described according to the series, container, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Personal File, 1950-2005 Certificates, photographs, clippings, transcripts, correspondence, and biographical materials mostly arranged into scrapbooks focusing on Operation Deep Freeze and the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition. Arranged alphabetically type of material.
BOX 1	Artwork, 1980 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Certificates, 1950, 1953 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Littlewood oral history transcript, Foreign Affairs Oral History Collections, 2001-2005
BOX 1	Philately, 1955, 1961-1979, 1998
BOX 1	Scrapbooks
BOX 1	Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, 1968-1969 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Operation Deep Freeze, 1955-1960, 1977, 1986, 1995, 2002 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1954-1994 Incoming and outgoing letters and postcards, mostly informal or personal. Some correspondence to family recounts experiences during Operation Deep Freeze expeditions. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 1	1954-1976, 1994, undated (4 folders)
BOX 2-10	Fieldwork Files, 1949-2007 Reports, journals, memoranda, cables, dispatches, plans, surveys, track charts, maps, newsletters, clippings, writings, photographs, and ephemera related to Operation Deep Freeze, Operation Nanook, Operation Chiper, United States Antarctic Research Program, Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958, and American Geophysical Union. Arranged alphabetically by operation, topic, or type of material.
BOX 2	American Geophysical Union meetings, 1955-1956
BOX 2	Antarctic Treaty, 1961, 1968-1971
BOX 2	Clippings, 1952-1977, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition
BOX 2	Aerial photography for the Japanese station and vicinity, Antarctica, 1962
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1968-1970
BOX 2	Ephemera, 1968
BOX 2	Japanese ice breaker observation ship <i>Fuji</i> , 1969, undated
BOX 2	Japanese ice breaker ship <i>Shirase</i> , 1981-1982
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1969, undated

Fieldwork Files, 1949-2007

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Reports and background, 1965-1974 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Operation Chiper, 1959-1960
BOX 3	Operation Deep Freeze
BOX 3	Cables and dispatches, 1956-1959 (4 folders)
BOX 3	Ellsworth Station plans, circa 1958-1959
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BOX 4	Ephemera, circa 1956-1959, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
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BOX 7	Plans of the day
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BOX 7	USS <i>Glacier</i> (AGB-4), 1957-1958
BOX 7	USS <i>Staten Island</i> (AGB-5), 1957
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BOX 9	Survey specifications, 1957-1960
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BOX 9	USS <i>Staten Island</i> (AGB-5) operation report, 1957 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Writings by Littlewood, 1955-1959
BOX 9	Operation Nanook, 1950
BOX 10	Second International Oceanographic Congress, Moscow, Soviet Union, 1966, May 30-June 9
BOX 10	State Department
BOX 10	Science program, 1960
BOX 10	Telegrams, 1967-1972

Fieldwork Files, 1949-2007

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Tenth meeting of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, Tokyo, Japan, 1968, June 10-14
BOX 10	Travel orders, 1959
BOX 10	United States Antarctic Research Program status reports, 1959-1962 (3 folders)
BOX 10	United States National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958, 1957
BOX 10-14	Reference Files, 1904-1983 Articles, essays, handbooks, charts, maps, glossaries, and news releases about Antarctica, the Arctic, United States Navy protocol, and various topics related to oceanographic research. Arranged alphabetically by title, topic, or type of material.
BOX 10	"Aerial Ice Reconnaissance: Observational Techniques and Recording and Reporting Procedures," 1958
BOX 10	<i>Alone</i> by Richard E. Byrd, book condensation, 1953
BOX 10	"The Antarctic," <i>Scientific American</i> , 1962, Sept.
BOX 10	"Arctic Research Logistics Support Handbook," 1972
BOX 11	Articles and essays
BOX 11	1904-1908, 1921-1960 (5 folders)
BOX 12	1961-1978, undated (2 folders)
BOX 12	"Charts and Publications for Antarctica Operations," 1957-1960
BOX 12	"Distribution of Ice in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait," 1954
BOX 12	<i>Fram</i> , by Committee for the Preservation of the Polar Ship Fram, 1951
BOX 12	<i>Frozen Frontier</i> , by Georg Gerster, circa 1970
BOX 12	<i>Greenland</i> , by Royal Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 1951
BOX 12	"Illustrated Ice Glossary," by Terence Armstrong and Brian Roberts, 1956
BOX 12	"Introduction to Antarctica," 1963-1967
BOX 12	"Manual for United States Antarctic Research Program Personnel," 1960
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BOX 13	"Naval Arctic Operations Handbook," 1949
BOX 13	News releases, 1956-1962, 1969, 1977-1978
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BOX 13	Oceanographic Data for Davis Strait and Labrador Sea, 1952-1953
BOX 13	<i>Oceanographic ships, fore & aft</i> , by Stewart B. Nelson, 1983
BOX 14	Posters, undated
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BOX 14	Support for Science: Antarctica, 1968
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BOX 14	United States Antarctic Research Program information for the press, 1960

Reference Files, 1904-1983

Container	Contents
BOX 14	United States Navy Hydrographic Office chief oceanographer job description, undated
BOX DF	Digital Files, 2002-2004 Scanned text and image files from external media stored independent of the paper files. Original materials date from 1949 to 1965. Arranged alphabetically by topic. Littlewood Nunataks, 2004 Digital ID: mss85559_138_002 USS <i>Edisto</i> (AGB-2) Arctic exploration, 2002-2003 Digital ID: mss85559_138_001 Deep Freeze cruise books, 2002-2003 Digital ID: mss85559_138_001 Deep Freeze reports, 2002-2003 Digital ID: mss85559_138_001 Photographs, 2002-2003 Digital ID: mss85559_138_001
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1950-1980 Maps, certificate, print, and pennant. Organized and described according to the series, container, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Personal File
BOX OV 1	Print, "H. M. S. Ymer in the Arctic," artist proof, 1980 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Certificate, Littlewood crossing the Arctic Circle, 1950, July 24 (Container 1)
	Fieldwork Files, Operation Deep Freeze
BOX OV 1	Pennant, "Operacion Antarctica, 1956-1957, Armada de Chile, 1957 (Container 4)
BOX OV 1	Track charts and maps Map, "Antarctic area stations chart prepared for 'Deep Freeze IV,'" 1958-1959 (Container 9) Map, "Antarctic area stations chart prepared for 'Deep Freeze 60,'" 1959-1960 (Container 9) Map, "Distribution of serial oceanographic stations south of 60° S., December through March," 1957 (Container 9)