

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center  
Bob and Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center  
625 C Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907-929-9235  
Fax: 907-929-9233  
Email: resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org

Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

**TITLE:** Margaret Lantis Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2010.023

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: circa 1939-1978

Extent: 2.75 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Margaret Lantis, Hans Himmelheber, Norman A. Chance, William B. Page, Mary Selden, Edwin B. Crittenden, Hewitt's Drug Store

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Born 1906, Margaret Lantis died in Dayton, Ohio, on September 8, 2006, a few days after her 100th birthday. She was educated at University of Minnesota (BA, 1930) and the University of California Berkeley (1939, PhD). She was the first anthropologist to focus on Alaskan Eskimo ceremonialism, completing her dissertation on the topic. She served with the U.S. Public Health Service from 1954-1963, including time spent at the Arctic Health Research Center in Anchorage. Before joining the Health Service, Lantis conducted four sessions of field work in Alaska, beginning as early as 1933. From 1965-1974, she was professor of anthropology at the University of Kentucky, specializing in North America and especially the circumpolar north. She was the author of numerous articles and reports on Alaska Native ethnography. Some of her field notes and photographs were used in the publication of *Nunivak Island Eskimo (Yuit) technology and material culture*, written by James VanStone. In 1987, Lantis won the Society for Applied Anthropology's Malinowski Award.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of slides, photographic prints, negatives, moving image film, and research notes created by Margaret Lantis during her time in Alaska. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged by format into five series: 1. Slides. 2. Prints. 3. Negatives and transparencies. 4. Research notes and other papers. 5. Moving image films.

## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use. Research notes with identifying information restricted until 2050.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition. Lightbox may be used for slides and negatives.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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### Preferred Citation:

Margaret Lantis Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2010.23

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Margaret Lantis via Nancy Dineen, in November 2002.

### Processing Notes

Approximately 570 non-Alaskan slides were not accessioned into the collection. Set numbers taken from original slide sheets; slide sheets included in B4. Slide identifications taken from slide sheets when applicable. Unnumbered slides filed with like subjects when possible. 16mm films rehoused on archival cores in late 2011, and housed with ARC film collection.

### Separated Materials

Approximately 195 objects and one sketch by Lantis transferred to Collections.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

2002.43

## **SUBJECTS**

Lantis, Margaret, 1906-2006  
Crittenden, Edwin B.  
Jesse Lee Home (Seward, Alaska)  
Alaska Native Health Service  
Mt. Edgecumbe Orthopedic Hospital (Sitka, Alaska)  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Robert G. White Large Animal Research Station (LARS)  
Yupik Eskimos--Material culture  
Aleuts – Alaska – Unalaska  
Alaska Native art  
Architecture, Domestic – Alaska  
Log cabins – Alaska  
Mekoryuk (Alaska)  
Nunivak Island (Alaska)  
Mountain Village (Alaska)  
Kwigillingok (Alaska)  
Chignik (Alaska)  
Dutch Harbor (Alaska)  
Unalaska (Alaska)  
Seward (Alaska)  
Susitna, Mount (Alaska)  
Anchorage (Alaska)  
Port Graham (Alaska)  
Talkeetna (Alaska)  
Juneau (Alaska)  
King Salmon (Alaska)  
Akiachak (Alaska)  
Aniak (Alaska)  
Bethel (Alaska)  
Iliamna Volcano (Alaska)  
Chefornak (Alaska)  
Barrow (Alaska)  
Wainwright (Alaska)  
Barter Island (Alaska)  
Sitka (Alaska)  
Prince Rupert (B.C.)  
Ketchikan (Alaska)  
Fairbanks (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Slides

**B1**

.1-.29 Set 1

Mekoryuk, Lantis, clothing, food preparation, skin preparation, household equipment, boats, Chignik, Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, Church of the Holy Ascension, children

.30-.186 Set 2

Flight from Seward to Anchorage, Mount Susitna, Seward, Jesse Lee Home, [Rachel?] Simmet Collection of Alaska Native art, Anchorage, Cook Inlet, Port Graham, Palmer Road, Knik Bridge, Anchorage housing, snow scenes from winter 1955-56, ice fog, Talkeetna, Juneau

## **B2**

.187-.275 Set 3

Tables for NTA paper, maps, King Salmon, Bethel tundra fire (July 1957), Akiachak, fish camp, Aniak, Bethel, Mt. Iliamna, Alaska Native Health Service Hospital (Anchorage), Chefornak

.276-.346 Set 4

Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital, Yupik masks, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Anchorage, Barrow, Wainwright, Barter Island

.343 - RESTRICTED

## **B3**

.347-.446 Set 7

Sitka, Anchorage, housing

.447-.477 Set 9

Anchorage, Prince Rupert, Ketchikan, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Miscellaneous slides

.478-.483 Arctic Health Research Center Nunivak 1955

.484-.524 Modern Eskimo art, mostly Canadian

Series 2: Prints

## **B4**

F1

.525-.568 Nunivak illustrations, fig.1-50

.542a – Catching tomcod at ice hole on river, Nunivak Island (jigging) [stamp:] Hans Himmelheber [boy ice fishing. At AFN 2015, tentatively identified as Michael Snare. Fig. 23 in VanStone (1989) with caption: “Boy fishing (jigging) for tomcod with hook and line (1937)”]

.545a – [Indigenous woman holding large net, child in background. Fig. 26 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “Dip net for trout and other fish.” In 2015, identified as Nash Harbor, woman holding fish net for salmon]

.550a – [man sitting on fish trap in water. Fig. 31 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “A fish trap in place in the dam opening.” In 2015, described as sinking river fish net for catching chum and coho salmon, man wearing seal skin raincoat]

## F2

.569-.586 Nunivak illustrations, fig. 50-69

.578a – [man and child standing in pit, other people standing around edge of pit, supplies on ground. Fig. 60 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “House excavation.” In 2015, man in pit identified as Qiawig’ar Kay Hendrickson, boy as Kapuran Martin Kapokun, woman outside pit at left as Nussaalarpag with young boy Caniiral’ria George King, man at left as Kinguiral’ria Luke King, digging for sod house]

.579a – [elder man in pit snorting powder, tool or drum on ground, young boy standing next to him, woman leaning against house post at left. Fig. 61 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “House excavation, showing low height of doorway at left. House owner stops to take snuff as child watches.” In 2015, woman identified as Nussaalarpag, powder being snorted as possibly opium]

## F3

.587-.617 Nunivak illustrations, fig. 77-107

.607a – [young woman standing outdoors in winter, wearing fur parka. Fig. 97 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “Young woman’s squirrel skin parka cut up the sides in the old style, with wide layered ruff, many furstrip tassels encircling the parka, and both border and fringe around the bottom.” In 2015 and at AFN 2022, individual was identified as Anman Josephine Shavings]

.613a – [portrait of man wearing fur parka. Fig. 103 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “Elderly man wearing squirrel skin parka and sealskin pants (1937). Pieces of brown and white fur and squirrel tails decorate the upper sleeve. Nunivak boots were generally soft and loose, not holding their shape well. Photograph by Hans Himmelheber.” In 2015, identified as Nan’ur Luke Smith]

.614a – (Fig 104)[boy in center wears an old style cap worn by Nunivak men and boys. The man was the carpenter building the first school at Mekoryuk in 1959][VanStone, James W. Nunivak Island Eskimo Technology and Material Culture][At AFN 2022, the youth at center was identified as wearing a traditional style Nunivak hat]

.615a – [portrait of young girl wearing headdress and print parka with fur trim. Fig. 105 in VanStone (1989), with caption: “Girl wearing dance headdress. The long white hairs across the top are from under the neck of a reindeer. Hanging at each side are long strands of beads.” In 2015, identified as Acacar Clara Davis]

## F4

.618-.638 Nunivak illustrations, Sleds

.637 – [man, woman, and child with freight sled on tundra. In 2015, identified as Cape Etolin, looking back towards old Mekoryuk, man as Ayaperal’ria Herman hauling water from pond]

## F5

.639-.655 Nunivak illustrations, Kayaks

.640b – [man working on wooden hoop. In 2015, man tentatively identified as Zacchaeus working on a kayak opening]

.641 – [man wearing billed cap working on kayak on shoreline. At AFN 2015, identified as father of Richard Davis]

## F6

.656-.673 Nunivak illustrations, Clothing

.663 – [four young boys posed outside, standing against wall of building. In 2015, boy second from left identified as Joe Moses; at AFN 2016, boy second from right tentatively identified as Walter Amos]

.671 – (The rare airplane, both men wear traditional fur caps and boots otherwise modern clothing, ML) [two men and young boy standing next to Pilgrim 100-B airplane tail number NC709Y. In 2015, man at left identified as Manignar Johnny Maniqinuq, man in center as Cikulqaar Fred Weston]

F7

.674-.681 Nunivak illustrations, Fishing and fish traps

F8

.682-.685 Nunivak illustrations, Food preparation

F9

.686-.703 Nunivak illustrations, Skin preparation and sewing

F10

.704-.705 Nunivak illustrations, Tools and manufactures

F11

.706-.711 Nunivak illustrations, Household equipment

.707 – [two Yup'ik young boys on porch outside building, one wearing print parka with fur ruff and holding large grass basket, one wearing knitted cap and fur parka and playing with folding chair. In 2015, boy at left identified as Larry Float, boy at right tentatively identified as Earl Ernest]

F12

.712-.730 Nunivak illustrations, Housing

.713 – [young woman sitting in entrance to sod house, man standing at right. In 2015, girl tentatively identified as Susie Brown Williams. At AFN 2015, man at right tentatively identified as Mr. Brown]

.720 – [Yup'ik woman wearing parka sitting in pit near boards going in for new house. In 2015, identified as Nussaalarpag]

.729 – [view down row of sod houses in winter, man sitting on house at right, woman in front of other houses in background. In 2015, identified as Nash Harbor, man at right as Nan'ur Luke Smith]

**B5**

F1

.731-.743 Nunivak illustrations, Not used

F2

.744-.747 Unlabeled photos

.745 – [villagers assembled to greet Ernest Gruening, 1961. Gruening standing at right. In 2015, several residents identified, including: Jesslyn Williams, Floyd Moses, Kay Hendrickson, Laura Kolerok, Jack Williams Sr., Bertha Andrew, Nussaalar Muriel Amos, Evelyn, Dorothy Kiokun, Stella Amos, Nona Amos, Ray Christiansen, Alice Smith, Nick Shavings. Location identified as old Evangelical Covenant Church, with bell on roof that still stands next to new church building]

F3

.748-.754 Anchorage ice frost, December 1955, by Bill Page

Series 3: Negatives and transparencies

F4

Fig. 1-30

F5

Fig. 31-60

F6

Fig. 48-90

F7

Fig. 91-107

F8

Figs. not used

Series 4: Research notes and other papers

F9

Pages from George Vranesh, *Alaskan horizons*, 1980

F10

Reproduction of figure from E.W. Nelson, *The Eskimo about Bering Strait*, 1899

**RESTRICTED**

**B6**

[Typed research notes on 5 x 8 cards]

- Initial visits with mothers – Mountain Village
- Drawings, talk with parent, visit II – Mountain Village
- Doll play, talk with child, visit III – Mountain Village
- Rorschach, naming places – Mountain Village
- Visits with local whites – Mountain Village
- Discussions with non-local whites – Mountain Village
- Talks with Mary Lou Hanson, Vista girls, Mrs. Mandigo, Father Fox, regarding general information about each family
- Specimen records 1 – Mountain Village

**RESTRICTED**

**B7**

- Specimen records 2 – Mountain Village

[Small label "Mary Selden Kwigillingok records, 1967" separated from cards]

- My evaluations, thoughts, miscellaney [sic] – Kwig.
- BIA school records, grades one through five – Kwigillingok
- Talks with teachers, oversvations [sic] of teachers – Kwig.
- Visits with non-local whites – Kwigillingok

- Talks with and observations of adult Eskimos – Kwig.
- Rorschach, naming places, etc. – Kwig.
- Talk with parent, Jean Cook interpreter – Kwig.
- Drawings, visit I – Kwig.
- Specimen records and miscell. obsv. - Kwigillingok

Series 5: Moving image films

**B8**

VHS: “Eskimo children”; “They never asked our fathers”

16mm: 13 reels, silent, color or monochrome, each approximately 100 feet, no identifying information on canisters

Guide updated: October 26, 2016

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