

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Amy Valentine, Archivist

TITLE: Christine Heller Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1991.011

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1940s-1970s

Extent: 1,569 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Dr. Christine A. Heller, PhD

Administrative/Biographical History:

Christine A. Heller (1907-1989) was born in Utica, New York. She obtained a bachelor of science degree (1933), a master's degree (1937), and a doctorate in nutrition (with a minor in botany, 1952) from Cornell University. She worked as a nutritionist in New Mexico and California until she moved to Juneau in 1945.¹

From 1956 until her retirement in 1965, Dr. Heller conducted research on Indigenous Alaskan food ways. For this work, she travelled extensively to gather images from communities including: Allakaket, Huslia, Point Hope, Noatak, Shishmaref, Shungnak, Akiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Hooper Bay, and Newtok. Some these images were used in the book Heller co-authored with Edward M. Scott, *The Alaska Dietary Survey, 1956-1961*.

¹ Biography statement adapted from Christine A. Heller papers guide, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage. <https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/collections/specialcollections/hmc-0367/>.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 1495 35mm color slides, two 120mm color slides, 49 black-and-white photographs, 22 black-and-white negatives, and one book by Dr. Christine Heller and Edward M. Scott, *The Alaska Dietary Survey, 1956-1961*. The slides primarily depict Indigenous Alaskan food preparation, fishing methods, basket-making, fancy parkas, and maternal relationships within Koyukon, Inupiaq, and Central Yup'ik communities. Approximately 80 slides show charts and diet study reports from her 1956-1961 survey.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation:

Christine Heller Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1991.011

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

From the estate of Christine A. Heller, gift of Lenore Hedla.

Notes

Detailed description of the collection to be completed later.

Related Materials

HMC-0367, Christine A. Heller papers, Archives and Special Collections, University of Alaska Anchorage

Guide written: December 6, 2023