

Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Folklore and Language Archive (MUNFLA)

Arlene Sitler Woods/Captain Jack Dodd Fonds Description

Fonds description written by Anita Best under the co-sponsorship of the Canadian Council of Archives and the Association of Newfoundland & Labrador Archives. Reformatted by Renee Lawrence.

TITLE:

Arlene Sitler Woods/Captain Jack Dodd

COLLECTION NUMBER:

Special Collections Number I.18
Accession Number 90-400

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

1 cm of textual records
47 audio recordings

DATES:

1975-1978

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Captain Jack Dodd (1902-1978) was noted for his unorthodox observations on Newfoundland history and weather patterns. In his life he plied many trades, of which seafarer, author, historian, fisheries advocate, poet and singer were but a few. He was born in Torbay to William and Lucille (Crow) Dodd and received a grade seven education from the local school. In the early 1920s he went to sea. By the time he retired in the 1970s he had been shipwrecked, had sailed three times around the world and

had many adventures, some of which he recounted in a story called “*Shanghaied*” which ran in four installments in the New Bedford Standard Times in Massachusetts. He took up prospecting for minerals in Canada and the United States before Newfoundland joined Canada, and upon his return to Newfoundland became a prolific letter-writer to local newspapers on a variety of issues about which he held passionate views: the fishery, Newfoundland politics, municipal politics, local economic and development issues. He is the author of two published works: *Wind in the Rigging and Cabot’s Voyage to Newfoundland*. Newfoundland author Cassie Brown published “*Shanghaied!*”, as told to her by Dodd, in *The Newfoundland Woman* (August, 1964 and September, 1964) and “*Adventure on Turk’s Head*”, as told to her by Dodd, in the *St. John’s Woman* (January 1964).

Arlene Sitler Woods of Greenville, Pennsylvania lived in Harbour Grace from 1975-1978 and made the acquaintance of her neighbour Captain Jack Dodd. She interviewed him and conducted some biographical research.

Source of biographical information: Arlene Sitler Woods (correspondence 1990) and Paul Sparkes (*Newfoundland Herald*, December 28, 1977)

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Fonds consists of 49 audio recordings and related textual material. The recordings, made by Arlene Sitler Woods, are mainly of interviews with and performances by Captain Jack Dodd. The interviews are wide-ranging covering such topics as folksongs, folktales, weather lore, folk medicine, Virgin Mary legends, John Cabot’s landing, proverbs and other language items, oral history of Harbour Grace, Torbay and St. John’s, St. John’s Regatta, seafaring stories and observations on the fishery and Newfoundland politics.

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS:

Access with permission of archivist; reference copies available

FINDING AID AVAILABLE:

Indexes to the audio recordings are available

TERMS GOVERNING USE AND REPRODUCTION:

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LANGUAGE:

English

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Title based on creator and contents of fonds