



# ArchivesSpace

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## David Flaherty papers4078764

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 15, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Flaherty, David, 1897-1966
<b>Title:</b>	David Flaherty papers
<b>ID:</b>	4078764
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0432
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1913-1965
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 Linear Feet 9 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The David Flaherty papers document the personal and professional life of Flaherty, dating from 1913 to 1965. The papers consist of David Flaherty's personal and family correspondence, scripts, accounts, notes, manuscripts, etc. of the films which he directed. The materials also include papers related to the documentary shorts he produced for the Jack Frost Sugar Company in the 1940s and the "Green Mountain Land" for the Vermont Development Association in 1950, along with others films he produced and proposed in the 1950s.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); David Flaherty papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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David Flaherty was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan, on November 27, 1897. He was the youngest son of Robert H. Flaherty, who was a mining engineer, and Susanna Kloeckner Flaherty, and the younger brother of Henry Russell Flaherty and Robert Joseph Flaherty, a documentary film pioneer. David grew up in Port Arthur, Ontario. During World War I, he was a clerk in the U.S. Army for two years and joined his brother, Robert Joseph Flaherty

on his first film expedition to Canada after returning from the war and assisted him in his film productions. He also contributed in organizing the annual Robert Flaherty Film Seminar. He later also spent some time in France writing at the encouragement of his brother. After returning to the U.S., he began producing advertising short documentaries for the Jack Frost Sugar Company in the 1940s, as well as "Green Mountain Land" for the Vermont Development Association in 1950. He later worked at a small independent film company in the 1950s. In 1966, David Flaherty died at the age of 68, in Brattleboro, Vermont.

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## Scope and Contents

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The David Flaherty papers contains David Flaherty's personal and family correspondence, scripts, accounts, notes, manuscripts, etc. of the films which he directed, dating from 1913 to 1965. The correspondence files contain incoming and outgoing letters from/to his family including his brother, Robert J. Flaherty, whom he worked with after returning from World War I, prior to the 1940s. Other materials in the papers also include the scripts, notes, lists, correspondence related to the documentary short films he produced for the Jack Frost Sugar Company between 1945 and 1948, as well as films he produced and/or proposed for the Vermont Development Association and an independent film company in the 1950s. The materials in the collection provides an insight into the family life of David Flaherty as well as his contribution to the production of early documentary films.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Revision Description**

PDF replaced with full finding aid, YH March 2020

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Flaherty, David. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1966. Accession number--M-66.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

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### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Materials concerning David Flaherty's work with his brother Robert J. Flaherty, and his position as Secretary-Treasurer of the Robert Flaherty Foundation will be found in the Robert J. Flaherty Papers, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Motion picture industry
- Documentary films -- Production and direction
- Scripts (documents)
- Motion picture producers and directors
- Cinematographers
- Correspondence
- Manuscripts (documents)
- Notes (documents)

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## Other Finding Aids

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[Legacy Finding aid](#)

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## Collection Inventory

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David Flaherty papers	
Title/Description	Instances
General correspondence: A - H	box 1
General correspondence: I - S	box 2
General correspondence: St - Z	

	box 2a
Letters to Robert J. Flaherty	box 3
Letters to other family members	box 4
Manuscripts and documents	box 5
Films	
Sugar films - What's happened to sugar?, 1945	box 6
Gift of Green, 1946	box 6
Crystal of energy, 1948	box 6
Correspondence	box 6
Sugar films - scripts, notes, lists, etc.	box 7
Green mountain land, 1950	box 8
Arroz y salud, 1952	box 9
Old Sturbridge Village (not completed), 1952-1953	box 9
Films proposed but not made	
Power for peace, 1950	box 9
Chemicals in defense, 1952	box 9
The future is ours, undated	box 9

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