Grant to Support Inventory of Books, Archives of Donald Clark

In 2018, the Alutiiq Museum received a remarkable gift—the scholarly effects of the late Dr. Donald W. Clark, an archaeologist whose prolific career included decades of research on Kodiak Alutiiq history. The donation included about 1,400 books, journals, and articles, as well as archival materials—field notes, draft manuscript, photographs, slides, negatives, correspondence, and an historic ledger. Many of these items are related to Clark’s research and collections held at the museum. Now, a $10,144.68 grant from the Museums Alaska Collections Management Fund will allow the Alutiiq Museum to transform this large bequest into publicly accessible collections.

“The goal of this project is to bring the materials into the museum’s holdings in a way that they can be used,” said Collections and Facilities Manager Amanda Lancaster. “We need to catalog each publication, add it to our library database, and shelve it. We will also be organizing and describing the archival materials.”

Work on the project began this fall and is expected to take about six months with the help of Leslie Watson, a collections assistant hired to help. When the work is complete, community members will be able to use the materials for research and enjoyment by making an appointment with Lancaster.

Alutiiq Museum Executive Director April Laktonen Counceller said, “By giving his books and papers to the museum, Don returned them to all of Kodiak. He knew that the Alutiiq Museum would share them to help future generations learn about our past. We are very grateful.”

The Alutiiq Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of the Alutiiq, an Alaska Native tribal people. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.

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