

In addition to the above published indexes and inventories, unpublished lists and indexes prepared by the writer from thirty-six more institutions and libraries have been deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. There are seven numerically substantial additions from Massachusetts, two from Rhode Island, three from Connecticut, fifteen small collections in New York State (mostly on Long Island), two from Washington, D.C., one each from New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and Ohio, and three from California. Except with respect to the original overwhelming predominance of Massachusetts, this distribution aptly approximates the locations of the former whaling ports.

Several small private collections were inspected and correspondence was exchanged on others, but without locating important information relevant to New Zealand researchers.

However, it must be stressed immediately that these lists are in many cases incomplete or undesirably concise because their accumulation began as a minor adjunct to, and remained subordinate to, a personal search for information on American whaling activities at and off the Chatham Islands. There was never sufficient time to prepare precise and uniform indexes.

An incomplete product is put forward without embarrassment since this haphazard accumulation now offered to New Zealand researchers is far larger and broader in scope and detail than any found in the United States. (A similar list was subsequently made available to several American institutions.)

The pressure of time also often prevented the exclusion of non-whaling vessels, and also prevented the compilation of a separate list of sealing logbooks which have invariably been included amongst the whalers.

Similarly, no detailed examination of newspaper and magazine sources was possible. Fortunately Canham has carefully worked through the Whalers' Shipping List and Merchant's Transcript, 1843-1914, in which the contemporary whale fleet was listed regularly at their last known locations. Also, in Turnbull and the Hocken Library Dunedin, are four rolls of microfilm containing an enormous quantity of newspaper extracts and entitled 'American Activities in the Central Pacific, 1790-1870. Data collected on the activities of New England Seamen and Whalers in the Central Pacific Ocean'. These extracts, which are listed chronologically under their respective geographic localities, are at last being published (regrettably without the rigorous editing and explanatory notes they deserve).

Finally it is hoped that, while recognising that only limited rewards are available even with protracted searching, New Zealand research workers will make full use of relevant material which is available among American whaling records.

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