



#### CREATOR OF RECORDS:

On 16 December 1889, the two whaling companies Madvik, Kristiania and Victoria, Tønsberg (L. Dahls Etablissement for Hvalfangst) were merged. The new company was named A/S Viktor. The company's objective was to carry out whaling operations around Iceland with the aid of the three whaling vessels *Ellida*, *Frithjof* and *Victoria*. The company's general manager was Niels Bugge (1823–1896) and manager of the land-based station, up until 1906, was Lauritz Jacob Berg (1845–1907).

When N. Bugge took over in 1889, the company had been carrying out whaling operations from Syltefjord on the coast of Finnmark for seven years, with L. Berg as manager. The company then moved all its whaling operations from Finnmark to Iceland, where a land-based station and guano factory was established in Dyrefjord on the west coast of Iceland. Initially, the company employed four, later five, whaling vessels and became one of the most important whaling companies in Iceland.

The number of whales caught peaked in 1896, after which time there was a considerable decline in the number of whales caught. In 1900, the company relocated once more, this time to Mjøafjord on the east coast of Iceland. The company was now referred to as the Mjøafjord Company. The number of whales caught dropped here too, and even after a brief upswing, it was decided in 1911 to shut down operations. By winding down the company in Iceland, the N. Bugge Company was able to free up capital and materials and was now in a position to begin whaling around the South Shetland Islands in the Antarctic, where the company had been granted a licence for whaling and blubber boiling. See the archives for N. Bugge (A–1326) and AS Hektor (A–1582).

Source: AS Viktor's minutes of negotiations, as well as various background documents taken from N. Bugge (A–1326) series Z/0001–0002.

#### THE ARCHIVE:

AS Viktor's archive comprises 0.6 linear shelf metres and spans the years from around 1880 until approximately 1930. The archive consists of minutes of negotiations, correspondence, equipment and lists of orders, ship's logs, crew payrolls and contracts. In addition, the archive includes accounts, share certificates and reference material.



[\(Click here to get to the archive in Arkivportalen\)](#)

*AS Viktor's archive consists of the following series:*

**A – Minutes of Board Meetings and Management Meetings, 1890–1911**

According to meeting minutes, a sperm whale skeleton was sent to Tønsberg at the request of Tønsberg Museum in 1899.

**D – Correspondence, 1908–1911**

The correspondence is arranged chronologically and partly alphabetically by business contact. The series includes, among other things, correspondence relating to crew hiring, the purchase and sale of ships and equipment, as well as insurance documents and policies listing stocks and equipment. In addition, there are analyses of guano and some property documents relating to the sale of properties and land from the land-based stations in Finnmark. Archive numbers 0002 and 0003 contain documentation concerning the winding down of operations in Iceland as well as the sale of AS Hektor's shares and vessels. There is also correspondence relating to cooperation with The Norwegian Canadian Whaling Co.

**F – Equipment and Orders, 1891–1896**

Equipment lists and orders for various vessels and the land-based station.

**G – Vessel Documentation, 1910**

Vessel documentation for the whaling steamer *Victor*. The ship's home port was Mjøfjord (Mjøfjord in Iceland) and the captain and skipper was Ludvig Beckman.

**P – Crews, 1892–1908**

Various types of crew-related documentation, including deductions and payroll lists for *Alpha*.

**Q – Property Management, Fixtures and Fittings, 1889–1912**

This series contains deeds, insurance policies and contracts for the whaling vessels, among other things.

**R – Accounts, 1891–1912**

A rich variety of documentation showing, among other things, outfitting lists, payroll lists and doctor's visits and medicine consumption. Vouchers and key accounting figures for the whaling vessel *Alpha*, among others. In addition, lists of provisions for the years 1900 to 1908. Only a few vouchers have been preserved for the years 1893 to 1907.

**Y – Miscellaneous**

Share certificates, lists of shareholders and dividends etc.

**Z – Reference Material, approx. 1880–approx. 1930**

Various memos, background and articles about whaling in Iceland, and a number of letters and reports written by whaling manager Lauritz Berg during the years 1891 to 1895.

*The archive is freely available.*

*Vestfoldarkivet,*

*June 2013*