



CREATOR OF RECORDS:

Salgskomiteen for hvalolje 1930/31 [The Sales Committee for Whale Oil 1930/31] was founded in 1931 following the signing of agreement between whaling companies regarding the sale of whale oil. The most significant increase in the whaling fleet in Antarctic waters occurred during the 1928/29 season.

During the 1930/31 season the production of whale oil was greater than ever. At the same time the world economy was in crisis, and in 1931 the whaling fleet was laid up. The initiative came from the companies that were unable to sell what they had produced. The objective of this collaboration was to arrange for the sale of whale oil at market-oriented prices. All sales were to take place at the joint expense of members of the sales ring. If a satisfactory price was not obtained, a two-thirds majority could resolve to store what had been produced. The idea was to coordinate whale oil sales so as to limit internal competition between the participating companies.

The Committee comprised the following nine whaling companies: Hector Whaling Limited, AS Africa, AS Mexico, AS Sevilla, AS Kosmos, Fraternitaskompagniet, AS Suderøy, AS Globus and AS Polaris. The companies formed a pool with the following objectives: «*to arrange for the sale of unsold production at prices obtainable in the market, and in order to avoid forced sales by individual parties with the harmful consequences that would ensue for the remaining unsold stocks*». The agreement contained a number of provisions. Among other things, the pool was to be administered by a committee consisting of four members chosen from among the companies' general managers. The committee dissolved its operations with effect from January 1934.

Source: Minutes of committee negotiations.

THE ARCHIVE:

The archive for *Salgskomiteen for hvalolje 1930/31* spans the years 1930 to 1934 and comprises approx. 3.7 linear shelf metres. Most of the archive consists of correspondence, but there are also minutes of meetings, insurance policies, accounts and vouchers. The archive was transferred to the Vestfold Archive from Vestfold County Museum in 2003, and was originally part of the material submitted from the N. Bugge Company (A–1326).



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*The archive is freely available.
Vestfoldarkivet, June 2013*