

Gunnar Olsborg papers, 1936-1997

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Olsborg, Gunnar, 1909-2000
Title	Gunnar Olsborg papers
Dates	1936-1997 (inclusive) 1936 1997
Quantity	11.42 cubic feet (12 boxes)
Collection Number	1978 (Accession No. 1978-004)
Summary	Papers of a Seattle, Washington, ship pilot and Norwegian American community leader
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The papers are open to all users.
Languages	English, Norwegian
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Captain Gunnar Olsborg (1909-2000) was a Puget Sound Pilot and ocean master mariner. He was born in Seattle, Washington, of Norwegian ancestry.

Olsborg began his career in 1925 and served in all categories of the Merchant Marine Deck Department for the next twenty years. During World War II, Olsborg served as a shipmaster on American Mail Line vessels sailing the South Pacific. After the war, Olsborg became a Puget Sound Pilot. As a pilot, he was involved with pension debates within the group.

Olsborg retired from the Puget Sound Pilots in 1982 but continued to deliver ships to and from Alaska, Honolulu, and Seattle. He was a longtime member of many organizations including the Norwegian Commercial Club, the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, the Council of American Master Mariners, and the Leif Erickson League of the Seattle Area. As secretary of the Leif Erikson League, Olsborg played an important role in the installation of the Leif Erickson statue overlooking Shilshole Bay Marina in Seattle, Washington. During World War II, Olsborg became sympathetic to the plight of Japanese-Americans. He later became an active member of the Japanese-American Citizens' League and campaigned aggressively for the presidential pardon of Tokyo Rose Iva Toguri. He served as the president of the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Seattle. Olsborg also served on the Scandinavian Studies Advisory Board at the University of Washington from 1984 to 1988.

Aside from his career at sea, Olsborg had numerous public speaking engagements during his lifetime. He spoke on a variety of maritime topics, as well as Tokyo Rose Iva Toguri, Norwegian history, and the sinking of the *Titanic*. In 1965 he published biographies of the Puget Sound Pilots in the *Western Viking*.

Olsborg married Evelyn Torwick in 1929 and they had two daughters. He died in Seattle in 2000.

Content Description

The papers include extensive speeches and subject files on Gunner Olsborg's maritime interests and Nordic heritage. Also included are materials from organizations with which he was affiliated, such as the Puget Sound Pilots Association, Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Norwegian Commercial Club, and the Seattle Seamens Center.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged into 6 series:

- Personal papers, 1936-1997
- Puget Sound Pilots Association (Seattle, Washington), 1954-1991
- Immanuel Lutheran Church (Seattle, Washington), 1959-1976
- Norwegian Commercial Club, 1957-1991
- Seattle Seamen's Center, 1963-1978
- Other associations, 1961-1995

Acquisition Information

Gift of Gunnar Olsborg, August 1972, and Olsborg's daughters, 2001.

Processing Note

Accession No. 1978-004 is a merger of Accessions 1978-001, 1978-002, and 1978-003. Processing was completed in 2002.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal Papers, 1936-1997

Olsborg's personal papers include extensive general correspondence, speech files, and subject files. During the 1970s and 1980s he spoke regularly on topics of interest to the maritime and Scandinavian communities. His research and notes for speeches on Norway's Independence Day, Leif Erikson Day, and his career at sea are contained here. Also included in this series are notes for speeches made on Pacific Northwest history and copies of numerous addresses made to commemorate wedding anniversaries. A large part of this series consists of subject files on topics of interest to Olsborg.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Biographical Information		
Box/Folder		
1/1	Miscellaneous	1945-1989, undated
1/2	"A Summary of a Twenty Year Career at Sea through World War II"	1981
Box/Folder		
1/3-3/26	General Correspondence	1936-1997, undated
Speech Files		
Box/Folder		
3/27	Announcements	1980-1991, undated
3/28-31	Notes	1956-1984, undated
3/32	"Career at Sea"	undated
3/33	Leif Erikson Statue Unveiling	1962
3/34	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1967
3/35	"Leif Erikson Day Address"	1970
3/36	"Leif Erikson Day Address"	1971
3/37	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/38	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1972
3/39	"Leif Erickson Day Address"	1973
3/40	Gyda Christoferson Tribute	1974
3/41	Leif Erikson	1975
3/42	Nordlandslaget	1974
4/1	"Career at Sea"	1974-1975
4/2	"Northwest History"	1976
4/3	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1976
4/4	Leif Erikson	1978
4/5	"Leif Erikson Day Address"	1978
4/6-7	"Northwest History"	1978
4/8	Gene and John Sundsten - 50th Anniversary	1979
4/9-10	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1979
4/11	Anton and Ambjorg Stamnes - 60th Anniversary	1981
4/12	Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL) - Redress	1981
4/13	"Supertankers in Puget Sound?"	1981
4/14	"Career at Sea"	1982
4/15	Kildall Party	1982
4/16	Puget Sound Ship Operators	1982
4/17	Washington State Ferry Retirees	1982
4/18	Washington State Pilotage Commission	1982

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/19-20	"Alaska Earthquake on Good Friday, March 27, 1964"	1983
4/21	"Career at Sea"	1983
4/22	Norwegian Hospital Association	1983
4/23	Foss Awards	1984
4/24	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1984
4/25	"Career at Sea"	1988
4/26	Norwegian Hospital Association - 15th Anniversary	1988
4/27	Prelude to <i>Titanic</i> Program	1989
4/28	"Norway's Independence Day Address"	1990
4/29	Knut and Haldis Einarsen - 50th Anniversary	1991
4/30	Honolulu Propeller Club / Hawaii Maritime Museum	1991
4/31	Mary Schwehm - 100th Birthday	1991
4/32	Leif Erickson Statue Re-Dedication	1992
4/33	"Northwest History"	1994
4/34	Jim and Beverly Ramstead - 50th Anniversary	1997
	Eulogies	
Box/Folder		
4/35	Erickson, Cordella	undated
4/36	Nakkerud, Ted	undated
4/37	Selig, Captain Percy Roy "Blackie"	1983
4/38	Selig, Leona E.	1984

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/39	Pederson, Edgar	1985
4/40	Peterson, Thelma	1985
4/41	Kildall, Captain Joseph	1987
4/42	Dennison, Bishop Eddie	1990
4/43	Smith, Captain Floyd	1991
4/44	Griffiths, Captain Graham "Gray"	1994
Box/Folder		
4/45	Writings	1990-1996, undated
Speeches and Writings of Others		
Box/Folder		
4/46	Berwick, Arnold	1991
4/47	Carrothers, John C.	undated
4/48	Dunn, Bob	1991
4/49	Luther, Philip H.	1984, undated
4/50	Nakkerud, Trygve (Ted)	undated
4/51	Qvigstad, Wilhelm	undated
4/52	Concerning Retirement of Four Senior Pilots	1983
4/53	Miscellaneous	1969, undated
Subject Files		
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/54-55	17th of May	1963-1977, undated
4/56	American Christian College	1971
4/57	American Mail Line	1945
4/58	<i>American Scandinavian</i>	1962-1964
4/59	American Scandinavian Foundation, Seattle Chapter	1966-1974
4/60	American Tract Society	1969-1978
4/61	<i>America's Concentration Camps</i>	1967-1978
4/62	Anti-Ballistic Missile Program	1969
4/63	Baseball	1970
4/64	Bicentennial World Marine Festival	1976
4/65	Broadview School	1973
4/66-67	Caddies - Golf	1974-1979, undated
4/68	"Challenge of the Sea"	1958
4/69	Christian Radich	1980
4/70	Coast Guard Museum / Northwest	1979-1983
4/71- 5/2	Columbus, Christopher	1974-199
5/3	Danish Bicentennial Committee	1976
5/4	Death Penalty	1990
5/5	Concerning John Demjanjuk Case	1984
5/6	Finlandia Club	1966-1980

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/7	Fishermen - Crab	1972-1973
5/8	Foss, Andrew and Thea	1988, undated
5/9	Foss Tugs & Barges	1967-1976
5/10	Fred Olsen Line	1958, undated
5/11	Fretheim Chartering	1977
5/12	Gay Rights	1978
5/13	Golden Alaska	1982-1984
5/14	Greig Festival	1970-1973
5/15	Harry Bridges Chair	1991-1996
5/16	Hood Canal Bridge	1979-1990
5/17	Iceland	1966-1967, 1982
5/18	Janus System	1964
5/19-25	Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL)	1979-1988
5/26-29	Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL) National Committee for Iva Tuguri (Tokyo Rose)	1977
5/30	Concerning Leine, Torbjorn	1988, undated
5/31	Liberian License of Competence	1970-1979
5/32	<i>Lost Cargo</i>	1957-1967
5/33	Lucia Ball	1972
5/34	<i>Lutheran Standard</i>	1972
5/35	M.V. Pribilof	1982-1984
5/36-37	<i>Marine History of the Pacific Northwest</i>	1963-1979

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/38	Mileage and Speed	1973
5/39	Mile High Waves	1978-1979
5/40	National Liberty Ship Memorial	1979-1980
5/41-42	National Maritime Hall of Fame	1982-1984
6/1	National Maritime Historical Society	1967-1974
6/2	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	1978-1979
6/3	Nordic Heritage Museum	1982-1992
6/4	<i>Nordisk Tidende</i>	1973-1974
6/5-6	Norway Trip	1957-1959
6/7	Norwegian American Anniversary Commission	1975
6/8	Norwegian-American Historical Association	1961-1982
6/9	Norwegian-American Museum	1966-1988
6/10	Norwegian Language Class	1964-1969
6/11	Norwegian Male Chorus	1973-1976
6/12-13	Norwegian Seamen and War Veterans Association	1979-1991
6/14-15	Ocean Storms and Weather	1980-1988
6/16	Pacific Luthern University	1968, 1995-1996
6/17	Pan Am Airlines	1978
6/18	Panamanian Certificate of Competency	1972-1985
6/19	Pearl Harbor	1970-1971
6/20	Pipe Line / Oil Slicks	1972-1973

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6/21	<i>The Poulsbo Book</i>	1986
6/22	Protestants and Other Americans United (POAU), Greater Seattle Chapter	1964-1970, undated
6/23	Public Health Service Hospital	1973
6/24	<i>Reader's Digest</i>	1969-1978
6/25	Republican Party	1977
6/26	Right to Work	1971-1974
6/27	Royal Nordic Club	1970-1978
6/28	Rune Stones	1968-1990
6/29-31	<i>S.S. Leviathan</i>	1972
6/32	<i>S.S. United States</i>	1978-1984
6/33	Save Our Ships	1993-1994
6/34-35	Scandinavian Music Festival	1962-1974
6/36	Sea Alaska Products	1983, 1986
6/37	Seattle Genealogical Society	1971, undated
6/38-39	Seattle's Nordic Heritage	1980
6/40	Steam Schooners	1980
6/41-42	Concerning Sterling, Lillian C.	1970-1981
6/43	Swedish Bicentennial Committee	1976
6/44-45	Swedish Club	1963-1990
6/46	Travelogue	1959
6/47 - 7/1	Trident Archives	1988-1991

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/2	Trident Nuclear Submarines	1975
7/3	TrollHaugen	1973
7/4	" "Truce in the Forest""	1987-1996
7/5	Tubfrim	1971
7/6	Wallace, George	1968-1975
7/7	Watergate	1973-1974
7/8	<i>Western Viking</i>	1967-1982
7/9	Wind Chill Factor	1973, undated
7/10	World Affairs Council	1964-1974
Programs		
Box/Folder		
7/11-13	Miscellaneous	1955-1996
7/14	Memorial Services	1977-1997
Journals		
Box/Folder		
7/15	<i>Marine Digest</i>	1983, 1985, 1990
7/16	<i>The Sea Chest</i>	1985
Box/Folder		
7/17-20	Newsletters	1969-1997, undated
Bulletins		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
7/21	<i>The Fellowship</i>	1984-1993
	News Releases	
Box/Folder		
7/22	Program Announcements	1983, undated
7/23	Wedding Anniversaries	1989, 1994
Box/Folder		
7/24	Calendars	1982-1983, 1990
7/25	Photographs	undated
7/26	Membership Cards	1955-1992
7/27	Court Papers	1981-1988
7/28	Certificates	1945
7/29	Notes	1985, undated
7/30	Invitations	1981-1991, undated
7/31	Resumes Of Others	undated
7/32-35	Ephemera	1966-1995, undated
	Clippings	
Box/Folder		
7/36-47	Miscellaneous	undated
7/48 - 8/3	Re: Carrothers/ <i>Andrea Doria</i>	undated

Puget Sound Pilots Association (Seattle, Washington), 1954-1991

The Puget Sound Pilots Association series contains 26 Puget Sound Pilot biographies originally published in *Western Viking*. Also included are documents that reflect Olsborg's involvement in the group, including his term as president from 1955 to 1956.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/4-6	Biographies	
	Introduction to Series	1965
	Anderson, Captain Andrew A.	1965
	Anderson, Captain Olaf Christoffer	1965
	Arntsen, Captain Erik	1965
	Birkeland, Captain Torger	1965
	Blindheim, Ole R.	1965
	Eide, Captain Bernhardt Carlsen	1965
	Furuseth, Andrew	1991
	Gilje, Captain Severin K.	1965
	Halverson, Captain Helmer L.	1965
	Hannevig, Captain Ragnvald	1965
	Hanson, Captain William Frederick	1965
	Hostmark, Captain Alf	1991
	Kelly, Captain Delbert J.	1965
	Jorgensen, Captain Thoralf	1965
	Lea, Captain Thor Hedemark	1965

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Lindholm, Captain Goerge Fred	1965
	Lindholm, Captain Otto Bernard	1965
	Miller, Captain Johann	1965
	Moden, Captain Karl Harry	1965
	Neslund, Captain Rolf	1965
	Nystrom, Captain Fred I.	1965
	Olsborg, Captain Gunnar	1965
	Rustad, Captain Sverre	1965
	Soriano, Captain Amigo	1965
	Soriano, Captain Dewey	1965
	Thomsen,Captain Einar	1965
	Clippings	1965
	Miscellaneous Writings	1965, undated
8/7	Organizational Information	1955-1975
8/8-9	By-laws	1955-1981, undated
8/10	Code Of Ethics	1956
8/11-17	Memoranda to the Membership	1954-1982, undated
8/18 - 9/2	General Correspondence	1947-1993
	Minutes	
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/3	Various Meetings	1963-1981
	Reports	
Box/Folder		
9/4	Speed Advisory Committee	1974-1975
Box/Folder		
9/5	Membership Lists	undated
9/6	Station Notices	1955-1981
9/7	Diary	1955-1956
	Speeches and Writings	
Box/Folder		
9/8	Address Honoring Captain Harold Kildall	1960
9/9	Address to Puget Sound Ship Operators	1982
9/10	"New Prexy Takes Helm at Puget Sound Pilots"	1963
9/11	Miscellaneous	1955
	Speeches and Writings of Others	
Box/Folder		
9/12	Halstead, Captain Alex G.	1960
9/13	Howard, Charles B. and Soriano, Max D.	undated
	"Civil Liberties of the Pilot of a Vessel"	1955
Box/Folder		
9/14	Lea, T. H. "History of Early Pilotage on Puget Sound"	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Subject Files	
Box/Folder		
9/15-17	70 & Out	1979
9/18	American Pilots' Association	1956
9/19	American Pilots' Association - Rules of the Road	1971
9/20	B.C. Pilots Convention	1955
9/21	Coast Guard	1980-1981
9/22	Coast Guard - Rules of the Road - Sea Lanes	1979
9/23-24	Coast Guard VTC (Vehicle Traffic Center)	1973-1977
9/25	Future Information - Pilot Rates	1965, 1969
9/26	Gill Net Boats	1972-1977
9/27	Concerning Joshua Green	1969
9/28	Hash	1954-1957
9/29	International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots #100-8	1967-1973
9/30	Labor Matters - Trustees	1962-1970
9/31	Luther Evaluation	1975-1976
9/32	Regarding Luther, Philip	1976-1977
9/33	Masters, Mates & Pilots - Local #90 - Pension	1965
9/34-38	Pension	1947-1978
9/39-40	Physical Accidents	1984-1985
9/41	Pilot Ages	1968, 1970, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/42	Pilot Wages	1958-1970
9/43	Proposed Pacific Pilots Association	1972, undated
9/44-46	Proposed Washington State Inland Pilots Association	1979-1980
9/47	Radar	1957-1966
9/48	Speed in Fog	1974-1975, 1982
9/49-51	Washington (State) Pilotage Commission	1969-1982
Box/Folder		
9/52	Accident Reports	1954-1981
9/53	Ship Records	1972-1991, undated
9/54	Pilot Records	1979-1981, 1991, undated
9/55	Notes	1956-1967
9/56	Legislation - Public Law 96-591	1980
10/1	Vacation Schedules	1960-1983
10/2	Ballots	1956-1981, undated
10/3	Petitions	1955-1974
	Applications	
Box/Folder		
10/4	Endrody, Miklos	1972
10/5	Hughes, Donald Wesley	1980
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/6	Receipts	1960-1974
10/7	Miscellany	1976-1982. undated
10/8-10	Ephemera	1956-1982, undated
10/11-20	Clippings	

Immanuel Luthern Church (Seattle, Washington), 1959-1976

The Immanuel Lutheran Church series includes organizational information, general correspondence, minutes, newsletters, reports, programs, and other materials pertaining to the church and its activities.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
10/23	Organizational Information	1962-1975
10/24-25	General Correspondence	1959-1975
10/26	Minutes	1969-1975
	Newsletters	
Box/Folder		
10/27	<i>Immanuel Image</i>	1974-1975
	Reports	
Box/Folder		
10/28	Annual Reports	1968-1974
10/29	Miscellaneous	1970-1975
Box/Folder		
10/30	Financial Records	1969-1976

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/31	Speeches and Writings	1959, 1975
10/32-33	Programs	1969-1975
10/34	Ephemera	1974-1975, undated
10/35	Notes	undated
10/36	Clippings	undated
10/37-38	Miscellany	undated

Norwegian Commercial Club, 1957-1991

The Norwegian Commercial Club series includes a history of the club, membership rosters, and programs for general meetings.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Organizational Information	
Box/Folder		
11/6	"1932-1982 The First Half Century"	1982
11/7	Miscellaneous	1973, 1991, undated
Box/Folder		
11/8	Membership Rosters	1957-1977
	Programs	
Box/Folder		
11/9-11	For Meetings	1967-1995
11/12	Miscellaneous	1975, 1982
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/13-17	General Correspondence	1954-1989, undated
	Speeches and Writings	
Box/Folder		
11/18	Captain Jown W. Trimmer	undated
11/19	First Draft concerning the Jones Act	1990
11/20	Introduction of Captain Royce Garrett	undated
11/21	Introduction of Captain Harold Kildall	1978
11/22	Introduction of Captain Philip H. Luther	1981
11/23	Introduction of Horton Smith	undated
11/24	Ole Blindheim Eulogy	1990
11/25	Twenty-Fifth Anniversary	undated
11/26	Miscellaneous	1987, undated
	Subject Files	
Box/Folder		
11/27	Air-Sea Rescue	1977
11/28	Cross Sound Bridge	1967-1968
11/29-31	Washington State Canal Proposal	1965-1967
Box/Folder		
11/32	Ephemera	1971-1983, undated
11/33	Notes	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/34	Clippings	undated

Seattle Seamen's Center, 1963-1978

The Seattle Seamen's Center series includes general correspondence, annual reports, and subject series pertaining to the events leading to the establishment of the Seattle United Maritime Ministries.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
11/39	Organizational Information	1970-1977
11/40-47	General Correspondence	1964-1978
11/48-50	Minutes	1969-1978, undated
11/51	Financial Records	1969-1977
	Reports	
Box/Folder		
11/52	Annual Reports	1963-1972
11/53	Auditor's Reports	1969, 1972
11/54	Concerning the United Way	1970-1976
12/1-2	Miscellaneous	1972-1977, undated
Box/Folder		
12/3	Programs	1969-1972, undated
12/4	Ephemera	1971-1978, undated
12/5	Notes	1969, 1972, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
12/6	Clippings	undated
	Subject Files	
Box/Folder		
12/7-8	Events Leading to a Possible Joint Ministry	1973
12/9-18	Seattle United Maritime Ministries	1974-1976

Other Associations, 1961-1995

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
10/21-22	Council of American Master Mariners (C.A.M.M.), Pacific Northwest Chapter	1971-1995, undated
10/39	L.C. Foss Sunset Home	1970-1978
10/40 - 11/5	Leif Erikson League of the Seattle Area	1961-1990, undated
11/35-38	Seattle Nordic Festival	1962-1978
12/19	University of Washington Scandinavian Studies Advisory Board	1984-1988, undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Lecturers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Lutherans--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Lutherans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Merchant mariners--Labor unions--Research--Pacific Coast (North America)
 Merchant mariners--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Norwegian Americans--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Norwegian Americans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Norwegian Americans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Societies, etc
 Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)
 Pilots and pilotage--Washington (State)--Biography
 Pilots and pilotage--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives

Gunnar Olsborg papers, 1936-1997

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv80384>

Personal Names :

Olsborg, Gunnar, 1909-2000--Archives

Corporate Names :

Immanuel Lutheran Church (Seattle, Wash.)

International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots

Japanese American Citizens' League

Leif Erikson League of the Seattle Area

Norwegian Commercial Club

Puget Sound Pilots Association (Seattle, Wash.)

Seattle Seamen's Center

Form or Genre Terms :

biography files

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

correspondence

Eulogies

minutes

Newsletters

notes

Periodicals

Photographs

programs

reports

Speeches, addresses, etc

writings

2006



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