Johnson, George S., fl. 1881-1884, logkeeper.

Journal of a whaling voyage [sic] in the Atlantic ocean on Board Schr Antarctic
1881 November 10-1884 July 11

## Descriptive Summary

**Identification:** MSS 097, Item 044  
**Creator:** Johnson, George S., fl. 1881-1884, logkeeper.  
**Title:** Journal of a whaling voyage [sic] in the Atlantic ocean on Board Schr Antarctic  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1881 November 10-1884 July 11  
**Extent:** 1 v. : ill. (152 p.) ; 34 cm.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

## Administrative Information

**Citation:** MSS 097, Item 044, George S. Johnson, Journal of a whaling voyage [sic] in the Atlantic ocean on Board Schr Antarctic, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.  
**Shelving Summary:** Item 044: Shelved in SPEC MSS 097 oversize  
**Location:** Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/  
**Source:** Purchase, November 1956.  
**Materials Available in Alternative Format:** A digitized copy of the journal is available at the University of Delaware Digital Institutional Repository.  
**Access Restrictions:** The collection is open for research.  
**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction:** Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi
Historical Note


The first whaling voyage into the Atlantic lasted from November 10, 1881, to July 27, 1883, under the shipmaster Newton P. West. The second voyage lasted from October 31, 1883, to July 11, 1884, under shipmaster John [Jno] Bell. Some day's entries are headed in bold letters "SPERM WHALE" which denotes the importance of this type of whale to the crew. The sperm whale was the most sought after type of whale because its head contained spermaceti, a white waxy substance that was worth significantly more than any other whale oil.

It is not known how long the *Antarctic* served, however there are several historical registries where the schooner is listed: The New Bedford Public Library Whaling Collection Archives has a registry entry for the vessel dated 1852, while Mystic Seaport's G. W. Blunt White Library has journals covering 1828-1831 as well as registries with data on the ship from 1861 to 1894.

Sources:


Additional information derived from the collection.
Scope and Content Note

This logbook documents two Atlantic Ocean whaling voyages aboard the schooner *Antarctic* occurring between November 10, 1881, and July 11, 1884. The log primarily contains navigational data, weather reports, and notes about the health of the crew.

The log is a bound volume, circa 150 pages, filled with ink entries and pencil drawings of whales and parts of whales. There are many small illustrations of whales or parts of whales. According to the author, an illustration of an entire whale next to a day’s entry indicates that a whale had been caught, while an illustration of only a fin indicates that a whale has been sighted or a whale already on board had been butchered. The account of the second journey begins on p. 110 of the volume. In the back of the volume, lists of provisions for the journey are recorded.
Selected Search Terms

Alternate Title

Journal of a whaling voyage in the Atlantic ocean on board schooner Antarctic

Corporate Names

Antarctic (Schooner)

Topical Terms

Logbooks--19th century.
Whaling--New England--19th century--Sources.
Whaling Ships--19th century--Sources.
Schooners--19th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Ships' logs.

Occupation

Whalemen.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 097 Diaries, Journals, and Ships' Logs collection.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Journal of a whaling voyage [sic] in the Atlantic ocean on Board Schr Antarctic, 1881 November 10-1884 July 11

[Item 044]

PDF (29.03 MB)