



University of Victoria Archives

AR014

Michael Bigg collection

1. Fonds-level description

Title

Michael Bigg collection

Dates

1990-1994

Extent

13 cm of textual records, 9 photographs

Biographical sketch

Michael Andrew Bigg was born 22 December 1939 in London, England to Andy and Irene Bigg. He had an older sister, Carol, and a younger sister, Pamela. In 1948 the Bigg family moved to British Columbia, first settling in Wilson's Landing. Bigg graduated from Cowichan Senior Secondary school and went on to earn his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate from the University of British Columbia in 1962, 19xx, and 1972 respectively. Bigg spent his career researching killer whales. In 1971, using fishermen he conducted a survey to help gauge the number of whales in the area. This survey was the first of its kind. Bigg also used photography extensively to help document and enumerate killer whales. Bigg was married to Silke ____, with whom he had two children, Michelle and Colin. He died on 18 October 1990, after having been diagnosed in 1994 with Leukemia.

Scope and content

Collection consists of subject files documenting Michael Bigg's efforts to protect Robson Bight killer whales and their habitat, and Andy Bigg's campaign to stop MacMillan-Bloedel from damaging the whales habitat by logging in the Tsitika Valley.

Notes

Gift of Andy Bigg, September 1996.

2. Structure

(no series or files)

3. Inventory

Accession 1996-080

Box 1

Bigg honours and photographs (including Michael with Prince Phillip)

Bigg obituaries

Bigg mailing addresses of whale experts

Bigg report controversy (Dean Fisher and Louise Goulet)

General information

Johnstone Strait killer whales

Livingstone, Roberta

Beyond the Gate: Artists' Journeys to Save the Tsitika Valley and Robson Bight,
Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Victoria Branch, 1990.

Morton, Alexander, "Life Among the Whales"

Robson Bight-Michael Bigg Ecological Reserve

Sidney Museum exhibit of Michael Bigg

Tsitika articles

Vancouver Aquarium

Voices of the Forest controversy (David Suzuki)

Whales - articles

Whales - general interest re: whales, seals, sea otters

Whales - re: videos Swimming with Whales, Beautiful Killers

Whales - catalogue of whale images