

COLLECTIONS POLICY

The Whaling Museum Mission

“The purposes and objectives of the Museum are to collect, exhibit and preserve relics of the whaling industry, including: the collection, preservation and exchange of objects, artifacts, articles, writings, documents and books relating to whaling and whales; general maritime history, both at sea and on shore, and local history, principally at Cold Spring Harbor, New York and adjacent parts of Long Island, and to own and operate for public benefit a museum building and library for charitable, educational, scientific, literary and cultural purposes which shall be open to the public, the Museum having been formed and being operated exclusively not for pecuniary profit or financial gain and no part of the Museum’s assets or receipts is distributable to or may accrue to the benefit of its Members, its Directors, its Officers or to any one of them.”

Our collection serves the following purposes:

- A) To preserve objects which give people a better understanding and deeper appreciation of whales and whaling history.
- B) To preserve material directly related to the founding of the museum and the lives of the founders.
- C) To preserve materials relating to Cold Spring Harbor and the whaling history of Long Island.
- D) To strengthen and enrich the exhibits of the museum.
- E) To provide cultural resources for studies of whaling and related industries.

Archeological Standards

As a Council of American Maritime Museum (CAMP) institution, the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum shall adhere to archeological standards consistent with those set forth in the by-laws of CAMP, adopted May 1988, and with those of AAM/ICOM, and shall not knowingly acquire or exhibit artifacts which have been stolen, illegally exported from their country of origin, illegally salvaged or removed from commercially exploited archeological or historical sites.