

**Wilfred T. Grenfell (1865-1940)**  
**Books, 1911-1966**  
**Doc 639**

**Introduction**

This collection contains eleven published books, ten of which are written by or about Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell (1865-1940) and one which is written by Dr. Joseph P. Moody (1922?- ). Both men were physicians who provided medical attention to the population of people who lived in the harsh climate of the Arctic area, although each served during different time periods. The books were given to the Vermont Historical Society by the Estate of Jeneva “Pat” Peterson in 2008 (ms. acc. no. 2008.21). They are stored in one half-size document storage box and occupy .5 linear feet of shelf space.

**Biographical Notes**

Ten of the books are written by or about Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, MD, (1865-1940) who retired to Charlotte, Vermont, in 1932, after spending 40 years working in Northern Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. An English doctor and knighted by King George V, Sir Grenfell was a medical missionary who established hospitals, schools, an orphanage, and co-operatives, improving the health care, education, and economic standards of many of the coastal inhabitants. The books focus on his life and his observations of the difficult living conditions that he worked to improve from 1892 to 1932.

In 1931, Dr. Grenfell and his wife, Lady Anne Grenfell, opened the well known Dog Team Tavern, in Middlebury, Vt., as a tea house and shop. Their goal was to establish another source to benefit the people of Labrador and Newfoundland by selling their handicrafts. The not-for-profit, registered Canadian Charity, Grenfell Historic Properties, St. Anthony, Newfoundland and Labrador, continues the mission effort today.

The collection also includes an autobiography, *Arctic Doctor*, by Dr. Joseph P. Moody (1922?- ), a “physician, explorer and photographer,” who spent from 1946-1949 and 1950-1954 as a medical officer for the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare in the Canadian East Arctic. He and his wife and young daughter lived at their home base in Chesterfield on the Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut, Canada, the west coast of Hudson Bay. He describes their experiences in the arctic with the Inuit. This book includes 8 pages of photos.

**Scope and Content**

All eleven books describe the experience of living and working as physicians in a harsh environment with little medical support found in a modern hospital. Both of the authors were responsible for areas that covered thousands of square miles and had tough

problems to endure, including the severe weather found in the Arctic, cold, dense fog, drifting ice bergs and ice pans. Although they practiced medicine at different times they both admire the Inuit and the northern population often explaining in detail the everyday lives of the people they served.

### Inventory

- Doc 639:1 *Down North on Labrador*, Wilfred T. Grenfell, 1911.
- 2 *Labrador Days*, Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, 1919.
- 3 *A Labrador doctor; the autobiography*, Wilfred T. Grenfell, 1919.
- 4 *The story of Grenfell of the Labrador: a boy's life of Wilfred T. Grenfell*, Dillon Wallace, 1922.
- 5 *The romance of Labrador*, Sir Wilfred Thomason, 1934.
- 6 *Adrift on an ice-pan*, Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, M.D., 1937.
- 7 *A Labrador doctor: the autobiography*, Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, 1948.
- 8 *Arctic doctor*, Dr. Joseph P. Moody, 1955.
- 9 *Wilfred Grenfell; his life and work*, J. Lennox Kerr, 1959.
- 10 *What Christ means to me*, Sir Wilfred Grenfell, 1964.
- 11 *Knight of the snows: the story of Wilfred Grenfell*, Raymond Martin, 1966.
- 12 Greeting card with illustration by Wilfred Grenfell (gift of Sarah Dopp, August 2011).

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