Yatsuhashi Harumichi Family Papers

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Collection Overview

Repository: Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title: Yatsuhashi Harumichi Papers
Identifier: FSA.A1994.02
Date: 1907-1976
Extent: 9 Linear Feet
Creator: Yatsuhashi Harumichi Family
Language: English
Summary: The Yatsuhashi Harumichi Family Papers (1906-1976) document the professional and personal lives of a Japanese-American family in Boston during the twentieth century. The patriarch, Yatsuhashi Harumichi (1886-1982), was an influential Asian art dealer and the papers also document the professional experiences of Asian art dealers in the United States during the early and mid 20th century. Mr. Yatsuhashi worked at the antiquities firm of Yamanaka & Company before starting his own Asian antiquities shop in 1945. Included in the papers, portions in Japanese, are correspondence; catalogues relating to the Alien Property Custodian's 1944 liquidation of Yamanaka & Company's New York branch's holdings; photographs depicting art objects and shop interiors, the Yatsuhashi family, Yamanaka & Company, and extended family, friends, and colleagues; and items belonging to Mr. Yatsuhashi's wife, Shigeki, and some of their children.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The Yatsuhashi Harumichi Family Papers were donated the Archives by James Arthur Marinaccio in 1994.

Provenance
Gift of James Arthur Marinaccio, 1994

Processing Information
The collection was processed by Colleen Hennessey and volunteer Suzuki Kiyoko in 1997. Additional arrangement and description by Linda Machado in 2002.

Preferred Citation
Restrictions
Access is by appointment only, Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please contact the Archives to make an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use
No restrictions on use.

Biography

Asian art dealer and merchant Yatsuhashi Harumichi (1886-1982) was born in Tano, Japan, on December 15, 1886. Upon completion of his studies in Osaka, Mr. Yatsuhashi secured employment in the Osaka office of the prestigious Asian antiquities firm, Yamanaka & Company. (For more information about Yamanaka & Company, please see: Lawton, T. (1995). Yamanaka Sadajiro: Advocate for Asian art. Orientations, 26 (1), 80-93.) In 1907 he joined Yamanaka & Company's branch office in Boston, Massachusetts, as its general manager and treasurer of the company's Asian division. Located at 424 Boylston Street, the store was a center for Chinese art, as well as for Japanese assorted goods.

In 1913 Yatsuhashi married Shigeki. They produced two sons (Michio and Masao) and two daughters (Sumiko and Kukiye). (Harumichi Yatsuhashi, Oriental art authority and Brookline resident. (1982 December 3). The Boston Globe, obituaries.)

Following the United States' entrance into World War II, the Alien Property Custodian seized the Yamanaka shops in New York, Boston, and Chicago. The holdings were sold at auction in May and June, 1944. In 1945, Yatsuhashi Harumichi and his son Michio opened their own Asian art dealership at 420 Boylston Street in Boston.

Yatsuhashi Harumichi fostered exchange between his native and adopted homeland. He was a member and officer (president in 1931) of the Japan Society of Boston since 1921, an avid supporter of the Boston Marathon, and a founder of the Boston-Kyoto Sister City Foundation. (Boston Globe, 1982 December 4.)

Michio Yatsuhashi, who helped his father open the Yatsuhashi antique shop, died prematurely as a result of cancer in 1981. One year later, Mr. Yatsuhashi died in Boston at the age of 96. He was survived by his daughters, Sumiko and Kikuye and one son, Masao.

1886 December 15 Yatsuhashi Harumichi born in Japan
1905 Yatsuhashi Harumichi graduates college in Osaka, Japan
1905 Yatsuhashi Harumichi joins the antiquities firm of Yamanaka & Co.
1907 Yatsuhashi Harumichi joins the Boston branch of Yamanaka & Co.
1913 Yatsuhashi Harumichi and Shigeki marry
[ca. 1918 - 1919] Masao Yatsuhashi (son) born
1944 Yamanaka & Company New York, Boston, and Chicago shops are seized by the Alien Property Custodian and its holdings are sold at auction
1945 Yatsuhashi Harumichi and son Michio open an Asian antiquities shop in Boston
1961 Yatsuhashi Shigeki dies
1981 Michio Yatsuhashi dies
1982 December 1

Yatsuhashi Harumichi dies at Massachusetts General Hospital at the age of 96

Scope and Contents

The Yatsuhashi Harumichi Family Papers (1906-1976) document the professional and personal lives of a Japanese-American family in Boston during the twentieth century. The patriarch, Yatsuhashi Harumichi (1886-1982), was an influential Asian art dealer and the papers also document the professional experiences of Asian art dealers in the United States during the early and mid 20th century. Mr. Yatsuhashi worked at the antiquities firm of Yamanaka & Company before starting his own Asian antiquities shop in 1945. Included in the papers, portions in Japanese, are correspondence; catalogues relating to the Alien Property Custodian's 1944 liquidation of Yamanaka & Company's New York branch's holdings; photographs depicting art objects and shop interiors, the Yatsuhashi family; Yamanaka & Company, and extended family, friends, and colleagues; and items belonging to Mr. Yatsuhashi's wife, Shigeki, and some of their children.

Arrangement

The collection has been organized into three series.

**Series 1**: Yatsuhashi Harumichi papers, 1912-1965, undated

— **Subseries 1.1**: Biographical information, undated
— **Subseries 1.2**: Correspondence, 1940-1980
— **Subseries 1.3**: Diary, 1912
— **Subseries 1.4**: Address book, undated
— **Subseries 1.5**: Printed materials, 1919-1965, undated

**Series 2**: Other family members, 1937, 1966, undated

— **Subseries 2.1**: Yatsuhashi Shigeki
— **Subseries 2.2**: Yatsuhashi S.
— **Subseries 2.3**: Yatsuhashi Masao
— **Subseries 2.4**: Yatsuhashi Sumiko

**Series 3**: Photographs, 1907-1976, undated

— **Subseries 3.1**: Still prints and portraits
— **Subseries 3.2**: Photo albums
Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Alien property
- Alien property -- New York (State) -- New York
- Art dealers
- Art dealers -- Japan
- Art dealers -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Japanese American families
- Japanese American families -- Photographs

Types of Materials:
- Address books
- Announcements
- Books
- Catalogs -- 1910-1960
- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Photograph albums
- Photographs
- Printed material
- Sheet music
- Visiting cards

Names:
- Harvard University
- Yamanaka & Company
- Yamanaka, Sadajiro
- Yatsuhashi family
- Yatsuhashi, Harumichi, 1886-1982

Geographic Names:
- Boston (Mass.)
- New York (N.Y.)
Container Listing

Series 1: Yatsuhashi Harumichi Papers, 1912-1965, undated

0.5 Linear Feet

This series contains items belonging to Yatsuhashi Harumichi. The series is subdivided into five subseries: biographical information; correspondence; diary; address book; and printed matter.

1.1: Biographical information, undated

Biographical information includes handwritten notes and a visiting card.

Box 1, Folder 1 Notes, handwritten, 2 pages, in Japanese, undated

Box 1, Folder 1 Visiting card, undated

1.2: Correspondence, 1940-1980

This subseries comprises correspondence to and from Yatsuhashi Harumichi. It includes a Christmas card from Yamanaka & Co. Ltd, and correspondence with Michio Yatsuhashi.

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, undated

Holiday card from Yamanaka & Company.

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, [1912?]

Envelope addressed to Mr. H. Yatsuhashi, Brookline, Massachusetts from A. Kawano, Japan.

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1940

Letter to Michio Yatsuhashi signed "Papa" [Yatsuhashi Harumichi.]

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1980

Letter addressed to "father" [Yatsuhashi Harumichi] from Michio Yatsuhashi.

1.3: Diary, 1912

This subseries comprises one bound, annual diary from 1912. All diary entries are in Japanese.

Box 1, Folder 3 Diary, 1912

1 v. In Japanese.

1.4: Address book, undated

This subseries consists of one bound address book. Most entries are in English, a few in Japanese, and include marginalia in Japanese.

Box 1, Folder 4 Address book, undated

1.5: Printed materials, 1919-1965, undated
This subseries includes announcements, brochures, catalogs, a musical score, and two books.

**Box 2 OS, Folder 1**
Book, 1914
Ko Azuma Nishikiech, pt. 2 [In Japanese. Originally a book of Japanese illustrations, but appears as if the prints were removed from the book.]

**Box 1, Folder 5**
Sheet music, [1920]

**Box 1, Folder 6**
Announcement, 1931
Reception and banquet for Prince and Princess Takamatsu, with photo enclosure.

**Box 2 OS, Folder 2**
Program, 1940-1941

**Box 1, Folder 7**
Publicity, undated
Yamanaka & Company. Invitation to an exhibition at the Boston branch.

**Box 1, Folder 7**
Publicity, undated

**Box 1, Folder 7**
Publicity, undated
Yamanaka & Company, print ad for the Kyoto branch.

**Box 1, Folder 8-9**
Catalog, 1944
Alien Property Custodian of the United States. **Liquidation of the entire stock of the New York store of Yamanaka & Co., Inc. Oriental art. Part one.** Two copies. One copy is annotated, probably with the selling price of individual items.

**Box 1, Folder 10**
Catalog, 1944
Alien Property Custodian of the United States. **Liquidation of the entire stock of the New York store of Yamanaka & Co., Inc. Oriental art. Part two.** Annotated, probably with the selling price of individual items.

**Box 1, Folder 11-12**
Catalog, 1944
Alien Property Custodian of the United States. **Liquidation of the entire stock of the New York store of Yamanaka & Co., Inc. Oriental art. Part three.** Two copies. Both copies are annotated, probably with the selling price of individual items.

**Box 1, Folder 13**
Cookbook, [1953]
[Lectures on home economics: Confectionery and article of food. Published by Syufu no Tomu Sya]. In Japanese.

**Box 1, Folder 14**
Brochure, [1965?]
The Japan Society of Boston

Box 1, Folder 15
Announcement, undated
Senior Buckingham Hall dances.

Box 1, Folder 16
Catalog, undated
Yamanaka & Company

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Series 2: Other family members

0.75 Linear Feet

This series contains items belonging to Yatsuhashi Shigeki, the wife of Yatsuhashi Harumichi, and two of their children. Subseries 2.2 comprises a notebook belonging to "Yatsuhashi S." It is possible that either Sumiko or Shigeko created the notebook.

Series 2 is subdivided into three subseries.

2.1: Yatsuhashi Shigeki, undated

Box 3  Letters, 19[??]
In Japanese, scroll format. Letter to Yatsuhashi Shigeki from her mother. Reference photocopies of both scrolls available.

2.2: Yatsuhashi, S.

Box 4, Folder 1  School notebook, undated
Design project titled "Design is a Systematic Arrangement of Order and Beauty", Signed by Yatsuhashi S. [possibly either Yatsuhashi Shigeki or Sumiko.]

2.3: Yatsuhashi Masao

Box 4, Folder 2  University Records, 1937
Includes one copy of transcript and one letter indicating Yatsuhashi's placement on the Dean's list at Harvard.

2.4: Yatsuhashi Sumiko

Box 4, Folder 3  Letter, 1966
Thank you note to Yatsuhashi Sumiko from Asa S. Knowles, President of Northeastern University.

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Series 3: Photographs, 1907–1976, undated

7 Linear Feet

This series is subdivided into two subseries. Subseries 3.1 contains still prints and portraits. This subseries is further divided into five sections. Subseries 3.1 includes photographs of the Yatsuhashi family; their relatives, families, and colleagues; images of the Yamanaka & Co. staff; art objects; and 399 slides taken by Yatsuhashi Harumichi and Yatsuhashi Shigeki's daughter Yatsuhashi Kikuye. This series' second subseries comprises photograph albums. Three albums contain family photographs and two albums contain images of art objects.

3.1: Still prints and portraits, 1907-1988, undated

3.1.1: Still prints and portraits - Yatsuhashi Harumichi Family

An additional print of Mrs. Yatsuhashi may be found in box 9, folder 5.

Box 4, Folder 4  Yatsuhashi Harumichi, 1907, 1913, 1968, and undated
Portraits. Six items

Box 4, Folder 5  Yatsuhashi Harumichi, undated
Portrait by De Paola. Three prints.

Box 5, Folder 1-2  Yatsuhashi Harumichi, undated
Portrait by De Paola. Three copies.

Box 5, Folder 3  Yatsuhashi Harumichi, undated
Portrait.

Box 5, Folder 4  Yatsuhashi Harumichi family and others, 1920

Box 5, Folder 5  Yatsuhashi Harumichi family, 1934
Portrait of the family with unidentified individuals. 15 individuals depicted.

Box 5, Folder 6  Yatsuhashi Family, undated

Box 5, Folder 7  Yatsuhashi Harumichi and Yatsuhashi Shigeko, undated
Group portrait. 2 copies.

Box 6, Folder 1  [Yatsuhashi Shigeki?], undated
Portrait.

Box 6, Folder 1  [Yatsuhashi Shigeki?], undated
Portrait.

Box 6, Folder 1  Yatsuhashi Shigeki, undated
Box 6, Folder 1  Yatsuhashi Shigeki and unidentified women, 1965
Inscribed, "Nov. 1965, Boston, Mass." Color [Sumiko Yatsuhashi and two unidentified women in the Yatsuhashi's office]

Box 6, Folder 2  Yatsuhashi Shigeki, undated
Portrait. Two prints.

Box 6, Folder 3  Yatsuhashi Shigeki and the Yatsuhashi children, undated

Box 6, Folder 4  Two girls [Yatsuhashi?], undated

Box 6, Folder 4  Girl [Yatsuhashi?], undated
One, out of focus, portrait of a girl [Yatsuhashi?]

Box 6, Folder 5  Yatsuhashi Keigo, 1919

Box 6, Folder 5  Yatsuhashi Keigo and Yatsuhashi Koto, 1919
Wedding portrait. Portrait by S. Katsuyagi.

Box 6, Folder 5  Yatsuhashi Koto, 1919
Bridal portrait. Portrait by S. Katsuyagi.

Box 6, Folder 5  Yatsuhashi Koto, 1919
Bridal portrait. Portrait by S. Katsuyagi.

Box 6, Folder 6  Yatsuhashi Kinji and Yatsuhashi Sho Chan, 1910

Box 6, Folder 6  Yatsuhashi Kinji family, 1912

Box 6, Folder 6  Yatsuhashi Kinji and others, 1914

Box 6, Folder 6  Yatsuhashi Kinji and [wife?], 1919

Box 6, Folder 7  Yatsuhashi [Takanao?] family, 1937

Box 6, Folder 7  Yatsuhashi Yasushi and Yatsuhashi Takako [children of Yatsuhashi Takano?], 1937

Box 6, Folder 7  Yatsuhashi Takako [child of Yatsuhashi Takano?], 1937

Box 6, Folder 8  Michio Yatsuhashi, 1956

3.1.2: Still prints and portraits - Friends, relatives, colleagues, and unidentified individuals, 1907-1935, undated

This subseries is arranged alphabetically, by family name. Unidentified images are placed at the end of the series. Due to size, single images of both Kichijiro Tanaka and Mori Tasaburo and wife have been housed, out of alphabetical order, in box 8.

Box 6, Folder 9  
Aibara, Osamu, 1907  

Box 6, Folder 9  
Ashizawa, Kazu, 1923  

Box 6, Folder 10  
Ide, Katsuko, 1914  

Box 6, Folder 10  
Ide, Komaki & Katsuko, 1917  

Box 6, Folder 10  
Ide Family, undated [after 1917?]  
Portrait of two women and one man. [Komaki and Katsuko Ide and probably Mr. Ide ]. Inscribed, "To Mr. & Mrs. Yatsuhashi." Portrait by Moriyama in San Francisco, California.

Box 6, Folder 11  
[Kawano Hirokichi family], 1919  
Portrait. Inscribed in Japanese [January 8, 1919].

Box 6, Folder 11  
Kawano Hana and Kawano Hide, 1929  

Box 6, Folder 11  
Kawano Hirokichi family, 1930  

Box 6, Folder 11  
Kawano Hirokichi family, 1935  

Box 6, Folder 12  
[Kawano Hirokichi family], undated  
Wedding portrait. 25 individuals in portrait. Portrait by K. Mizobuchi Photo Studio.

Box 6, Folder 12  
[Kawano Hirokichi family], undated  
Wedding portrait of bride and groom. Photo by M. Tanahashi.

Box 6, Folder 12  
[Kawano Hirokichi family], undated
Photo of 24 individuals on an altar.

Box 6, Folder 12 [members of Kawano Hirokichi family and others], undated

Box 6, Folder 13 Kishi Kōtarō and wife, 1917
Portrait. Photo by T. Kikuchi.

Box 6, Folder 14 Perin, Beatrice Pobb, undated
Portrait of baby. Inscribed, "Beatrice Pobb Perin. 1 year. 19 ½ pounds."

Box 6, Folder 15 Shirae Shinzo, 1912
Portrait. Inscription.

Box 6, Folder 15 Shinzo Shirae and wife, 1918

Box 6, Folder 15 Shirae Shinzo family, 1919

Box 6, Folder 15 Shirae Shinzo family, 1922

Box 6, Folder 15 Shirae Shinzo family, [1922?]
Mother and son at 100 days of age. Inscription in Japanese.

Box 6, Folder 16 Takiuchi, S[hogo], 1907

Box 6, Folder 16 Takeuchi Shogō and Takeuchi Hiroko, undated
Portrait. Portrait by S. Wada.

Box 7, Folder 1 Group photograph, going away party for Tasaburo Mori, 1916
20 individuals depicted.

Box 7, Folder 1 Mrs. Mori Tasaburō and daughter, [1922]

Box 7, Folder 1 Tasaburō, Mori with son and daughter, 1922

Box 7, Folder 1 Tasaburō Mori family, 1923

Box 7, Folder 1 Mrs. Mori Tasaburō and son, [1930]

Box 7, Folder 1 Tasaburō Mori , Tasaburō Motome , and Tasaburō Taro, undated
Inscription in Japanese, ["To Yatsuhashi"]. Portrait by K. Yamamoto studio.

Box 7, Folder 1
Tasaburō Mori family, undated
Mori Tasaburō family and one unidentified male.

Box 7, Folder 1
Tasaburō Mori, undated
Mori Tasaburō family and one unidentified male.

Box 7, Folder 2
Tsugroh Miya, 1928
Portrait of a baby. Inscription.

Box 7, Folder 3
C. Ulashiuea [?], undated

Box 7, Folder 4
Wakabayashi family, 1919

Box 7, Folder 5
Yasukura and wife, 1914

Box 7, Folder 6
Yūsaku Tanaka and Yūsaku Hideko, 1934
Wedding portrait. Inscription. Portrait by Takashimaya

Box 7, Folder 7
Unidentified couple, wedding portrait, undated

Box 7, Folder 7
Unidentified woman and baby, undated
Portrait by Koshiba Studio.

Box 7, Folder 7
Unidentified baby, undated
Portrait by Koshiba Studios.

Box 7, Folder 8
Unidentified couple and child, undated
Portrait. Inscription.

Box 7, Folder 9
Unidentified woman, undated
Portrait by R. Maruki. Two portraits.

Box 7, Folder 9
Unidentified women, undated
Four nurses.

Box 7, Folder 10
Unidentified people, undated
8 individuals on a deck.

Box 7, Folder 10
Unidentified, undated
Depicting a performance. Inscription.

Box 7, Folder 10
Unidentified, undated
Group of Westerners in a formal procession.

Box 7, Folder 11
Unidentified, undated
View of city, with cars and tall buildings.
| Box 7, Folder 11 | Unidentified, undated  
Aerial view of city. |
| Box 7, Folder 11 | Unidentified ship, undated  
Three images of ship |
| Box 8, Folder 1 | Unidentified group, 1921  
| Box 8, Folder 2 | Unidentified people, undated  
Man and a woman on a beach. |
| Box 8, Folder 3 | Unidentified location, undated  
Beach. |
| Box 8, Folder 4 | Kichijirō Tanaka, 1921  
Portrait. Inscription. |
| Box 8, Folder 5 | Mori Tasaburō and wife, undated  
Wedding portrait. |

3.1.3: Still prints and portraits - Yamanaka & Co.

| Box 8, Folder 6 | Yamanaka Kichitarō, 1916  
Portrait. Inscription. |
| Box 8, Folder 7 | Yamanaka & Co., 1917  
17 individuals depicted. Inscription. |
| Box 8, Folder 7 | Yamanaka & Co., undated  
| Box 8, Folder 8 | [Yamanaka & Co., Peking Branch], undated  
11 individuals depicted. Portrait by S. Yamamoto. |
| Box 9, Folder 1 | Yamanaka Sadajirō and members of his senior staff, circa 1926 |
| Box 9, Folder 2 | Yamanaka Sadajirō, 1931 |
| Box 9, Folder 3 | Takamuchi Mitsui and unidentified male, 1916  
Signed on back. |
| Box 9, Folder 4 | H[?]ota S., 1929 |
| Box 9, Folder 5 | Mrs. Yatsuhashi, undated |

3.1.4: Still prints and portraits - Art objects, undated

| Box 9, Folder 6 | Chien Lung Vases, undated  
Annotated. |
Box 9, Folder 6  Kang H'si Vases, undated
   Annotated.

Box 9, Folder 7  Art objects, undated
   4 images, 2 annotated.

3.1.5: Yatsuhashi Kikuye Slides, 1970-1976

Box 10 - 13  35mm slides, 1970-1976
   399 items.

3.2: Photograph albums, 1920-1940, undated

3.2.1: Photograph albums - Yatsuhashi family photo albums, 1920-1940, undated

Box 14  Photograph album, 1v., 1920–1935, undated
   Contains 184 silver prints, a few captioned and dated. Depicts family
   members, and vacation views taken in Washington, D.C., Martha's
   Vineyard.

Box 15  Photograph album, 1v., circa 1930s
   Contains 117 silver prints. Depicts family members, friends & colleagues,
   and vacation views, including Washington, D.C.

Box 15  Photograph album, 1v., [created after 1930.]
   Contains 174 silver prints. Depicts family members, friends & colleagues,
   Yatsuhashi's summer home, and vacation views, including Washington,
   D.C., and the Freer Gallery

Box 16  Photograph album, 1v., undated
   Contains 5 studio portraits, not bound.

3.2.2: Photograph albums - Photo albums of art objects, [not after 1942], undated

Box 17  Photograph album, 1v., [not after 1942].
   Contains 34 silver prints, most with captions, depicting Asian stone
   sculpture (sale objects)

Box 18  Photograph album, 1v., undated
   Contains silver print images. 98 numbered pages [photographs have been
   removed from the album for preservation, original cover is housed in box
   19.]

Box 19  Photograph album cover, undated
   Original cover for album that contained items now housed in box 19.

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