



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Yasushi Tanaka  
Letters to Frederic C. Torrey, 1913-1924,  
1963, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3
Series 1: Yasushi Tanaka Letters to Frederic C. Torrey, 1913-1924, 1963.....	3

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Yasushi Tanaka letters to Frederic C. Torrey
<b>Date:</b>	1913-1924 1963
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.tanayasu
<b>Creator:</b>	Tanaka, Yasushi, 1886-1941
<b>Extent:</b>	0.01 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Yasushi Tanaka letters to Frederic C. Torrey date from 1913-1924, and 1963, and consist of 35 items. Letters from Tanaka to Torrey concern the contemporary art world, Tanaka's paintings and exhibitions, and other subjects.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1992 by Gryffyd Partridge. The letters were received in the papers of his father, Seattle artist Roi Partridge; it is unclear how Partridge received them.

### Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2021. Duplicates have not been digitized.

### Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed after donation on reel 5474, frames 760-872. The collection was processed and described in a finding aid by Stephanie Ashley, and digitized, in 2021.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

### Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

## Biographical / Historical

Yasushi Tanaka (1886-1941) was a Japanese American painter and art instructor, born in Saitana, Japan, on May 13, 1886. In 1904 he emigrated to Seattle, Washington, then settled permanently in Paris in 1920. Torrey was an art dealer with the San Francisco gallery Vickery, Atkins & Torrey. Tanaka was married to writer Louise Gebhard Cann, who was the author of several articles and books on French artists.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Yasushi Tanaka letters to Frederic C. Torrey date from 1913-1924, and 1963, and consist of 35 items. Letters from Tanaka to Torrey concern the contemporary art world, Tanaka's paintings and exhibitions, and other subjects. Also found are three exhibition catalogs, an announcement, and three clippings. The 1963 item is a letter from Torrey's daughter, Dorothea Torrey Kelly, inquiring about a slide show of paintings.

---

## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection, papers are arranged as one series.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Asian American artists
- Asian American painters
- Japanese American artists

Names:

- Butler, John Davidson, 1890-1974
- Cann, Louise Gebhard
- Torrey, Frederic C.

Occupations:

- Artists -- France -- Paris
- Artists -- Washington (State) -- Seattle

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Yasushi Tanaka Letters to Frederic C. Torrey, 1913-1924, 1963

#### 35 Items

Scope and Contents: Letters from Tanaka to Torrey concern the contemporary art world, his paintings, exhibitions, and fellow artists both in Seattle and Paris, notably muralist John Davidson Butler. Tanaka writes of his marriage to Louise Gebhard Cann, his struggle with the Occidental ideals in Seattle art circles, concern for his mother and brothers in Tokyo, his emigration to Paris and its state after World War I, and the success of his one-man show at the Galerie de Marsan 1924, of which he writes "...I succeeded at last in ... verifying my fame as one of the ablest contemporary painters here in Paris...".

Also included are a few letters from Cann to Torrey, three exhibition catalogs (1914-1921), an announcement (1921), and three clippings (1915-1921). The 1963 item is a letter from Torrey's daughter, Dorothea Torrey Kelly, inquiring about a slide show of paintings.

Folder 1

[Yasushi Tanaka Letters to Frederic C. Torrey, 1913-1924, 1963](#)

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*