



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Japanese American Documentary Collection

NMAH.AC.0305

Grace Angle (volunteer) and Robert S. Harding

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Japanese American Documentary Collection
Date:	1900s-1993
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0305
Creator:	Tanaka, Peter, Dr. Tsukamoto, Mary McGovern, Melvin Nitta, Eugene T. Ishimoto, Norman
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Armed Forces
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes and 1 oversized folder)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by a number of Japanese Americans, many of whom are members of the Japanese American Citizens League, headquartered in San Francisco. This material was acquired for inclusion in the exhibition, A More Perfect Union, described above, but was not placed on display for one reason or another. In certain instances, items in this collection were omitted from the exhibit if they were considered too fragile or too sensitive to prolonged exposure to light. It is possible that related items, currently on display, ultimately will be transferred to the Archives Center; if this occurs, it would be useful to distinguish between the two groups of exhibited and undisplayed materials. Transferred from the Division of Armed Forces History, June 1988.

Related Materials

The Division of Armed Forces History (now Division of Political and Military History) will have additional documents collected for the exhibit, A More Perfect Union, described above, that may be useful. Another collection on this topic in the Archives Center is collection #450, the Gerald Lampoley Collection of Japanese American Letters, 1942-1943, a collection of six letters written by Japanese Americans to their former teacher. Researchers may also refer to the records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210, or those of the United States Commands, 1947, Record Group 338, in the National Archives. Further, the National Headquarters of the Japanese American Citizens League in San Francisco, California, and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California, maintain related collections.

Processing Information

Processed by Grace Angle (volunteer), July, 1988; Robert S. Harding, July, 1988; revised by D. Haberstich, February 1989; J. Ravenscraft, (intern), June 1992; Jennifer (intern), September 2008

Preferred Citation

Japanese American Documentary Collection, dates, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves. Researchers must use reference copies of audio-visual materials. When no reference copy exists, the Archives Center staff will produce reference copies on an "as needed" basis, as resources allow. Collection located at off-site storage area.

Viewing film portion of collection requires special appointment, please inquire; listening to LP recordings only possible by special arrangement. Do not use original materials when available on reference video or audio tapes.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Accruals

The initial acquisition was a transfer from the Division of Armed Forces History in 1986, which had acquired the archival materials, along with some artifacts, from various donors. Since then there have been several addenda to the collection. Melvin McGovern and Eugene Nitta donated addenda in 2005. Dr. Peter Tanaka donated an addendum in 2006. The Ishimoto family donated an addendum in 2010. Norman Ishimoto donated an addendum in 2013. Ellen S. Levy donated an addendum in 2017.

Biographical / Historical

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States went to war. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing the military to exclude "any and all persons" from designated areas of the United States to protect the national defense. Thus, without the imposition of martial law, the military were given authority over the civilian population.

Under this order, nearly 120,000 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry, nearly two thirds of who were United States citizens, were forced out of their homes and into detention camps in isolated areas of the west. Many of them spent the years of the war living under armed guards, and behind barbed wire. Children spent their school days in the camps, young men left to volunteer or be drafted for military service. The War Relocation Authority administered the camps.

This collection of documentary materials relates to the involuntary relocation of Japanese Americans was collected by the Division of Armed Forces History in connection with the exhibit A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the United States Constitution at the National Museum of American History in 1988. The donors either were members of the Japanese American Citizens League or reached through the League. Interesting and revealing information is available about a few of the donors. They were primarily teenagers or young adults at the time of the relocation and the materials in the collection reflect their interests and concerns. Juichi Kamikawa, who had completed a year of college in Fresno, California, graduated from the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. after the war and became a respected artist. His family record is one of distinction in both Japan and the United States for several generations. Masuichi Kamikawa, his father, received the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Japanese Emperor for outstanding contributions to the cultural heritage of Japan. Among achievements cited were his work in merchandizing and banking in Fresno, California. Mary Tsukamoto is one of the contributors to the video conversations in the exhibit. She

is a retired teacher who was 27 years old in 1942 and a long time resident of Florin, California. Along with her entire family, she was sent to the center at Jerome, Arkansas. Mabel Rose Vogel taught high school at one of the camps, Rowher Center, Arkansas.

Scope and Contents

The collection is an assortment of souvenirs and memorabilia, which have survived the years since World War II. Many of them, Christmas cards, high school graduation programs, notes to friends, snapshots, and photographic prints in the form of dance programs reflect the interests and concerns of all teenagers. There are camp newsletters and Japanese passports, identification cards, ration books, meal passes, posters; a photograph album contains both family photographs and a record of achievements of members of the Kamikawa family. There is a transcript of a taped interview with Mrs. Kamikawa, who was nearly 90 in February 1982, the time of the interview. A book, Lone Heart Mountain by Estelle Ishigo, portrays in text and sketches life in the relocation centers.

The collection has been filed under the name of each donor rather than by subject such as passports, newsletters, photographs. With very few exceptions the material is in good condition. The historical sketch of the Matsumoto family tree in the photograph album is badly damaged.

Arrangement

1 series, arranged alphabetically by donor.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Concentration camps -- 1942-1945 -- United States
Military history, Modern
World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Albums -- 1940-1950
Books
Cartoons (humorous images) -- 20th century
Christmas cards
Comic books
Newsletters -- 1940-1950
Panoramas
Passports
Personal papers -- 1940-1950
Photograph albums -- 1940-1950
Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1940-1950
Posters -- 1940-1960
Ration books
Scrapbooks -- 1900-1950
Telegrams -- 1940-1950
Typescripts -- 1940-1950

Names:

Emi, Frank
Hashimoto, M.
Japanese Americans Citizens League
Kamikawa, Juichi
Kamikawa, Kazu, Mrs.
Kawashiri
Kihari, Shigeya
Matsumoto
Miyake, Takashi
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Armed Forces
Oliver, Floyd A.
Ozamoto, T.
Vogel, Mabel Rose
Wakabayashi, Ron

Places:

Amache (Calif.)
California -- 1940-1950
Idaho
Manzanar
Minidoka

Container Listing

Emi, Frank	
Box 1, Folder 1	Silver photoprint, 8" x 10": United States District Court, Cheyenne, Wyoming, June 13, 1944
Endo, Takako Tsuchiya	
Box 1, Folder 2	<p>[Scene in J.S. Aoki Family barracks, Utah : sketch.], 1944 1 Item (ink on paper.; 2.2" x 3.4".) Image(s): Silver photoprint: Copy of sketch by Mrs. Ella Honderich of J. S. Aoki family barracks in Topaz, Utah, 1944. Print dated October 1, 1945. Image(s)</p> <p>Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Artist: Stonedenide, Ella, Mrs. Notes: AC0305-0000002 (AC Scan) Sketch by Mrs. Ella Stondenide: Aoki Family performing daily activities in the internment camp, Topaz, Utah, 1944.</p> <p>Names: Aoki, J.S. Topic: Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Place: Topas (Utah) Utah Genre/Form: Drawings -- 1940-1950 Sketches -- 1940-2000 Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945</p>
Hashimoto, M.	
Box 1, Folder 3	Identification card, undated
Kamikawa, Juichi and Mrs. Kazu	
Box 1, Folder 4	Bound xerographic copy of interview with Mrs. Kazu Kamikawa, 39 pages, 1982
Box 1, Folder 5	<p>Jerome Relocation Center / Chicot & Drew Counties, Arkansas [map], circa 1943 1 Item (ink on paper.; 8" x 10.5".) Image(s) Image(s): Map of Jerome Relocation Center</p> <p>Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Notes: AC0305-0000001 (AC Scan) Japanese internment camp; originally from Juichi Kamikawa; related collection Kamikawa and Omata Family Papers</p> <p>Topic: Concentration camps -- United States</p>

	Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945 World War, 1939-1945 Place: Arkansas Genre/Form: Maps -- 1940-1950
Box 1, Folder 6	Notice of Action on Application for Leave Clearance typescript on duplicated form, 1 p., 15927
Box 2, Folder 1	Photograph album (copy), 1900s-1967
Box 2, Folder 2	Photograph album (loose items), 1965, 1970
Box 2, Folder 3	Photograph album (original), 1900s-1967
Box 2, Folder 3	[Family that has been relocated : [black-and-white photoprint.], circa 1943 1 Item (photo paper.; 6.0" x 3.8".) Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Language: English. Notes: AC0305-0000010 (AC Scan) Topic: Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Barracks -- 1940-1950 Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Box 2, Folder 4	Photograph album (cover and tassels)
Box 3, Folder 1A	Loose materials from photograph album
Box 1, Folder 7	Scrapbook (black cover)
Box 1, Folder 8	Loose materials from black covered scrapbook
Box 1, Folder 8	[Soldiers in combat during World War II : halftone reproduction of drawing], Circa 1943 1 Item (ink on paper.; 4.6" x 4.4".) Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Language: English. Notes: AC0305-0000003 (AC Scan) Image of two soldiers shooting guns, persumably on the front lines. Poor. Topic: Firearms Shooting Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Combat

	Genre/Form: Drawings -- Reproductions Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 8	Selective Service System / Registration Certificate [for Juichi Kamikawa : printed identification card with hand-written signature and typed information], 1948 1 Item (ink on paper.; 2.5" x 3.9".) Image(s) Image(s) Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Language: English. Notes: AC0305-0000004-01 (AC Scan) AC0305-0000004-02 (AC Scan) Registration card verifying Juichi Kamikawa is in the Selective Services. Includes personal information such as address and physical characteristics. Topic: Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Place: California -- 1940-1950 Genre/Form: Identity cards -- 1940-1950 Certificates -- 20th century Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 8	Spring Swing [folded card], Circa 1943 1 Item (ink on paper.; 3.1" x 2.7".) Image(s) Image(s) Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Language: English. Notes: AC0305-0000005-01 (AC Scan) AC0305-0000005-02 (AC Scan) Dance was hosted by The 400 Club. Inside of card gives the names of dances and those who signed up to dance with recipient of card. Topic: Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Dance -- United States Dance parties Genre/Form: Dance cards Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 9	Scrapbook (brown cover)
Box 1, Folder 10	Loose materials from brown covered scrapbook
Box 1, Folder 11	[Vargettes: photographs, tickets, drawings [scrapbook page], circa 1943

1 Item (Photographic prints: Silver gelatin on paper.; Drawings: Paint on paper; 14" x 9.8".)

[Image\(s\): Scrapbook page](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi

Notes: AC0305-0000008 (AC Scan)

Scrapbook page of Juichi and Mrs. Kasu Kamikawa, containing a collage of images, tickets and an article about Vargettes, a play. The photographs depict preparations for the play.

Topic: Plays
Concentration camps -- United States
World War, 1939-1945
Performing arts

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints
-- Silver gelatin
Tickets

Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Kawashiri

Box 1, Folder 12 Christmas carol booklet, War Ration Book with separate instruction sheet, Special Meal Pass

Kihari, Shigeya

Box 1, Folder 13 [2 Imperial Japanese Government Passports in Japanese, English, and French for M. Kihara and K. Kihara, stamped 1912; Resident Identification card](#)

Box 1, Folder 13 Resident Identification Card. [print], circa 1943
1 Item (ink on paper.; 2.5" x 4.0".)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi

Language: English.

Notes: AC0305-0000012-01 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000012-02 (AC Scan)

Identification card for the War Relocation Authority Central Utah Project. Card for Michiko Kihara, includes personal details such as address.

Topic: Concentration camps -- United States
World War, 1939-1945

Place: Utah

Genre/Form: Identity cards -- 1940-1950

Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Box 1, Folder 13 [Japanese passport : printed form], June 26, 1912

1 Item (ink on paper.; 10.3" x 7.9".)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi

Language: English.

Notes: AC0305-0000013-01 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000013-02 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000013-03 (AC Scan)

Passport of Michiko Kihara, granting her access from Japan to the United States. Includes personal information, hand-written. Front and back pages in Japanese.

Names: Kihara, Michiko

Topic: Concentration camps -- United States

World War, 1939-1945

Place: Washington

Genre/Form: Passports

Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Matsumoto

Box 1, Folder 14

Imperial Japanese Government Passport in Japanese, English, and French for Kazuko Matsumoto (with photograph), stamped 1919

Miyake, Takashi

Box 1, Folder 15

Front Cover of Japanese Newsletter. [print], 1943

1 Item (ink on paper.; 11.0" x 8.6".)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\): Newsletter, Fighting Americans Too, concerning Nisei troops; Message from Director of WRA](#)

Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi

Notes: AC0305-0000011 (AC Scan)

Newsletters details the positive involvement of the Japanese-American soldiers fighting for the United States in World War II.

Topic: Concentration camps -- United States

Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

World War, 1939-1945

Genre/Form: Newsletters

Oliver, Floyd A.

Box 1, Folder 16

Partial letter from Yoshimitsu Suyematsu (copy), April 20, 1942

Box 1, Folder 16

Newspaper Article, Seattle Post Intelligencer, May 8, 1988

Box 1, Folder 16	Ozamoto, T.
Box 1, Folder 17	Silver photoprint of two men; telegram; War Relocation Authority letter; War Relocation Authority memo: two documents printed in Japanese; newsclipping
Box 3, Folder 2	Letter written in Japanese
	Ozamoto, T.
Map-folder 1	Panoramic photograph of Manzanar
	Tsukamoto, Mary Tsuruko
Box 1, Folder 18	Estelle Ishigo. Lone Heart Mountain. Los Angeles, CA, 1972, 104pp. (book depicting camp life at Heart Mountain, Wyoming)
Box 1, Folder 19	Silver photoprint of donor's mother in strawberry field. Mounted on poster board with caption
Box 1, Folder 20	Travel permit; Christmas card ("Merry Christmas / 442nd Combat Team"); souvenir edition of newsletter.
	Vogel, Mabel Rose
Box 1, Folder 21	Delta Round-up; Memories; Commencement; Rowher graduation program.
Box 1, Folder 22	[Woman standing outside barracks : black-and-white photoprint], circa 1943 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; 6.0" x 3.8".) Image(s): Relocation handbook; silver photoprint of Vogel at barracks Image(s) Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Notes: AC0305-0000009 (AC Scan) On verso: "Nogel out barracks". Topic: Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Barracks -- 1940-1950 Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 23	Rowher Outpost, June 9, September 1, September 8, 1943
Box 1, Folder 24	Students with their murals (seven silver photoprints)
Box 1, Folder 25	War Ration Book One; handmade Christmas card

Box 3, Folder 3	Newsclipping, "Community Life at War Relocation Authority Center Pictured", Shreveport Journal, July 3, 1943
Box 3, Folder 4	<p>For victory / keep 'em firing / 4th / war loan [homemade war poster : painting], circa 1943 1 Item (Paint on paper.; 17.2" x 11.9".) Image(s) Image(s): Posters, "For Victory Keep 'Em Flying"</p> <p>Artist: Koyma, M. Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Notes: AC0305-0000006 (AC Scan) Hand-painted poster by M. Koyma, featuring a plane and a tank.</p> <p>Names: Thiel, Philip Topic: Tanks (Military science) -- World War, 1939-1945 Airplanes, Military War posters, American Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 Genre/Form: Posters -- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945</p>
Box 3, Folder 4	Posters, "Save Money, Buy War Bonds"
Box 3, Folder 4	<p>Buy / Bonds / for victory [poster], circa 1943 1 Item (Paint on paper.; 17.2" x 11.9".) Image(s) Image(s): Posters, "Buy Bonds for Victory"</p> <p>Artist: Yoshi, Kazuo Collector: Kamikawa, Juichi Notes: AC0305-0000007 (AC Scan) Hand-painted poster features eagle and ship and encourages citizens to buy war bonds.</p> <p>Topic: Eagles -- Design elements Savings bonds Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945 -- Posters -- United States War posters, American Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945</p>
Wakabayashi, Ron	
Box 3, Folder 5	Xerographic copy of newspaper headline, The Bulletin, December 5, 1905