



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

July, 1988



Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Japanese American Documentary Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0305
Date:	1900s-1993
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes and 1 oversized folder)
Creator:	Tanaka, Peter, Dr. Tsukamoto, Mary McGovern, Melvin Nitta, Eugene T. Armed Forces History, Division of (NMAH, SI). Ishimoto, Norman
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 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. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: fees for commercial use. All duplication requests must be reviewed and approved by Archives Center staff.

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:

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

Geographic Names:

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
- Box 1, Folder 2 [Scene in J.S. Aoki Family barracks, Utah : sketch.], 1944
1 Item (2.2" x 3.4".)
[Image\(s\): Silver photoprint: Copy of sketch by Mrs. Ella Stonedenide of J. S. Aoki family barracks in Topaz, Utah, 1944. Print dated October 1, 1945.](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector
Stonedenide, Ella, Mrs., Artist
Sketch by Mrs. Ella Stonedenide: Aoki Family performing daily activities in the internment camp, Topaz, Utah, 1944.

In box 1, folder 2.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers
 AC0305-0000002 (AC Scan)

Names: Aoki, J.S.
Topic: Concentration camps -- United States
 World War, 1939-1945

Place: Topaz (Utah)
 Utah

Genre/
Form: Drawings -- 1940-1950
 Sketches -- 1940-2000

Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation,
 1942-1945
- 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 Jerome Relocation Center / Chicot & Drew Counties, Arkansas [map], circa 1943

1 Item (8" x 10.5".)

[Image\(s\): Jerome Relocation Center / Chicot & Drew Counties, Arkansas \[map\].](#)

[Image\(s\): Map of Jerome Relocation Center](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

Japanese internment camp; originally from Juichi Kamikawa; related collection Kamikawa and Omata Family Papers

In box 1, folder 5.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000001 (AC Scan)

Topic: Concentration camps -- United States
Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation,
1942-1945
World War, 1939-1945

Place: Arkansas

Genre/ Maps -- 1940-1950

Form:

- 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
[Image\(s\)](#)

[Family that has been relocated : [black-and-white photoprint.], circa 1943
1 Item (6.0" x 3.8".)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

In box 2, folder 3.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

photo paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000010 (AC Scan)

Topic: Barracks -- 1940-1950
Concentration camps -- United States
World War, 1939-1945

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Soldiers in combat during World War II : halftone reproduction of drawing], Circa 1943
1 Item (4.6" x 4.4").

[Image\(s\): \[Soldiers in combat during World War II : halftone reproduction of drawing\].](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

Image of two soldiers shooting guns, presumably on the front lines.

In box 1, folder 8.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Poor.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000003 (AC Scan)

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

Genre/ Form: Drawings -- Reproductions
Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Selective Service System / Registration Certificate [for Juichi Kamikawa : printed identification card with hand-written signature and typed information], 1948
1 Item (2.5" x 3.9").

[Image\(s\): Selective Service System / Registration Certificate \[for Juichi Kamikawa : printed identification card with hand-written signature and typed information\].](#)

[Image\(s\): Selective Service System / Registration Certificate \[for Juichi Kamikawa : printed identification card with hand-written signature and typed information\].](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

Registration card verifying Juichi Kamikawa is in the Selective Services. Includes personal information such as address and physical characteristics.

In box 1, folder 8.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000004-01 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000004-02 (AC Scan)

Topic:	Concentration camps -- United States World War, 1939-1945
Place:	California -- 1940-1950
Genre/ Form:	Certificates -- 20th century Identity cards -- 1940-1950
Culture:	Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Spring Swing [folded card], Circa 1943
1 Item (3.1" x 2.7").

[Image\(s\): Spring Swing \[folded card\].](#)

[Image\(s\): Spring Swing \[folded card\].](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

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.

In box 1, folder 8.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000005-01 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000005-02 (AC Scan)

Topic:	Concentration camps -- United States Dance -- United States Dance parties World War, 1939-1945
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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 (14" x 9.8")

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

[Image\(s\): \[Vargettes: photographs, tickets, drawings \[scrapbook page\].](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

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.

In box 1, folder 11.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

Photographic prints: Silver gelatin on paper.

Drawings: Paint on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000008 (AC Scan)

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

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

Resident Identification Card. [print], circa 1943
1 Item (2.5" x 4.0").

[Image\(s\): Resident Identification Card. \[print\].](#)

[Image\(s\): Resident Identification Card. \[print\].](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

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

In box 1, folder 13.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000012-01 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000012-02 (AC Scan)

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

[Japanese passport : printed form], June 26, 1912
1 Item (10.3" x 7.9").

[Image\(s\): \[Japanese passport : printed form \].](#)

[Image\(s\): \[Japanese passport : printed form \].](#)

[Image\(s\): \[Japanese passport : printed form \].](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

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

In box 1, folder 13.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000013-01 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000013-02 (AC Scan)

AC0305-0000013-03 (AC Scan)

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 (11.0" x 8.6".)
[Image\(s\): Front Cover of Japanese Newsletter. \[print\].](#)
[Image\(s\): Newsletter, Fighting Americans Too, concerning Nisei troops; Message from Director of WRA](#)

Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector

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

In box 1, folder 15.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-000011 (AC Scan)

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
- 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 (6.0" x 3.8").
[Image\(s\): Relocation handbook; silver photoprint of Vogel at barracks](#)
[Image\(s\): \[Woman standing outside barracks : black-and-white photoprint\].](#)
Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector
On verso: "Nogel out barracks".
In box 1, folder 22.
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.
Silver gelatin on paper.
- Local Numbers
AC0305-0000009 (AC Scan)
- Topic: Barracks -- 1940-1950
Concentration camps -- United States
World War, 1939-1945
- 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 For victory / keep 'em firing / 4th / war loan [homemade war poster : painting],
circa 1943
1 Item (17.2" x 11.9").
[Image\(s\): For victory / keep 'em firing / 4th / war loan \[homemade war poster : painting\].](#)
[Image\(s\): Posters, "For Victory Keep 'Em Flying"](#)
Koyma, M., Artist
Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector
Hand-painted poster by M. Koyma, featuring a plane and a tank.

In box 3, folder 4.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

Paint on paper.

Local Numbers
 AC0305-0000006 (AC Scan)

Names: Thiel, Philip
Topic: Airplanes, Military
 Concentration camps -- United States
 Tanks (Military science) -- World War, 1939-1945
 War posters, American
 World War, 1939-1945

Genre/
Form: Posters -- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States
Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation,
 1942-1945
- Box 3, Folder 4 Posters, "Save Money, Buy War Bonds"
- Box 3, Folder 4 Buy / Bonds / for victory [poster], circa 1943
1 Item (17.2" x 11.9").
[Image\(s\): Buy / Bonds / for victory \[poster\].](#)
[Image\(s\): Posters, "Buy Bonds for Victory"](#)
Yoshi, Kazuo, Artist
Kamikawa, Juichi, Collector
Hand-painted poster features eagle and ship and encourages citizens to buy war bonds.

In box 3, folder 4.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.

Paint on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0305-0000007 (AC Scan)

Topic: Concentration camps -- United States
Eagles -- Design elements
Savings bonds
War posters, American
World War, 1939-1945 -- Posters -- United States
Culture: Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation,
1942-1945

Wakabayashi, Ron

Box 3, Folder 5

Xerographic copy of newspaper headline, *The Bulletin*, December 5, 1905