



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Kamikawa and Omata Family Papers

NMAH.AC.0924

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2008

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Kamikawa and Omata Family Papers
Date:	ca. 1900-2006.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0924
Creator:	Omata, Hiroko
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (1 box)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials are in Japanese.
Summary:	The collection documents family history in Japan and in America and consists of photographs, documents and genealogical charts. There are also original audio recordings of Japanese poetry recitations and a transcript of an oral history interview relating to the internment of Japanese Americans.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Hiroko Omata, 2006.

Location of Originals

The families maintain the originals of some of the materials.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

Bishop Mitsumyo Tottori Memorial Notebooks (NMAH.AC.0926)

Japanese American Documentary Collection (NMAH.AC.0305)

Gerald Lamboley Collection of Japanese-American Letters (NMAH.AC.0450)

Catherine Hann Papers (NMAH.AC.0921)

Juanita Tamayo Lott Filipino American Photographs and Papers (NMAH.AC.0925)

Processing Information

Collection processed by Adrienne Cain, intern and Kiley Orchard, intern; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist), 2008.

Preferred Citation

Kamikawa and Omata Family Papers, circa 1900-2006, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Biographical Note

: Four Kamikawa brothers, Riichi, Mitsuiji, Masuichi and Koichi, emigrated from Japan to Fresno, California, just before the turn of the twentieth century. They married and started a merchant business, Kamikawa Brothers, which operated in Fresno, Selma, San Francisco and Del Rey, California, and in Japan. The brothers expanded the business to include banking, a hotel, grocery, restaurant, public bath, vineyard and other enterprises. During World War II, family members were interned at a camp in Arkansas. After the war many settled in New Jersey and Maryland.

Members of the Omata family -- a brother, George, and two sisters, also immigrated to California in the 1890s, though the sisters eventually returned to Japan. George established grocery and dry good stores in Hanford, California, and was successful in securing day laborers for community businesses. George's son, Robert, married Hiroko, the daughter of Masuichi Kamikawa, in 1948. Some members of the Omata family also were interned, and they too eventually settled on the East Coast.

The Matsumoto family was a well-to-do family in Japan. They were involved in the production of fertilizer and steel. Katsu (Kazu) Masimoto was the wife of Masuichi Kamikawa, and mother of Hiroko Kamikawa Omata.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of genealogical and historical information about the Kamikawa, Omata, and Matsumoto families and their descendants compiled by Hiroko Kamikawa Omata. The materials include ancestry charts, copies of photographs, letters, interviews, and copies of official documents such as diplomas, naturalization papers, as well as announcements regarding the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II. The collection was arranged by the donor, and the Archives Center has maintained this arrangement. All dates in this collection refer to the original creation date of the collected materials. The family papers were originally amassed in 2004 and were edited in 2006.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: Kamikawa, Omata and Matsumoto Families Papers, 1850-2006, undated

Series 2: Oral History Interview, 2004

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Immigrants
- Japanese American families
- Japanese American families -- Photographs
- Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Merchants -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Genealogical tables
Genealogies

Container Listing

Series 1: Kamikawa, Omata and Matsumoto Families Papers

Scope and Contents: Series 1, Kamikawa, Omata and Matsumoto Families Papers, 1850-2006, undated, is a collection of four notebooks containing detailed histories of each family. Materials consist of copies of family photographs, family trees, newspaper clippings, transcripts of interviews, and correspondence. The notebook on the history of the Kamikawa brothers was updated and revised in 2006. Another copy, the original from 2004, is included among these materials.

There are five audio cassette tapes that feature shigin, a form of Japanese poetry that is usually chanted. These tapes document shigins performed by a man, perhaps an instructor, followed by recitations by students, including Kazu Kamikawa, Donna Omata's maternal grandmother. Throughout the tapes, the instructor coaches and guides the students. The tapes are in Japanese.

Subseries 1.1: History of Kamikawa Brothers

Box 1, Folder Unknown	History of Kamikawa Brothers, 1989
Box 5, Folder 2	Addendum, 1988

Subseries 1.2: History of Omata Family, 1991

Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of George Jitsuzo and Kane Okazaki Omata and their descendants, 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of Chung Young and Tsuenko (Tuny) Omata Lee, 1975, 1978
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of Minoru and Kay Okamoto Omata, 1976-1978, 1989
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of Jiro and Kikuko (Keech) Domoto Omata, 1964-2004
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Yamada family ancestors, 1990
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of Shiro and Patsy Teruko Kodama Omata, 1990
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of Goro and Kiyō Sakai Omata, 1964-1980

Box 2, Folder Unknown	Yuko Omata, 1997-1998
Box 2, Folder Unknown	Family of Robert Rokuro and Hiroko Kamikawa Omata, 1990
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Subseries 1.3: History of Kamikawa and Matsumoto Families, 1993	
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Volume 1, Kamikawa brothers stores, 1980, 1988-1989
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Family of Riichi and Reki Wada Kamikawa, 1990
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Family of Mitsuji and Shizuno Ito Kamikawa, 1983-1987
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Family of Masuichi and Katsu (Kazu Matsumoto) Kamikawa, 1987
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Masuichi Kamikawa and Katsu Matsumoto Kamikawa, 1986-1993
Box 3, Folder Unknown	Juchi Kamikawa, 1990-1994
Box 4, Folder Unknown	Volume 2, Family of Koichi and Kaoru Shimata Kamikawa, 1994-1995
Box 4, Folder Unknown	Family of Toyojiro and Toyoko Matsumoto Inaki, 1991
Box 4, Folder Unknown	Fresno State College, 1978
Box 4, Folder Unknown	Jerome Relocation Center, Desson, Arkansas, 1989-1992, 1997
Box 4, Folder Unknown	Washington, D.C. after Jerome Relocation Center, 1993
Box 4, Folder Unknown	Occupation days, Tokyo, Japan, 1946
Box 5, Folder 1	Copies of photographs and newspaper clippings of Kamikawa, Omata, and Matsumoto families, 1981
Box 6, Item OTC.924.1	Shigin lesson, 1972

Box 6, Item
OTC.924.2 Shigin lesson, 1980

Box 6, Item
OTC.924.3 Shigin lesson, 1980

Box 6, Item
OTC.924.4 Shigin lesson, 1980

Box 6, Item
OTC.924.5 Shigin lesson, 1986

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Series 2: Oral History Interview, 1988, 1990

Scope and Contents: Series 2, Oral History Interview, 2004, is a transcription of an interview conducted by Donna R. Omata with Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig and Jack Herzig, contributors to the book *Personal Justice Denied*, about the Japanese-American internment experience during World War II. The interview was conducted on April 4, 2004.

Box 5, Folder 3	Transcription of interview by Donna R. Omata with Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig and Jack Herzig, 1992
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