Guide to the Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita Papers

WA MSS S-3211

Sarah Lerner

July 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-3211

CREATOR: Takita, Miyeko, 1924-, author

TITLE: Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita papers

DATES: circa 1928-1946

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.71 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Materials relating to Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita’s internment at the Tanforan Assembly Center at San Bruno, California, and Topaz War Relocation Center in Millard County, Utah, 1942-1945. Included are correspondence in both English and Japanese, Topaz High School class materials, Topaz Music School and Protestant church programs, 2 autograph books with notes and signatures, and 3 drawings. There are also printed internment camp pamphlets and newsletters, 1942-1949; 15 photographs of the Takita family (some with Japanese manuscript captions), circa 1928-1946; and printed sheet music, undated. 2 additional autograph books are from 1935 and 1939.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.takitapapers

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.takitapapers.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from Vigilante Rare Documents on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2015.

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Biographical / Historical
Miyeko Takita (1924- ), a Japanese-American woman, was sent with her mother, Aoyagi Takita, and sister, Aiko Takita (1926- ), to the Tanforan Assembly Center, a temporary detention camp in San Bruno, California, in the spring of 1942, and to the Topaz War Relocation Center in Millard County, Utah, in 1942 October. The Takita sisters were released from the Topaz internment camp, where they were involved in school, music, and the Protestant church, in 1945 October. In 1949, Miyeko Takita was a United States government employee, working as a special services librarian in Munich, Germany.

Content Description
Materials relating to Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita’s internment at the Tanforan Assembly Center at San Bruno, California, and Topaz War Relocation Center in Millard County, Utah, 1942-1945. Included are letters, in English, concerning Miyeko’s college enrollment and letters, in Japanese, from mother Aoyagi Takita to daughter Miyeko concerning family acquaintances all over the United States and daily life at the Topaz War Relocation Center. Also included are Topaz High School class materials (primarily lesson notes), Topaz Music School and Protestant church programs, 2 autograph books, and 3 drawings of the Tanforan Assembly Center. Accompanied by printed internment camp pamphlets and newsletters as well as printed
sheet music. 2 additional autograph books predate the internment of the Takita family. There are also 15 photographs of the Takitas (some with Japanese manuscript captions), circa 1928-1946.

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by format.
## Collection Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Autograph album</td>
<td>1935-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Autograph album</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Autograph album</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Autograph album</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5-9</td>
<td>Correspondence (English) (5 folders)</td>
<td>1943-1945, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10-13</td>
<td>Correspondence (Japanese) (4 folders)</td>
<td>circa 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 14</td>
<td>Empty envelopes</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 31</td>
<td>Illustration of Tanforan Assembly Center</td>
<td>1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>Music store receipts</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 32</td>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>1945 August 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1943, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 17</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>circa 1928-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 18</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>circa 1928-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>circa 1928-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 20</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>circa 1928-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 33</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>circa 1928-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 21</td>
<td>Printed ephemera</td>
<td>1942-1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 22</td>
<td>Printed ephemera</td>
<td>1944-1949, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 23</td>
<td>Sheet music</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 24</td>
<td>Sketches of barracks</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 25</td>
<td>Topaz High School class materials</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 26</td>
<td>Topaz High School class materials</td>
<td>circa 1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 27</td>
<td>Topaz High School programs</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 28</td>
<td>Topaz Music School programs</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 29</td>
<td>Topaz Protestant Church programs</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
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<td>b. 3, f. 30</td>
<td>Young People fellowship binder</td>
<td>1944</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

**Subjects**
- Asian American Protestants -- Utah
- Concentration camps -- United States
- High school students -- Utah
- Japanese American families -- Pictorial works
- Japanese American women -- Utah
- Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
- Japanese Americans -- Utah
- Music students -- Utah
- Protestants -- Utah
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration camps -- United States
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans

**Contributors**
- Takita, Miyeko, 1924-, author
- Takita, Aiko, 1926-, author

**Occupations**
- Students -- Utah -- 20th Century

**Geographic Names**
- Topaz (Utah)
- Utah -- Social conditions -- 20th Century

**Genres / Formats**
- Autograph albums
- Drawings
- Photographic prints
- Photographs
- Programs
- Sheet music
- Studio portraits

**Corporate Bodies**
- Central Utah Relocation Center
- Tanforan Assembly Center (San Bruno, Calif.)
- Topaz High School (Utah)
- Topaz Music School (Utah)
- Vigilante Rare Documents