Guide to the Photographs of Asian Americans

WA Photos 485

by Matthew Daniel Mason

May 2013

P. O. Box 208330
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ................................................................. 3
Requesting Instructions .................................................................. 3
Administrative Information ............................................................. 3
  Immediate Source of Acquisition ................................................ 3
  Conditions Governing Access ..................................................... 3
  Conditions Governing Use ........................................................ 4
  Preferred Citation ........................................................................ 4
  Processing Information .............................................................. 4
Scope and Contents ......................................................................... 4
Arrangement .................................................................................. 4
Collection Contents ....................................................................... 5
  Series I. Photographs ................................................................... 5
  Series II. Oversize Photographs ................................................... 8
Selected Search Terms .................................................................... 10
Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: WA Photos 485

TITLE: Photographs of Asian Americans.

DATES: 1930–1982

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.29 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Photographs of Asian Americans created by Asian American photographers and others, chiefly in California, circa 1930-1982.

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

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.asianamericans.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from various sources. For more information see notes associated with each photograph.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

This collection has no permanent box or folder designations for items within it, so patrons should note the photographer and image description when requesting materials
Conditions Governing Use

The Photographs of Asian Americans 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

Photographs of Asian Americans. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection serves as a means for bringing together photographic materials acquired singularly and in small groups. Occasionally, a critical mass of photographs by a particular photographer or studio accrues within the collection and becomes the basis for a separate collection documenting that individual or studio.

Scope and Contents

Photographs of Asian Americans created by Asian American photographers and others, chiefly in California, circa 1930-1982.

Portraiture in the collection includes wedding portraits and graduation portraits, as well as studio portraits of families and individuals. Identified sites of images include a group in front of the Soto Zen Mission of the Sokoji Buddhist Church in San Francisco, California, and a group portrait of attendees of the Western Federation of Buddhist Sunday School Teachers League Conference in front of the Lodi Buddhist Church in Lodi, California, in January 1957.

Photographers represented in the collection include Eschol Manning Hammond, Paul Henry Hammond, Miyowa (George) Hishida, Sadaichi Imada, Morinosuke (Jack) Kamikihara, Charles Fred Kohler, and Richard S. Yoshikawa.

Photographic studios represented in the collection include Barboni Studio, George Studio, Hammond Studio, Imada Studio, Kami Studio, Salon Studio, Sandino Studio, Tru-Lite Studio, Wee Picture Studio, and Yoshikawa Studio.

Image descriptions of the photographic prints are derived from inscriptions on the verso and recto of the item and from image analysis by the archivist. Descriptions usually include information about the working locations of the photographer or studio, and occasionally physical characteristics of items, such as image numbers applied by the photographers or inscriptions by previous owners, as well as contextual information about the images.

Each folder contains a single photographic print.

Arrangement

### Collection Contents

**Series I. Photographs**

*14 photographic prints*

This subseries consists of vintage photographic prints with dimensions less than 22 x 29 cm (8.7 x 11.4 in.). Photographic materials with dimensions larger than 22 x 29 cm (8.7 x 11.4 in.) are located in the Oversize Photographs series.

Arranged alphabetically by the surname of the photographer or the corporate name of the studio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barboni Studio</td>
<td>Barboni Studio was a photography studio in Oakland and San Francisco, California</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1</td>
<td>Studio portrait of an Asian American woman wearing a mortar board and gown</td>
<td>circa 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| George Studio | Photography studio of Japanese American photographer Miyowa (George) Hishida (1896-1992) in Fresno, California | |
| b. 1 | Studio portrait of an Asian American man | circa 1930 |
| | Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with letterpress impression identifying the studio on the recto interior of the folder | |
| | Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 | |

| Hishida, Miyowa (George) | Associated materials: See: George Studio | |

| Imada, Sadaichi | Associated materials: See: Imada Studio | |

| Imada Studio | Photography studio of Japanese American photographer Sadaichi Imada (1885-1952) at 239 1/2 East First Street, Los Angeles, California | |
| b. 1 | Studio portrait of an Asian American woman wearing a mortar board and gown | circa 1930–1935 |
| | Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with a letterpress impression identifying the studio on the recto interior of the folder | |
| | Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 | |

<p>| | Associated materials: See also: Series II. Oversize Photographs | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kami Studio (continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Group portrait of eight Japanese American women and sixteen men, including a priest, on the steps of the Soto Zen Mission of the Sokoji Buddhist Church at 1881 Bush Street, San Francisco Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 circa 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Group portrait of approximately one hundred Japanese American children, women, and men posed sitting and standing in a gymnasium Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 circa 1950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kamikihara, Morinosuke (Jack)
Associated materials: See: Kami Studio

Kohler, Charles Fred
Charles Fred Kohler (1874-1957) operated a photography studio in Los Angeles, California

| b. 1 Studio portrait of two Asian American men, identified as Liang Xin Fang and his father Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with an ink stamp identifying the photographer on the recto interior of the folder Ink inscription in Chinese on the interior of the mat folder, “Fang, Liang Xin, and his father, for Zhou, Cheng Fang, 1943” Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 1943 |

Sandino Studio
Photography studio located at 1317 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California

| b. 1 Studio portrait of an Asian American man wearing a mortar board and gown, identified as Warren Lowe circa 1955–1960 |

Tru-Lite Studio
Photography studio located at 862 Clay Street, San Francisco, California

| b. 1 Studio portraits of two Asian American men and an Asian American woman circa 1965 Two photographic prints housed in a cardboard mat folder with letterpress impressions identifying the studio on the recto interiors of the folders Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 |

Wee Picture Studio
Photography studio located on Old Chinatown Lane, San Francisco, California

<p>| b. 1 Studio portrait of an Asian American man and an Asian American woman circa 1935–1940 Hand-tinted photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with an ink stamp identifying the studio on the recto interior of the folder Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unidentified photographers</th>
<th>Photographs by discrete unidentified photographers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Studio portrait of an Asian American bride and groom, as well as an Asian American bridesmaid and groomsman</td>
<td>circa 1935–1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Informal group portrait of eleven couples of Asian American men and women</td>
<td>circa 1935–1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Studio portrait of a Chinese American woman wearing a mortar board and gown, identified as Mary Mae Cheong</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Mae Cheong (born circa 1921) graduate from Lowell High School in San Francisco in 1939 and from the University of California at Berkeley in 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with an indistinct ink stamp identifying the studio, possibly Nu-Art Studio, on the recto interior of the folder, as well as an inscription in ink to Mrs. Lee from Cheong.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Interior group portrait of nine Asian American men and an Asian American woman posed standing behind a casket, probably in a funeral parlor; one man wears regalia that designates him as a Buddhist clergyman</td>
<td>circa 1940–1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1 Informal interior portrait of two Japanese American men; they wear hats that identify their membership in Townsend Harris Post No. 438 of the American Legion in San Francisco, California</td>
<td>circa 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series II. Oversize Photographs

(7 photographic prints)

This subseries consists of vintage photographic prints with dimensions greater than 22 x 29 cm (8.7 x 11.4 in.).

Arranged alphabetically by the surname of the photographer or the corporate name of the studio.

Hammond Studio
Photography studio operated by Eschol Manning Hammond (1890-1952) and Paul Henry Hammond (1895-1950) in Porterville, California

b. 2     Studio portrait of an Asian American family consisting of three girls, three boys, mother, and father
         Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with a letterpress impression identifying the studio on the recto interior of the folder
         Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011
circa 1930

Kami Studio
Associated materials: See also: Series I. Photographs

b. 2     Studio portrait of a Japanese American woman
         Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011
circa 1950

Salon Studio
Photography studio in San Francisco, California

b. 2     Group portrait of Chinese American attendees of the Hoy Sun Ning Yung Benevolent Association National Convention in San Francisco, California
         Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011
1982

Yoshikawa Studio
Photography studio of Japanese American photographer Richard S. Yoshikawa (1920-2011) in Stockton, California

b. 2     Group portrait of Asian American attendees of the Western Federation of Buddhist Sunday School Teachers League Conference in front of the Lodi Buddhist Church in Lodi, California
         Persons in the group hold signs for different districts
         Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011
1957 January 27

Unidentified photographers
Photographs by discrete unidentified photographers

b. 2     Studio portrait of an Asian American woman and Asian American man
         Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder
         Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011
circa 1935–1940

Unidentified photographers (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. 2</th>
<th>Studio portrait of an Asian American family consisting of four girls, four boys, mother, and father</th>
<th>circa 1940–circa 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b. 2</th>
<th>Group portrait of an Asian American bride and groom, as well as an Asian American flower girl, three Asian American bridesmaids, and four Asian American groomsmen</th>
<th>circa 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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 Americans -- Pictorial works
Buddhism -- California
Photographers -- West (U.S.)

Geographic Names
California -- Pictorial works
Lodi (Calif.) -- Pictorial works
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats
Photographic prints

Names
Hammond, Eschol Manning, 1890-1952
Hammond, Paul Henry, 1895-1950
Hishida, Miyowa, 1896-1992
Imada, Sadaichi, 1885-1952
Kamikihara, Morinosuke, 1904-1988
Kohler, Charles Fred, 1874-1957
Yoshikawa, Richard S., 1920-2011

Corporate Bodies
Barboni Studio (San Francisco, Calif.)
George Studio (Fresno, Calif.)
Hammond Studio (Porterville, Calif.)
Imada Studio (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Kami Studio (San Francisco, Calif.)
Lodi Buddhist Church (Lodi, Calif.)
Salon Studio (San Francisco, Calif.)
Sandino Studio (San Francisco, Calif.)
Sōtōshū
Tru-Lite Studio (San Francisco, Calif.)
Wee Picture Studio (San Francisco, Calif.)