

Guide to the Kan'ichi Asakawa Papers

MS 40



compiled by staff of Manuscripts and Archives

June 1984

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 40

CREATOR: Asakawa, Kan'ichi, 1873-1948

TITLE: Kan'ichi Asakawa papers

DATES: 1894-1994

BULK DATES: 1894-1955

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 22.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English, Chinese, and Japanese.

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, diaries, writings, notes, photographs, and miscellanea documenting the personal life and professional career of Kan'ichi Asakawa, a professor of Japanese history at Yale University and author of several books on Japanese history.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0040>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0040>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the estate of Kan'ichi Asakawa, 1946-1948; Mary Rouse, 1984; Yoshio Abe, 1984; and Jerome Pollitt, 1990; transferred from the East Asian Collection Curator, 2000-2001, 2004. Transferred from the East Asia Library, 2009.

Conditions Governing Access

Original audiotape, videotape, and motion picture films, as well as preservation masters and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers needing to consult the original materials should consult the finding aid for policies governing reproduction for access.

Series I, Correspondence (Boxes 1-4), Series II, Diaries (Boxes 5-6), and Series III, Writings, Notes, and Miscellanea (Boxes 7-10, 51-52, and 56-57) are available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 201 instead of the originals.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Kan'ichi Asakawa Papers (MS 40). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

Boxes 1-10, 51-52, and 56-57 are available on microfilm (9715 frames on 10 reels, 35mm) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM201.

Biographical / Historical

Kan'ichi Asakawa was born in Nihommatsu, Japan, on December 20, 1873. He graduated from Waseda University (B.L., 1895), Dartmouth College (B.L., 1899), and Yale University (Ph.D., 1902). He taught Japanese history at Yale (1906-1942, professor emeritus, 1942-1948), and served as curator of Chinese and Japanese Collections (1907-1948). Asakawa wrote several books and articles on Japanese history. He died in West Wardsboro, Vermont, on August 11, 1948.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, diaries, writings, notes, photographs, and miscellanea documenting the personal life and professional career of Kan'ichi Asakawa, a professor of Japanese history at Yale University and author of several works on Japanese history. The Asakawa Papers are organized in three series:

SERIES I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1895-1955, contains letters to and from family members, beginning with Asakawa's first years in the United States, as a student at Dartmouth College and Yale University

(1895-1902). Letters are written in both Japanese and English, depending on the correspondent. Additional correspondence relates to Asakawa's academic and literary interests, particularly his interest in Esperanto, an artificial language. Asakawa corresponded with David Morris and other members of the International Auxiliary Language Association on this topic. Letters written during World War II focus on the reaction of individuals to Japanese-Americans living in the United States and Asakawa's thoughts on this subject are often recorded in letters. A draft of a letter Asakawa wrote for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to send to the Japanese emperor in order to prevent hostilities from commencing in 1941 is also arranged in this series.

SERIES II, DIARIES, 1900-1948, contains several volumes of personal journals from 1900-1925 and 1940-1948. Asakawa's early journals are those of a college student and young educator, and contain many references to the differences in culture he encountered as an immigrant from Japan. Later journals detail Asakawa's personal and professional activities, and, once again, material written during the years of World War II focuses on the responsibilities and treatment of Japanese-Americans.

SERIES III, WRITINGS, NOTES, AND MISCELLANEA, 1894-1940, consists of articles, essays, notes, photographs, student papers and other materials. The bulk of material relates to Japanese history, although a section of "Notes" contains research files on modern European and French history in addition to extensive files on Japanese history. Under the heading "Japanese chronicles" is a group of research notes on a wide variety of Japanese historical topics from 1172-1945. Material relating to the Yale Association of Japan (folders 288-292) and the Yale Japanese Club (folder 296) is also arranged in this series.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series and additions: I. Correspondence, 1895-1955. II. Diaries, 1900-1948. III. Writings, Notes, and Miscellanea, 1894-1940.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1895-1955

This series is arranged in two sections: General and Select. General is arranged in chronological order. Select is arranged in alphabetical order, with résumés filed at the end of the section.

These materials are available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 201 instead of the originals.

General

b. 1, f. 1 - 14reel 1U	1895-1906 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	
b. 2, f. 15 - 26reel 1Ureel 2U	1907-1929 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	
b. 3, f. 27 - 38reel 2Ureel 3U	1930-1955 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	

Select

b. 4, f. 39reel 3U	Asakawa family This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	1895, undated
b. 4, f. 40 - 41reel 3U	Booth, _____ This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	1906-1926
b. 4, f. 42reel 4U	Privy Councilor, (Count K) This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	1941 October 10
b. 4, f. 43reel 4U	Roosevelt, Franklin Delano This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	1941 November 23
b. 4, f. 44reel 4U	Résumés This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	undated

Series II: Diaries, 1900-1948

This series contains diaries arranged in chronological order, with no material for the years 1926-1939.

These materials are available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 201 instead of the originals.

b. 5, f. 45 - 53reel 4Ureel 5U	Diaries This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	1900-1925 October 11
b. 6, f. 54 - 56reel 5U	Diaries This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1940 July 28-1948 August 8

Series III: Writings, Notes, and Miscellanea, 1894-1940

This series contains material arranged in alphabetical order by topic, with "miscellanea" filed at the end of the section.

b. 7, f. 57 - 66reel 6U	Addresses This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1895-1940
b. 7, f. 67reel 6U	Appointment book This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1911-1925
b. 7, f. 68 - 70reel 6U	Articles This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1905-1931
b. 7, f. 71 - 72reel 6U	Book reviews This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1930-1931
b. 7, f. 73reel 6U	Books This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	undated
	Essays These materials are available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 201 instead of the originals.	
b. 7, f. 74 - 79reel 6U	General This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	

Essays (continued)

b. 8, f. 80 - 93reel 6Ureel 7U	Japan This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 9, f. 94 - 99reel 7Ureel 8U	Japan This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 10, f. 100 - 109reel 8U	"Nature of Feudal Society" This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 10, f. 110reel 8U	Guest book This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1907-1911
	Notes	
b. 11	Modern European history A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 12	Modern European history A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 13	Modern European history A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 14	Modern French history A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	

Notes (continued)

- b. 15 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
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- b. 16 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
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- b. 17 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
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- b. 18 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
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- b. 19 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
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- b. 20 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
-
- b. 21 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
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- b. 22 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
-
- b. 23 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
-
- b. 24 Modern French history
A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
-
- Japanese history
- b. 25 General
-
- b. 26 General
-

Notes > Japanese history (continued)

b. 27	Miscellaneous
b. 28	Miscellaneous
b. 29	Ancient history
b. 30	Ancient history
b. 31	Shimazu
b. 32	Shimazu
b. 33	Shimazu
b. 34	Shimazu
b. 35	Family
b. 36	Emperors
b. 37, f. 111 - 117	Japanese society A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
	Japanese chronicles
b. 38, f. 118 - 125	1172-1699 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 39, f. 126 -135	1700-1857 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 40, f. 136 - 146	1858-1863 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 41, f. 147 - 155	1864-1871 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 42, f. 156 - 166	1872-1933 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 43, f. 167 - 173	1934-1936 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.

Notes > Japanese history > Japanese chronicles (continued)

b. 44, f. 174 - 181	1937-1940 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 45, f. 182 - 187	1941-1945 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 46, f. 188 - 197	Lectures: Dartmouth College and Japan A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1894-1907
Philosophy and history		
b. 47, f. 198 - 211	Ancient Germans-Greek history A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 48, f. 212 - 218	Indies-man and person A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 49, f. 219 - 229	Nation and individuals-Roman law A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 50, f. 230 - 234	World history-miscellanea	
b. 51, f. 235 - 237reel 8U	Papers This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals	
	Photographs These materials are available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 201 instead of the originals.	
b. 52, f. 238	Groups	
b. 52, f. 239	Portraits	
b. 52, f. 240reel 9U	Miscellanea This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals.	
b. 53, f. 241 - 244	Printed material	
b. 54, f. 245 - 247	Printed material	
Student materials		

Student materials (continued)

b. 55, f. 248 - 252	Exams	
b. 56, f. 253 - 272reel 9Ureel 10U	Papers This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals	
b. 57, f. 273 - 287reel 10U	Translations This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 201 instead of the originals	
Miscellanea		
b. 58, f. 288 - 292	"Gifts of the Yale Association of Japan" A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 58, f. 293	Maps A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 58, f. 294	Notebook	
b. 58, f. 295	Postal cards A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 59	Scrolls	
b. 60, f. 296	Yale Japanese Club [1870-1922]	1907-1922
b. 61, f. 297	Abe Yoshio, <i>Saigo no Nihonjin: Asakawa Kanichi no shogai</i>	1983

Accession 1991-M-041: Additional Material

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence from Kan'ichi Asakawa to others	1941 Dec, 1942 Jan, Mar, 1943
b. 1, f. 2	Address by Kan'ichi Asakawa A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1943 May 15
b. 1, f. 3	<i>Shortscript: A New Rapid Handwriting</i> , by A. Maertz, and H. Asakawa's analysis of	undated
b. 1, f. 4	Biographical material	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence to Hartley Simpson pertaining to Kan'ichi Asakawa	1948 September-Nov, 1949 March-Apr, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Notes by Hartley Simpson pertaining to Kan'ichi Asakawa's diary	undated
b. 1, f. 7	List of history courses pertaining primarily to Japan	1907-1943
b. 1, f. 8	Photograph of Kan'ichi Asakawa	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Correspondence between George Pierson and Hideo Kaneko pertaining to Kaneko's tribute to Kan'ichi Asakawa in <i>Nota Bene</i> (transferred from Librarian's Office on 1991 Jan 8)	1990 December

Accession 2001-M-013: Additional Material

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Tokutomi, Soho [includes Chinese poem]	1930 January 7, undated
b. 1, f. 2	Unidentified [sent to Asakawa c/o Waseda University Library]	Circa 1906 or 1907

Writings

b. 1, f. 3	"Allotment of Rice-Land: A Sketch"	1935
b. 1, f. 4	"Japanese Personal Names" [cataloging of]	1946
b. 1, f. 5	"Transliteration and Hyphenation"	1943
b. 1, f. 6	Untitled glossary of terms [presumably handwritten by Asakawa]	undated

Memorabilia

b. 2	Kokeshi doll [traditional wooden doll presented to Yale by Taka Okochi, mayor of Nihommatsu, Japan, hometown of Asakawa]	1993 August
b. 3	"Harukanaru kobo" [a biography of Asakawa] 1 Videocassette (VHS) 1:25:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) [Aviary] mssams00402001-m-013b003.u.mov As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.	1985

Accession 2001-M-082: Additional Material

- b.1 Telementary '94 Maboroshi no daitoryoshinsho - Kaisen o soshi sh'yoto shita 1994 December
 otoko [videotape of Japanese television program documenting Asakawa's efforts 11
 to have President Roosevelt write a letter to the Japanese emperor just before the
 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor]
 1 Videocassette (VHS) 0:30:23 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)
 [\[Aviary\] mssams00402001-m-082b001.u.mov](#)
- Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials contained in this collection cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.
- As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.
-

Accession 2005-M-011: Additional Material

b. 1, f. 1	Asakawa's notes on a lecture given by Oya on art in the Meiji period	1885
b. 1, f. 2	Paper on Byron submitted to Tokyo Senmon Gakko (predecessor to Waseda University) seminar?	1895
b. 1, f. 3	Undergraduate thesis by Asakawa at Tokyo Senmon Gakko (predecessor to Waseda University)	1895
b. 1, f. 4	Letter to Asakawa from an unidentified sender in Tokyo	[1908]
b. 1, f. 5	Document on the language of Izu Peninsula, author unknown	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Lecture notes on ethics by Asakawa	undated
b. 1, f. 7	Miscellaneous, possibly notes from a lecture attended by Asakawa	undated

Accession 2010-M-007: Additional Material

b. 1, f. 1

[Photographic prints of Asakawa with a brief description of each](#)

1892-circa 1940

The prints include school, family, and passport photographs, with an English translation of captions.

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

Esperanto
Historians
Japanese -- United States
World War, 1939-1945

Geographic Names

Asia
Japan -- Civilization -- 1600-1868
Japan -- History -- 1926-1945
Japan -- History -- Restoration, 1835-1870

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Anderson, Mary, 1859-1940
Asakawa, Kan'ichi, 1873-1948
Morris, David
Navarro, António Rebordão
Navarro, José Maria de, 1900-
Painter, Sidney, 1902-1960
Parsons, Alfred, 1847-1920
Sturges, Alice Vanderbilt Morris

Families

Shimazu family

Corporate Bodies

Yale Association of Japan
Yale University -- Faculty