

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita Papers

WA MSS S-3211



Sarah Lerner

July 2019, updated January 2021, November 2022

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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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 incarceration at the Tanforan Assembly Center, a temporary detention center at San Bruno, California, and the Topaz War Relocation Center, an American concentration camp 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 incarceration camp pamphlets and newsletters as well as printed sheet music. 2 additional autograph books predate the incarceration of the Takita family. There are also 15 photographs of the Takitas (some with Japanese manuscript captions), circa 1928-1946.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://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 <https://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

This finding aid was revised in 2021 to address outdated or harmful descriptive language. During that revision, description was changed in the biographical and scope and contents notes. References to Japanese American "relocation" and "internment" during World War II were removed and replaced with community recommended terminology, such as "incarceration."

Previous versions of this finding aid may be available. Please contact Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library for details. If you have questions or comments about these revisions, please contact Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library or the Archival and Manuscript Description Committee. For more information on reparative archival description at Yale, see [Yale's Statement on Harmful Language in Archival Description](#).

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 (1924-2019), a Japanese-American woman, was forcibly removed by the United States government, along with her mother, Tsuneyo Aoyagi Takita (1901-1973), and sister, Aiko Takita (1926-), to the Tanforan Assembly Center, a temporary detention center in San Bruno, California, in the spring of 1942, and to the Topaz War Relocation Center, an American concentration camp in Millard County, Utah, in 1942 October. The Takita sisters were released from the Topaz concentration camp, where they were involved in school, music, and the Protestant church, in 1945 October.

Miyeko Takita earned graduate degrees in Library Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. She worked for the United States Army as a librarian at Heidelberg University and after was accepted as a Fulbright Scholar at Keio University in Japan, where she met chemist Masato Tanabe. Upon moving to San Francisco, the two married and eventually had three children: Robert (Sukie) Tanabe, Kenneth (Michele) Tanabe, and Michiko Tanabe.

Content Description

Materials relating to Aiko Takita and Miyeko Takita's incarceration at the Tanforan Assembly Center, a temporary detention center at San Bruno, California, and the Topaz War Relocation Center, an American concentration camp 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 incarceration camp pamphlets and newsletters as well as printed sheet music. 2 additional autograph books predate the incarceration 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

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Autograph album | 1935-1936 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Autograph album | 1939 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Autograph album | 1942-1943 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Autograph album | 1945 |
| b. 1, f. 5-9 | Correspondence (English) | 1943-1945, undated |
| b. 1, f. 10-13 | Correspondence (Japanese) | circa 1943 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Empty envelopes | 1943-1945 |
| b. 4, f. 31 | Illustration of Tanforan Assembly Center, a temporary detention center | 1942 |
| b. 1, f. 14.5 | "Life of experiences" | undated |
| b. 1, f. 15 | Music store receipts | 1944-1945 |
| b. 4, f. 32 | Newspaper | 1945 August 14 |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Newspaper clippings | 1943, undated |
| b. 2, f. 17 | Photographs | circa 1928-1946 |
| b. 2, f. 18 | Photographs | circa 1928-1946 |
| b. 2, f. 19 | Photographs | circa 1928-1946 |
| b. 2, f. 20 | Photographs | circa 1928-1946 |
| b. 4, f. 33 | Photographs | circa 1928-1946 |
| b. 2, f. 21 | Printed ephemera | 1942-1943 |
| b. 2, f. 22 | Printed ephemera | 1944-1949, undated |
| b. 2, f. 23 | Sheet music | undated |
| b. 2, f. 24 | Sketches of barracks | undated |
| b. 2, f. 25 | Topaz High School class materials | 1943-1945 |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Topaz High School class materials | circa 1945 |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Topaz High School programs | 1945 |
| b. 3, f. 28 | Topaz Music School programs | 1943-1945 |
| b. 3, f. 29 | Topaz Protestant Church programs | 1943-1945 |
| b. 3, f. 30 | Young People fellowship binder | 1944 |

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 internment in the U.S.
(1942-1945)
Japanese Americans -- Forced removal and
internment, 1942-1945
Japanese Americans -- Utah
Japanese American women -- 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

Acquired From

Vigilante Rare Documents , bookseller

Occupations

Students -- Utah -- 20th Century

Geographic Names

Topaz (Utah)
Utah -- Social conditions -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Autograph albums
Drawings (visual works)
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)