

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

ASIAN- AND PACIFIC ISLANDER-AMERICANS

I. SCOPE

This overview focuses on materials in the Library of Congress collection concerned with peoples living in the United States and having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

Many of the publications deal principally with the arrival and history of these groups beginning with the arrival in the early 1800s of the Chinese followed by Japanese laborers. Later, Filipinos were recruited to work on the plantations in Hawaii. By 1900, the U.S. Census showed a dramatic increase of the Asian population, which included early Korean church communities. Other subject areas, with the exception of clinical medicine and technical agriculture, include histories of communities in Hawaii, the West Coast and the Pacific Northwest. A significant volume of documents relate to the World War II evacuation and relocation of Japanese-Americans classed in United States military history.

The absence of a designated "Asian Pacific American" LC class or subclass that would incorporate and highlight contemporary secondary materials is evident when compared to the swath of historical collections and primary data on these many APA groups. Asian American or Pacific Islander authors who are leading scholars in their fields as well as poets, biographers, dramatists, historians, and scientists whose works may or may not be on Asian American or Pacific Islander issues are retrievable by bibliographic access points but are not being classified as APA-specific; therefore, the contributions by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans become "lost" in the General Collections.

II. SIZE

The items in the Library's collections by and about Asian and Pacific Islander American are classified with the specific subject in the Library of Congress classification schedule and not generally by a specific class of persons or racial group. A precise count of this material does not exist as materials related to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are found across many classification classes. For example, in a July 2008 search of the Library's Online Catalog in E184 (United States History, Elements in the Population) included: Cambodians (E184.K45) 23 titles, Chinese (E183.C5) 265 titles, Filipinos (E184.F4) 108 titles, Hmong (E184.H55) 19 titles, Japanese (E184.J3) 333 titles, Koreans (E184.K6) 181 titles, and Orientals (E184.O6) 286 titles. In addition, there are 391 titles under Japanese-American war relocation (D769.8.A6). These numbers reflect a very small part of the Asian and Pacific Islander collections. These collections are greatly expanded by thousands of items in other classifications, by the Library's extremely comprehensive holdings of U.S. government documents, manuscript collections, newspapers, and materials held in electronic and special format collections.

Furthermore, there are extensive non-classified holdings in this area in the Library's general microform collections, including a large number of monographs and serials, and thousands of doctoral dissertations. The Library's Asian Division holds numerous publications in Asian languages specifically concerned with Asian immigrants in the United States.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Absent in other research centers in the U.S. and unique to the Library of Congress is its Asian American and Pacific Islander holdings found in the American Folk Life Center and Recorded Sound Division. Finding aids are in the Sound Online Inventory and Catalog (SONIC).

Recorded Sound amassed a wide range of Asian American items, including a sizeable Pacific Islander inventory focusing on Hawaiian music traditions. These also include a collection of popular music performed by Filipino Americans entitled "Lokalpinoy" an unpublished recording of a Filipino centennial celebration 1898-1998, Samoan popular music such as "Samoa mo aso nei", and voice recordings of Chamorros made in Guam after liberation in 1944. One of the more interesting recordings is an unpublished Guam Christmas show in which a Chamorro family tells about their Christmas observances and celebrations. They compare the holiday celebration under Japanese and American rule. The end of the recording has a traditional Chamorro Christmas song. This is one of the few Marine Sound Recordings that deal more with Pacific Islanders than marines.

The Asian Pacific American collection is also especially strong in the areas of history, ethnicity, and immigration studies, particularly for the larger Asian American groups: Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and Korean Americans. Extensive collections of government documents, both historical and contemporary, provide useful primary data. The Serial and Government Publications Division has custody of the newspapers of the ten Japanese American relocation camps in Microfilm. The Prints and Photographs Division has numerous images from these camps available in its Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information collection. The Microform Reading Room holds several thousand dissertations completed at U.S. institutions on different Asian and Pacific Islander American groups and several important collections related to Japanese Americans: Archives in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, Japan, 1868-1945 and Papers of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocations and Internment of Citizens: Numerical File Archive.

There is now a concerted effort to increase primary data holdings from community and cultural organizations nationwide and the acquisition of papers from private collections.

The Betty Lee Sung Collection housed in the Asian Reading Room is a microcosm of the Asian American experience reflected in monographs, serials, periodicals, magazines, community social program brochures, photographs, newspapers, clippings, census data, reports and studies. The collection contains census data reflecting Asian minorities living in New York City, research on family life, curriculum development for Asian Studies, community health concerns, housing and civil rights issues affecting Asian communities in general and the Chinese community in particular. Secondary material such as agency reports, documentation of community social organizations, news clippings and unpublished scholarly papers reflect Sung's interest in minorities beyond her immediate Chinese community. A finding aid for documents, photographs and serials in the collection will soon be available.

The Carlos Bulosan Archive houses primary papers. The presentation of papers by 9 leading Bulosan scholars at a 2006 symposium in the Library are part of the archives, which also includes a definitive bibliography of Bulosan's published works as well as articles and commentaries on his seminal work, *America is in the Heart*. The bibliography serves as a finding aid for items housed in the Library.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

American Folklife Center: The most comprehensive panoramic collection of Asian and Pacific Islander cultural life and heritage showcases in America preserved in audio records, cassettes, cylinders, reel-to-reels, videotapes and film clips, 99% of which are unpublished.

Recorded Sound: Un-catalogued 1,547 Marine Corps combat recordings during WWII, many of which include the Pacific theater.

Law: Chinese immigration, immigration administration, Chinese exclusion, racial anxiety in the United States during 1848-82, Chinese legal status, laws, cultural assimilation, emigration and immigration in California, race relations, San Francisco's anti-Chinese ordinances, 1850-1900. Congressional hearings and legal cases regarding wartime evacuation, relocation and interment of Japanese Americans. Finding aids unavailable.

Available in the Law Reading Room Only – the Korean legal information service provides access to cases, statutes and other legal references for Korea.

Hawaii Pre-annexation legislative reports.

Asian Division: The Betty Lee Sung Collection. Un-catalogued, but ongoing development of finding aids for a collection spanning 50 years. Focused on East Coast Chinese communities, the largest of which is Chinatown, NYC.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Digital collections relating to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans found in the Library's American Memory collections include: *Ansel Adams's Photographs of Manzanar*, a collection of photographs of the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California and the Japanese Americans interned there during World War II; and *The Chinese in California, 1850-1925*, illustrating nineteenth and early twentieth century Chinese immigration to California through about 8,000 images and pages of primary source materials.

Resources available on *The Learning Page* under Ethnic & Multicultural History include: *Asian Nation: Asian American History, Demographics, and Issues*, *Becoming American: The Chinese Experience*, *Chinese American Contribution to the Transcontinental Railroad*, *Hmong at Heart*, and "Japanese American Internment" on the Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945 site.

From the Library's Journey's & Crossings site, *Pearl Harbor Oral Histories with Ann Hoog* provides *After the Day of Infamy: "Man-on-the-Street" Interviews Following the Attack on Pearl Harbor*.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

Smaller, more recent immigrant groups are not as well represented in the Library's collections; this is especially true of materials on Filipinos who were recruited to handle the Hawaiian plantations and cannery work in Alaska after the expulsion of Chinese workers and the former group's subsequent takeover from the Japanese work force. As America's first and only colonial possession in Asia, there is a dearth of documentation in the Library on Filipinos in America when they arrived as "nationals." The focus has been on World War II records and documents when Filipino volunteers comprised their own military unit. There are no finding aids on the life and migration history of Filipino laborers. Their activism against unfair labor practices preceded the Cesar Chavez movement of the 1980s, but primary documentation of this early labor movement is noticeably sparse.

A similar lack is also evident regarding finding aids for materials on Hawaii, Samoa, Micronesia and other U.S. territorial islands, as well as independent Pacific Island countries. Collective holdings about Shan Americans, Hmong Americans, Americans from South Asia (India, Pakistan) and Southeast Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand) are negligible. The Library has yet to make any focused efforts to acquire some of these materials, relying on conventional commercial publishers who have not, until recently, produced works on these groups; and there has been no designated effort in the processing stage to identify these new arrivals from smaller presses as they enter the Library's Copyright system.

Serial publications by Asian news publishers, community organizations or cultural associations on the above, on a nationwide level, are glaringly absent.