



Boston Children's Museum
308 Congress Street
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ARCHIVES Finding Aid

Accession #: A 2019.7 Date(s) Accessioned: 2019 August 23
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Japan Collection 1924-2013, [Bulk: 1970-1999]

Descriptive Summary

Collection ID: A 2019.7

Repository: Boston Children's Museum Archives

Title: Japan Collection

Creator(s): BCM, Various

Dates: Inclusive: 1924-2013, Bulk: 1970-1999

Extent: 12 linear feet; 33 boxes

Language(s) of Materials: Japanese; English

Abstract: This collection contains materials created by the Japan Program as well as outside organizations and individuals that contributed and/or collaborated with the Japan Program at the Boston Children's Museum. The collection covers materials from 1924 through 2013. Material types include correspondence, brochures, flyers, notes, and reports.

Conditions of Access and Use

Conditions Governing Access: Some materials of this collection are restricted. Please consult the archivist for access to certain materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright belongs to Boston Children's Museum. All requests for permission to publish or quote for publication must be submitted in writing to the Archives.

Citation: [Item, Folder, Box,] Japan Collection, Boston Children's Museum Archives, Boston, MA.

Acquisition Information

Provenance/Custodial History: The Collection has been processed in parts over the past years with various grant funding. In 2011, the Museum received a grant from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnerships to process archival materials related to the Japan Program.

Accruals: Accruals are expected.

Background Information

- **Historical Note:** The Boston Children's Museum was established in 1913 by the Science Teacher's Bureau and is a nonprofit educational institution. Originally being a focal point for teachers and students to learn and exchange ideas and materials in the sciences, the museum has expanded its reach to offer exhibitions focused on science, culture, health and fitness, and the arts. The museum has been exhibiting and teaching about Japan since the early 1900's. With the Japanese collection being among the first gifts to the museum, children in Boston were able to learn about Japanese culture through fine pottery, painted screens, and figurines brought over from individuals that travelled to Japan in the late 19th century. One of the most valuable gifts received into the Japan Collection was Miss Kyoto, a Japanese doll sent from the children of Japan as a token of friendship. Miss Kyoto was one of 58 Friendship Dolls sent from Japan to American museums and libraries to promote good relationships between the two countries. In 1958, Kyoto became Boston's first Sister City. The relationship continued to strengthen as more Japan-focused programs were created. This included the Match Kits that provided opportunities for children to learn about family and home life in Japan as well as the beginning of the Harvard East Asia Program between Harvard and the Boston Children's Museum to provide opportunities for teaching and learning about Japan. In 1979, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Boston Kyoto Sister City relationship, citizens of Kyoto donated a 19th century *machiya*, or merchant's house from the Nishijin neighborhood to Boston. One of only a few examples of vernacular Japanese architecture from its period in this country or in Japan, the Japanese House is the centerpiece of BCM's Japanese collection and the Museum's largest artifact.
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Collection Information

Scope and Content: This collection contains the materials and products of the Japan Program from 1924 to 2013. Creating program activities focused on teaching U.S. children about Japan since the early 1920's in Jamaica Plain, the museum has continued to foster cultural understanding between the United States and Japan up to the present. The collection documents various programs and exhibits including notable exhibits such as Teen Tokyo and Five Friends From Japan as well as seasonal events including Japanese New Year, Boys' Day, and Girls' Day. Materials on the Kyo No Machiya installation is also documented. Materials include the planning and construction of the house, the traditional ceremonies and receptions held, and various installations and programs exhibited in the house. Documentation of Miss Kyoto is available, spanning back to the friendship doll exchange between the U.S. and Japan in 1928. Information on conservation work and subsequent homecoming exhibitions for Miss Kyoto are also available in the collection. Outreach programs with schools and activities through the Harvard East Asia Program are also documented. General administrative documents, funding and grant proposals, budget planning, and internal departmental staff notes are included as well.

Arrangement: The Japan Collection is divided into three series: Japan Program, Kyo No Machiya, and Miss Kyoto. Each series is then further divided by sub-series organized based on similar content and subject matter. Each sub-series is loosely arranged in chronological order.

Processing Information

Processed by: Sarah Yasuda, 2019

Rules or Conventions of Finding Aid: Prepared following Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)

Contents Inventory

Box 177

Folder Titles	Dates
Series I: Japan Program	1924-2013
Sub-Series I: Japan Program at Jamaica Plain	Undated, 1924-1979
<i>List of Japanese Literature</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Childlife in Japan</i>	<i>1926</i>
<i>Yoshida Trio Pamphlet</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Shinto Shrines (Zinsya)</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Exhibit Materials for Stairs 3, 4, 5</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Information on Hokusai</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Impressions on Japan</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Dolls Showing Ancient and Modern Costume</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Boys' Festival</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>The Monkey and the Crab Folktale</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>Japanese Landscapes and Gardens</i>	<i>Undated</i>
<i>A Japanese Home</i>	<i>Undated</i>
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<i>Japanese Shops</i>	<i>Undated</i>
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<i>The Japanese Sword and Its Decoration</i>	<i>1924</i>
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Sub-Series I: Japan Program at Jamaica Plain (continued)	Undated, 1924-1979
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<i>Japanese Tea House to a Japanese Home</i>	<i>1973</i>
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<i>Information on Japanese Home Exhibit Space</i>	<i>1975</i>
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<i>Tri-Arts</i>	<i>1978</i>
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Folder Titles	Dates
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<i>Folk Arts Program</i>	1983
<i>Children's Day</i>	1983
<i>Japanese New Year</i>	1983
<i>Orientation Japan</i>	1983
<i>Fake Food</i>	1984
<i>Kimono Night</i>	1984
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<i>Woodblock Prints Exhibition</i>	1984
<i>Masayuki Ceramic Art</i>	1985
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Folder Titles	Dates
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<i>Japanese Cultural Festival</i>	1987
<i>Kite Month</i>	1987
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<i>Japanese New Year</i>	1989
<i>Konnichiwa Japan</i>	1989
<i>Sanpho Paper Model Exhibit</i>	1987
<i>Hiroshima No Pika and Maruki Exhibition</i>	1988
<i>Frank Gehry Reception</i>	1992
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<i>Teacher's Guide and Materials</i>	1992
<i>Focus Program</i>	1988-1994
<i>Research Materials</i>	1973-1976

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<i>Japan Forum</i>	1990-1991
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<i>Leslie Bedford Japan Trip</i>	1993
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<i>Japanese Funders</i>	1992
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<i>Press Articles and Broadcast Coverage</i>	1992
<i>Press Coverage: Sesame Magazine</i>	1992
<i>Press Coverage: Trendy</i>	1992
<i>Press Coverage: Winds Publication</i>	1992

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<i>Sub-Series IV: Teen Tokyo (continued)</i>	Undated, 1973-1994
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<i>Teacher Programs: Japan Changing Patterns in Family Relations</i>	1983
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<i>Teacher Programs: Geography of Japan</i>	1988
<i>Teacher Programs: Hiroshima</i>	1988
<i>Teacher Programs: Institute on Modern Japan</i>	1988
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<i>Attendee Lists for Dinner and Events</i>	1980
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<i>Decoration for Shukuten</i>	1990
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<i>Shukuten Correspondence</i>	1990
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<i>Oda Endowment</i>	1985, 1990
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<i>Fundraising 1979</i>	1979
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Folder Titles	Dates
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<i>Filene's Fundraiser at BCM</i>	1983
<i>Hidetoshi Kato Visits BCM</i>	1983
<i>Fundraising 1984</i>	1984
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Folder Titles	Dates
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<i>List of US and Japan Ambassador Friendship Dolls</i>	<i>Undated, 1929</i>
<i>Lecture and Information on Sidney L. Gulick</i>	<i>1988</i>
<i>Accession and Catalog Information</i>	<i>1981</i>
<i>Articles on Miss Kyoto</i>	<i>c. 1980-1990</i>
Sub-Series II: Committee on World Friendship Among Children	1926-1928
<i>About Ambassador of Goodwill Dolls</i>	<i>1927</i>
<i>Letters Between Schools in the US and Japan</i>	<i>1926-1928</i>
<i>"Welcome to the American Doll Messengers"</i>	<i>1927</i>
<i>Correspondence Between Committee on World Friendship Among Children and BCM</i>	<i>1928</i>
Sub-Series III: Research and Reference Materials	1926-1983
<i>Articles and Booklets on Japanese Dolls</i>	<i>1926-1983</i>
Sub-Series IV: Sponsorships	1983
<i>Dentsu Corporation</i>	<i>1983</i>
Sub-Series V: Press Release and Invitation Letters	1985-1988
<i>Press Release and Invitation Letters</i>	<i>1985-1988</i>
Sub-Series VI: Miss Kyoto Project Kit	1990
<i>Proposal and Projected Budget</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>Text and Book of "Story of Miss Kyoto"</i>	<i>1990</i>

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Folder Titles	Dates
Series III: Miss Kyoto (continued)	1924-
Sub-Series VII: Conservation Work	1980-1985
<i>Conservation Examination Report</i>	<i>1983, 1985</i>
<i>Planning of Conservation Work and Homecoming Exhibition</i>	<i>1983</i>
<i>Planning of Conservation Work in Japan</i>	<i>1984</i>
<i>Planning of Conservation Work and Return of Miss Kyoto to BCM</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>Outgoing Loan Agreement</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>Transportation Planning for Miss Kyoto</i>	<i>1981-1985</i>
<i>Other Doll Restorations: Smithsonian, Newark</i>	<i>1983-1985</i>
<i>Japan Society Report on Conservation of Works of Art</i>	<i>1980</i>
Sub-Series VIII: Miss Kyoto's Return to the U.S.	1986
<i>Correspondence and Planning of Miss Kyoto's Return</i>	<i>1986</i>
<i>Receipts and Invoices for Ceremony</i>	<i>1986</i>
Sub-Series IX: Doll Presentation Mission	1986
<i>Kokusai Bunka Kyosai</i>	<i>1986</i>

<i>Sub-Series X: Homecoming Exhibitions of Japanese Dolls</i>	<i>1983-1988</i>
Kokusai Bunka Kyosai	<i>1987-1988</i>
Japan Toys Museum	<i>1983</i>
Project Outline of Homecoming Exhibition for Japanese Dolls	<i>1986</i>
Loan Agreements and Application	<i>1988</i>
<i>Sub-Series XI: Homecoming Exhibitions of Dolls U.S. Dolls</i>	<i>1989</i>
Project Outline of Homecoming Exhibition for US Dolls	<i>1989</i>
Correspondence about Homecoming Exhibition for US Dolls	<i>1989</i>
<i>Sub-Series XII: Research Requests</i>	<i>1999</i>
Japanese American Doll Enthusiasts	<i>1999</i>