

Guide to the Photographs of Asian Americans

WA Photos 485



by Matthew Daniel Mason

May 2013

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA Photos 485

TITLE: Photographs of Asian Americans

DATES: circa 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: <https://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 <https://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

Organized into two series: I. Photographs, circa 1930-circa 1965. II. Oversize Photographs, circa 1930-1982.

Collection Contents

Series I: Photographs, circa 1930-circa 1965

(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.

Barboni Studio

Barboni Studio was a photography studio in Oakland and San Francisco, California

- | | | |
|------|---|------------|
| b. 1 | Studio portrait of an Asian American woman wearing a mortar board and gown

Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011 | circa 1939 |
|------|---|------------|

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

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 | circa 1930 |
|------|---|------------|

Hishida, Miyowa (George)

See: George Studio

Imada, Sadaichi

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

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 1930-1935 |
|------|---|-----------------|

Kami Studio

Photography studio of Japanese American photographer Morinosuke (Jack) Kamihara (1904-1988) in San Francisco, California

Associated materials: See also: Series II. Oversize Photographs

Kami Studio (continued)

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 circa 1950
Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011

b.1 Group portrait of approximately one hundred Japanese American children, women, and men posed sitting and standing in a gymnasium circa 1950
Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011

Kamikihara, Morinosuke (Jack)
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 1943
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

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

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

Unidentified photographers

Photographs by discrete unidentified photographers

b.1	<p>Studio portrait of an Asian American bride and groom, as well as an Asian American bridesmaid and groomsman</p> <p>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</p>	circa 1935-1940
b.1	<p>Informal group portrait of eleven couples of Asian American men and women</p>	circa 1935-1940
b.1	<p>Studio portrait of a Chinese American woman wearing a mortar board and gown, identified as Mary Mae Cheong</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</p>	1939
b.1	<p>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</p> <p>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</p>	circa 1940-1950
b.1	<p>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</p> <p>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</p>	circa 1950

Series II: Oversize Photographs, circa 1930-1982*(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 | <p>Studio portrait of an Asian American family consisting of three girls, three boys, mother, and father</p> <p>Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder with a letterpress impression identifying the studio on the recto interior of the folder</p> <p>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</p> | circa 1930 |
|------|---|------------|

Kami Studio

Associated materials: See also: Series I. Photographs

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

Salon Studio

Photography studio in San Francisco, California

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

Yoshikawa Studio

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

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|
| b. 2 | <p>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</p> <p>Persons in the group hold signs for different districts</p> <p>Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011</p> | 1957 January 27 |
|------|---|-----------------|

Unidentified photographers

Photographs by discrete unidentified photographers

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

Unidentified photographers (continued)

b. 2	Studio portrait of an Asian American family consisting of four girls, four boys, mother, and father Photographic print housed in a cardboard mat folder Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011	circa 1940-circa 1950
b. 2	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 Purchased from Bolerium Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2011	circa 1950

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.)