

Elmer Ogawa papers, 1928-1971

Overview of the Collection

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Creator | Ogawa, Elmer, 1906-1970 |
| Title | Elmer Ogawa papers |
| Dates | 1928-1971 (inclusive) 1928 1971 1942-1966 (bulk) |
| Quantity | 4.33 cubic feet (10 boxes) |
| Collection Number | 1383 (Accession No. 1383-001) |
| Summary | Papers of a Japanese-American photographer and civic leader from Seattle, Washington. |
| Repository | University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu |
| Access Restrictions | No restrictions on access. |
| Languages | English |
| Sponsor | Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. |

Biographical Note

Photographer and civic leader Elmer Ogawa (1906-1970) was born in Seattle, Washington to Japanese and German-Irish parents. Ogawa attended Queen Anne High School and the University of Washington before enlisting in the United States Army in 1942. After his military service, Ogawa worked as a freelance photographer and journalist. He primarily worked as a photographer in Seattle's International District but also worked as the Northwest columnist-photographer for the *Pacific Citizen*, a nationally circulating publication of the Japanese American Citizens League.

In addition to his professional life, Elmer Ogawa was an active community member. He was a member of the Seattle chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League from 1945 to 1970 and the Nisei Veterans Committee from 1949 to 1969. Ogawa served as a board member and photographer for the Jackson Street Community Council from 1952 to 1966. The Jackson Street Community Council was Seattle's first neighborhood advocacy group, founded in 1946 by a coalition of African American and Asian American community members.

Sources:

“Jackson Street Community Council (1946-1967) | The Black Past: Remembered and Reclaimed.” Accessed October 16, 2017. <http://www.blackpast.org/aaw/jackson-street-community-council-1946-1967>.

Content Description

Materials contain correspondence, financial records, writings, notes, ephemera, biographical material, and other papers relating to Elmer Ogawa's career as a freelance photographer and civic leader in Seattle's International District. Materials document his involvement in the Japanese American Citizens League, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Jackson Street Community Council. Correspondents include Tom Arai, Pal Cooper, Goldena Ogawa and Kazuo "Joe" Tsujimota. Also included are materials relating to Veterans of Foreign Wars Merrick Mariners Post 1310 (Merrick, New York) and American Legion, Cathay Post 186 (Seattle, Washington).

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Preferred Citation

Elmer Ogawa papers. Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, Washington.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged in 6 series:

- Personal and professional papers
- Jackson Street Community Council, Board of Trustees records
- Japanese American Citizens League, Seattle records
- Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle records
- American Legion, Cathay Post No. 186 records
- Veterans of Foreign Wars, Merrick Mariners Post No. 1310 records

Acquisition Information

Gift of Herbert Ogawa, July 9, 1970.

Processing Note

Processing completed in 1986.

Twelve boxes of Ogawa's photographs, including images of the International District in Seattle, Washington, were relocated to the Elmer Ogawa Photograph Collection, PH Coll 178, in Special Collections in October 1986.

Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:

The visual materials and film that form part of this collection are described and indexed in the Guide to the Elmer Ogawa Photograph Collection and the Guide to the Elmer Ogawa Home Movie Films, available in Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal and professional papers

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Incoming letters | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 1/1 | Arai, Tom | 1931-1947 |
| 1/2 | A | 1965 |
| 1/3-4 | B | 1948-1963 |
| 1/5-8 | Cooper, Pal | 1947-1953, undated |
| 1/9-11 | C | 1946-1966 |
| 1/12 | D-F | 1938-1965 |
| 1/13 | G | 1942-1968 |
| 1/14 | H | 1929-1970 |
| 1/15 | I | 1948-1967 |
| 1/16-18 | Japanese American Citizens' League: business correspondence with Ogawa in his role as a professional photographer | 1942-1965, undated |
| 1/19 | J-N | 1931-1962 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1/20-22 | Ogawa, Goldena | 1957-1967 |
| 1/23 | O | 1929-1966 |
| 1/24 | P-R | 1946-1957 |
| 1/25-2/1 | S | 1929-1966 |
| 2/2-3 | Tsujimoto, Joe | 1961-1966, undated |
| 2/4 | T | 1952-1960 |
| 2/5 | U | 1942-1964 |
| 2/6 | W | 1947-1966, undated |
| 2/7 | Unidentified | 1928-1966 |
| 2/8 | Anti-Japanese hate mail | undated |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 2/9-10 | Outgoing letters | 1946-1970, undated |
| 2/11 | General correspondence | 1946-1966 |
| 2/12 | Correspondence regarding Elmer Ogawa | 1942-1960 |
| 2/13 | Correspondence collected by Elmer Ogawa | 1948-1966, undated |
| 2/14-16 | Christmas cards | 1948-1967 |
| 2/17-20 | Financial records | 1938-1964, undated |
| 2/21 | Reports | 1945-1962, undated |
| 2/22 | Legal documents | 1940-1941 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2/23-3/2 | Writings by Elmer Ogawa | 1949-1964, undated |
| 3/3 | Military orders | 1928-1933 |
| 3/4 | Military service records | 1944-1947, undated |
| 3/5 | Application for federal employment | 1946-1947, undated |
| 3/6-9 | Notes | undated |
| 3/10 | Photography notes | undated |
| 3/11 | News releases | 1960-1968, undated |
| 3/12-13 | Newsletters | 1949-1965 |
| | Periodicals | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 3/14-5/5 | <i>Scene Magazine</i> | 1950-1955 |
| 5/6-6/1 | <i>Scene Magazine</i> - annual issues | 1950-1952 |
| 6/2-3 | <i>Nisei Vue</i> | 1948-1949 |
| 6/4 | <i>Score Magazine</i> | 1960-1961 |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 6/5 | Lists | 1947-1950, undated |
| 6/6 | Family snapshots | 1948-1964 |
| 6/7-9 | Clippings | 1928-1965, undated |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| 6/10-7/4 | Ephemera | 1923-1968, undated |
| | Subject series | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 7/5 | 442nd Regimental Combat Team reunion | 1953 |
| 7/6 | Seattle Urban League | 1961-1965 |
| 7/7 | Washington State Third International Trade Fair | 1953-1954 |

Jackson Street Community Council, Board of Trustees

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 7/8-9 | Organizational features | 1956-1962 |
| 7/10 | Incoming letters | 1953-1962 |
| 7/11 | Agenda | 1953, undated |
| 7/12-14 | Minutes | 1952-1961 |
| 7/15-16 | Financial records | 1953-1961 |
| 7/17 | Annual reports | 1946-1964 |
| | Reports | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 8/1 | Case studies on the process of integration in neighborhoods of Seattle, Washington | 1960 |
| 8/2 | Survey of attitudes and opinions | 1955 |
| 8/3 | Miscellaneous | 1951-1957 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 8/4 | Writings | undated |
| 8/5 | Memoranda | 1953-1964 |
| 8/6 | Newsletters | 1952-1966 |
| 8/7 | Handbook for Jackson Street Community Council publicity | 1953, undated |
| 8/8 | Lists | 1952-1961 |
| 8/9 | Clippings | 1951-1964, undated |
| 8/10 | Ephemera | 1951-1961, undated |
| 8/11 | Subject file: Proposed freeway route | 1958, undated |

Japanese American Citizens League, Seattle

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Organizational records | | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 8/12 | Organizational features | 1946-1966, undated |
| 8/13 | Incoming letters | 1952-1971 |
| 8/14 | Outgoing letters | 1961-1966 |
| 8/15 | General correspondence | 1961-1969, undated |
| 8/16 | Agenda | 1965, undated |
| 8/17-19 | Minutes | 1961-1971 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 8/20 | Financial records | 1954-1966, undated |
| 8/21 | Survey Jackson Street Community Council occupation survey of the Japanese communities in the greater Pacific Northwest district and the greater Seattle area. | 1964-1965 |
| 8/22 | Memoranda | 1956-1970, undated |
| 8/23 | Speeches and writings | 1945-1966, undated |
| 8/24 | Conferences and conventions | 1960-1965 |
| 8/25-9/1 | Newsletters | 1955-1966, undated |
| 9/2 | Questionnaires | 1956 |
| 9/3 | Notes | undated |
| 9/4 | Lists | 1949-1964, undated |
| 9/5 | Flyers | 1963-1968, undated |
| 9/6-7 | Clippings | 1938-1965, undated |
| 9/8 | Ephemera | 1949-1968, undated |
| | Subject files | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 9/9-10 | Human Rights Commission | 1963-1966 |
| 9/11 | Japanese language program | 1950-1965, undated |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--|---------------------------|------------|
| 9/12-13 | Senate Joint Resolutions | 1958-1966 |
| 9/14-15 | Seafair floats and queens | 1951-1965 |
| Abolishing Restrictions on Land Ownership Committee | | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 9/16 | Incoming letter | 1962 |
| 9/16 | Minutes | 1962 |
| Alien Land Law Committee | | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 9/17 | Minutes | 1959, 1964 |
| 9/17 | Financial records | 1960 |
| 9/17 | Outline | 1959 |
| 9/17 | Lists | 1965 |
| Human Relations Committee | | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 9/18 | Organizational features | undated |
| 9/18 | Outline | undated |
| 9/18 | Questionnaire | undated |
| 9/18 | Notes | 1966 |
| 17th Biennial National Convention (Seattle), 1962 | | |
| Box/Folder | | |
| 9/19 | Organizational features | 1961-1962 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| 9/20 | Incoming letters | 1962 |
| 9/21 | Outgoing letters | 1961-1962 |
| 9/22-23 | Minutes | 1961-1962 |
| 9/24 | Schedules | 1962 |
| 9/25 | Memoranda | 1961, undated |
| 9/26 | Program | 1962 |
| 9/27 | News releases | 1961, undated |

Pacific Northwest District Council

Box/Folder

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|------------|
| 10/1 | Correspondence | 1961, 1963 |
| 10/1 | Financial records | 1961, 1965 |
| 10/1 | Memoranda | 1963 |
| 10/1 | Notice | 1963 |
| 10/2 | Agenda | 1965 |
| 10/3-4 | Minutes | 1961-1965 |

Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 10/5 | Organization | undated |
| 10/6 | Incoming letters | 1949, 1952 |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 10/7 | Outgoing letters | 1950-1964, undated |
| 10/8 | Financial records | 1955, undated |
| 10/9 | Speeches and writings | undated |
| 10/10 | Memoranda | 1962 |
| 10/11-16 | Newsletters | 1952-1969 |
| 10/17 | Lists | 1958, undated |
| 10/18 | Reunion schedule | 1964 |
| 10/19 | Veteran's reunion | 1964 |
| 10/20 | Scrapbook | 1953-1956 |
| 10/21 | Clippings | 1945-1957, undated |

American Legion, Cathay Post No. 186

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Box/Folder | | |
| 10/22 | Newsletters | 1961-1962 |
| 10/22 | News releases | undated |
| 10/22 | Notices | 1954, undated |
| 10/22 | Clippings | 1964 |

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Merrick Mariners Post No. 1310

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|-------------|-------|
| Box/Folder | | |

| Container(s) | Description | Dates |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 10/23 | Correspondence | 1946-1948 |
| 10/23 | Notices | undated |
| 10/23 | Lists | undated |
| 10/23 | Clippings | 1946, undated |
| 10/24 | Ephemera | 1944-1947 |

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Civic leaders--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Community development--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Japanese American veterans--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Japanese American veterans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Japanese Americans--Civil rights--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Japanese Americans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Japanese Americans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Societies, etc
 Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)
 Photographers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Veterans--New York (State)--Societies, etc
 Veterans--Washington (State)--Societies, etc

Personal Names :

Arai, Tom
 Cooper, Pal
 Ogawa, Elmer, 1906-1970--Archives
 Ogawa, Goldena H
 Tsujimoto, Kazuo

Corporate Names :

American Legion. Cathay Post No. 186 (Seattle, Wash.)
 Jackson Street Community Council (Seattle, Wash.)
 Japanese American Citizens' League. Pacific Northwest District Council
 Japanese American Citizens' League. Seattle Chapter
 Nisei Veterans Committee (Seattle, Wash.)
 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Merrick Mariners Post 1310 (Merrick, N.Y.)

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Race relations

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