

# Elmer Ogawa papers, 1928-1971

## Overview of the Collection

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

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Personal and professional papers

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Incoming letters	
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
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
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
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
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
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
<b>Organizational records</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
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	
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
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
<b>Abolishing Restrictions on Land Ownership Committee</b>		
Box/Folder		
9/16	Incoming letter	1962
9/16	Minutes	1962
<b>Alien Land Law Committee</b>		
Box/Folder		
9/17	Minutes	1959, 1964
9/17	Financial records	1960
9/17	Outline	1959
9/17	Lists	1965
<b>Human Relations Committee</b>		
Box/Folder		
9/18	Organizational features	undated
9/18	Outline	undated
9/18	Questionnaire	undated
9/18	Notes	1966
<b>17th Biennial National Convention (Seattle), 1962</b>		
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  
 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

2006 (Last modified: 12/28/2018)



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