Kay Asahi Collection

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The Lace Museum
552 S. Murphy Avenue
Sunnyvale, California 94086
(408) 730-4695
http://www.thelacemuseum.org/
2018
Descriptive Summary
Title: Kay Asahi Collection
Dates: ca. 1960-1990
Collection Number: 2013.1380.000A
Creator/Collector: Asahi, Katsuko (1922-2010)
Extent: 3.5 linear feet. (2 file cabinet drawers containing 22 folders, and one oversize box).
Repository: The Lace Museum
Sunnyvale, California 94086
Abstract: The Kay Asahi collection contains sample books, prickings, diagrams, and examples of bobbin lace created by Kay Asahi and used in her teaching and mail order businesses. Includes source material as well as hand-drawn diagrams and instructions.
Language of Material: English
Access
Contact museum for access questions.
Publication Rights
Property rights reside with the library. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs.
Preferred Citation
Kay Asahi Collection. The Lace Museum
Acquisition Information
Biography/Administrative History
Kay Asahi developed an interest in handcrafts during her confinement in a Japanese Internment Camp during World War II, and later took up lacemaking during the 1960s, when she wrote to Denmark for supplies and information. Kay’s scholarship included diagramming and producing samples for all the grounds illustrated in Gertrude Whiting’s book, A Lace Guide for Makers and Collectors. She seems to have been the first in the United States to use the now standard European color coding for her diagrams. Kay also designed original lace, both on commission and for her students, and carved bone gimp bobbins.
Scope and Content of Collection
Contains sample books, prickings, diagrams, and examples of bobbin lace created by Kay Asahi and used in her teaching and mail order businesses. Includes source material as well as hand-drawn diagrams and instructions.
Indexing Terms
Lace and lace making
Bobbin Lace
Bobbin lace -- Patterns