Inventory of the James H. Osborne Nisei Collection SPC.2017.001

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2017-10-31
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**Contributing Institution:** California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections  
**Title:** James H. Osborne Nisei Collection  
**Creator:** Terada, Emiko  
**Creator:** Terada, Usami  
**Identifier/Call Number:** SPC.2017.001  
**Physical Description:** 1 box  
**Physical Description:** 0.20 Linear Feet  
**Date:** 1941-1971, undated  
**Abstract:** The James H. Osborne Nisei Collection contains mostly correspondence between Emiko and Usami Terada, incarcerees in the Rohwer incarceration camp, McGehee Arkansas, and the Thomas family in Lawndale, California and some photographs of the Teradas and the Thomases. The letters describe the trip from the Santa Anita temporary detention facility to the Rohwer incarceration camp, their lives and conditions in the camp, and their concerns about their properties in Lawndale, California. Also included are photographs taken in the camp, flyers published during wartime, holiday and sympathy cards from the Terada and Nakawaki families to the Thomas family, clippings regarding Japanese American incarceration, and other documents.  
**Language of Material:** English.  
**Conditions Governing Access**  
There are no access restrictions on this collection.  
**Arrangement**  
Collection is arranged in 1 box.  
**Rohwer Incarceration Camp History**  
On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which gave the military the authority to exclude any citizen who posed a threat to national security. As a result, approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast were removed and incarcerated in concentration camps. One of these camps was Rohwer incarceration center located in Desha County in southeastern Arkansas- a heavily wooded and swampy area with high humidity. Most of the incarcerees imprisoned at Rohwer came from Los Angeles and San Joaquin counties in California. The living quarters in the main residential area was approximately 500 acres and was surrounded by barbed wire fences and eight guard towers that were staffed by military police. All incarcerees were housed within partitioned sections of 20’ by 120’ barracks which were arranged in groups of 12 blocks. Each block housed approximately 200-300 individuals. Rohwer officially closed on November 30, 1945 making it the last WRA camp to close, except for the Tule Lake Segregation Center.  
**Biography**  
Emiko [Amy] Terada (1924-) and her brother Usami [Sam] Terada (1923-2013) were living in Lawndale, California before they were forcibly removed and sent to Rohwer incarceration camp in 1942. While living in Lawndale, they were neighbors with Albert William (A.W.) Thomas (1883-1974), his wife Helen L. Thomas (1888-1987) and their daughter Laura E. Thomas (1928-) who were also living on Prairie Avenue in Lawndale. In 1949, Emiko married Dave T. Nakawaki.  
**Preferred Citation**  
[Title of item], James H. Osborne Nisei Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills  
**Processing Information**  
This collection was processed by Karen Clemons, 2017.  
**Related Materials**  
This collection is part of the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project. For related materials please consult: http://csujad.com  
**Scope and Contents**  
The James H. Osborne Nisei Collection (1941-1971, undated) contains mostly correspondence between Emiko and Usami Terada, incarcerees in the Rohwer incarceration camp, McGehee Arkansas, and the Thomas family in Lawndale, California. Also included are photographs of the Teradas and Thomases, including images taken while the Teradas were incarcerated at Rohwer. The letters describe the trip from the Santa Anita Assembly Center to the Rohwer incarceration camp, their lives and conditions in the camp, their concerns about their properties in Lawndale, California; and other topics. Also included are: flyers published during wartime, holiday and sympathy cards from the Terada and Nakawaki families to the Thomas family, clippings regarding Japanese American incarceration, exhibit flyers, and other documents.
Conditions Governing Use
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Concentration Camps -- United States
World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration Camps -- United States
Japanese Americans
Japanese Americans-Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Japanese American families
Japanese Americans-California
Rohwer Relocation Center (Ark.)

box 1, folder 1  Letters from Usami Terada to Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Thomas 1942
box 1, folder 2  Letters from Usami Terada to Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Thomas 1944-1945
box 1, folder 3  Letter from Emiko [Amy] Terada to Laura Thomas 1942-08-30
box 1, folder 4  Letters from Emiko [Amy] Terada to Laura Thomas 1944
box 1, folder 5  Letter from Emiko [Amy] Terada to Miss Laura Thomas 1945-01-19
box 1, folder 6  Letters from Emiko [Amy] Terada to Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Thomas 1948, 1951, 1957
box 1, folder 7  Letters from Amy [Nakawaki] to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas 1972-1973
box 1, folder 8  Letter and photographs from Amy [Nakawaki] to Laura Thomas 2007-05
box 1, folder 9  Letters from Usami Terada to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas; and from Emiko [Amy] Terada to Miss Laura Thomas 1943-09-13 1943-09-17
box 1, folder 10 Postcard for "War Damage Insurance" sent to Helen Thomas 1942-07-03
box 1, folder 11 Postcards from Usami Terada to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas; and from Amy Terada to Laura Thomas 1942-1943
box 1, folder 12 Rohwer incarceration camp- general information and regulations written by Ray D. Johnston, Project Director. Includes a drawing of a layout plan of Rohwer. circa 1943
box 1, folder 13 Holiday greeting cards from the Terada family to the Thomas family circa 1970s-1980s
box 1, folder 14 Holiday greeting cards from the Nakawaki family to the Thomas family circa 1970s-1980s
box 1, folder 15 Sympathy cards from the Terada and Nakawaki families to the Thomas Family undated
box 1, folder 16 Letter regarding Kurata Ranch reunion 2010-01
box 1, folder 17 Photographs of the Terada and Thomas families. Includes images taken at Rohwer incarceration camp 1943-1944, 1978, 2005
box 1, folder 18 Bookmarks created by the War Food Administration (WRA) and United States Department of Agriculture Forest Services circa 1942-1945
box 1, folder 19 Exhibit flyers for events regarding Japanese American World War Two incarceration 1995, 2007
box 1, folder 20 Printed and hand-drawn maps of Lawndale Japanese farms 1941
box 1, folder 22 The Rowher Output May 19-May 26, 1943

Language of Material: English.
Contains:
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