INVENTORY OF THE KIYOKO MATSUURA CRYSTAL CITY COLLECTION, 1944-1945

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Kiyoko Matsuura Crystal City Collection  
**Dates:** 1944-1945  
**Collection Number:** SPC.1900.033  
**Creator:** Matsuura, Kiyoko  
**Extent:** 1 box, 20 linear ft.  
**Repository:** California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections  
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University Library, Room 5039  
1000 E. Victoria Street  
Carson, California 90747  
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**Abstract:** This collection contains one box of two letters from Kiyoko Matsuura written while Matsuura was imprisoned at Crystal City Incarceration Center in Crystal City, Texas. The letter to Mizuko Noda contains information regarding why Kiyoko did not board a repatriation trip, as well as inquiries about her sister’s lunch routine and new house. The letter to Kikuko Noda contains information regarding Kiyoko Matsuura’s New Year’s Day celebration, and she also thanks her mother for the gifts they received. Both letters are in Japanese.

**Language:** Collection material is in Japanese

**Access**  
There are no access restrictions on this collection.

**Publication Rights**  
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**Preferred Citation**  
[Title of item], Kiyoko Matsuura Crystal City Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills

**Acquisition Information**  
Library acquisition.

**Crystal City History**  
During World War II, the United States government developed three separate incarceration programs that deprived thousands of people of Japanese descent of their liberty. The most well-known program was operated by the US War Relocation Authority, which incarcerated 110,000 US citizens and residents of Japanese descent living in California, Oregon and Washington.[1] Another program was operated by the Justice Department and led to the incarceration of 17,000 Japanese nationals living throughout the United States. The third and least-known program involved the incarceration of Latin American citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry. From 1942 to 1945, the US Department of War took 2,260 Japanese Latin Americans from their home countries and incarcerated them in the United States.[2] The vast majority of these Japanese Latin American prisoners were held in in the US Department of Justice internment camp at Crystal City, Texas. The combination of xenophobia in countries like Peru and wartime hysteria in the United States led the US government to incarcerate ethnic Japanese from Latin America. This program resulted in a significant deprivation of rights and considerable hardships for the incarcerated Japanese Latin American civilians.


**Scope and Content**  
The Kiyoko Matsuura Crystal City Collection (1944-1945) contains two letters written from Kiyoko Matsuura to family members in Lima, Peru updating them on life in the Crystal City Incarceration Camp as well as inquiring about her family members’ well-being. Both letters are in Japanese.
Letter 1: Kiyoko Matsuura to Mizuko Noda, September 5, 1944 In this letter, Kiyoko Matsuura writes to her sister, Mizuko Noda who is living in Lima, Peru. Matsuura tells Noda to thank their father for the money he gave her, and tells her sister that the reason she did not board the repatriation ship was because she was worried about her newborn baby. She also gives her condolences to her sister regarding an uncle who has passed away, and inquires about her sister’s lunch routines and new house.

Letter 2: Kiyoko Matsuura to Kikuko Noda, January 26, 1945 In this letter, Kiyoko Matsuura writes to her mother, Kikuko Noda who is living in Lima, Peru. In her first letter written of the year to Noda, Matsuura thanks her mother for the gifts she received for her baby, Kuniko which included a kimono, baby sweater, and baby rattle, as well as yarn for Kiyoko, and other gifts for the family. Kiyoko also wishes her mother a happy New Year, and tells her mother about how they had o-toso, a sake traditionally consumed on New Year’s Day.

Arrangement
Arranged in 1 box.

Subjects
Concentration camps--United States.
Japanese Americans
Japanese Americans--Texas--History.
Crystal City Internment Camp (Crystal City, Tex.)
Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Texas

Geographic Areas
Crystal City (Tex.)
Lima (Peru)

Related Material
For access to the digital collection please consult the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project located here: http://csujad.com

Kiyoko Matsuura Crystal City Collection
Physical Description: [.20 linear ft] [1 box]
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