Finding Aid for the Ryoichi Fujii Papers, 1919-1999

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Finding Aid for the Ryoichi Fujii Papers, 1919-1999

Collection number: 614

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Processed by:
Yuji Ichioka and Eiichiro Azuma, 1999
Encoded by:
Alight Tsai and Caroline Cubé
Online finding aid edited by:
Josh Fiala, April 2004 and Amy Shung-Gee Wong, June 2004
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Ryoichi Fujii Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1919-1999
Collection number: 614
Creator: Fujii, Ryoichi
Extent: 13 boxes (6.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Ryoichi Fujii (1905-1983) was a bilingual journalist, political commentator, and political activist. Between 1936
and 1940, he was a member of the American Communist Party active in Southern California. During the wartime years, Fujii
was interned first at Santa Anita and then at Heart Mountain. As an advocate of cooperation with the American
government, he was a key figure in the resettlement phase of internment, especially in the Chicago area. In 1945, he
founded the Chicago Shimpo. As an editor and writer, he was an outspoken opponent of McCarthyism, white racism, the
U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Pact, and the Vietnam War and a supporter of the civil rights movement. Besides his prolific
writings as a newspaperman, he was also the author of Shikago Nikkeijinshi (c.1968), a history of Japanese-Americans in
Chicago. The collection consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence files, Newsletters no.1-34 (1944-45), precursor
to the Chicago Shimpo, office records of the Chicago Shimpo Company (1945-1970), clippings of newspaper articles by
Fujii, documents and correspondence relating to Fujii's own postwar deportation proceedings, essays on the wartime
internment, U.S.-Japan relations, and other topics, rough drafts of his autobiography, reports written for the WRA (1942-44),
WRA publications and reports, and miscellaneous papers and personal memorabilia.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA
Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ryoichi Fujii Papers (Collection 614). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research
Library, University of California, Los Angeles.
Biography

Ryoichi Fujii (1905-1983) was a bilingual journalist, political commentator, and political activist. Born as Asano Katsu in Gifu city in Gifu Prefecture, he was known as "Bob" Fujii in English. A graduate of Doshisha University, Fujii came to the U.S. as a student in 1931, where he attended Oberlin and received his M.A. in 1934. Between 1936 and 1940, he was a member of the American Communist Party active in Southern California. During the wartime years, Fujii was interned first at Santa Anita and then at Heart Mountain. As an advocate of cooperation with the American government, he was a key figure in the resettlement phase of internment, especially in the Chicago area. In 1945 he founded the Chicago Shimpo. As an editor and writer, he was an outspoken opponent of McCarthyism, white racism, the U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Pact, and the Vietnam War and a supporter of the civil rights movement. Besides his prolific writings as a newspaperman, he was also the author of Shikago Nikkeijinshi, a history of Japanese-Americans in Chicago, published in 1968.

Biographical Narrative

Fujii Ryoichi (Japanese characters)(1905-1983) was a bilingual Issei journalist, political commentator, and political activist. Born as Asano Katsu (Japanese characters) in Gifu city in Gifu Prefecture, he was known as "Bob" Fujii in English. A graduate of Doshisha University, Fujii came to the United States as a student in 1931. He attended Oberlin College from which he received a M.A. in 1934. Between 1936 and 1940, he was a member of the American Communist Party active in Southern California. During the wartime years, he was interned first at Santa Anita and then at Heart Mountain. As an advocate of cooperation with the American government, he was a key figure in the so-called resettlement phase of internment, especially in the Chicago area. In 1945 he founded the Chicago Shimpo (Japanese characters). As an editor and writer, he was an outspoken opponent of McCarthyism, white racism, the U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Pact, and the Vietnam War and supporter of the Civil Rights Movement.

Fujii was married to the late Emi Kimura, a San Jose Nisei with whom he had two daughters, Midori and Sono. Besides his prolific writings as a newspaperman, he was also the author of Shikago Nikkeijinshi (Japanese characters), a history of Japanese-Americans in Chicago published in 1968.

The Fujii Ryoichi Papers consist of incoming and outgoing correspondence files, including English letters from Dr. Walter M. Horton, professor of theology, Oberlin College; Henry Heineman, Fujii's attorney; Emi Kimura, his wife; Masanori Kojima and Setsuko Nishi, two close friends, and other persons; Newsletters no.1-34 (May 1, 1944-October 14, 1945), the precursor to the Chicago Shimpo; office records of the Chicago Shimpo Company, including business papers and correspondence file, 1945-1970; clippings of newspaper articles by Fujii on McCarthyism and HUAAC, American politics and society, and international affairs; documents and correspondence relating to Fujii's own postwar deportation hearings; Japanese and English essays on the wartime internment, U.S.-Japan relations, and other topics; rough drafts of English autobiography; English reports written for the WRA, 1942-1944; WRA publications and reports; and miscellaneous papers and personal memorabilia.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence files, including letters from Dr. Walter M. Horton, theology professor at Oberlin; Henry Heineman, Fujii's attorney; Emi Kimura, his wife; Masanori Kojima and Setsuko Nishi, two close Nisei friends, and other persons; Newsletters nos.1-34 (1944-45), precursor to the Chicago Shimpo; office records of the Chicago Shimpo Company, including business papers and correspondence file, 1945-1970; clippings of newspaper articles by Fujii on McCarthyism and HUAAC, American politics and society, and international affairs; documents and correspondence relating to Fujii's own postwar deportation proceedings; essays on the wartime internment, U.S.-Japan relations, and other topics; rough drafts of his autobiography; reports written for the WRA, 1942-44; WRA publications and reports; and miscellaneous papers and personal memorabilia.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Personal correspondence file (Box 1).
2. Biographical material (Box 1).
3. Wartime internment and resettlement (Boxes 1-3).
4. Deportation hearings and McCarthyism (Boxes 3-5).
5. Chicago Shimpo company papers (Boxes 5-6).
6. Fujii Ryoichi Chicago Shimpo clippings (Boxes 5-11).
7. Miscellaneous papers (Boxes 12-13).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the repository's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Fujii, Ryoichi--Archives.
Heart Mountain Relocation Center (Wyo.).
Chicago Shimpo, Inc.
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945--Archival resources.
Newspaper editors--Archival resources.

Related Material
Japanese American Research Project Collection (Collection 2010). Available at the Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

I. Personal Correspondence File

Outgoing English Letters.

Box 1, Folder 1
Sono & Midori Fujii, 1974-1975.
Physical Description: 7 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Physical Description: 9 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Physical Description: 14 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Emi Kimura, 1943-1944.
Physical Description: 6 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Physical Description: 12 items.

Box 1, Folder 1
Physical Description: 7 items.

Box 1, Folder 2
Physical Description: 40 items.

Box 1, Folder 3
Incoming English letters.

Box 1, Folder 3
Henry Heineman, 1953-1957.
Physical Description: 7 items.

Box 1, Folder 3
Dr. Walter M. Horton, 1943-1944, 1953.
Physical Description: 5 items.

Box 1, Folder 3
Physical Description: 5 items.

Box 1, Folder 3
Physical Description: 10 items.
I. Personal Correspondence File

Box 1, Folder 4  Emi Fujii-Masanori Kojima correspondence, November 1984-May 1986.
   Physical Description: 20 items.

Box 1, Folder 5  Emi Fujii-Saito Gyokko correspondence, August 1985-July 1985.
   Physical Description: 5 items.

Box 1, Folder 6  Midori Fujii-Yuji Ichioka correspondence & other material, 1998-1999.
   Physical Description: 9 items.

II. Biographical Material

Box 1, Folder 7  Autobiographical English essays & vitae, ca. 1953-1982.
   Physical Description: 7 items.

Box 1, Folder 8  Fujii biography project papers, ca. 1980s.

Box 1, Folder 9  Miscellaneous notes.

III. Wartime Internment & Resettlement

A. Fujii Authored Material

Box 2, Folder 1  WRA field reports, Heart Mountain, 1943.
   Physical Description: 4 items.


Box 2, Folder 3  Documents on an “Adult Education” class, June-August 1942.

Box 2, Folder 4  Drafts of “Americanization Program” lectures, 1943-1945.
   Physical Description: 6 items.

Box 2, Folder 5  English lectures on Japanese militarism & politics.
   “History of Japanese Cabinets, 1918-Date.”
   Physical Description: (2 copies)

Box 2, Folder 5  “Koiso Cabinet and Tri-Partite Alliance.”

B. WRA & Other Material

Box 2, Folder 6  WRA Heart Mountain documents, 1943.
   Physical Description: 4 items.

Box 2, Folder 7  WRA “Project Analysis” reports, 1943.
   Physical Description: 11 items.

Box 2, Folder 8  WRA administrative instructions & other internal documents, 1942-1945.
   Physical Description: 12 items.

Box 2, Folder 9  WRA announcements & notices, 1943-1945.
   Physical Description: 4 items.

Box 2, Folder 10  Internment bibliographies, 1942-1943.
   Physical Description: 3 items.
III. Wartime Internment & Resettlement

B. WRA & Other Material

Box 2, Folder 11
Internment pamphlets & booklets, ca. 1943-1945.
Physical Description: 5 items.

Box 2, Folder 12
Physical Description: 8 items.

Box 2, Folder 13
Repatriation documents, 1942-1943.

Box 3, Folder 1
English magazine articles, 1942-1945.
Physical Description: 18 items.

Box 3, Folder 2
English newspaper clippings, 1942-1945.

Box 3, Folder 3
Japanese newspaper clippings, ca. 1943.

Box 3, Folder 4
Miscellaneous documents.

IV. Deportation Hearings & McCarthyism

Box 3, Folder 5
Documents on Fujii's deportation case, ca. 1955.
Physical Description: 3 items.

Box 3, Folder 6
Physical Description: 8 items.

Box 3, Folder 7
Miscellaneous documents, ca. 1950s.
Physical Description: 6 items.

Box 3, Folder 8
English newspaper & magazine clippings on McCarthyism, ca. 1940s & 1950.
1951.
1952.
1953.
Physical Description: 5 items.

V. Chicago Shimpo Company Papers

B. Incoming Correspondence File

Box 5, Folder 4
re Company labor dispute, March-May 1950.
Physical Description: 13 Japanese items.

Box 5, Folder 5
re Company labor dispute, March-November 1950.
Physical Description: 16 English items.

Box 5, Folder 6
Physical Description: 12 Japanese items.

Box 5, Folder 7
Physical Description: 28 Japanese items.

Box 5, Folder 8
Watanabe Seisuke [Japanese characters], ca. 1949-1950s.
Physical Description: 7 Japanese items.
Yashima Taro A [Japanese characters], ca. 1950s.
Physical Description: 3 Japanese items.

Physical Description: 25 items.

Physical Description: 38 items.

Physical Description: 20 items.

“Newsletter,” (no.1-34), May 1, 1944-October 14, 1945, Japanese, precursor of the Chicago Shimpo.

English By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, & other documents, 1945-1946.
Physical Description: 3 items.

The Board of Trustee minutes & other documents, April-May 1950.


Miscellaneous papers, ca. 1940s-1950s, 1986.

“Ryokoki” [Japanese characters] [Travelogue] (no.2-8), May 2-June 20, 1946.

“Shikago zakki” [Japanese characters] [Chicago miscellaneous notes], January 24, April 24, July 10-December 24, 1947.

1948.

1949.


January 17-October 21, 1953.


“Imin kikaho ronso” [Japanese characters] [Dispute over the new immigration/naturalization law] (no.1-11), November 22-January 14, 1953.


Commentaries on American Politics & Society


VI. Fujii Ryoichi Chicago Shimpo Clippings

Box 9, Folder 3

Box 9, Folder 4

Box 9, Folder 5

Box 10, Folder 1

Box 10, Folder 2

Box 10, Folder 3

Box 10, Folder 4

Box 10, Folder 5

Articles on International Affairs & Other Topics

Box 11, Folder 1

Box 11, Folder 2

Box 11, Folder 3
Book reviews.

Box 11, Folder 4

Box 11, Folder 5

Box 11, Folder 6
Miscellaneous English editorials, October 1948-November 1952.

Box 11, Folder 7
Drafts of Japanese newspaper columns & articles.

VII. Miscellaneous Papers

Box 12, Folder 1

Physical Description: 6 items.

Box 12, Folder 2

Physical Description: 1 item (book).

Box 12, Folder 3
Miscellaneous English articles, pamphlets, & press releases, 1936-1950s.

Box 12, Folder 4

Box 12, Folder 5
Articles by Hirano Yoshitaro [Japanese characters].

Physical Description: 2 items.

Box 12, Folder 6

Documents on the Tenants on Kimbark Organization, 1962.

Box 12, Folder 7
Emi Fujii papers, ca. 1960. re her work as a government social worker.

Box 13, Folder 1
Copies of letters from Toshio, Midori, & June Kimura to Nancy Cathran, 1942-1945.

Physical Description: 23 items.

Box 13, Folder 2

Others.