Finding Aid for the Kumez Hachimonji Papers, 1918-1955

Japanese American Research Project (JARP) Collection

Processed by UCLA Library Special Collections staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé
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Note
History --World War II
Social Sciences --Area and Interdisciplinary Studies --Asian American Studies
Social Sciences --Business and Economics
History --History, California --History, Los Angeles Area
Geographical (By Place) --California --Los Angeles Area
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Collection number: 2010

UCLA Library Special Collections
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information

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Encoded by:
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Online finding aid edited by:
Josh Fiala, November 2008

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Kumezō Hachimonji Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1918-1955
Collection number: 2010
Creator: Hachimonji, Kumezō
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.) and 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Kumezō Hachimonji was born in 1888. A native of Miyagi Prefecture, he graduated from Thoku Gakuin in Sendai and arrived in the United States in 1918. He received his BS from Columbia University. Before World War II he owned and operated Valley Seed Company in El Monte, California. He was also known as K. Hatchmonji. The collection consists of diaries, essays, memoirs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, and photographic negatives related to the life of agricultural specialist and merchant Kumezō Hachimonji. Materials in the collection are in English and Japanese.

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

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
Biography
Hachimonji was born in 1888; a native of Miyagi Prefecture, he graduated from Thoku Gakuin in Sendai and arrived in the United States in 1918; BS, Columbia University; owned and operated Valley Seed Company in El Monte, California, before World War II; he was also known as K. Hatchmonji; died in 1956.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of diaries, essays, memoirs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, and photographic negatives related to the life of agricultural specialist and merchant Kumezō Hachimonji. Correspondence is made up of typewritten excerpts from internment camp letters exchanged between the Hachimonjis and their friends. Hachimonji's memoirs are contained in a volume which spans the dates 1934-39. The essays in the collection, put together around 1955, cover a variety of topics, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, farming, wartime evacuation, Japanese-Chinese relations, racism, and immigration. A scrapbook contains articles by Hachimonji on agriculture which appeared in a Japanese language newspaper, 1939-40. Materials in the collection are in English and Japanese.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Memoirs and essays.
2. Diaries, 1941 and 1945-46.
3. Four scrapbooks.
4. Two photographic negatives of Hachimonji's wedding.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Hachimonji, Kumezō--Archives.
Japanese American Research Project (University of California, Los Angeles).
Merchants--California--El Monte--Archival resources.
Japanese Americans--United States--Archival resources.
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945--Archival resources.
Scrapbooks.

Related Material

Hachimonji Papers 1918-1955
Physical Description: 1.5 linear ft.

Box 61, Folder 1

Memories, To my children, 2 volumes. 1934-1939 & 1955
Physical Description: (2 diary-books)
Language of Material: In English.
He wrote: “I have [for] a long time been thinking of writing down memoirs of such nature that relates to our boys' life, Memoirs that would interest them when they are grown, that would help them in steering through the life when they are grown. I would write my failures -- try avoid[ing] them, my boys.”

A collection of essays on a wide variety of topics -- Arab-Israel conflict, farming, wartime evacuation, religion, Japanese-Chinese relations, racism, and immigration, etc. -- which were written after he became ill.

Contains records, documents and photographs on his children with explanatory notes.

Contains typewritten excerpts from the internment camp correspondence exchanged between Hachimonji Kumazo and his children and friends.

Unidentified newspaper clippings, mostly from English language press.

Clippings of Hachimonji's articles on agriculture which appeared on a Japanese language press (not identified).