Gwen Singh papers

Finding aid prepared by Sarah Pham with assistance from Julie Graham, May 2015; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.
UCLA Library Special Collections
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Finding aid last modified on 8 March 2016.
Title: Gwen Singh photograph albums and writings
Collection number: 1814
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.8 linear ft. (2 boxes and 3 flat boxes)
Date: 1947-1948 and 1963-1966
Abstract: Gwen Singh was an American teacher who taught children of American service men during the post-World War II Occupation of Japan in Nagoya. She was married to Reginald Lah Singh. The collection consists of Singh’s biographical novel about her husband Lal Singh and three photograph albums documenting her time as a teacher in Occupied Japan (1947-1948); the Singh’s honeymoon trip around the world (1962-1963); and the Singh’s life together in Los Angeles (1963-1966).
Language of Materials: English
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.

Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Gwen Singh Photograph Albums and Writings (Collection 1814). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mary Cavena, 2008.

Biography/History
There is very little information available about American teacher Gwen Singh. Gwen Hobson, later changed to Gwen Singh, was born on August 15, 1913 in Rialto, California. She, graduated from UCLA in 1941 and was a Fulbright student. She taught children of American service men during the post-World War II Occupation of Japan in Nagoya. She was married to Reginald Lah Singh. She taught for the Los Angeles school district and was the principal of Sheridan Elementary School in East Los Angeles.

Reginald Lah Singh was an East Indian originally from Pakistan, whose family fled to India for political refuge. He was active in the Indian Independence movement. He married Gwen Singh. It appears that he eventually worked in Hollywood as an actor and technical advisor.

Scope and Content
The collection consists of materials related to American teacher Gwen Singh and her husband Reginald Lah Singh. Included are what appears to be the original draft work and copy of Singh’s biographical novel about her husband Reginald Lah Singh and three photograph albums. The photograph albums document Gwen Singh’s time as a teacher in Occupied Japan (1947-1948), her and Lal Singh’s honeymoon trip around the world (1962-1963), and their life together in Los Angeles (1963-1966).

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
Series 1. Photograph Albums
Series 2. Writings.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 7687025

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Singh, Gwen--Archives.
Singh, Gwen--Photographs.

Scope and Content
The series consists of three photograph albums. One photograph album represents Gwen Singh's time spent as an American teacher during post World War II US Occupation of Japan in Nagoya (1947-1948). The second album documents and Lal Singh's honeymoon traveling around the world to places such as San Francisco, Japan, Hong Kong, South East Asia, and Europe (1962-1963). The third photograph album represents Gwen and Lal Singh's life living in Los Angeles, California in the mid-1960s and includes images of the couple as well as family and friends.

Box 1
Scope and Content
Photographs representing Gwen Singh's time spent as an American teacher during post World War II US Occupation of Japan in Nagoya.

Box 2
Scope and Content
Photographs documenting Gwen and Lal Singh's honeymoon traveling around the world to places such as San Francisco, Japan, Hong Kong, South East Asia, and Europe (1962-1963).

Box 3
Scope and Content
Photographs documenting Gwen and Lal Singh's life living in Los Angeles, California in the mid-1960s. Includes images of the couple as well as unidentified family and friends.

Writings
Scope and Content
The series includes what appears to be the original draft work and copy of Gwen Singh’s novel about her husband Reginald Lal Singh.

Lalji: An Extraordinary Man: A Novel Based on the True Life Story of R Lal Singh by Gwen Hobson Singh (3 folders)

From Savage Man: A Saga Based on the True Life Story of R. Lal Singh Adventurer and Writer by Gwen Singh (3 folders)