Preliminary Guide to the Thomas K. Tindale Japanese Papermaking Photographs

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The collection consists of an album with 113 black/white photographs taken by Francis Haar of Kamakura for Tindale, all stamped by Haar on the verso. This album was the result of Tindale’s fascination with Japanese papermaking and papermakers. He arrived in Japan just after World War II as an assistant to the Japanese government civil service. Papermaking was his passion, and he soon began to connect with the leading exponents of the dying art.

The first photo shows Tindale in the center and at the far left is Haar as the villagers pose with them.

The second photo is again a commemorative picture of the villagers, along with photos of village elders and the celebrated papermaker Jugaku Bunsho. Others show village scenes, villagers working at various tasks and the beginning of the papermaking process itself. This process shows villagers gathering the kozo plants to remove the bark and fiber area and boiling the fibers and other related tasks. Additional photos illustrate the method of processing the fibers: pounding, washing, sorting, straining, boiling, beating into pulp; rinsing, squeezing, and finally placing them into a vat of liquid for further processing on bamboo screens. When dried, they are trimmed, bundled, tied, and hauled down to the river for transport to the paper seller.

There are also are two postcards, in Japanese, addressed to Thomas Keith Tindale, from Nishikubo Kenzan in Niigata prefecture. The first dated Nov. 9, 1951, reads: "Professor Jugaku Bunsho asks Nishikubo to send paper samples to Tindale". The second, dated Nov. 14, 1951, again from Nishikubo, states that today he sent 80 paper samples to Tindale. It would appear that Tindale had already begun to collect hand-made papers for his book project. The result of this project was the publication of Tindale’s book on the subject, The Hand-Made Papers of Japan, a work with hundreds of fine samples, watermarks and text with photos on the technique of papermaking, issued in a limited edition of 150 copies. The originals for those photographs are the contents of this album.

UCSB Special Collections also has a number of books on Japanese papermaking, including:

- Sidney E. Berger, Handmade Papers of Japan (2001)
- Richard Flavin, Japanese Traditional Papermaking (1983)
- Yasuo Kume, Superior Collection of Hand-made Papers in Japan (1979)


See also:

*Japanese Paper Samples* [collected by Thomas K. Tindale] (1950)

These and other volumes have been cataloged separately and can be searched on Pegasus, the UCSB Libraries online catalog.

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Series 1. **Japanese Papermaking Photographs**

Box 1  

*Photo album, ca. 1948 - 1951*