Finding aid of the Frank Nakata Collection

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Collection number: MSS 322

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Frank Nakata collection
Dates: 1940 - 1947
Collection number: MSS 322
Collector: Nakata, Frank
Creator: Oye, Wataru
Collection Size: .25 linear feet
Repository: University of the Pacific, Holt-Atherton Dept. of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211

Abstract: Many of the almost 50 letters are in Japanese and many, but not all, of those have been translated. There are letters from other Relocation Camps in Topaz, Utah; Granada, Colorado (Amache); and Newell, California (Tule Lake). Other locations include: Fort Riley, Kansas and Brigham City, Utah.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection open for research.

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Preferred Citation
Frank Nakata collection. MSS 322. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library.

Biography / Administrative History
Frank M. Nakata appears to have lived in Windsor, California (near Santa Rosa) in 1940 and was briefly in the Pomona Assembly Center before being moved to Heart Mountain Relocation Center near Ralston, Wyoming. He likely returned to San Francisco in 1945. Many of the letters in this collection come from his nephew Wataru Oye (1912-2001). According to his biography (http://www.wataruyoye.com/Bio.html), Oye was in San Francisco when World War II started. He was drafted, and trained at Camp Phillips, Kansas. Oye later fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe. He was discharged in late 1945 and studied art at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. All of Oye's letters in this collection come from his times in Kansas. Other identifiable letter writers include: Sadako Arima, Mitsuko Kawashima, Eiko Arima, Eili Uchida, George and Kishiko Hoshide, and Yoshiko Kanashiro. Frequently, letter writers to Nakata would ask about a Mr. Sakaguchi.

Scope and Content of Collection
Many of the almost 50 letters are in Japanese and many, but not all, of those have been translated. There are letters from other Relocation Camps in Topaz, Utah; Granada, Colorado (Amache); and Newell, California (Tule Lake). Other locations include: Fort Riley, Kansas and Brigham City, Utah. There is also a Japanese Tulean Dispatch from June 22, 1943 that has
been translated as well as information from the Tule Lake Union Church.

Generally, the letters describe camp life at the Relocation Centers. Weather and lack of things to do are the most common topics. The writers occasionally wonder about individuals that they have not seen since before relocation. Wataru Oye’s letters illustrate the life of a Japanese-American soldier stationed in Kansas during World War II.

**Indexing Terms**

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

**Tule Lake Relocation Center (Calif.)**

**Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation. 1942-1945**

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1.1: 1940-42 letters
1.2: January – May 1943 letters
1.3: June – December 1943 letters
1.4: 1944 letters
1.5: 1945 letters
1.6: 1946-47 and undated letters
1.7: Envelopes (photocopies)