Finding aid for the Irvin Paik papers 3035

Finding aid prepared by Ken Klein
USC Libraries East Asian Library
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2013 April
Title: Irvin Paik papers
Collection number: 3035
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries East Asian Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 3.0 Linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1971-1975
Abstract: The Irvin Paik papers include correspondence, article typescripts, subject files, scripts, photographs, news clippings, slides, and audiotapes created by television and film editor Irvin Paik during a period (early 1970s) when he was actively involved in several organizations (East-West Players, Brotherhood of Artists, Japanese American Citizens League, Asian Americans for Fair Media) centered around the effort to more fairly and accurately represent Asians in the media, to expand the opportunities open to them in the movie and television industries. Paik also conducted research for several related projects.

creator: Paik, Irvin, 1940-

Conditions Governing Access
Check USC Digital Archive for online availability. Advance notice required for access to original items.

Scope and Content
This collection documents a period of Irvin Paik's life, roughly 1970-1974, during which he was active in the campaign to improve opportunities for Asian Americans in the movie, television and theater business, on the one hand, and to push for more accurate and rounded characterizations of Asians in the media. Contents include correspondence, article typescripts, subject files, scripts, photographs, news clippings, slides, and audiotapes.

Historical background
There was a broad-based effort during the 1960s-1970s to build the foundations of a multi-ethnic society in which mutual respect between people of differing cultural backgrounds could meet on a level field and thereby be accorded more equal access to opportunities of all sorts. In this effort, the importance of the images put forward of Asians and Asian Americans in the mainstream media was recognized and found to be characterized by stereotypical appearances, demeanors, accents and social roles.

The East-West Players, "the nation's premier Asian American theatre," was founded in 1965 in order to provide opportunities for Asian American actors to break out of the stereotypes so common to that point. Their first performances were presented in the basement of a church at the corner of Lucille Avenue and Griffith Park Blvd., in Los Angeles, from which they moved in 1973 to a 99-seat theater on Santa Monica Blvd. In 1998, the company moved to its current housing, in the David Henry Hwang Theater, in Little Tokyo.

Early in 1970, a group of Asian Americans intent on mobilizing for greater opportunities in the stage, movie and television industry, met to organize themselves. At their first meeting, they adopted the name "Ethnic," but voted to change to the "Brotherhood of Artists." The organization appears to have lasted only until late 1972.

The Chinese Media Committee is an affiliated organization of Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), a group founded in San Francisco in 1969 for the purpose of advocating for improved job opportunities for Chinese Americans.

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), founded in 1929, is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. It is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

Asian Americans for Fair Media, Inc. (AAFM) was founded in 1973 by a group of Nisei, led by George Yuzawa, to monitor local and national broadcasts and print media for negative Asian stereotypes and racial slurs.

Biographical note
Irvin Paik was born in Bakersfield in 1940, the youngest of six children--and the only son--of Meung Sun Paik and Rose Park, both of whom came from large immigrant families. The Paiks and Parks were both farming families, in Oregon, Idaho, Utah and California. Irvin was born as his parents were in the process of moving to Los Angeles, which by then had the largest concentration of Koreans in North America. Growing up in postwar Los Angeles, in the midst of a close community and with almost twenty uncles and aunts and dozens of cousins, Irvin had open to him a greater range of opportunities than had most Koreans prior to World War II. In high school, he became interested in drama and photography, and continued to pursue those interests at UCLA. In his effort to foster an acting career, Paik confronted the problems of Asian stereotypes and limited opportunities for Asian American actors. He joined several organizations (East West Players, Brotherhood of Artists, Japanese American Citizens League, etc.) and became an active advocate, as reflected in this collection.
He enlisted in the Army to avoid the draft and enrolled in a unit of college graduates resulting in a 2nd Lieutenant commission in the artillery. Paik was assigned to the Field Photographic Unit of the Army Pictorial Center, where he was able to develop technical skills that he later used to gain entry into the Producer Training Plan, which was established to provide more equal access to men and women of diverse backgrounds by training them for careers in the motion picture and television industry. This led to a successful career as a film editor, in movies and, more particularly, television.

Aside from his early activism and career as a film editor, Paik has been an active member of the Korean American Pioneer Council (KAPC), originally formed as a support group for the Korean American Museum, in Los Angeles, but with the specific mission to gather and preserve the history of the First Wave of Koreans in America. He has been most prominently involved in the KAPC’s oral history program, for which he has served as cameraman and, very often, as interviewer. Irvin himself was interviewed for that series in 2012, during the course of which the existence of this collection came to light.

Preferred Citation

[Box/folder# or item name], Irvin Paik papers, Collection no. 3035, Korean American Digital Archive, Korean Heritage Library, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Immediate Source of Acquisition note


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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Brotherhood of Artists (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Archives
Chinese for Affirmative Action (Organization) -- Archives
Chinese Media Committee (San Francisco, Calif.) -- Archives
Dhiegh, Khigh, 1910-1991 -- Archives
East West Players (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Archives
Japanese American Citizens’ League -- Archives
Kwan, Nancy -- Archives
Mako, 1933-2006 -- Archives
Morita, Pat, 1932-2005 -- Archives
Paik, Irvin, 1940- -- Archives
Quo, Beulah, 1923-2002 -- Archives
Takei, George, 1940- -- Archives
Asian Americans in motion pictures--Archival resources
Asian Americans in the motion picture industry--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Asian Americans on television--Archival resources
Audiotapes
Clippings
Correspondence
Photographs
Scripts
Slides (photographs)
Sound recordings
Scope and Contents
During the early 1970s, Irvin Paik wrote several articles relating to the issues of the image of Asians depicted in American movies and television and the limited opportunities Asian Americans open to Asian Americans in those industries. As part of his research process, he interviewed a number of Asian American actors. At the same time, Paik wrote several stage scripts, centered around Asian themes. Contents in this series notes from his articles and interviews, original scripts and script adaptations.

Articles - notes

Box 1, Folder 1
- East-West Players
  - Drafts of an article on EWP
  - Notes from interviews with EWP figures
  - Notes from Bridge interview with EWP personnel

Box 1, Folder 2
- "That Oriental Feeling"

Box 1, Folder 3
- "Chinatown's First Tourists"

Box 1, Folder 4
- "Kung Fu Fan Klub"

Box 1, Folder 5
- "Hawaii Without Hawaiians"

Box 1, Folder 6
- "Asians and Asian Themes in American Films and TV" - slide show documents

Box 1, Folder 7
- Asians and Asian Themes in American Film and TV
  - Stereotypes of Asians in Motion Pictures and TV
  - Asians in the movie and TV industry

Box 1, Folder 8
- Correspondence
  - Korean American Youth Foundation
  - Asian Quest for a more beautiful motion picture and tv world

Box 1, Folder 10
- Frank Chin
  - "Writer casts satiric glance at TV programmers' insensitivity" (Rafu Shimpo 2/22/75)

Interviews - notes

Box 1, Folder 13
- Interview with Nancy Kwan - notes

Box 1, Folder 14
- George A. Sunga

Box 1, Folder 15
- George Takei

Box 1, Folder 16
- Geoff Wong, KCRA-TV (Sacramento)

Box 1, Folder 17
- Khigh Dhiegh - interview

Scripts

Box 1, Folder 18
- "Three Sisters" - theatrical review

Box 1, Folder 19
- "A Brief Biographical Sketch of a Newly-Found Asian Male" - dramatized

Box 1, Folder 20
- "Korean Pumpkins" (teleplay)

Cultural and Ethnic Minorities Series, LAUSD

Box 1, Folder 21
- #11: "Asian American History"

Box 1, Folder 22
- #12: "Asian American Culture"

Box 1, Folder 23
- #13: "Asian American Problems"

East-West Players scripts

Box 1, Folder 24
- "S.W.A.M.P."

Box 1, Folder 25
- "Miss Asia 1975"

Box 1, Folder 26
- "Kusabira: a commentary"

Box 1, Folder 27
- "Migawari Zazen"

Box 1, Folder 28
- "The Fox and the Trapper"
Irvin Paik: writings

Scripts

| Box 1, Folder 29 | "Bible Bomber" (script outline for "Harry-O") |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | "The night Yuki threw the potato chips at Pat Li" (EWP vignette) |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | "Nolbo and Heungbo: a Korean folk tale" (empty document binder) |

Asian American organization records

Scope and Contents

In the early 1970s, Irvin Paik was active in several organizations relating to the issues of the image of Asians in media and the demand for increased opportunities for Asian Americans in movies, television and stage. Contents of this series include meeting minutes, documents, correspondence and photographs.

| Box 1, Folder 32 | Brotherhood of Artists |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Chinese Media Committee |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Japanese American Citizens League |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Asian Americans for Fair Media |

Scope and Contents

Irvin Paik was active in several organizations concerned with Asian American media issues, both for the promotion of opportunities for Asian Americans and for elimination of stereotypical images of Asians. Contents of this series include documents, meeting minutes, correspondence, and photographs.

| Box 1, Folder 36 | East-West Players |

Miscellaneous files

Scope and Contents

As part of his research, Irvin Paik collected information relating to the condition of Asian American actors, plays developed for performance by the East-West Players and particular issues of protest. Contents of this series include files on actors, specific plays and photographs.

| Box 1, Folder 37 | Asian actors |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Asian actresses |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Charlie Chan - notes |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | Game shows |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | "Gold Watch" - "Ghosts" |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | Kyogen |
| Box 1, Folder 43 | "Lovely Ladies..." |
| Box 1, Folder 44 | Anna and the King of Siam : TV |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | Misc photos |
| Box 1, Folder 46 | Protest |

News clippings

Scope and Contents

This series consists of newspaper and magazine articles collected on a range of Asian and Asian American-themes in American movies, television and stage, including broad themes (e.g. "Asian theater"), individual actors, plays and programs.

| Box 2, Folder 1 | Ahn, Philip |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Asian contacts |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Asian History, Nisei |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Asian humor |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Asian theater |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Asians and war |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Asians in media |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Asians in move/tv industry |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Asians in World War II |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Bigots |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Bride of Fu Manchu |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Bridge on the River Kwai |
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Box 2, Folder 13  Catfink cartoon: Crusader Rabbit, Dr. Doolittle
Box 2, Folder 14  Census
Box 2, Folder 15  Channel 52
Box 2, Folder 16  Characters
Box 2, Folder 17  Charlie Chan - reviews
Box 2, Folder 18  Chicken Coop Chinaman
Box 2, Folder 19  A child in prison camp
Box 2, Folder 20  Chung, Byron
Box 2, Folder 21  Cry for Happy
Box 2, Folder 22  Current prejudice, 1972
Box 2, Folder 23  East-West Players
Box 2, Folder 24  Farewell to Manzanar
Box 2, Folder 25  "Five Fingers of Death" and other karate
Box 2, Folder 26  Focus - NBC 1972
Box 2, Folder 27  Fong, Benson
Box 2, Folder 28  Fu Manchu
Box 2, Folder 29  Funai, Helen
Box 2, Folder 30  General Yamashita
Box 2, Folder 31  Gidra
Box 2, Folder 32  Go For Broke
Box 2, Folder 33  Gold Watch, No Place Tired Ghost
Box 2, Folder 34  Gone With the Wind
Box 2, Folder 35  Good Earth
Box 2, Folder 36  Guilty By Reason of Race
Box 2, Folder 37  Harada, Ernest
Box 2, Folder 38  Haru, Sumi
Box 2, Folder 39  Hawaii 5-0, television
Box 2, Folder 40  Hayakawa, Sessue
Box 2, Folder 41  Hays Office, MP censorship
Box 2, Folder 42  Howe, James Wong
Box 2, Folder 43  Ichino, Laurie
Box 2, Folder 44  Iko, Mimiko
Box 2, Folder 45  Japanese culture, people
Box 2, Folder 46  Judge Dee
Box 2, Folder 47  Kentucky Jones
Box 2, Folder 48  KHJ-TV documentary search of reality
Box 2, Folder 49  Kim, Randy
Box 2, Folder 50  King and I
Box 2, Folder 51  Korean immigrants
Box 2, Folder 52  Kung Fu - Beaton / Miller
Box 2, Folder 53  Kung Fu - Davide Carradine
Box 2, Folder 54  Kwan, Frank
Box 2, Folder 55  Lee, Ming Cho
Box 2, Folder 56  Little People, 1972
Box 2, Folder 57  Lost Horizon, 1972
Box 2, Folder 58  Luke, Keye
Box 2, Folder 59  M.A.S.H. TV, 1972
Box 2, Folder 60  Madame Sin
Box 2, Folder 61  Mako
Box 2, Folder 62  Misunderstanding China - CBS-TV
Box 2, Folder 63  Mr. Moto
Box 2, Folder 64  Mr. T and Tina
Box 2, Folder 65  Non-stereotypes, Asian
Box 2, Folder 66  Oh, Soon Taik
Box 2, Folder 67  Osmonds
Box 2, Folder 68  Pacific Overtures
Box 2, Folder 69  The "Peking-Taiwan Project" / Sam Rolfe
Box 2, Folder 70  Portrayal of Asians
Apart from his writings, much of Irvin Paik's contributions were as a photographer, videographer and sound recorder. Contents of this series include recordings of interviews and television and stage programs (reel-to-reel tapes) short video programs (DVDs), and a narrated slide show.

Asian American actors - interviews

Philip Ahn interview
Physical Description: 1.0 Reels

Pat Morita interview
Physical Description: 2.0 Reels

George Takei interview
Sam Chu Lin, etc. on Asians in media

Irvin Paik productions

Asians in Movies
Commercial Spoof

A Hyphenated American

Recorded programs
### Recorded programs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Reel 5</th>
<th>Gold Watch (scenes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Reel 5</td>
<td>Relocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Reel 6</td>
<td>James Wong Howe</td>
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<td>Box 3, Reel 7</td>
<td>Japanese American panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Reel 8</td>
<td>Korean Pickle Jar (Korean-American talent show, 1962)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Band**
  - "A Bushel and a Peck"
  - dance
  - "I Enjoy Being a Girl"
  - "Gliding Through My Memory"
  - "Grandmother Has a Fine Time"
- **Korean drama**
- **Korean song**
- **Latin piece**
  - "Lovely Hula Hands"
  - "The Man Who Never Returned"
  - "Never Part"
- **pantomime**
- **selection**
- **sing-along**
  - "Stroll Along the Shore"
  - "Who's Gonna Hold Her Hand?"

### Slides

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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Carton 3,</th>
<th>Asian Stereotypes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Carton 2,</td>
<td>Reel of unmounted B&amp;W slides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Carton 1,</td>
<td>Misc B&amp;W unmounted slides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Carton 5,</td>
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<td>Box 3, Carton 4</td>
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<td>Box 3, Roll 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Roll 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, OTHERTYPE Extra slides B&amp;W</td>
<td>Reel of unmounted B&amp;W slides</td>
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</table>

### Filmstrips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Roll 3</th>
<th>Karate-themed commercial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Roll 4</td>
<td>Unnamed commercial</td>
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