
Guide to the J. Stillson Judah: Japanese Camp Books Collection

Lucinda Glenn

Graduate Theological Union Archives

Graduate Theological Union

2400 Ridge Road

Berkeley, California, 94709

Phone: (510) 649-2507

Fax: (510) 649-2508

Email: lglen@gtu.edu

URL: <http://library.gtu.edu/archives/>

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Collection number: GTU 2001-3-01

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Descriptive Summary

Title: J. Stillson Judah: Japanese Camp Books collection

Dates: 1942-1946

Collection number: GTU 2001-3-01

Collection Size: 1 box
5 inches

Repository: The Graduate Theological Union. Library.
Berkeley, CA 94709

Abstract: The collection consists of correspondence and book lists sent between Judah and Felter at Pacific School of Religion, the seminary libraries participating in loaning the books, and representatives in the camps coordinating the book collections in their respective camps. The files are in their original order using original folder headings. The folders were arranged by camp. All correspondence to and from a camp is in the folder headed with the camp's name. Folders containing correspondence to individuals are headed with the individual's name. There is correspondence also with the War Relocation Authority.

Physical location: 2/K/6

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

J. Stillson Judah: Japanese Camp Books collection, GTU 2001-3-01. Graduate Theological Union Archives, Berkeley, CA.

Acquisition Information

Received from the Pacific School of Religion Archives, Kay Schellhase, Archivist, March 2001.

Biography / Administrative History

In late 1942, J. Stillson Judah, Librarian at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, started a project to "establish small libraries of religious books for Japanese ministers in the WRA [War Relocation Authority] camps." (Letter: Judah to Eugene B. Hawk, 11/17/1942, File Folder 2) To accomplish this, he first enlisted the aid of the four other seminaries in Berkeley, Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, Starr King School for the Ministry (Unitarian), San Francisco Theological Seminary (Presbyterian), and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Episcopalian). Judah wrote, "We hope to have about a hundred volumes in each camp library, and intend to rotate these every few months among the several centers." (Letter: Judah to Eugene B. Hawk, 11/17/1942, File Folder 2) Since there were twelve camps, there would be 1,200 volumes total. The combined resources of the Berkeley seminaries were not enough to fill the need. Judah therefore recruited book contributions from seminaries all over the United States reasoning that the more libraries participating, the less interference it would make on their own institutional needs. Six other seminaries joined the original five in Berkeley to total eleven seminaries participating in the project.

Mr. Judah coordinated the project from Berkeley. He compiled lists of books loaned by the various seminary libraries and created a rotation schedule among the camps. Further donations of money for postage and ordering new books requested by ministers in the camps were solicited from other persons and organizations. Mr. Judah also coordinated his project with and received monetary donations from the Protestant Church Commission for Japanese Service, Rev. Gordon Chapman, Executive Secretary. The Commission, headquartered in San Francisco, was formed by a group of churches and organizations in California. It coordinated assistance to internees, aiding needed ministries and service.

Dorothy Felter, an assistant librarian at the Pacific School of Religion, took over the project coordination in early 1944 and oversaw the return of books to the appropriate seminary libraries after the various camps closed in 1945 and 1946.

Correspondence from the camp representatives indicates the appreciation internees felt for the book service. "Your thoughtful and kind assistance has gladdened our hearts. How lonesome we feel here without books and our Caucasian friends. Now we can get books by your kindness. What a great news!" Mansanto Nishimura to Judah, January 7, 1943, Topaz, Utah (File Folder 19). "It is nice to have books in such condition for us all ministers and Christian friends, because they are living far from the church location and very cold these day[s]. We are going to set apple boxes and make our library book-s[h]elf in our church." Yoshikazu Horikoshi to Judah, January 26, 1943, Heart Mountain, Wyoming (File Folder 11). "Indeed it is gratifying to know in times such as these when this world is full of bitterness, hatred and strife there are few who still cling on to the ideal of the Kingdom of God, who try to practice the ideal of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. We appreciate very much for your service of assembling and loaning books to the Japanese ministers in the camps." Junichi Fujimori to Judah, February 18, 1943, Manzanar, California (File Folder 13).

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of correspondence and book lists sent between Judah and Felter at Pacific School of Religion, the seminary libraries participating in loaning the books, and representatives in the camps coordinating the book collections in their respective camps. The files are in their original order using original folder headings. The folders were arranged by camp. All correspondence to and from a camp is in the folder headed with the camp's name. Folders containing correspondence to individuals are headed with the individual's name. There is correspondence also with the War Relocation Authority.

Indexing Terms

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

Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-45--History--Sources

Japanese Americans--Religious life

Concentration camps--United States--History--Sources

Concentration camps--Religious aspects

United States. War Relocation Authority

Granada Relocation Center (Amache, Colo.)

Gila River Relocation Center

Heart Mountain Relocation Center (Wyo.)

Jerome Relocation Center (Denson, Ark.)

Manzanar War Relocation Center

Minidoka Relocation Center (Idaho)

Poston Relocation Center (Poston, Ariz.)

Rohwer Relocation Center (McGehee, Ark.)

Central Utah Relocation Center

Tule Lake Relocation Center (Calif.)

Judah, J. Stillson

Felter, Dorothy

Chapman, Gordon K.

Related Material

BACKGROUND READING: Lester E. Suzuki, *Ministry in the Assembly and Relocation Centers of World War II* (Berkeley, Calif.: Yardbird Co., 1979). GTU Library call number BR563.J35 S89

SEE ALSO Related collections in the Graduate Theological Union Archives:

I. Japanese-American Internment Camp Church Bulletins and Newsletters Collection, 1942-45, GTU 94-9-02. Material received by the Pacific School of Religion Library, Berkeley, Calif. from seven of the internment camp churches.

II. The Gordon K. Chapman: Protestant Church Commission for Japanese Service Collection, 1942-47, GTU 2002-9-01. Records of a cooperative project for the Protestant denominations in California to coordinate needed programs and services in the internment camps.

Gordon Chapman was the Executive Secretary.

Box:folder 1:1	War Relocation Authority
Box:folder 1:2	Schools Cooperating
Box:folder 1:3-5	Correspondence
Box:folder 1:3	Gordon K. Chapman
Box:folder 1:4	Frank Herron Smith
Box:folder 1:5	Harley H. Gill
Box:folder 1:6-7	Bibliographies
Box:folder 1:8	Book Orders
Box:folder 1:9	Camp Correspondence undated
	Scope and Content Note
	Note: Arranged alphabetically by Camp name. Individual correspondents are listed in the order their letters appear in the file. All files contain copies of out-going correspondence from Judah and Felter.
Box:folder 1:9	Amache, Colorado
Box:folder 1:9	Lester E. Suzuki
Box:folder 1:10	Gila River, Arizona
Box:folder 1:10	Mary Kimata
Box:folder 1:10	Paul Osumi
Box:folder 1:10	John Yamazaki
Box:folder 1:10	Royden Susu-Mago
Box:folder 1:10	Yasaburo Tsuda
Box:folder 1:11	Heart Mountain, Wyoming
Box:folder 1:11	Donald Toriumi
Box:folder 1:11	Yoshikazu Horikoshi
Box:folder 1:12	Jerome, Denson, Arkansas
Box:folder 1:12	Tatauo Sakaguchi
Box:folder 1:12	Shinpachi Kanow
Box:folder 1:12	George Aki
Box:folder 1:12	Hideo Hashimoto
Box:folder 1:13	Manzanar, California
Box:folder 1:13	Henry G. Bovenkerk
Box:folder 1:13	Junichi Fujimori
Box:folder 1:14	Minidoka, Idaho
Box:folder 1:14	Joseph Kitagawa
Box:folder 1:14	Michi Tsushima
Box:folder 1:14	Francis M. Hayashi
Box:folder 1:14	Thomas J. Machida
Box:folder 1:14	Nao Kodaira
Box:folder 1:15	Poston, Unit 1
Box:folder 1:15	Sohei Kowta
Box:folder 1:15	Masatori Mitani
Box:folder 1:16	Poston, Unit 2
Box:folder 1:16	Kohei Takeda
Box:folder 1:17	Poston, Unit 3
Box:folder 1:17	Norma Kageyama
Box:folder 1:17	Harry Minami
Box:folder 1:17	Tokiko Hirashima
Box:folder 1:17	Raiko Konatsu
Box:folder 1:17	Paul Nagano
Box:folder 1:18	Rohwer, McGehee, Arkansas
Box:folder 1:18	Joseph K. Fukushima

Box:folder 1:18	Sakae Hayakawa
Box:folder 1:18	K. Harper Sakave
Box:folder 1:19	Topaz, Utah
Box:folder 1:19	George Aki
Box:folder 1:19	Sakae Hayakawa
Box:folder 1:19	Masayoshi Wakai
Box:folder 1:19	Koji Murata
Box:folder 1:19	Mansanto Nishimura
Box:folder 1:19	D.A. Fujita
Box:folder 1:19	E.J. Kawamorita
Box:folder 1:19	Gloria Kambara
Box:folder 1:20	Tule Lake, California
Box:folder 1:20	Carl Wahlquist
Box:folder 1:20	Daisuke Kitagawa
Box:folder 1:20	Shigeo Tanabe
Box:folder 1:20	Clara Muranaka