
Finding Aid for the Hyung-ju Ahn Collection of Korean Materials, 1902-1959

Collection number: 368

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Processed by:

Hyung-ju Ahn and Eiichiro Azuma

Encoded by:

Caroline Cubé

Online finding aid edited by:

- Josh Fiala, September 2004
- Caroline Cubé, August 2006

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Hyung-ju Ahn Collection of Korean Materials,

Date (inclusive): 1902-1959

Collection number: 368

Creator: Ahn, Hyung-ju

Extent: 10 boxes (5 linear ft.) 1 oversize box

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Hyung-ju (also known as Henry) Ahn graduated from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964, worked as a computer systems analyst for aerospace companies and for Orange County, California (1965-95), and received his MA in history from California State University, Fullerton. He wrote his thesis on Korean interpreters at Japanese-American internment camps during World War II. The collection contains mostly Korean printed materials, including religion and history books, and textbooks published under Japanese occupation. Also contains an original documentary motion picture film, Mugunghwa Tongsan (Hibiscus Garden), about the Korean community in Hawaii from 1900-47.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English

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Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Hyung-ju Ahn, 1997.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Hyung-ju Ahn Collection of Korean Materials (Collection 368). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Biography

Hyung-ju (also known as Henry) Ahn was born in Seoul, Korea; attended Seoul National University for two years; came to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1957 and then Reedley, California a few years later; graduated from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964; worked as a computer systems analyst for aerospace companies and for Orange County, California from 1965-95; MA in history from California State University, Fullerton; wrote his thesis on Korean interpreters at Japanese-American internment camps during World War II.

Biographical Narrative

Hyung-ju Ahn [Korean characters], or Henry Ahn, was born in Seoul and attended Seoul National University for two years. In 1957 he came to Honolulu where his paternal grandfather, Reverend Chang-ho Ahn [Korean characters], had been a minister since 1926 at the Korean Methodist churches in Wahiawa, Oahu and in Honolulu. A Couple of years later, he joined his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ho Kim [Korean characters] in Reedley, California. Charles Ho Kim had come to the United States in 1914 and his wife came 35 years later. Hyung-ju Ahn graduated from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964. From 1965 to 1995, he worked as a computer systems analyst for aerospace companies and the County of Orange. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in history from California State University, Fullerton. His second master's thesis was "the Korean Interpreters at Japanese Alien Detention Centers During World War II."

Beginning in 1987, Hyung-ju Ahn visited his relatives to interview and to collect Korean American primary source materials. He interviewed his great-aunt in Detroit, whose late husband, C.C. Ahn [Korean characters], came to Honolulu in January 1903 on the first shipload of Korean to come to Hawaii to work on sugar plantations. He also interviewed his grand-aunt in Hilo, Hawaii, whose father was an elder brother of C.C. Ahn and had sailed with him to Hawaii. Hyung-ju visited many historic Korean American sites and surveyed primary source materials including newsreels, home movies, documentary films, photographs, documents, audio recordings, and unpublished manuscripts written both in Korean and English.

Scope and Content

Collection contains mostly Korean printed materials, including religion and history books, and textbooks published under Japanese occupation. Includes 1902 passport, Korean Bible, fiction works, and a 1919 Korean Provisional Government savings bond issued in 1919. Also contains an original documentary motion picture film, Mugunghwa Tongsan (Hibiscus Garden), about the Korean community in Hawaii from 1900-47.

Expanded Scope and Content

The Hyung-ju Ahn Archival Collection consists of his great-uncle's passport issued to him by the Korean Imperial Government in 1902 to allow him to emigrate to Hawaii; his great uncle's Korean Bible and Korean fiction works; textbooks published in Hawaii and the Mainland United States for Korean language schools; textbooks published in Korea prior to 1910; a one-hundred dollar Korean Provisional Government savings bond issued in 1919; textbooks published in Korea under Japanese rule, which were used at the Korean Central School [Korean characters] in Honolulu in the 1920s; and the thirty-minute documentary film on the Korean American community in Hawaii entitled "Mugunghwa tongsan" [[Korean characters] Hibiscus Garden], which was directed by his father in 1947.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Books and documents on Korean Independence Movement and Korean Immigrant History (Box 1).
2. Books published under Korean imperial government (Box 2).
3. Textbooks published under Japanese rule (Box 3).
4. Books on religion (Box 4).
5. General history books (Boxes 5-6).
6. Chinese language books (Boxes 7-8).
7. Miscellaneous books (Boxes 9-10).
8. Film, Mugunghwa Tongsan (Hibiscus Garden), 1947 (Box 11).

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Ahn, Hyung-ju--Archives.

Korea--Civilization--Archival resources.

Related Material

[Korean American Oral History Project \(Collection 1414\)](#) . Available at the Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

Books and Documents on Korean Independence Movement and Korean Immigrant History

- Box 1, Folder 1 **Korean Imperial Government Special Passport, 1903.**
Box 1, Folder 1 **Korean Provisional Government \$100 Savings Bond Receipt, 1919.**

 Physical Description: (Copy).
- Box 1, Folder 2 **Pak Únsik [Korean characters], “Hanguk t’ongsa” [Korean characters] Translated by Kim Pyóngsik [Korean characters]. Honolulu, 1917.**
Box 1, Folder 3 **Kim Yóngu [Korean characters], “Toklip hyóljóngi” [Korean characters]. Honolulu, 1919.**
Box 1, Folder 4 **Pak Únsik [Korean characters], “Hanguk toklip undong chi hyólsa” [Korean characters]. Shanghai, 1920 (In Chinese).**
Box 1, Folder 5 **Warren Y. Kim [Korean characters], “Haebang chosón” [Korean characters]. Los Angeles, 1948.**
Box 1, Folder 6 **Textbooks of Economics, Biology, and Criminal Law, 1900s.**

 Physical Description: (3 items).

Books Published Under Korean Imperial Government

- Box 2, Folder 1 **Korean History, 1900s.**
 Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Japanese History, 1900s.**
 Physical Description: (1 item).
- Box 2, Folder 3 **World History, 1900s.**
 Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 2, Folder 4 **Geography, 1900s.**
 Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 2, Folder 5 **Korean Reader, 1900s.**
 Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Miscellaneous Textbooks, 1900s.**
 Physical Description: (3 items).

Textbooks Published Under Japanese Rule

- Box 3, Folder 1 **Korean Reader, 1920s-1930s.**
Physical Description: (5 items).
- Box 3, Folder 2 **Chinese and Japanese Reader, 1909, 1937.**
Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 3, Folder 3 **Japanese History and Geography, 1930s**
Physical Description: (3 items).
Note
(In Japanese).
- Box 3, Folder 4 **Bible, 1912.**
Physical Description: (1 item).

Books on Religion

- Box 4, Folder 1 **Christian Books, 1908, 1912.**
Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 4, Folder 2 **Christian Books, 1911.**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 4, Folder 3 **Christian Books, 1924, 1938.**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 4, Folder 4 **Bible, 1906.**
Physical Description: (1 item).
- Box 4, Folder 5 **Miscellaneous Publications, ca. 1910s.**
Physical Description: (3 items).

General History Books

Box 5, Folder 1 **Biographies of Great Korean Historic Figures: “Wiinjón” [Korean characters], 1920s.**

Physical Description: (4 items).

Box 5, Folder 2 **“Wiinjón,” 1937.**

Physical Description: (1 item).

Box 5, Folder 3 **“Wiinjón,” 1948.**

Physical Description: (2 items).

General History Books

- Box 6, Folder 1 **“Wiinjón,” 1950s.**
Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 6, Folder 2 **History of Wars in Korea, 1928.**
Physical Description: (1 item).
- Box 6, Folder 3 **General Korean History.**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 6, Folder 4 **World Christian History, 1938.**
Physical Description: (1 item).

Chinese-Language Books

Box 7, Folder 1 **“Sohak” [Korean characters], 1928.**

Physical Description: (2 items).

Box 7, Folder 2 **“Taehak” [Korean characters], 1927**

“Non-ó” [Korean characters], 1927

- Box 7, Folder 3 **Classical Poetry.**
Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 7, Folder 4 **Classical Poetry.**
Physical Description: (2 items).

Chinese-Language Books

- Box 8, Folder 1 **Classical Writing.**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 8, Folder 2 **“Hunmin chónghúm,” [Korean characters], Seoul, 1946, (Classical Reading).**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 8, Folder 3 **Chinese-Korean Dictionary.**
Physical Description: (1 item).

Miscellaneous Books

- Box 9, Folder 1 **Korean Language and Stories, 1910s-1920s.**
Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 9, Folder 2 **South Korean Elementary School Music Textbooks, 1969-1970.**
Physical Description: (3 items).
- Box 9, Folder 3 **Miscellaneous Publications.**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 9, Folder 4 **Miscellaneous Publications.**
Physical Description: (2 items).
- Box 9, Folder 5 **“Economic Report on Defeated Japan,” Unpublished English Material, ca. 1946.**
Box 10 **Chinese-Japanese Dictionary.**
Physical Description: (1 item).
- Box 11 **“Mugunghwa tongsan,” [Korean characters] Hibiscus Garden, 1947.**
Scope and Content Note
30-minute Documentary Film on a Korean Community in Hawaii.