

Finding Aid - Langmann Family Photograph collection (151)

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Langmann Family Photograph collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Scope and content	3
Notes	3
Access points	4
Collection holdings	4

Summary information

Title:	Langmann Family Photograph collection
Reference code:	151
Date:	[186-?]-[191-?] (creation)
Physical description:	6 albums 2 photographs (framed)
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Updated by Devon Hayley Farrell on 2022-03-16

Scope and content

Collection consists of five albums of photos from Meiji period Japan including a few photos from Scotland, one album of photos from China, and two lacquer-framed photographs. It consists mostly of albumen hand-coloured Japanese photographs. These Japanese photographs belong to the genre known as souvenir photography or Yokohama photography. The subject of these photographs in this collection echoed those found in the Japanese ukiyo-e prints of the so-called “floating-world” of the late Edo Period, from around 1780 until the 1860s. The delicate hand colouring of the albumen silver prints is one of the characteristics of photographs of Japan from this period.

There were mainly two media to disseminate souvenir photos from Yokohama during Meiji period (1868 – 1912): photo prints and lantern slides (see the James Davidson collection), but other materials were also used. These hand tinted photo prints were usually bound in albums with lacquer covers lavishly decorated in makie (##), a technique of applying adhesive metal such as gold and silver or colour powder in soft lacquer to create designs.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on name of collector.

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Uno Langmann in November 2018. Collection was donated alongside a copy of *The Great Earthquake in Japan... 1891 (Kobe, 1892)* (MOA Reading Room Call No. 11.6 MIL 1892 rare). This book contains images of the aftermath of the 1891 Mino–Owari earthquake in Japan. The book is by John Milne and W.K. Burton, and most of these photographs were taken by William Kinnimond Burton, a Scottish engineer and photographer who worked in Japan.

Conditions governing use

Consult Archivist for details.

Note [Sources]

Odo, David. 2015. The Journey of “a Good Type”: From artistry to ethnography in early Japanese photographs. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Peabody Museum Press, Harvard University.

Wakita, Mio. 2013. Staging Desires: Japanese Femininity in Kusakabe Kimbei’s Nineteenth-Century Souvenir Photography, Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag GmbH.

<https://library.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/static/collections/epj/photographers.html>

<https://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp.e.sj.hp.transer.com/kurashi/kyodo-manabi/library/shuroku/photoalbum.html>

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
-

Access points

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
 - China (place)
-

Collection holdings

Item: 01 - Album 1

Title: Album 1

Reference code: 01

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is an album of photographs from China.

Physical description: 1 album : lacquer cover ; 26 x 35 cm

Physical condition: Item is missing front cover.

Location of originals: Box 1

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

- China (place)
-

Item: 02 - Album 2

Title: Album 2

Reference code: 02

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is an album of photographs from Meiji period Japan. There are also a few photos from Scotland; Naples, Italy; and Port Said, Egypt.

Physical description: 1 album : lacquer cover ; 27 x 36 cm

Location of originals: Box 2

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
 - Egypt (place)
 - Scotland (place)
-

Item: 03 - Album 3

Title: Album 3

Reference code: 03

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is an lacquered album of photographs from Meiji period Japan with a fabric-lined storage box. Photographs are hand coloured black and white prints.

Physical description: 1 album : lacquer cover ; 27 x 36 cm + 1 box : fabric lined ; 30 x 40 cm

Physical condition: Corners of box are torn and one piece is loose.

Location of originals: Box 3

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
-

Item: 04 - Album 4

Title: Album 4

Reference code: 04

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is an lacquered album of photographs from Meiji period Japan. Photographs are hand coloured black and white prints.

Physical description: 1 album : lacquer cover ; 32 x 40 cm

Location of originals: Box 4

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
-

Item: 05 - Album 5

Title: Album 5

Reference code: 05

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is an lacquered album of photographs from Meiji period Japan with a fabric-lined storage box. Photographs are hand coloured black and white prints.

Physical description: 1 album : lacquer cover ; 27 x 36 cm + 1 box : fabric lined ; 30 x 40 cm

Location of originals: Box 5

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
-

Item: 06 - Album 6

Title: Album 6

Reference code: 06

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is an album of photographs from Meiji period Japan that opens accordion-style

Physical description: 1 album : lacquer cover ; 15 x 20 cm

Physical condition: Front cover is missing.

Location of originals: Box 7

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
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Item: 07 - Photograph 1

Title: Photograph 1

Reference code: 07

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is a photograph from Meiji period Japan of people in a garden. Frame is a rectangle with an oval space for the photograph.

Physical description: 1 photograph : colour ; 19 x 26 cm + frame : lacquer ; 31 x 39 cm

Location of originals: Box 6

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
-

Item: 08 - Photograph 2

Title: Photograph 2

Reference code: 08

Date: [186-?]-[191-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Item is a photograph from Meiji period Japan of people on a bridge. Frame is a rectangle with an oval space for the photograph.

Physical description: 1 photograph : colour ; 19 x 26 cm + frame : lacquer ; 31 x 39 cm

Location of originals: Box 6

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Japan (place)
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