Background on Coralie Guertin Lajoie

When Capt. Henry Guertin, a native of Leominster, Mass., was ordered to active duty with the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War, his wife Rita relocated to Japan to raise their growing family in Kokura (Kyushu), Japan. Just 13 at the time and already used to the regular relocation of a military life, the eldest daughter, Coralie Ann ("Coco") spent the next two years attending the Kokura Dependent School. As an adult, Coco married golf pro Ray Lajoie and settled in central Massachusetts.

The collection contains ephemera and photographs from young Coco Lajoie’s two-year sojourn on Kyushu. These include a copy of her school yearbook for 1951, a bill for a folk dance performance, and a series of letters from Japanese schoolchildren she met on a visit.

See similar SCUA collections:

Japan

Coralie Guertin Lajoie Papers

1950-1951

4 folders (0.1 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 637 bd

Read collection overview Collection overview

When Capt. Henry Guertin, a native of Leominster, Mass., was ordered to active duty with the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War, his wife Rita relocated to Japan to raise their growing family in Kokura (Kyushu), Japan. Just 13 at the time and already used to the regular relocation of a military life, the eldest daughter, Coralie Ann ("Coco") spent the next two years attending the Kokura Dependent School. As an adult, Coco married golf pro Ray Lajoie and settled in central Massachusetts.

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See similar SCUA collections:

Japan
attending the Kokura Dependent School.

Coco went on to marry Ray Lajoie, the head pro at the Worcester Country Club for almost thirty years and a member of the New England Professional Golfers' Hall of Fame, while Coco worked with him in the pro shop. The couple are noted for their philanthropy, raising nearly three million dollars for charities benefitting persons with disabilities.

Scope of collection

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Collection inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ephemera</th>
<th>1950-1951</th>
<th>9 items</th>
<th>Folder 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kokura PTA presents: The Students of Fukuoka Liberal Arts College / Four dances and on act play</td>
<td>ca.1950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Japanese schoolchildren</td>
<td>1950 Nov.</td>
<td>5 items</td>
<td>Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter from Hiroko Mizokuchi to Coralie Guertin</td>
<td>1950 Nov. 2</td>
<td>1p.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter from Toshiko Yagi to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan) 1950 Nov. 2 1p.

Dear Miss Coralie Guertin,

How are you? I plan to see you. When I enter your room I feel very near you. I will now tell you about myself. I am 17 years old and a senior in high school. I will graduate in a few months. I am attending Yahata Central High School. It is a school of about one thousand boys and girls. I have lived here in Yahata almost all my life, where are you from?

Have any brothers or sisters? I have two sisters and two brothers. We all live at home with mother and father. Please write me soon and tell me about yourself and school and country. I am glad to write to you and shall wait for a letter from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Toshiko Yagi
Yahata City, Japan

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Letter from Maasako Takahasi to Coralie Guertin 1950 Nov. 3 1p.

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Letter from Sei Nakao to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan) 1950 Nov. 4 1p.

Letter from Micho Oai to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan) 1950 Nov. 6 1p.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photographs</th>
<th>ca.1950</th>
<th>9 items</th>
<th>Folder 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matsuri celebration</td>
<td>ca.1950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Japanese flute players at Matsuri celebration</td>
<td>ca.1950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[commercial image, labeled no. 1]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Close-up of men on a float in a matsuri procession</td>
<td>ca.1950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[commercial image, labeled no. 2]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elaborate float depicting a samurai on</td>
<td>ca.1950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
horseback in a matsuri procession
[commercial image, labeled no. 3]

- Matsuri procession [commercial image, labeled no. 5]  ca. 1950

- Men carrying a float in a matsuri procession
  [commercial image, labeled no. 7]  ca. 1950

- Boys carrying a float in a matsuri procession
  [commercial image, labeled no. 8]  ca. 1950
Women and children atop float in a matsuri procession [commercial image, labeled no. 9] ca.1950

Rear view of a float carried in a matsuri procession [commercial image, labeled no. 10] ca.1950

Class from Kokura Dependent School posed in front of school building ca.1950
Administrative information

Access
The collection is open for research.

Provenance
Acquired from Coco Lajoie.

Processing Information
Processed by H. de B. Smith, 2015.

Language:
English

Copyright and Use (More information)
Cite as: Coralie Guertin Lajoie Collection (MS 637). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects
• Japan--Description and travel

Names

• Kokura Dependent School

Genre terms
• Photographs

Link to similar SCUA collections
Japan