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Herbert Passin Collection

1944-1955

1 box (0.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 565



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[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Admin info](#)

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A distinguished scholar of contemporary Japan, Herbert Passin was born in Chicago on Dec. 16, 1916. After completing a doctorate in anthropology in 1941, Passin was inducted into the Army and sent to the Army's Japanese language school in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for training. Assigned to duty in Tokyo in December 1945, he became chief of the Public Opinion and Sociological Research Division under Gen. Douglas MacArthur. During his tour of duty, Passin coordinated a series of sociological studies of Japanese village life to help guide U.S. Occupation policy, particularly as it dealt with land and labor reform.

The Passin Collection contains reports and notes of sociological surveys of two Japanese villages, Yuzurihara and Yawatano,

conducted by U.S. Occupation authorities in 1946 and 1947, along with a wartime report by Arthur Meadow of "Japanese character structure based on Japanese film plots and thematic apperception tests on Japanese Americans," and a post-war letter from the novelist Takami Jun.

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Background on Herbert Passin

A distinguished scholar of contemporary Japan, Herbert Passin was born in Chicago on Dec. 16, 1916. Following undergraduate study at the University of Illinois, Passin entered graduate school at Northwestern, earning a doctorate in anthropology in 1941 for his work on the Tarahumara Indians. With the war, however, his academic career took a dramatic turn, crossing the Pacific in the process. Inducted into the Army, he was sent to the Army's Japanese language school in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for training, and from there, in December 1945, he was assigned to duty in Tokyo as chief of the Public Opinion and Sociological Research Division under Gen. Douglas MacArthur. During his tour of duty, Passin coordinated a series of sociological studies of Japanese village life to help guide U.S. Occupation policy, particularly as it dealt with land and labor reform.

Passin returned to civilian life in 1947 and to his academic pursuits. After a prolific and varied career, culminating in his appointment as chair of the Sociology Department at Columbia University and its East Asia Institute, Passin died of coronary disease on Feb. 26, 2003.

Scope of collection

The Passin Collection contains reports and notes of sociological surveys of two Japanese villages, Yuzurihara and Yawatano, conducted by U.S. Occupation authorities in 1946 and 1947, along with a wartime report by Arthur Meadow of "Japanese character structure based on Japanese film plots and thematic apperception tests on Japanese Americans," and a post-war letter from the novelist Takami Jun.

Inventory

Field trip to Yuzurihara

1947 April

Kitano, Seiichi: A report on the visit to Yuzurihara village

1947 Apr. 11-14

Report

1947 Apr. 17

Jun, Takami: Letter to Herbert Passin

1955 Aug. 29

Re: women during the American occupation; literary matters. In Japanese.

Koyama, T.: A brief description about the neighborhood group system of Yawatano village

1946 Sept. 18

Meadow, Arnold: An analysis of Japanese character structure based on Japanese film plots and thematic apperception tests on Japanese Americans

1944

Passin, Herbert: *Gendai Amerika no shakai jinruigaku* (Tōkyō : Shōkō Shoin, 1949).

1949

Bound vol.

Shakaigaku kenkyū (Sociological Research), vol. 1, no. 3

1948 March

Bound vol.

This issue contains an article in Japanese by Passin on the social-psychological dimensions in public opinion research.

Shinbun kenkyū (Journalism Research), no. 7

1948 Feb.

Bound vol.

This issue contains an article in Japanese by Passin on problems in public polling.

Yawatano Report

1946 Sept.

The young men's group system of Yawatano

1946 Sept. 19

The regulation of Hijogumi in Yawata, Tajima-mura, Tagata-gun, Shizuoka-ken

1946 Sept. 19

The festival of the Yawatano shrine in Izu Province

ca.[1946 Sept. 19]

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of James and Sibylle Fraser, October 2007.

Processing Information

Processed by Dexter Haven, 2008.

Separated Material

The following was transferred for storage to the printed materials collections in SCUA:

Jun, Eto, *Seijuku to sōshitsu : "haha" no hōkai* (Tokyo: Kawade Shobo, 1967). Presentation copy inscribed by Eto Jun to Passin, Aug. 14, 1970.

Call no.: PL721.M68 E86 1967.

Languages:

English, Japanese

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Herbert Passin Collection (MS 565). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Search terms

Subjects

Japan--History--Allied occupation, 1945-1952.

Japan--Sociology--Occupation.

Passin, Herbert.

Contributors

Passin, Herbert [**main entry**]

Takami, Jun, 1907-1965

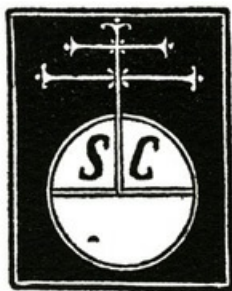
Genres and formats

Letters (Correspondence).

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