



Coralie Guertin Lajoie Papers

1950-1951

4 folders (0.1 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 637 bd

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.

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.

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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.

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



Japanese flutist

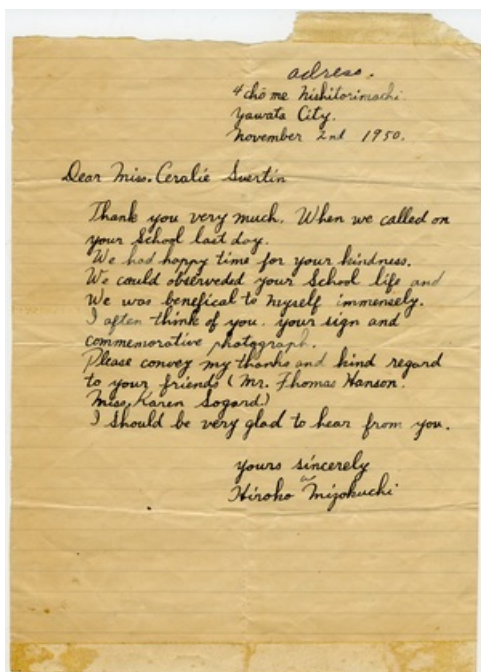
nearly three million dollars for charities benefitting persons with disabilities.

Scope of collection

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.

Inventory

Ephemera	1950-1951	9 images	Folder 1
Darby Daily / U.S.A.T. General William O. Darby San Francisco to Yokohama Voyage 14 / Souvenir Edition	ca.1950 Feb. 14		
Domain of the Golden Dragon / Ruler of the Meridian [certificate for crossing the International Date Line]	ca.1950 Feb.		
Kokura PTA presents: The Students of Fukuoka Liberal Arts College / Four dances and on act play	ca.1950		
Letters from Japanese schoolchildren	1950 Nov.	5 items	Folder 2
Letter from Hiroko Mizokuchi to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan)	1950 Nov. 2	1p.	



Letter from Toshiko Yagi to Coralie Guertin
(Yahata City, Japan)

1950 Nov. 2 1p.

November 2, 1950

Dear Miss Coralie Guertin
How are you? I glad 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 Center High School
It is a school of about one thousand boys
and girls. I have lived here in Yahata
almost all of my life. where are you
from?
Have any brothers or sisters?
I have two sisters or 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 you

yours Sincerely
adresses

Toshiko Yagi
4 Chome
Nigashiro-temmachi
Yahata

Letter from Maasako Takahasi to Coralie Guertin
(Yahata City, Japan)

1950 Nov. 3 1p.

4-chome,
Hamadomachi
Yahata city.

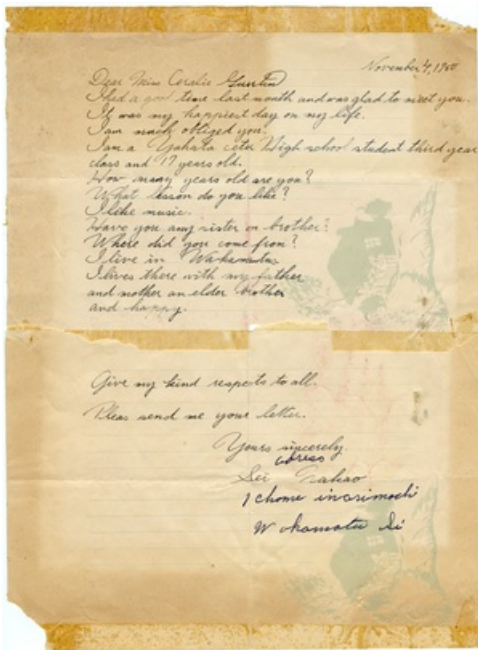
Dear Miss Coralie Guertin, November 3rd, 1950

Last day I visited your school and saw
you and who was studying happily.
Thank you for your kindness.
Where do you live?
I wish to have a chance to meet you again.
Please send me your letter.

Yours sincerely,
Maasako Takahashi.

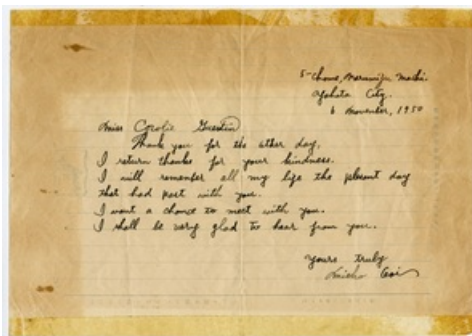
Letter from Sei Nakao to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan)

1950 Nov. 4 1p.



Letter from Micho Oai to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan)

1950 Nov. 6 1p.



Photographs

ca.1950

9 items

Folder 3

Matsuri celebration

ca.1950

▶ Japanese flute players at Matsuri celebration
[commercial image, labeled no. 1]

ca.1950



▶ Close-up of men on a float in a matsuri procession [commercial image, labeled no. 2]

ca.1950



▶ Elaborate float depicting a samurai on horseback in a matsuri procession [commercial image, labeled no. 3]

ca.1950



▶ **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



Kokura Dependent School: *The Jigoku* [yearbook]

ca.1951

Folder 4

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

Contributors

- Lajoie, Coralie Guertin **[main entry]**
- Kokura Dependent School

Genres and formats

- Photographs

Link to similar SCUA collections

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