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.

See similar SCUA collections:

Japan

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...
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ephemera</th>
<th>1950-1951</th>
<th>9 images</th>
<th>Folder 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kokura PTA presents: The Students of Fukuoka Liberal Arts College / Four dances and on act play</td>
<td>ca.1950</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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Letters from Japanese schoolchildren

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<th>Letter from Hiroko Mizokuchi to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan)</th>
<th>1950 Nov.</th>
<th>5 items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1950 Nov. 2</td>
<td>1p.</td>
<td></td>
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Letter from Hiroko Mizokuchi to Coralie Guertin (Yahata City, Japan)

Dear Miss Guertin,

Thank you very much. When we talked on your letters last day, I had happy time for your kindness. We could understand your school life and we were satisfied to yourself sincerely. I think of your girls' school and your school education. Please convey my thanks and kind regard to your friends (Mr. Choma Haruo and Miss Haruo). I should be very glad to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

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

1950 Nov. 2  1p.

Dear Coralie Guertin,

How are you? I hope to see you when I come to your country. I grade very well in school, I will write to you about myself. I am 15 years old now. I am a student in high school. I will graduate in a few months.

I am writing this letter because I have a lot of school work to do. I don't have time to write. It's almost all of my hopes, which are you present.

How are weather and winter? I have many friends in this weather and all like it. I hope we will have more cold weather.

I am glad to write to you and look forward for a letter from you.

Yours sincerely,
Toshiko Yagi

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

1950 Nov. 3  1p.

Dear Coralie Guertin,

How are you? I hope to see you when I come to your country. I grade very well in school, I will write to you about myself. I am 15 years old now. I am a student in high school. I will graduate in a few months.

I am writing this letter because I have a lot of school work to do. I don't have time to write. It's almost all of my hopes, which are you present.

How are weather and winter? I have many friends in this weather and all like it. I hope we will have more cold weather.

I am glad to write to you and look forward for a letter from you.

Yours sincerely,
Maasako Takahasi
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

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**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

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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
Japan