

Nishikawa, Dan Toru, 1906 - 1991
Various Papers, Photos, and Cassette Tapes, 1924 – 1987
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) Resource Center
Archival Collection 6 (AR6)
.75 linear feet

Abstract: Dan Nishikawa was a journalist, artist, and musician (singer and orchestra leader). Included in the first box in this collection are miscellaneous photos, correspondence, and news articles about Dan Toru Nishikawa and his family. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Nishikawa was sent first to the Sand Island Camp and then to Honouliuli Internment Camp. He recorded life inside both camps through his drawings and writings. (Note: The Resource Center also has original art works and shell crafts by Nishikawa done at Sand Island and Honouliuli Internment Camps.) Also included are newspaper articles in Japanese about the internment of Japanese Americans from Hawaii; several of Dan Nishikawa's drawings of camp life are among the illustrations.

The collection's second box primarily includes documents focusing on Dan Toru Nishikawa as a talented musician, who had a passion for promoting Japanese music in Hawaii. This box includes his musical arrangements, photos of his Japanese orchestra, newspaper articles and photos pertaining to Japanese singing competitions in which Nishikawa was a judge, and his handwritten contestant scores. It also contains haiku poems and calligraphy art that were given to him from friends.

Restrictions: There are no access restrictions on the materials and the collection is open to all members of the public in accordance with state law. However, the researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of libel, privacy, and copyright which may be involved in the use of this collection.

Biography:

Dan Toru Nishikawa was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i on January 2, 1906. He was sent to Iwakuni, Japan for his education. When he returned to Hawaii, he attended Mid-Pacific Institute to learn English. He worked at the *Nippu Jiji* newspaper prior to his internment in September 1942.

Dan Nishikawa was originally taken to the Sand Island internment site, where the conditions were harsh for the detainees. When Sand Island camp closed, he was relocated to the Honouliuli internment site. He recorded life inside both camps with drawings and writings. In an interview later in life, he recalled being interrogated about his two brothers being officers in the Japanese Army in Manchuria and Japan.

Like Minoru Harry Urata, he enjoyed music and was a talented musician. In 1928, Dan Nishikawa became the orchestra conductor of the first Japanese orchestra in Hawaii, called the Nippon Gengakudan (Nippon Orchestra). The Nippon Gengakudan performed both Japanese and Western songs and became the house band at the Nippon Theater during its silent film screenings. Dan Nishikawa also had a harmonica band prior to WWII and composed his own music. However, he was most known for being a journalist.

After his release from the camp in May 1944, he went into a trade program, becoming a truck mechanic and later a construction mechanic at Hawaiian Pineapple Company. Later, he also became a judge of Japanese music/singing contests on Oahu, Maui and Hawai'i.

Dan Toru Nishikawa died on June 2, 1991.

[Source of biographical notes: The biographical notes above were drawn primarily from information provided by Albert Nishikawa, Dan's son. Additional information was taken from the *Densho Encyclopedia* article on Dan Nishikawa that was authored by Brian Niiya and Patricia Wakida: <<http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Dan%20T.%20Nishikawa/>>]

Scope and Content:

Box 1

Photos include a class picture in front of Kawaiaha'o Hall at Mid-Pacific Institute. Dan is in the second row, second from the right.

Correspondence between Dan and his wife, Grace, prior to a family visit and dated May and June, 1943, shed light on how requests could be made by internees and filled by their families.

Other photos include: a formal wedding photo, candid photos taken in later years of immediate and extended family, including Jean Ariyoshi, sister of Grace Nishikawa and former First Lady and wife of Governor George Ariyoshi.

There are also an assorted number of photos with Japanese writing on the back. The writing has been translated by Resource Center volunteer Marian Okada. There are also candid photos of Duke Kahanamoku and Johnny Weismuller.

It also contains a photo of child actors in "Taira No Koremori" kabuki theatre costumes from Hawaii Jodo Shu High School in 1926.

Box 2

The documents, photos, and cassette tapes in this box showcase Dan Toru Nishikawa's love of music and the involvement he had with Japanese music in Hawaii. This collection contains

photos of Dan while he was the conductor of the Nippon Gengakudan, the first Japanese Orchestra in Hawaii. It also contains Dan's handwritten sheet music for his musical arrangement of "Sunset Beach" and "The Hawaiian Girl who Sells a Lei." Dan Nishikawa also composed a musical arrangement for a "100 Year Immigration to Hawaii" song, with lyrics written by Mr. Enomoto.

This collection also includes photos and newspaper articles of Dan Toru Nishikawa when he was a judge of amateur Japanese singing contests, in which the winner would receive a chance to fly to Japan for training to become a professional singer. The collection contains some of his handwritten notes of the scores he gave to contestants while he was judging.

Recorded on a CD and cassette tape is a song called "Gunjin Hanayome" by Dan Toru Nishikawa and Grace Amemiya. Also included is a cassette tape with several Japanese songs.

This box also contains haiku poems and calligraphy art that were given to him from friends.

See Also These Related JCCH Resources:

- "Dan Toru Nishikawa Memoirs #1 and #2." Photocopies of the original handwritten Japanese memoirs are in the JCCH Patsy Saiki Archival Collection (AR 18, Box 2, Folder 9). The English translations of these memoirs are in the JCCH Resource Center book collection, call # H 940.5317 NIS. Copies of both the original hand-written Japanese memoirs and the English translations are available online in PDF through a link in the online catalog record for the translated memoirs. Memoir #1 appears to be a handwritten memoir by Dan Toru Nishikawa that was submitted to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) for its public hearing in Seattle, Washington in September 1981. He addresses the unjust conditions he witnessed at the Sand Island Detention Camp and the Honouliuli Internment Camp. He describes medical emergencies, living conditions, lack of food, interactions with other prisoners-of-war, and the move to Honouliuli.. After submitting the first memoir to the CWRIC, he wrote a second memoir adding more details about the injustices faced by the internees.
- Several original sketches, an assortment of shell displays and necklaces, and woodwork pieces by Nishikawa, all done at Sand Island and Honouliuli Internment Camps—plus a harmonica owned by Dan Nishikawa—are in the JCCH Internment Artifacts Collection.

Acquisition: Donated by Albert K. Nishikawa (Dan Nishikawa's son), Honolulu, HI.

Processing: Processed by Jane Kurahara, Resource Center volunteer, June 2013. Updated by Marcia Kemble, Resource Center Manager, October 2015. Updated by Claire Tsutsumi, Resource Center volunteer, July 2016.

Translations: Marian Okada, Resource Center volunteer, July 2013 (photo text translations); Ari Uchida, Resource Center volunteer, October 2015 (newspaper articles translations).

JCCH Resource Center AR 6:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Statistics about Dan Toru Nishikawa, n.d.
- Folder 2: 1924 Iwanaka Track & Field Sports Dept. 5th year group.
- Folder 3: Mid-Pacific Institute class picture in front of Kawaiaha‘o Hall, 1926. (*This photo has been scanned & added to the JCCH Historical Photos collection, #2853.*)
- Folder 4: Photos – Duke Kahanamoku and mother, J. Weismuller, 1926; Kahanamoku on surfboard, n.d.; Johnny Weismuller & Duke Kahanamoku, 1926, participated in Osaka Swimming event/on board Tenyomaru ship; American Swimming Athletes Olympics—J. Weismuller, Buster Crabbe, Bill Smith. (*These photos have been scanned & added to the JCCH Historical Photos collection, #2854-2857.*)
- Folder 5: Wedding Photo of Dan & Grace Nishikawa (*This photo has been scanned & added to the JCCH Historical Photos collection, #2858.*)
- Folder 6: Hawaii Immigrants 50th Anniversary, the morning of visit to the (Japanese) Consulate, circa 1935.
- Folder 7: Correspondence between Grace & Dan Toru Nishikawa, 5/31/1943 and 6/6/1943, re Internment visit and requested items.
- Folder 8: News articles: “Memories That Remain Interned Forever,” *Honolulu Advertiser*, 9/9/1981, by Beverly Creamer; “Isle group testifies today for internment redress,” *Honolulu Advertiser*, 9/9/1981.
- Folder 9: Photos of Dan Nishikawa, 1983; Dan & Grace Nishikawa, n.d.
- Folder 10: *The Hawaii Hochi*, Section D1 – D10, 10/25/1988. This series of articles, written in Japanese, is about the internment of Japanese Americans from Hawaii, and several of Dan Nishikawa’s drawings are used to illustrate the articles.
Note: These articles have been translated into English by JCCH volunteer Ari Uchida; the translations have been included in a booklet along with other translated articles about the internment of Hawaii’s Japanese Americans that is cataloged in the Resource’s Centers book collection. See “Internment Camp Stories” (JA 940.5317 INT, RC# 15.181).
- Folder 11: Asamamaru Maiden Voyage—in Honolulu port. Nihon Yusen Company Motorship, Oct. 18, [not certain of the year].
- Folder 12: New Year Ariyoshi’s Party @ Washington Place; On a plane to Japan; At Gov. Ariyoshi’s New Year reception, n.d.
- Folder 13: Nishikawa photo album, n.d.
- Folder 14: Photo of child actors in “Taira No Koremori” kabuki theatre costumes from Hawaii Jodo Shu High School, 1926.
- Folder 15: Photos of Dan Toru Nishikawa and family

Box 2:Dan Nishikawa as a Band Leader and Music Composer

Folder 1: Nippon Gengakudan members (band); KGU—violin photo, n.d.

Folder 2: List of songs performed in Dan Toru Nishikawa's Harmonica Solo and his Harmonica Band, 1928.

Folder 3: Sheet music and musical arrangements written by Dan Toru Nishikawa (in English and Japanese), n.d.

Folder 4: Handwritten sheet music for "Sunset Beach," which was arranged by Dan Toru Nishikawa (written in Japanese), 11/27/1949. On the other side are handwritten lyrics for a song about a Hawaiian girl who sells a lei; the lyrics were written by Kawazoe and the melody arranged by Dan Toru Nishikawa (lyrics are blurred and written in Japanese), n.d.

Folder 5: Japanese Song lyrics, n.d.

Folder 6: Toru Nishikawa & Grace Amemiya, Gunjin Hanayome, <Hawaii Shochiku Orchestra> Audiocassette & CD, n.d.

Folder 7: Songs on cassette tape, n.d.

Side A: Wagakokoro no uta
 Kage o shitaite
 Jinsei no namikimichi
 Futari wa wakai
 Midori no chiheisen
 Aoi Sebirocle
 Onna no kaikyū
 Ai no komado
 Shirai tsubaki no uta

Side B: Jinsei gekkijo
 Otako no junjo
 Tokyo rhapsody
 A sorenanoni
 Uchi no nyobo nya hige ga aru
 Byakkotai
 Tokyo musume
 Seishun nikki
 Sake wa namida ka tameiki

Dan Nishikawa as a Japanese Singing Competition Judge

Folder 8: Photo of Dan T. Nishikawa at the KPOA Broadcasting Station, 11/23/1947.

Folder 9: Dan Toru Nishikawa's handwritten list (in Japanese) of contestants and his scores at the KZOO Radio Station's Japanese singing contest show, 2/25/1967. "100

Year Anniversary Immigration Song” lyrics (Japanese) written by Mr. Enomoto of Hilo and musical arrangement (count of rhythm) composed by Dan Toru Nishikawa, 3/3/1967.

- Folder 10: Radio KOHO’s program for their Talent Show and produced by Toru Nishikawa, March 6th (year unknown). The program is written in Japanese.
- Folder 11: Newspaper article and photo of 15 participants in KOHO Radio Station singing competition, n.d. Newspaper article and photo of participants in KOHO singing contest on March 28th, year unknown. Newspaper article and photo of participants in KOHO’s children’s signing contest, n.d. Newspaper article and photo of KOHO singing competition participants on August 21st (year unknown) and the final takes place on the 28th (the winner was to receive a chance to go to Japan for training to become a professional singer). Judge Dan Toru Nishikawa’s handwritten scores for the contestants, n.d. (Newspaper articles and scores are written in Japanese.)
- Folder 12: Japanese Chamber of Commerce Red & White Song Festival, KOHO Radio, 3/14/1973.
- Folder 13: KOHO Radio 20th Amateur Singing Contest: President Soga presenting plaque of appreciation to Chief Judge Toru Nishikawa; Announcer Tsutomu Izuhara, 6/2/1984.
- Folder 14: KOHO Amateur Contest—photos of those who participated in contest and served as judges, 3/21/1971 or circa 1987.

Miscellaneous Haiku Poems and Calligraphy Art

- Folder 15: A Japanese haiku about Hawaii written by four women and given to Dan Toru Nishikawa, 6/7/1973.
- Folder 16: Japanese haikus about spring written by eight of Dan Toru Nishikawa’s friends and given to him, n.d.
- Folder 17: Calligraphy art given to Dan Toru Nishikawa and written by Shimizu, n.d. Calligraphy art by Mr. Nishikawa, n.d.