

Elizabeth Lee Abbott Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2023086631>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms024016>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2024

Collection Summary

Title: Elizabeth Lee Abbott Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1855-2006

Bulk Dates: 1972-1986

ID No.: MSS86631

Creator: Abbott, Elizabeth Lee

Extent: 100 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 0.7 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Chinese

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2023086631>

Summary: Chinese American social worker, archivist, and educator. Writings and reference material of Abbott pertaining chiefly to issues concerning Chinese Americans, especially Chinese American Christians.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Elizabeth Lee Abbott were given to the Library of Congress by Abbott in 2009.

Custodial History

The papers of Elizabeth Lee Abbott were part of the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection in the Library of Congress's Asian Division. In 2023, the collection was transferred from the Asian Division to the Manuscript Division.

Processing History

The papers of Elizabeth Lee Abbott were arranged and described by Shandra Morehouse in 2024 upon transfer to the Manuscript Division.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Elizabeth Lee Abbott can be found in the Amistad Research Center, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Elizabeth Lee Abbott is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elizabeth Lee Abbott are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Elizabeth Lee Abbott Papers, Asian American Pacific Islander Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1952	B.A., San Francisco State College, San Francisco, Calif.
1954	M.A., Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Conn.
1965-1968	Field coordinator, Institute for International Studies, University of California, San Francisco, Calif.
1968-1969	Director, Chinese YWCA, San Francisco, Calif.
1969-1971	Social worker, International Institute of San Francisco
1974-1975	Staff assistant for affirmative action, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
1976-1977	Caseworker, Children's Protective Services, Holyoke, Mass.
1977	Published with Kenneth A. Abbott "Chinese Pilgrims and Presbyterians in the United States, 1851-1977," <i>Journal of Presbyterian History</i> , Summer 1977, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Penn.
1979	Presented "Liberation of the Past, Liberation by the Past," Second Annual Meeting of the Asian Assembly for Policy Research, New York, N.Y.
1979-1981	Fieldwork instructor, Hong Kong Polytechnic
1981-1983	Planning commissioner, Hong Kong Girl Guides' Association
1983-1984	Consultant, Ethnic History Project, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.
1986	M.L.S., University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.
1986-1987	Conservator, Alaska Polar Regions Department, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Ala.
1988	Archivist, Historical Archives of Florida
1989-1992	Archivist, Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida
1992-1997	Archivist and conservator, Episcopal Diocese of California
1997-2000	Archivist, American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elizabeth Lee Abbott span the years 1855-2006, with the bulk of the material dating between 1972 and 1986. The collection documents Abbott's academic writings and interests during her career as a social worker and later as an archivist for religious organizations. The papers are primarily in English with some Chinese. The papers are organized into two sections: Abbott's writings and printed matter she collected. The writings section includes "Chinese Pilgrims and Presbyterians in the United States, 1851-1977," an article Abbott published with her husband, Kenneth A. Abbott, and a speech she delivered in 1979 at the Second Annual Meeting of the Asian Assembly for Policy Research titled "Liberation of the Past, Liberation by the Past." This section also includes unpublished writings, such as a school term paper and a paper on affirmative action. The printed matter section features research material on the Asian American experience with a specific focus on Chinese Americans and Chinese American theology. Also included is a book about the Japanese American internment during World War II and a copy of the first issue of the Anglo-Chinese newspaper *The Oriental: or, Tung-Ngai San-Luk*, published in San Francisco in 1855.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged by type of material and then alphabetically by title thereunder.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Abbott, Elizabeth Lee.

Organizations

Asian American Pacific Islander Collection (Library of Congress)

Subjects

Asian Americans--Social conditions.
Chinese American newspapers.
Chinese Americans--Religion.
Chinese Americans--Social conditions.
Chinese Americans.
Christians--United States.

Places

United States--Social conditions--20th century.
United States--Social conditions--21st century.

Titles

Oriental: or, Tung-ngai san-luk.

Occupations

Archivists.
Chinese American archivists.
Chinese American educators.
Chinese American social workers.
Educators.
Social workers.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	"Affirmative Action in Higher Education: Theory and/or Practice," 1976
BOX 1	"Chinese Pilgrims and Presbyterians in the United States, 1851-1977," 1976-1977 (2 folders)
BOX 1	"Economics and the American Dream, 1800-1865," 1973
BOX 1	"Letter to the Editor," <i>Amerasia</i> , Fall 1972, 1972
BOX 1	"Liberation of the Past, Liberation by the Past," 1978-1979
BOX 1	"Opportunities Seized, Opportunities Missed," circa 1998
BOX 1	Printed matter
BOX 1	<i>The Asian in the West</i> by Stanford M. Lyman, 1970
BOX 1	<i>Chinatown San Francisco</i> by Phil Palmer and Jim Wallis, 1960
BOX 1	<i>Chinese America: History and Perspectives</i> by the Chinese Historical Society of America, 2004
BOX 1	"Chinese Christian Youth Conference" edited by Mary Fong, 1945
BOX 1	<i>A History Reclaimed: An Annotated Bibliography of Chinese Language Materials on the Chinese of America</i> by H. Mark Lai, 1986
BOX 1	<i>In Good Conscience: Supporting Japanese Americans During the Internment</i> by Shizue Seigel, 2006
BOX 2	<i>The Oriental: or, Tung-Ngai San-Luk</i> , first issue, 1855
BOX 2	<i>The Theologies of Asian Americans and Pacific Peoples</i> by Roy Sano, 1976 (2 folders)