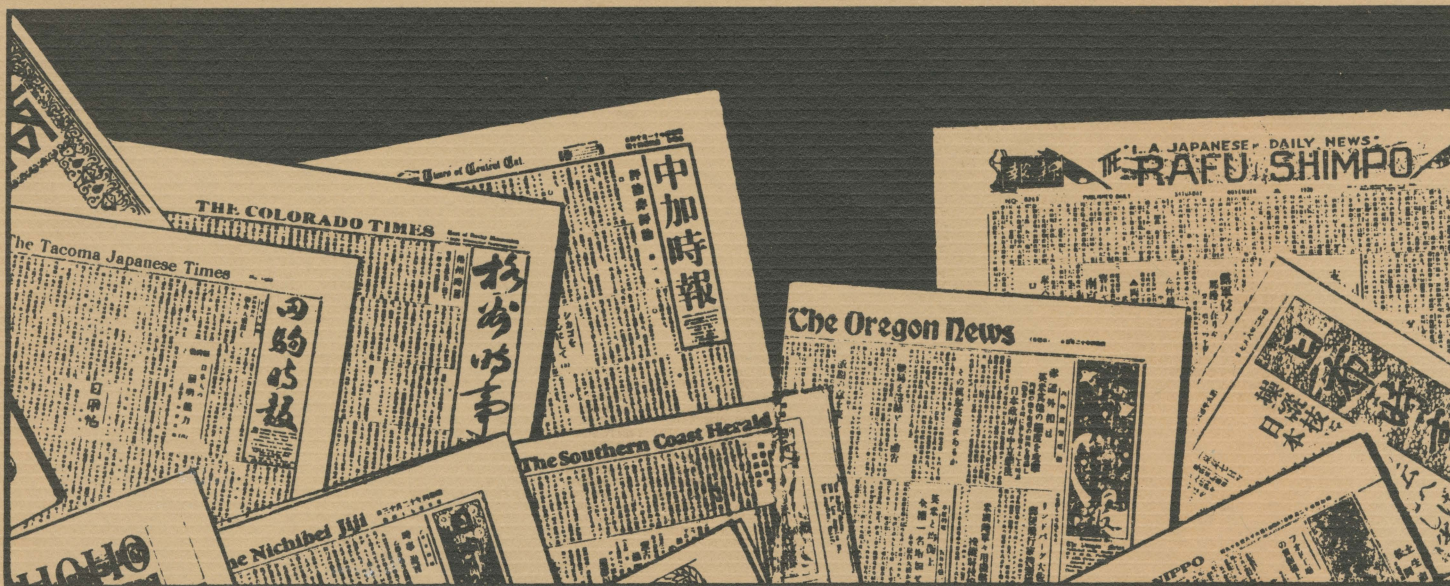


# COMING OF AGE IN THE THIRTIES:

## The Nisei and the Japanese Immigrant Press

### An International Conference



Design: Russell Leong

September 14 - 15, 1985 Los Angeles, California

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The Japanese American Cultural and  
Community Center, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles

Co-sponsored by the Asian American Studies Center, UCLA, and the Japanese  
American Cultural and Community Center

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Endowment for the Humanities, and the Times Mirror Company





ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

The purpose of this conference is to explore the 1930s through an examination of the Japanese immigrant press. Vernacular newspapers flourished within Japanese immigrant society before World War II. In California alone, there were six dailies and seven weeklies. Preserved for the most part, these bilingual newspapers constitute rich primary sources.

Past and recent studies of Japanese-Americans during the wartime years either ignore the thirties altogether or treat the decade in a very cursory fashion. Most studies concentrate on the dramatic events of World War II. Some offer general histories of the imprisonment of Japanese-Americans; other cover specific phases or aspects of the mass uprooting. None establishes a historical link between the thirties and the wartime years.

In terms of Japanese-American history, four broad historical themes characterized the decade: the Great Depression and its impact on Japanese immigrant society; the coming of age of the first-born Nisei and the crystallization of the second-generation problem; the Sino-Japanese conflict and its effects on Japanese immigrant communities and United States-Japan relations; and the resurgence of anti-Japanese agitation.

This conference will explore these broad historical themes through individual papers, panel discussions, and a public forum. Through this multiple format, we hope to increase and enhance public knowledge of Japanese-Americans during the 1930s and contribute towards an understanding of the historical continuities and discontinuities between the thirties and the wartime years.

*Yuji Ichioka*  
Conference Director

September 14, 1985  
Los Angeles



**COMING OF AGE IN THE THIRTIES:  
The Nisei and the Japanese Immigrant Press**

**Schedule of Sessions**

**September 14, Saturday, JACCC**

**9:00-9:30** Plenary Session: Introduction and Welcome, Conference Room

**9:45-11:00** Presentation of Papers

1. Harry Kitano, "The Pre-War Japanese American Press: Remembrances and Evaluation," Discussants: Howard Imazeki and James Hirabayashi, Chairperson: Richard Kenmotsu.

Sumitomo Room

2. Harry Honda, "The Nisei Beat: The Day-to-Day Grind," Discussants: James Omura and Vince Tajiri, Chairperson: Togo Tanaka.

South Gallery

3. Karl Yoneda, "The Radical Nikkei Press During the Twenties and Thirties," Discussants: Norio Tamura and Masamori Kojima, Chairperson: Yasuo Sakata.

New Meiji Room

**11:15-12:30** Presentation of Papers

1. Norio Tamura, "Japan and the Japanese American Leftist Press," Discussants: Karl Yoneda and Seizo Oka, Chairperson: Yuji Ichioka.

Sumitomo Room

2. Richard Kenmotsu, "Tamotsu Murayama: Example of Kibei Dualism," Discussants: John Fujii and Bill Hosokawa, Chairperson: Vince Tajiri.

New Meiji Room

3. Togo Tanaka, "The Rafu Shimpō and the Nisei, 1936-1942: Coping With Racism and the Threat of War," Discussants: Joe Oyama and Jerrold Takahashi, Chairperson: Dyke Miyagawa.

South Gallery

**12:30-1:30** Lunch



September 14, Saturday (continued)

1:30-2:45 Presentation of Papers

1. Vince Tajiri, "Larry Tajiri: The Vagaries of a Spectator," Discussants: Harry Honda and Arthur Hansen, Chairperson: Kats Kumitsugu.

South Gallery

2. Yuji Ichioka, "A Study in Dualism: James Yoshinori Sakamoto and the Japanese American Courier, 1928-1942, Discussants: Frank S. Miyamoto and Dyke Miyagawa, Chairperson: Richard Kenmotsu.

New Meiji Room

3. Yasuo Sakata, "Fujii Sei and Kashu Mainichi Editorials, 1936-1942: Protests or Inginburei?," Discussants: Togo Tanaka and Eiji Hazumi, Chairperson: Masamori Kojima.

Sumitomo Room

3:00-4:00 Panel: Nisei Writers and the Immigrant Press,

Conference Room

Chairperson: Yasuo Sasaki

Panelists: Mary Korenaga Sutow  
James Omura  
Hisaye Yamamoto  
Mollie Oyama Mittwer  
Joe Oyama

4:00-5:00 Dramatic Reading by Pacific Asian American Women  
Writers--West, Produced and Directed by Emma Gee.

Participants: Momoko Iko, Joyce Nako, Velina Houston,  
Wakako Yamauchi, Rose Matsui Ochi, Sue K. Embrey,  
Sharon Maeda, and Emma Gee

5:30-7:00 Reception, JACCC Plaza

September 15, Sunday, Theater

11:00-12:15 Presentation of Papers, JACCC

1. Shigehiko Shiramizu, "The Japanese American Press in Hawaii," Discussant: Gary Okihiro, Chairperson: Harry Honda.

New Meiji Room

2. Katsuhiro Arai, "People's Rights Advocates in the Thirties," SPECIAL LECTURE IN JAPANESE, Discussant: Teruo Ariyama, Chairperson: Norio Tamura.

Sumitomo Room

12:15-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 Keynote Address, Yori Wada, Regent, University of California

Japan America Theater

2:45-4:15 Panel: The Nisei and the Thirties

Chairperson: Yuji Ichioka

Panelists: James Omura  
Kazu Iijima  
Jiro Kobashigawa  
Togo Tanaka  
John Fujii

4:15-5:15 Public Forum

5:15-5:30 Summation and Closing Remarks



## Conference Participants

### American Scholars

Yuji Ichioka, Conference Director and Research Associate, Asian American Studies Center, UCLA.

Yasuo Sakata, Coordinator/Researcher, Japan Exchange Program, UCLA.

Harry Kitano, Professor of Social Welfare and Sociology, UCLA.

Frank S. Miyamoto, Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, University of Washington.

Jerrold Takahashi, Lecturer, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

Arthur Hansen, Professor of History, California State University, Fullerton, and Editor, Oral History Review.

James Hirabayashi, Professor of Anthropology, California State University, San Francisco.

Gary Okihiro, Associate Professor of History and Director of Ethnic Studies, University of Santa Clara.

### Japanese Scholars

Norio Tamura, Professor of Communication, Tokyo Keizai University, Tokyo.

Shigehiko Shiramizu, Associate Professor of Sociology, Takachiho College of Commerce, Tokyo.

Katsuhiro Arai, Staff Researcher, Machida City History Project, Tokyo.

Eiji Hazumi, Professor of English, School of Music, Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts, Nagakute.

Teruo Ariyama, Professor of History, Seijo University, Tokyo.

### Japanese American Participants

Harry Honda. Retired editor, Pacific Citizen. Born 1919, Los Angeles. BS, Political Science, Loyola University, 1950. Editor, Belmont High Sentinel, 1936; Sports Staff, Rafu Shimpō, 1937-1938; Sports Editor, Rafu Shimpō, 1938-1939; English Editor, Sangyo Nippo, 1939-1940, and Nichibei, 1941; Editor, Pacific Citizen, 1952-1982. Currently, General Manager/Operations, Pacific Citizen.

### Japanese American Participants (continued)

Bill Hosokawa. Retired journalist, Denver Post. Born 1915, Seattle. Began newspaper career, 1933, Japanese American Courier. Worked on newspapers in Singapore, Shanghai, Heart Mountain WRA Camp, and Des Moines, Iowa. Joined Denver Post, 1946. Continuous column, Pacific Citizen, since 1942. Author of seven books and numerous magazine articles. Currently, roving editor, Japanese edition, Reader's Digest.

Kazu Iijima. Retired. Born 1918, Oakland, California. Graduate, University of California, 1939. Father, Kando Ikeda, Issei newspaperman, publisher and editor, Hokubei Hyoron, 1926-1941. Active member, Japanese American Committee for Democracy, New York City.

Howard Imazeki. Retired journalist. Born 1907, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. Arrived 1918; raised in Sacramento. Graduate, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, 1934. Journalist, Nichibei, Hokubei Asahi, and Shin Sekai Asahi. Japanese language instructor, Navy Language School, Boulder, Colorado. Employed by Office of War Information also during World War II. Postwar, journalist, Hokubei Mainichi.

Richard Kenmotsu. CPA, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. Born 1945, Amache, Colorado, Sansei. Research interest in Japanese American history.

Jiro Kobashigawa. Semi-retired. Born 1914, Phoenix, Arizona. Raised and educated in Motobu, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, 1920-1931. Returned, 1931. Employed as agricultural fieldhand, fruitstand worker, and gardener. Spent wartime years mostly as sugar beet and potato harvest worker in Idaho. Gardener in Los Angeles in postwar years. Past President, Okinawa Club.

Masamori Kojima. Retired. Born 1922, Los Angeles. Graduate, Roosevelt High, 1940; B.A., Haverford College, 1944. Editor and publisher, labor publications and house organs, including Chicago Shimpō, Crossroads, and Scene, 1946-1956. Executive Assistant, Mayor Bradley, 1968-1978; and public relations work.

Mollie Oyama Mittwer. Retired writer. Born 1907, Fairfield, California. Graduate, Sacramento High School, 1925, and San Francisco Training School, 1928, a Methodist school for training missionaries. Studied journalism, USC, 1934-1935. Frequent contributor of essays and short stories, Kashu Mainichi, Rafu Shimpō, Nichibei, Shin Sekai, and Japanese American Courier. Essays also appeared in Common Ground.

Dyke Miyagawa. Retired. Born 1915, Seattle. Combined labor activity with journalism before and after World War II. Briefly with wartime Pacific Citizen with Larry Tajiri, moved on to public relations staff, national CIO, and a major health organization before going on into corrections. Managing editor, Scene, early 1950s.



Japanese American Participants (continued)

Seizo Oka. Retired, Vice President and Trust Officer, California First Bank. Born 1917, San Francisco. Educated and worked in Japan, 1929-1948. Currently, head of Japanese American History Room, California First Bank, San Francisco.

James M. Omura. Retired landscape contractor. Born 1912, Winslow, Bainbridge Island, Washington. Long work experience in salmon canning, railroad, lumber, and produce industries. Associated with various immigrant newspapers as editor and columnist, 1933-1940. Publisher, Current Life, 1940-1942. Columnist and editor, Colorado Times, Rocky Nippon, Rocky Shimpō, 1942-1944.

Joe Oyama. Retired. Born 1912, Suisun, California. Studied journalism, Los Angeles City College. Frequent contributor, Kashu Mainichi, Rafu Shimpō, Nichibei, and Shin Sekai; co-editor, English section, Sangyo Nippo. Also member of League of Nisei Writers and Artists.

Yasuo Sasaki. Retired physician. Born 1911, Sugar City, Idaho. BA, University of Utah, 1933. Associate editor, Pen, University of Utah magazine. Founder, publisher, and editor, Reimei, 1931 (probably first Nisei literary magazine). Editor, English section, Shin Sekai, summer, 1934. Ph.D., Chemistry, 1936, and M.D., 1941, University of Cincinnati. Frequent contributor to Nisei press. Author, two volumes of poetry.

Mary H. Korenaga Sutow. Retired. Born 1914, Montrose, Colorado. Educated in Colorado and Utah. Contributed poetry and short stories to various Japanese immigrant newspapers. Sunday columnist, Kashu Mainichi, 2 years, under pseudonym, Hanako Matsuda.

Vince Tajiri. Retired Photography Director, Playboy. Born 1919, Los Angeles. Long career as photographer, editor, designer, and writer. Associated with Nichibei before World War II. Author, Valentino, 1977.

Togo Tanaka. Businessman. Born 1916, Portland. Completing 7th year, Director, Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco; chairman and founder, Gramercy Enterprises, owners of real estate in 26 states. BA, Political Science, UCLA, 1936. English editor, Kashu Mainichi, 1934-1935, and Rafu Shimpō, 1936-1942. Publishing career in Chicago, 1945-1955. Returned to Los Angeles and entered business world.

Yori Wada. Retired Executive Director, Buchanan YMCA, San Francisco. Born 1916, Hanford, California. Graduate, Journalism, University of California, 1940. Active in many civic organizations and recipient of numerous awards. Currently, member of Board of Regents, University of California.

Japanese American Participants (continued)

Hisaye Yamamoto. Writer. Born 1921, Redondo Beach. Contributed essays, poems, and book reviews to Frontier, Current Life, Rafu Shimpō, Kashu Mainichi, Crossroads, and other publications since age fourteen. Short stories have appeared in Partisan Review, Kenyon Review, Arizona Quarterly, Harper's Bazaar, and Furioso.

Karl Yoneda. Retired longshoreman. Born 1906, Glendale, California. Educated and lived in Hiroshima, Japan, 1913-1926. Labor activist, newspaperman, and writer. Editor Rodo Shimbun, 1933-1936. Author of three books.

PACIFIC ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS--WEST (PAAWW-W). Formed in 1978, PAAWW-W is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to fostering the artistic development of women writers of color and to promoting Asian Pacific American literature and history through the arts. PAAWW-W has performed on stage and radio. It has specially produced programs for national and local conferences, for community benefits, and for private and public corporations.

Kats Kunitsugu. Executive Secretary, JACCC. Born, 1925, Los Angeles. Lived in Japan, 1933-1937. Graduate, Hollenbeck Junior High, 1940; Heart Mountain High, 1944; and University of Wisconsin, Journalism, 1948. Journalist experience with Heart Mountain Sentinel, Crossroads, and Kashu Mainichi.

Conference Staff

Conference Director:	Yuji Ichioka, Research Associate Asian American Studies Center, UCLA
Coordinator	Stan Yogi
Planning Committee:	Richard Kenmotsu, Vince Tajiri, Togo Tanaka, Harry Honda, Kats Kunitsugu, Masamori Kojima, Dyke Miyagawa, Chris Iwanaga, and Yasuo Sakata
Publicity:	Dyke Miyagawa and Harry Honda
Leaflet and Program:	Russell Leong
Video Taping	Takashi Fujii and Russell Leong
Support Staff:	Glen Omatsu, Warren Furutani, and the Manzanar Committee



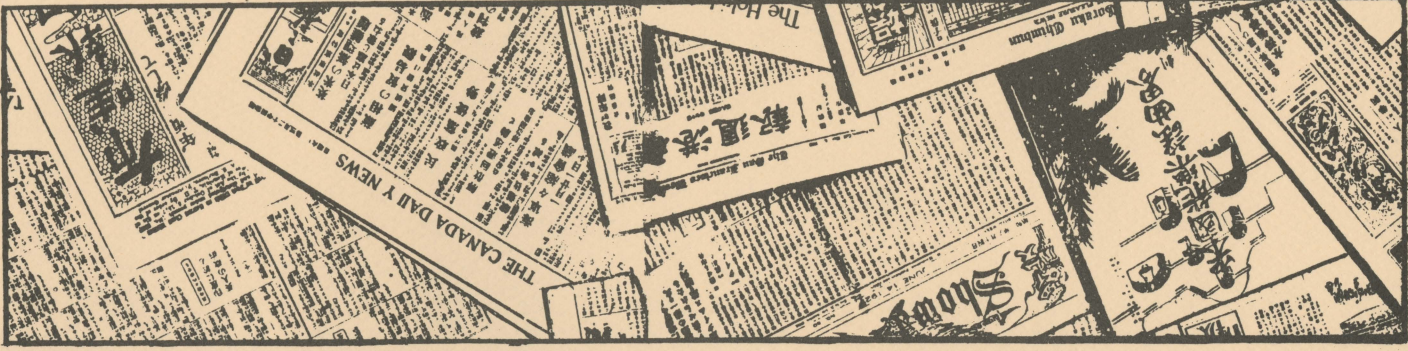
THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER is one of four ethnic studies programs of the University of California, Los Angeles. As a result of the joint efforts of students and faculty to provide new perspectives on the Asian American experience, the Center was established in 1969. Extending beyond the classroom and campus, the Center's vision and work is based upon meeting the needs of Asian American communities.

Although the Center is recognized formally as an organized research unit, it serves as a focal point for a variety of Asian American concerns on the UCLA campus. These include ongoing research; a publications program; curriculum development and classes; a Master of Arts program in Asian American Studies; and extracurricular activities for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.

A major goal of the Center is to research and disseminate information on Asian Americans. The Center publishes the national interdisciplinary Amerasia Journal, which contains original articles on the birth and development of Asian American communities, and their social, political, and literary aspects.

The Asian American Studies Center is divided into five program units under the general administrative support of Center Management. The five program units are:

Research  
Curriculum Development  
Student/Community Projects  
Resource Development  
Reading Room  
and Publications





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