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Tashichi George Uyeno fonds Accession 2023.11

Elizabeth Carroll, 2023

Table of Contents

<i>Tashichi George Uyeno fonds</i>	1
Biographical note	3
Scope and Content	3
Series 1: Personal and Business	4
Series 2: Godfrey Uyeno	5
Appendix	5

Biographical note

Tashichi Uyeno was born July 4, 1904 in Hikon, Japan. His father was Mohachi Uyeno (1873 – 1959), and his mother was Miyoko Uyeno. Tashichi immigrated to Canada with his father in June of 1911. He had a sister, Mary (1916 – [1949]), and a brother Kenjiro (d. 1939). Mohachi's brother Shuchi Fukunaga (b. 1890), eventually came to British Columbia as well. Mohachi was a skilled oar maker and worked for The Tommy Oar Co. Tashichi would go on to become an agent and broker for Richmond Trading Company which worked to import goods from Japan to Canada and the United States. In 1934, he returned to Japan to marry Akiko Shimano (1912-2005). They would later have two children, Shoichiro Godfrey Uyeno (1935-) and Haruyo Kathleen Uyeno (1938 – 2022). The children were born and raised in Vancouver until the forced removal from the coast during WWII. By then, the family had crisscrossed the Pacific, as Mary Uyeno was now living in Shiga, Japan with her mother, since 1931. Kenjiro passed away in 1939, so his wife and children went to live with Mary and Miyoko. Eventually, Mary would marry and have three children. Though she desperately missed Canada and her life there, she would never return.

Prior to 1940, Tashichi had begun to use the name George T. Uyeno in business matters. By then he was a successful businessman, with agents in both Japan and the United States. He entered as a shareholder with his father into the Vancouver Shoyu Manufacturers Limited, to begin manufacturing soy sauce in British Columbia, a commodity and product highly anticipated by many in the area. All the investors were Japanese Canadian, and by 1942 all of them were forced to sell their shares of the company to John Lim and King Chan. The family was forced to sell much of their personal assets and property, including land in North Vancouver. The family resided in Vancouver for as long as permitted, eventually going to Tashme, B.C. Shuchi Fukunaga also lived with the family in Tashme, though exiled to Japan in August of 1946. The Uyeno family moved frequently in these years, traveling from Tashme, to Kaslo, eventually settling in Blenheim, Ontario in 1946. George passed away July 10, 1994.

References: Conversation held with son and donor, Godfrey Uyeno.

Scope and Content

1914-2018

4 boxes, measuring 1.17 linear meters

The material is mix of textual materials encompassing many details of the Uyeno family's life from mostly 1939 to 1947. Many early records were created from the daily business of Tashichi George Uyeno's business, Richmond Trading Company. The records are intermixed with letters from Mary Uyeno, who aided the business from Japan. Her letters include business information but also more personal discussions about family matters. They offer a glimpse into the life of many Japanese Canadians who grew up in both countries, identifying as both Canadian and Japanese.

Records also include correspondence with the Office of the Custodian, as the Uyeno's assets were seized and sold. There is also official notices from the Office of the Custodian notifying the family to move further east and eventually to Ontario. Letters from the later part of the 40s are in regards to the Bird Commission and the sale of larger assets, such as the family's property in North Vancouver.

Note: Records written in both English and Japanese.

Arrangement: Many of the business records were housed on old two-hole clipboards. File titles were taken from the title of the clipboard or notebook if available. File titles in square brackets have been created by the Archivist to best describe the records. There was no discernible order in which box the clipboards were in or the loose papers.

Access: No restrictions on access, except when handling material where there are preservation concerns.

Series 1: Personal and Business

1914-2018

3 boxes, measuring 0.64 linear meters

Records created and collected by Tashichi Uyeno, primarily from 1939 to the early 1950s. They were kept in two-hole clip boards, and somewhat organized based on his business needs at Richmond Trading Company. The records are telegrams, handwritten letters, ledgers, and typed communication. They cover his proceedings with banks, as since he was importing and exporting goods, he had to balance multiple currencies. He also aided his father's oar company, and some of the ledgers track his sales and costs. Letters from his sister in Japan are interspersed and offer a look into his personal life.

There is a shift in the records as WWII continues and Japanese Canadians are sent to internment camps. His records also cover this period, though they shift from Richmond Trading Company, to Uyeno's writing to the Office of the Custodian, arguing for the proper evaluation of his personal belongings and forced sale of his assets. His letter to his sister continue and chart the family's needs in Japan as well.

Arrangement: Though the records were organized primarily in clipboards, each clipboard was often a mix of material, from business to personal. This perhaps speaks to the personal unavoidable personal nature of being a business owner. There was no discernible way to separate material into strict categories while also respecting the original way the records had been filed onto clipboards.

Access: No restrictions on access, except when handling material where there are preservation concerns.

Boxes: Box 1, Box 2, Box 3

Series 2: Godfrey Uyeno

1955-2005

1 box, measuring 0.53 linear meters

Godfrey Uyeno, George Tashichi's son, went on to join the Royal Canadian Air Force in in the 1950s. This series contains material relating to his time in the military. He flew in a CF-100, was an all-weather interceptor in a two-man crew consisting of a pilot and navigator. Godfrey, the navigator, directed the pilot to intercept enemies using radar. He served as navigator during his tour from 1958 to 1963 and spent the rest of his time with the Royal Canadian Air Force on ground jobs.

Arrangement: No discernable arrangement was created by the donor besides grouping this material relatively together. Thus, no arrangement was applied to these files besides placing them in their own series.

Access: No restrictions on access, except when handling material where there are preservation concerns.

Boxes: Box 4

Appendix

Series 1: Personal and Business

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.11.001	Empire Import & Export Corporation, Standard Import & Export Corporation, Local Filatures Corporation	November 2, 1939 – December 2, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.002	Empire Import & Export Corporation, Standard Import & Export Company, Local Filatures Corporation	September 8, 1939 – November 15, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.003	Raw Silk Importers Incorporated	August 30, 1939 – November 17, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.004	Petersburg Hosiery Mills Inc.	December 23, 1939 – April 23, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.005	Oscar Heineman Corporation	December 16, 1939 – July 19, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.006	[Empire Import & Export Corp. correspondence]	July 17, 1939 – October 31, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.007	Richmond Trading Company - Sales Statement	August 6, 1940 – December 12, 1941	Box 1

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.11.008	[Handwritten business letter]	April 23, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.009	[Notepad]	[194-]	Box 1
2023.11.010	[Canned Sazae and Vacuum bottles]	October 28, 1939 - March 11, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.011	[Bill from A. H. Young]	November 29, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.012	Richmond Trading Co.: Acct. of San Tai Kung SSU	1940 - 1941	Box 1
2023.11.013	Destructive Insect and Pest Act Advisory Board	[after 1934]	Box 1
2023.11.014	[Hikawa Maru]	August 13, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.015	[Invoices for imports]	1939 - 1940	Box 1
2023.11.016	Department of National Revenue Excise Tax Entry	May 14, 1939 - July 3, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.017	[Notes]	March 3, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.018	[Correspondence with the Foreign Exchange Control Board]	January 8, 1940 - March 5, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.019	[Customs forms]	November 13, 1939	Box 1
2023.11.020	[Family letter]	July 11, 1939 - January 31, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.021	Private code words	[1939]	Box 1
2023.11.022	[San Tai Kung Ssu]	October 3, 1939 – January 27, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.023	[San Tai Kung Ssu and family letters]	April 2, 1939 – April 13, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.024	Mohachi Uyeno - Canadian Currency Ledger Book	October 17, 1939 – March 1942	Box 1
2023.11.025	Richmond Trading Co. - Acct of San Tai Kung Ssu	January 1940 – March 1942	Box 1
2023.11.026	[The Tommy Oar Co.]	December 15, 1936 – July 20, 1938	Box 1
2023.11.027	Form BDE - Foreign Exchange Control Board	November 28, 1939 – February 19, 1940	Box 1
2023.11.028	Income Tax	1939 - 1940	Box 1
2023.11.029	[Vancouver Shoyu Manufacturers Ltd.]	December 20, 1941 – December 25, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.030	[Tashme, B.C.]	1943 - 1945	Box 1
2023.11.031	[Foreign Exchange]	November 6, 1940 – January 26, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.032	[Foreign Exchange Control Board]	October 26, 1939 – October 28, 1950	Box 1
2023.11.033	[Vancouver Shoyu Manufacturers Ltd.]	1939 - 1942	Box 1

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.11.034	Mohachi Uyeno - Canadian Currency Journal Book	August 1939 – January 1942	Box 1
2023.11.035	Vancouver Shoyu Mfgs Ltd	July 1939 - 1941	Box 1
2023.11.036	Catalogue of Real property for Sale by Public Tender, No. 2 Issue	1943	Box 1
2023.11.037	[Excise Tax Entry for Thomas M Uyeno & sons Company]	August 26, 1940 - February 25, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.038	[Directors of Vancouver Shoyu Manufacturers]	March 17, 1943	Box 1
2023.11.039	Articles and Memorandum of Association, Vancouver Shoyu Manufacturers Limited	October 23, 1941	Box 1
2023.11.040	Memorandum of Agreement	May 18, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.041	[Sales Record]	1930 - 1942	Box 1
2023.11.042	[North Vancouver House]	May 11, 1939 – April 14, 1947	Box 1
2023.11.043	Richmond Trading Co./Canadian Currency General Journal	July 1939 – March 1942	Box 1
2023.11.044	[Ledger]	1932 – [194-]	Box 1
2023.11.045	Stock on Hand	August 1939 – [1941]	Box 1
2023.11.046	Petty Cash Book	March 1940 – May 1941	Box 1
2023.11.047	Richmond Trading Co.: Canadian Currency Ledger Book	July 1939 – March 1941	Box 1
2023.11.048	[Guide for Tokyo Metropolitan area]	[194-]	Box 1
2023.11.049	[World map]	[194-]	Box 1
2023.11.050	[Happy New Year]		Box 1
2023.11.051	Wartime Prices and Trade Board License Identification	Before March 31, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.052	Driver's License	February 1, 1945	Box 1
2023.11.053	[GM badge]	[19--]	Box 1
2023.11.054	[Ration books]	194-	Box 1
2023.11.055	City of North Vancouver Ferry Department	[194-]	Box 1
2023.11.056	[Life Insurance]	July 1923 – November 1, 1958	Box 1
2023.11.057	[Office of the Custodian Japanese Section]	November 24, 1942	Box 1
2023.11.058	[Akiko Uyeno citizenship]	After 1947	Box 1
2023.11.059	Naturalization Certificate	December 3, 1927	Box 1
2023.11.060	Application for Certificate of Qualification	After 1953	Box 1
2023.11.061	[Autograph book]	1927 - 1930	Box 2

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.11.062	Statutory Declaration of Tashichi Uyeno	March 24, 1941	Box 2
2023.11.063	Certificate of Canadian Citizenship	April 26, 1956	Box 2
2023.11.064	Commemoration of Canadian Citizenship	[19--]	Box 2
2023.11.065	[Mohachi Uyeno identification]	May 18, 1940 – May 26, 1941	Box 2
2023.11.066	[Tashichi Uyeno identification]	June 10, 1931 – [1987]	Box 2
2023.11.067	[Letter addressed to Akiko Uyeno]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.068	[Letter addressed to Mrs. M T Uyeno]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.069	[Letters addressed to Mr. M. T. Uyeno]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.070	[Envelope of letters]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.071	[Letter from Wels]	October 31, 1928	Box 2
2023.11.072	[Department of Labour Japanese Division]	June 8, 1948	Box 2
2023.11.073	[Tashme, B.C.]	1945	Box 2
2023.11.074	Pupil's Progress Card	September 1943 – June 1945	Box 2
2023.11.075	[Notebooks]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.076	[Postcards]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.077	[Correspondence from Old Age Pension Board]	January 24, 1947	Box 2
2023.11.078	Custodian Release Form	November 24, 1943	Box 2
2023.11.079	Office of the Custodian Japanese Section	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.080	[Letter to John Lim and King Chan]	May 19, 1942	Box 2
2023.11.081	[Chartered Accountants]	May 1, 1942	Box 2
2023.11.082	[Old Age Pensions Commission]	January 8, 1948	Box 2
2023.11.083	Memorandum of Rental Contract	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.084	[Receipts]	May 28, 1942 – July 4, 1945	Box 2
2023.11.085	[Ocean Fisheries Limited]	May 16, 1942 – October 5, 1942	Box 2
2023.11.086	Canadian Pacific Railway Company Straight Bill of Lading	March 25, 1946	Box 2
2023.11.087	Income Tax	August 1949	Box 2
2023.11.088	[Reference letters]	1945	Box 2
2023.11.089	[Request to travel to Vancouver]	November 10, 1943 - November 11, 1943	Box 2
2023.11.090	[Letter from Webb]	November 7, 1946	Box 2
2023.11.091	[Letter to Mrs. A. Uyeno]	[194-]	Box 2

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.11.092	[Letter to Mrs. A. Uyeno]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.093	[Letter to Mr. + Mrs. T G. Uyeno]	June 1948	Box 2
2023.11.094	[Letter to Mr. T. Uyeno]	July 1946	Box 2
2023.11.095	[Letter to Mr. M Uyeno]	[194-]	Box 2
2023.11.096	[Letter 1]	[19--]	Box 2
2023.11.097	[Letter 2]	[19--]	Box 2
2023.11.098	[Immunization]	February 28, 1946 – October 6, 1947	Box 2
2023.11.099	[Selling of assets and correspondence]	1945 - 1950	Box 2
2023.11.100	*Former Eatonville Roadhouse one of five sites in Chatham-Kent to honour Japanese Canadians*	August 15, 2018	Box 2
2023.11.101	[School diplomas]	March 29, 1914 - March 26, 1916	Box 3
2023.11.102	International Correspondence Schools Diploma	March 25, 1932	Box 3

Series 2: Godfrey Uyeno

File number	File title	Date range	Location
2023.11.103	Royal Canadian Air Force	March 9, 1956 – March 3, 1958	Box 4
2023.11.104	Pilot Officer	October 16, 1957	Box 4
2023.11.105	The Object of Disciplinary Training	[195-]	Box 4
2023.11.106	Certificate of Service		Box 4
2023.11.107	[Photograph of Course 5516]	1955 - [1956]	Box 4
2023.11.108	Special Service Medal with NATO Bar	December 15, 2005	Box 4
2023.11.109	[Family history]	[20--]	Box 4