

University of Victoria Special Collections

Geddes, Herbert, 1877-1970

SC045

Title

Herbert Geddes collection

Dates

ca. 1910

Extent

100 photographs

Biographical Sketch

Herbert Geddes was a manager for G. R. Gregg and Company, importers and exporters, in Vancouver and Winnipeg. He was sent to Japan and was based in Yokohama between 1908 and 1918. Geddes was manager for Gregg and Company in Vancouver until the mid 1950s. He willed the glass slides to his nephew D. Boyce Geddes.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of photographic glass-plate transparencies depicting life in Japan, including scenery, street scenes, workers, farming, fishing, silk production, stone carvers, wood carvers, metal workers, potters, and artists. These "Yokohama photographs" were sold to foreign tourists between about 1868 and 1912, before cameras and postcards were generally available. They have been described in: Meiji no Nihon: Yokomana shashin no sekai: Saishoku arubamu. Yokohama-shi Yurindo, 1990. (Meiji Japan in tinted album: the world of Yokohama photographs -- includes bibliographical references).

Finding Aids

Item list available.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the collection.

SC045

GEDDES, HERBERT

Acc. 1987-001

Loc. Mss. 14.3 "Geddes"

Herbert Geddes fonds of Life in Japan circa 1910

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Note: slide #2 missing but a slide #21a is present.

Glass Plates

1. "Map of Imperial Government Railways" [relief map of Japan with "Noted Places of Interest Along the Lines"].
3. Man in local attire with loaded packhorses
4. Mother and children outside rural hut with waterwheel
5. River in mountains; raised bank with houses on one side; Japanese children on side of river
6. Buildings built up on stone walled riverbank with trees in background,.
7. Village on a bay - fields and hillside in foreground
8. Japanese people in local attire hiking through mountains
9. Large building (perhaps a temple) in wooded setting
10. Houses in the woods, river in foreground
11. River with manmade embankment and road on one side; line of buildings along embankment; forest on other side of river, town and mountains in background.
12. Japanese cherry trees in blossom on grassy bank beside waterways people strolling under trees; docks and boats with people.
13. Two boats with cloth canopies being rowed along river; wooded mountain on one side; rushing water in foreground.
14. Houses along bank of boulder-strewn river; wooden bridge across river; stone embankment below houses; laundry hanging at edge of embankment
15. Man with rickshaw on tall tree lined dirt road.
16. Two women in traditional dress posing outside house in tiny ornamental garden

17. Three deer standing on road in (cemetery) garden; large flowering cherry trees, evergreens and stone monuments.
18. Group of deer feeding on lawn in wooded garden; stone monuments and summer house in mid-ground
19. Iris garden beside water; wooden bridge to small roofed island; two women in Kimonos on bridge and one standing among flowers
20. People in traditional attire in park
21. Harbour of city; jetty with steamboats in foreground; other boats and buildings in background
- 21(a) Family in traditional attire having portrait taken in garden against fence
22. Curved red wooden bridge over river; forest in background
23. Curved stone bridge in rural area.
24. Two men landing boat on beach
25. People in boats on waterways through rice fields; snow-covered mountain in background
26. Snow-covered mountain (Fuji?) wreathed with clouds; low ground leading down to water in foreground
27. High stone embankments above river; line of trees on top of each embankments; tall building with temple roofs on one side; another building hidden behind trees on other side
28. Old woman with raised grinding stone; two little girls carrying babies on their backs looking on
29. Long red wooden covered bridge with ornamental roof; woods on either side of bridge, woods and mountain behind; water and landscaped point of land with flowers in foreground
30. Road, sidewalk, pavement; stone walls and bridge, lamp standards; buildings and trees in background
31. Lake side resort
32. Temple and houses on hill over valley filled with trees
33. Group of buildings set among trees; ornamental stone wall in front
34. Closeup of ornamental building embellished with gold
35. Japanese people (including some men in western dress) strolling through paved grounds among large stone lanterns; temples and pagoda
36. People in traditional attire and men in uniforms standing outside building with gilt trim
37. Series of red wooden gateways; stone animals on pedestals between first and second gateway
38. Unidentified building with some yellow roofs with pond and trees (including flowering plum trees)
39. Two people in costume posing in front of painted backdrop - one in grass coat and hat, carrying farm implement over shoulder and holding vegetables; the other, a woman in a blue dress with a red (overmantel), legs bare to the knees, wearing a white kerchief on her head and carrying a kettle in her hand
40. Rural women in local attire carrying large baskets on their backs.
41. Eight young women in beautiful Kimonos, four in wooden boat on water, four on bank beside boat, two of them holding open parasols
42. Two young women in Kimonos, one standing, one seated on wooden bench outside open greenhouses filled with blooming flowers

43. Four women smiling and leaning through openings in lattice work
44. People in special attire, with lanterns, posing for photograph.
45. Two (priests?) outside shrine
46. Three women with fans, musical instrument and a table set with food.
47. Three women with tea implements.
48. Tea implements in centre of richly furnished room.
49. Woman in traditional dress holding open parasol and carrying baby on her back
50. Men preparing for sumo wrestling outdoors
51. Interior shot of two geisha's asleep in bedding on floor mats Musical instrument, fan and implements for tea ceremony nearby
52. Man working over large wooden tub; rows of plants in pots all around; fish streamers flying overhead
53. [dashi] parade
54. People on street in traditional dress outside building decorated with large banners, lanterns and signs
55. Large stone Buddha
56. Crowd-filled street lined with banners and lanterns
57. Man painting shells
58. Man carving ivory statue of mother and child
59. Man beginning to carve lantern from block of stone
60. Tinsmith at work
61. Blacksmith at work
62. Painting vases [slide cracked]
63. Potter at work on lion figure
64. Potter making vase on wheel
65. Man painting parasols; painted lanterns in background
66. Men making clay moulds for giant masks
67. Man using handsaw on tree trunk
68. Men trimming edge of a plank
69. Men carving wooden furniture of intricate design
70. Making wooden barrels
71. Two boys using drill press
72. Group of women and one man watching young woman working on large embroidery
73. Old woman in shed heating substance in black pot
74. Open air ceramic shop
75. Two boats on river, a passenger boat being poled and a fishing boat filled with lidded open work baskets
76. People wading in sea; fisher with hand net; boats in background
77. "Papering Eggs for Next Year"
78. "Hatching of Silk-Worm Eggs"
79. "Gathering Mulberry Leaves"
80. "Feeding Silk-Worms"
81. "Gathering Cocoons"
82. "Sorting and Weighing Cocoons"
83. "Taking Silk From Cocoons"
84. "Reeling Silk in Large Skeins"

85. "Reeling Silk in Small Skeins"
86. "Examining Silk-thread"
87. "Sorting Silk"
88. Weaving (Silk) on hand loom
89. Hand-Weaving in factory
90. "Large Silk Factory"
91. Factories, external view
92. Machine-weaving in factory
93. Women working on hillside; rice fields and village below
94. Women preparing rice field in mud
95. Women planting rice
96. Women harvesting rice
97. Woman separating rice from chaff with steel "comb"
98. Women at work with children watching
99. Two women winnowing rice and man pounding rice flour
100. Rice being poured into a wooden mechanical hopper.