

Japanese Woodblock Prints

Japanese Woodblock Prints
circa 1900

Title Statement

Japanese Woodblock PrintsGuide to the Japanese Woodblock Prints MS 00293

Author: Christina R. Luers, CA

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2019-05-08

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 13:07:20 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00293

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/8520

Unit Date

circa 1900

Language

English

source

Williams, Caroline (Caroline H. Williams)

source

Williams, John Alden

Creator

Andō, Hiroshige, 1797-1858

Extent

4.0 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia, § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

Conditions Governing Use

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from the Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John Alden and Caroline Williams, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Japanese Woodblock Prints, Special Collections Research Center, William and Mary Libraries.

Biographical / Historical

Utagawa Hiroshige, also known as Andō Hiroshige, Utagawa Hiroshige, Ichiyūsai Hiroshige, and Andō Tokutarō was a Japanese artist born in 1798 in modern day Tokyo and is best known for his woodblock carvings and prints in the traditional ukiyo-e style of artistry stemming from the Utagawa school of training. His rise to fame as an artist was a slow process and he gradually honed his own unique skills in landscape and flora and fauna prints. In 1832 he made a trip between Edo and Kyōto along the famed highway called the Tōkaidō; he stayed at the 53 overnight stations along the road and made numerous sketches of everything he saw. He published a series of 55 landscape prints titled Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō—one for each station, as well as the beginning of the highway and the arrival in Kyōto. The success of this series was immediate and made Hiroshige one of the most popular ukiyo-e artists of all time. He died in 1858 having produced over 8,000 works. Works consulted for this summary: www.publicdomainreview.org, metmuseum.org, www.britannica.com

Scope and Contents

Framed prints, portfolio collection, and loose woodblock prints featuring various Japanese artists from the 19th Century. Notably, Hiroshige I. (1797-1858), Kunimaru (1794-1829), and Yoshitishi (1839-1892).

A Listing of the collection is as follows: Ukiyo-e The Floating World containing ten woodblock prints. Six loose woodblock prints of Watanabe. Ukiyo-e triptych Woodblock print depicting a master and servant praying to the moon. Utagawa Kunimaru, a woodblock print Ukiyo-e depicting actor Iwai Kumesaburo in a female role during the late Edo Period (1789-1868) Ando Hiroshige, also known as Utagawa Hiroshige, Ichiyusai Hiroshige and Hiroshige I, woodblock print titled "Fujisawa; Yagyogi" depicting a torii and bridge. Ando Hiroshige oban ukiyo-e woodblock print titled "Numazu (Twilight), 1833-1834, from the 53 Stations of the Tokaido Road. Toto Yukimi Hakkei (Eight Snow Scenes in the Eastern Capital) Eight woodblock prints. More detailed information of the woodblock prints can be found by clicking on the items listed in this collection guide.

Keywords

Art, Japanese

Prints, Japanese

Art, Japanese -- 19th century

Williams, Caroline (Caroline H. Williams)

Williams, John Alden

Uchida Art Co. LTD.. Kyoto Handicraft Center

Utagawa, Toyokuni, 1769-1825

Taiso, Yoshitoshi, 1839-1892

Description of Subordinate Components

The Floating World Woodblock Prints

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/318227

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Ten woodblock prints titled the floating world, bound in a green portfolio along with Japanese verse. Various artists are featured and have signed the woodblock prints.

Shotaro Sato Published Prints

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/318228

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2-10 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Eight scenes created by Hiroshige in the period between the last years of Tenpō (1842) and the duration of Kōka (1847) which is often referred to as Hiroshige's Golden Age of artistry. These drawings were completed by Hiroshige but never engraved and reproduced. Instead they landed in the hands of a Dutch merchant and eventually into the possession of Monsieur Emile Javal, a judge in France. In 1928, Javal offered them to Shataro Sato to etch the drawings and render them in the form Hiroshige would have done in regard to color. The series of eight prints depicts Yedo in the winter months. An ornamental portfolio to hold the prints is included in the collection. The titles of the eight prints are as follows: Takanawa Yoru no Yuki (A snow evening at Takanawa) Ueno Toeizan Shinobazu-ike (Toeizan temple and Shinobazu pond, Ueno) Meguro Fudo Keidai (Snow in the grounds of the Fudo shrine at Meguro) Susaki Yuki no Asa (Daybreak after a snowfall at Susaki) Asakusa Kinryuzan (snow scene at Kinryuzan Buddhist temple, Asakusa district) Sumidagawa Tsutsumi no Kei (View from the Sumida River embankment) Kasumigaseki no Yuki-agari (Street view, looking down the Kasumigaseki after a snowfall) Ryogoku Yuki no Yugure (Twilight view of the snow-clad Ryogoku bridge)

Watanabe Published Woodblock Prints

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/321807

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Six loose woodblock prints of Ukiyo-e scenes in Japan. Subjects are mostly Japanese women or geisha and some samurai images.

Kunimaru, Utagawa Print

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/323788

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

One print created by Utagawa Kunimaru depicting the actor Iwai Kumesaburo in a female role during the late Edo period.

Ukiyo-e triptych

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/324205

Mixed Materials Manuscripts Oversize Box 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Oversize_Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

One Ukiyo-e triptych depicting a Japanese mistress along with six of her lady servants walking along the banks of a river. One of the servants is holding a large umbrella over the head of the finely dressed woman

to shield her from the sun. The signature on each of the three prints appears to be of Toyokuni I (1769-1825). Source: www.ukiyo-e.se/signatur.html.

Hiroshige Woodblock Print

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/330094

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

One woodblock print created by Hiroshige depicting a torii and bridge scene. The title of the print is "Nihonbashi". It is station number 1, First Edition, in the 53 Post Stations of the Tokaido Highroad created by Hiroshige. This road connected Edo (Tokyo) to Kyōto. The drawing was created by Hiroshige in 1834, the print is from an undetermined date thereafter.

Hiroshige Woodblock Print

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/324663

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

One woodblock print created by Hiroshige depicting a torii and bridge scene. The title of the print is "Fujisawa; Yagyōgi". It is station number 7 in the 53 Post Stations of the Tokaido Highroad created by Hiroshige. This road connected Edo (Tokyo) to Kyōto. The drawing was created by Hiroshige in 1834, the print is from an undetermined date thereafter.

Hiroshige Woodblock Print

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/324664

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

One woodblock print created by Hiroshige depicting a torii and bridge scene. The title of the print is "Numazu" (Twilight). It is station number 12 in the 53 Post Stations of the Tokaido Highroad created by Hiroshige. This road connected Edo (Tokyo) to Kyōto. The drawing was created by Hiroshige in 1834, the print is from an undetermined date thereafter.

Yoshitoshi Woodblock Print

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/330085

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

One woodblock print created by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892) in the Ukiyo-e theme depicting a master and a servant praying to the moon. The title of the piece is "Hidetsugu in Exile" It shows Toyotomi Hidetsugu (1568-1595) and a companion imprisoned in Mount Koya Temple, not long before their death. A disgraced Samurai, Hidetsugu was exiled and expected to commit suicide. His family and household members were all executed. This is print number 75 in Yoshitoshi's "A Hundred Views of the Moon" series. Source consulted, yoshitoshi.verwoerd.info, www.ukiyo-e.se/signatur.html

Kagurazaka Dori [Kagurazaka Street after a Night Rain] by Yoshida Hiroshi

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464785

Unit Date 1929

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Japanese Painting on Silk

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/330086

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Painting of a blossoming tree with a blue bird perched on its branches. Background color is peach and leaves and blossoms on the tree are light red and white. Artist signature is on the print, but the artist is currently unidentified.

Japanese Painting on Silk

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/330087

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Painting depicting a farmer leading a horse in front of a thatched home. The horse is carrying straw on its back. The predominant portions of the artwork though are the trees surrounding the farmer, horse, and home. The dense leaves feature varying colors of green and pink blossomed trees are scattered throughout the painting among the green foliage. [The artist could be Masunobu (active 1848-1853) a.k.a. Kiyosada?]

Japanese Painting on Silk

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/330088

Mixed Materials 2 (Oversize_Folder)

Language English