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**“MIDWAY BETWEEN THE OCCIDENT AND THE ORIENT”
THE GLENN W. SHAW COLLECTION AT THE ASIA COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, MANOA**

Caitlin Nelson*

I. The Glenn Shaw Collection

Glenn Shaw was, among many things, a writer and professor who first went in Japan in 1913, and lived there, with the exception of a period of nine years from 1940-1949, until 1957. During this time he amassed a collection of more than 6,000 items, which, after his death, was donated by his family to the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1963. At the time, the collection was said to be the largest of its kind made to an American institution, and was one which “by itself would provide a major foundation to any university specializing in the field of Japanese studies,” according to then-director of the research collection, Raymond G. Nunn.¹ The Glenn Shaw collection was later transferred to the Asia Collection at Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii in 1970,² along with the entire East-West Center library, and is now integrated with the general Asia and East materials there, though some items have been moved to the Closed Shelves section for protection. The materials are mostly Japanese-language items--some dating as early as the Edo period (1603-1867)--though the collection also includes a substantial number of books in English, including reference works, language books, and Shaw’s own writings and translations. The materials can be identified by the unique bookplate that was commissioned at the time by the family for the collection.

II. Glenn W. Shaw

Glenn Shaw’s connection with Hawaii was both a professional and personal one. He taught at the Mid-Pacific Institute for two years before leaving for Japan for the first time in 1913, and he came back to teach at the University of Hawaii for one summer session in 1957 on his way home to Boulder, Colorado, and in the intervening years he became friends and colleagues with Gregg Sinclair, former University President, and other Hawaii scholars. Thus his life’s work in Japan was rounded by brief but memorable experiences in Hawaii, and after his death, his family thought it fitting that his collection of books be placed there.³ Shaw himself said in 1932, “I was like Hawaii, midway between the Occident and the Orient, really tied up with the Occident, but so nearly a part of the Orient that she wishes above all else friendship and brotherhood among her peoples.”⁴

Glenn Shaw was born in November 19, 1886 in Los Angeles, California, but moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado and graduated from Colorado College in 1910. He married Ms. Reba Hood, also of the class of 1910, and she traveled with him in subsequent years, along with their two children. From 1911 to 1913, he taught English at the Mid-Pacific Institute (also known as the Mills School) in Hawaii,⁵ before embarking on a sea voyage to Japan. Between the years 1913 and 1915, he traveled and taught in Japan, China, Korea, and India before settling permanently in Osaka, the city in Japan where he spent most of his time, and establishing himself there. From that point until 1940, he was variously engaged in all kinds of professional activities: he was a faculty member of the Osaka Foreign Schools; he taught at Yamaguchi, Kobe, and Osaka universities; he gave weekly broadcasts for NHK’s Osaka Broadcasting Station (JOBK), featuring commentaries and English lessons;⁶ he was a member of the editorial staff of the *Asahi Shimbun* (in both Osaka and Tokyo), and regularly wrote articles for the English section of that newspaper; he also translated and wrote several books, including one collection of poetry.

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It was during this time that Glenn Shaw became affiliated with an important group of modern Japanese writers, including Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, Kikuchi Kan, and Yamamoto Yūzo (who, actually, all knew each other from their early days at Tokyo University).⁷ He translated their works for the first time into English, and in fact, many of the plays he translated were later produced at the University of Hawaii.

By the late 1930s, there were the signs that war would inevitably come, and Shaw chose to take his family back to the United States. In 1941 he took a job as a research analyst at the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., and stayed there for three years before putting his impressive language skills to good use as the Director of the Navy Japanese School (or Navy School of Oriental Languages) at the University of Colorado. It was here that he gave a 1944 Commencement Speech on “America and the Orient” to the young students at the University of Colorado. In 1946, the family returned to Washington, D.C. when Shaw was appointed the Head of the Language Division at the Navy Intelligence School, and there they stayed for the next three years. Finally, in 1949 Shaw returned to his beloved Japan, to Tokyo, where he worked as the historian for the Department of State. His final career turn was made in 1952, when he became the Cultural Attaché for the American Embassy in Tokyo, and the culmination of all his cultural and historical knowledge about the two countries was put to work officially.

Shaw worked in Tokyo for another five years before deciding to finally leave Japan and retire in Colorado. The day before his departure, he received the Order of the Sacred Treasure. An editorial in the *Japan Times* wrote, regarding his leaving Japan, “There was complete incredulity in the voice [of Takashi Komatsu, President of the American-Japan Society] that asked, ‘Can you believe Glenn Shaw is leaving Japan?’”⁸ But leave he did, and on his way back made his final stop in Honolulu - to teach again, more than forty years after his first experience there. Shaw taught two summer session classes at the University of Hawaii, one on “Japanese Literature” and another on the “History of Japanese Culture,” then left for his ranch outside of Boulder, Colorado, where, four years later, in 1961, he passed away at the age of 75.

Glenn Shaw’s collection, amassed during these many years of living and traveling in Japan and the Pacific, was deposited at the East-West Center starting in 1963.⁹ The significance of Hawaii to Glenn Shaw seems clear, but to understand the significance of Shaw to Hawaii, we must first review a brief history of the University itself.

III. University of Hawaii Asia Collection - East-West Center - Hamilton Library

The University of Hawaii Library’s first permanent home came in 1912: two rooms in Hawaii Hall that housed its approximately 9,000 volume collection. Later, in 1926, a separate building, now George Hall, was built to hold the collection, then grown to around 47,000 volumes. By 1936 the library holdings had doubled, and a new wing was added to the building. Sinclair Library was constructed in 1956, and later served as the undergraduate library when Hamilton Library was built in 1968.¹⁰ During this time the Asia Collection was founded and began to grow both in size and prominence.

The study of Asia¹¹ has been prominent in the University’s curriculum since as early as 1920, when the Board of Regents established the Japanese Department, followed in 1922 by the approval of the Chinese Department. In 1928 the Department of Oriental Studies was formed, which offered these language courses, plus a few others in art and political science; by 1930, the university was ranked the third leading U.S. university in Asian Studies by the Institute of Pacific Relations. In 1935 the Oriental Institute was established by Gregg M. Sinclair--a leading force in promoting Asian Studies, and later to become president of the university--and was a fully operational integrated part of the University by 1938.

The significance of library materials was well recognized by Dr. Sinclair, who believed that a strong University Library would attract good students and scholars. The Oriental Institute started with some 650 titles in English on Japan and China; 350 titles (1500 volumes) in Chinese; and 600 titles (2500 volumes) in Japanese. With the acquisition of the Prince Fushimi collection, Sinclair believed it ranked sixth in number of volumes on the Far East among American college and university libraries. He planned that it continue to grow until

it had "an adequate library in the Japanese, Chinese, and Sanskrit languages" as well as the important works on the peoples of the three countries of Japan, China, and India. The library continued to grow with the addition of the Herbert A. Giles Chinese library and acquisitions gained during annual trips of its director, librarian and faculty. During World War II, an arrangement was made to obtain books published in China.¹²

Though Oriental Institute scholars were optimistic for the growth and progress of the Asia Collection, during WWII the opposite came true. The Oriental Institute was shut down, leaving behind only the Department of Oriental Studies to carry on coursework and research. Indeed all courses at the University were greatly minimized: the military had taken over a significant portion of the buildings for its operations, and student population was low. There was not enough money to fund classes and the salaries for the professors who still remained to teach them. Hawaii was especially hard-hit because of the devastating effects of the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941. The university was shut down for months afterward, and feelings toward the local Asian population, especially the Japanese-Americans and local foreign Japanese, were tense, to say the least. Some Asian-language classes, though controversial, continued to be taught through the war, but all major development at the University, especially in Asian Studies, halted during this time.

After the war was over, though, the University suddenly saw a boom in growth: the buildings were cleared of military presence, faculty resumed their courses, and the student population doubled in size due to the increase of military personnel who remained in Hawaii and wanted to take advantage of the new GI education benefits. In 1948 Gregg Sinclair became the President of the University. He had not forgotten his focus on Asian Studies and soon announced the formation of the Graduate School of Pacific and Asiatic Affairs. However, things moved slowly in the 1950s due to budget restraints and a general lack of interest. It was only in the late 1950s and early 1960s that Asian Studies suddenly experienced a great increase of interest nationwide. The economy was strong and Asian materials could be bought for lower prices, so Asian collections all over the United States expanded in both size and number.¹³ For Hawaii in particular this was a time of huge influx of federal support, for in 1959 Hawaii was granted statehood, and there was a tangible increase of funds and researchers pouring into the University.¹⁴ Last but not least, in 1959 the East-West Center was created as a federally funded institute and financed by an initial investment of \$10 million.¹⁵ It was at this point in time, at the intersection of these growing forces, that the Glenn Shaw collection became available.

IV. Conclusions

Why is this collection important to the Asia Collection - both now and then? At the time, in the early 1960's, it was crucial for the University of Hawaii to get new materials to support its growing Asian Studies fields, so surely they fought for this collection--the "largest of its kind"¹⁶--and when they did get it, it was certainly cause for celebration. The University of Hawaii was trying to position itself as the best place to study Pacific and Asian fields and needed to prove it was competitive with the California schools on the West Coast, and the Ivy League giants on the East. In 1979-1980 the Asia Collection ranked ninth in a list of the top East Asian Libraries in the United States;¹⁷ Hawaii currently ranks the lowest out of a list of the same ten libraries.¹⁸ As a lower-level public university, Hawaii simply does not have the same funds from which to draw as might a large private university; therefore, every private donation counts, and this one in particular was an excellent one.

For it was not only the size of the collection, but the contents which make it so appealing even today. In addition to published books, Shaw collected a variety of materials of the kind that would quickly become unavailable, like pamphlets and other ephemera, which are valuable for preserving the history of printing at the time. Not only this, but because he lived in Japan so long, he was able to collect materials from a broad time range. Even if he only collected materials as they became available, that is, works published in his lifetime, his time in Japan spanned such an important period in modern Japanese history--from the early 1900s through the tumultuous 1930s and the war years, into the late 1950s--that these materials alone would constitute an important collection. However, he not only collected modern works, he

collected Edo period and other early works as well, works which are rare and exciting samples of early print in Japan. Also, the range of subject matter in the collection continues to impress librarians today.¹⁹ Though his specialties were language, literature, culture and politics, he collected books on numerous other topics. Today, the materials in the Glenn Shaw Collection are still relevant and interesting works for both research and personal enjoyment. For these reasons the acquisition of the collection has made a lasting impression on the Asia Collection.

V. Research Issues

Several questions remain on this topic, most of which revolve around the exact nature of the donation by the Shaw family: besides the ones I have suggested in this paper, are there other reasons why the collection was given to the University of Hawaii over other universities? why is it not a "named" collection at Hawaii, like others in the Japan Collection?²⁰ What were the details of the transfer of materials to the East-West Center from the family, and from the East-West Center back to the Asia Collection? More research is need in these areas, in addition to a more detailed study of the East-West Center itself. Glenn Shaw led a fascinating life, and there is much more that can be gleaned. I encourage fellow scholars to take up where I have left off.

Primary sources for this paper were various newspaper articles, a few letters from private files, alumni material from Colorado College, the catalog for the Glenn Shaw Collection, and an interview with Tokiko Bazzell. I was unable to find any original records of the gift, either at the East-West Center or in the University archives. With the help of University of Hawaii Archivist Jim Cartwright I looked through the files of Stanley West, head librarian 1969-1977, in the University Archives, but found nothing there.

If I were to continue to search for documents, I would look through the files of Carl Stroven (head librarian 1943-1966); look through the files of Ralph Shaw (dean of library activities, 1966-1969); look through the files of the head of Asia Collection at the time (Joyce Wright); look through the files of Gregg Sinclair for more information about Asia matters. I might try to interview Lynette Wageman, previous head of Asia Collection from the early 1970's, as well as to try to find living relatives of Glenn Shaw (though, given the letter about the tax problems, even if they are still alive, they might not want anything to do with it). I might like to focus more research on materials from Japan to find records of Glenn Shaw's activities in Osaka at the *Asahi Shimbun* and JOBK, since it would certainly be interesting to hear some of the original recordings. I encourage future scholars to take up any number of these lines of research, and can only regret that I did not have time to pursue them all.²¹

¹ *Honolulu Advertiser*, “Japanese Collection to Center,” November 5, 1963.

² The history between the East-West Center and the Asia Collection in Hamilton would seem to be a fertile area for more study; in most histories the transfer of materials back and forth is presented as an innocuous official transfer, but according to Robert Kamins and Robert Potter in *Mālamalama: A History of the University of Hawaii*,

For several years the East-West Center functioned as an integral part of the University... Rather quickly, however, a polarization began that ended in separation and divorce... Competition was symbolized in a midnight raid by center staffers who carried off much of the Asian Collection from the University Library to the East-West Center. (The books were later returned after Hamilton Library was completed.) (79)

This would indicate there are more skeletons to be discovered in these closets than previously suspected.

³ It would have been interesting to discover more about the choice to place the collection at UH, but I was unable to obtain any of the original donation documents, and the only quote I was able to find was from Mrs. Shaw: “My son, my daughter and I wish to give the collection to the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii. We feel that it will be more useful there than in any of the other universities that have been suggested.” (*unknown newspaper*, Nov. 1, 1963) This quote does show that they were considering other locations, probably including Colorado College, Dr. and Mrs. Shaw’s *alma mater*, though it was certainly not a competitive college in terms of Asian Studies. Further research in this area would be informative.

⁴ *Colorado College Information Files*, Colorado College Class of 1910, “Glenn W. Shaw: Just Living - That’s All.” pp. 30-34. (These information files and other clippings came from the Colorado College Special Collections and Archive, care of Special Collections Curator and Archivist, Jessy Randall. For online indexes, see: <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/Library/SpecialCollections/Special.html>)

⁵ Glenn Shaw was a gifted writer, and I cannot resist including his description of his time spent in Hawaii, if only to give a hint of the flavor of his prose: “The Hawaiian Islands - but this won’t do. A skeleton is a skeleton, and I must refuse to put meat on one bone while I leave it off of others. That would make an abominable whole. Suffice it that I spent two years in Honolulu teaching the English language to Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Hawaiians, South Sea Islanders, and a few others. This English instruction was given in regular grades, beginning with the Primary and ending with the last year of High School. I had neither the highest nor the lowest, but working for two terms over the middle ground taught various sorts of elementary knowledge and picked up a lot of information that I had failed to absorb in knee-breeches days. Outside of working hours and during vacations I swam in a sea that is enticing the year ‘round, climbed through the tangled vegetation of mountains as steep as church roofs, tramped through extinct volcanoes and slept in an active one, rambled through Chinatown eating strange foods and smelling strange smells, caught crabs, harpooned sharks, collected shells, climbed cocoanut palms, and gathered tropical fruits. When my contract with Mills School had been fulfilled, I went to work for a botanist at the College of Hawaii and became a happy flower-chaser in the rich, wet forests. I also signed up in some courses at the College, but it was of no use. A man in love (and I was in love, with everything around me except the mosquitoes, that were as the stars for number, but hotter; and the cockroaches, perhaps, that were plentiful enough, altogether too big, and went off like firecrackers when one stepped on them; and maybe the ants, that had the first taste of everything; and possibly the mud, that stuck like tubs of antiphlogistine; and mayhap the sick wind, that brought sticky weather from the south; and perchance a filthy tenement district; and peradventure some other thing or two) is no fit subject to become a student. So, thinking of Ulysses in Lotus Land, I came away.” (*Colorado College Information Files*, Colorado College Class of 1910, “Glenn W. Shaw: Just Living - That’s All.” pp. 30-34.)

⁶ The accompanying textbook *Rajio eigo kōza kyōzai* (Shaw, Glenn. [Osaka]: JOBK, Osaka Hosōkyōku, 1926) can be found and enjoyed in the closed stacks of Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii; it includes grammar and vocabulary lessons as well as short readings, like “The Young Sparrow.”

⁷ *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan*. Available at www.ency-japan.com with subscription. Accessed December 13, 2005. Articles “Kikuchi Kan,” “Akutagawa Ryūnosuke,” and “Yamamoto Yūzo.”

⁸ *Japan Times*, May 28, 1957.

⁹ It seems, from a series of letters between the children of Glenn Shaw and various University officials, that there were some problems with the transfer process during the late 1960's and early 1970's - apparently the books were to be donated in parts, some each year, for tax purposes, but this became problematic when Mrs. Shaw herself died in 1967 "long before the transfer had been completed" (letter from John Stegmaier). At the same time that the transfer of materials from the East-West Center back to the Asia Collection was taking place, the heirs were seeking remuneration from the University. Clearly at some point the transfers were finalized, but it is unclear from the record exactly what was happening during this decade.

¹⁰ Kittelson, David. *History of the University of Hawaii Library*. 1976. (Typescript; "Draft prepared for the Hawaii Encyclopedia," available in Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii)

¹¹ In her history of the Asia Collection Susie Cheng provides an excellent brief introduction to the Collection, which I have paraphrased here, along with information from the also excellent *Mālamalama* (see below). Cheng, Susie, compiler. *History of the Asia Collection*, online, available at <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/uhmlib/collection/asia/history.html>. Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii, March 2002. Accessed December 13, 2005.

¹² Cheng, 2002.

¹³ Fukuda, Naomi. *Survey of Japanese Collections in the United States*. Ann Arbor: Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 1980. p. 1.

¹⁴ Kamins, Robert M. and Robert E. Potter. *Mālamalama: A History of the University of Hawaii*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998. pp. 77-80, 148-153.

¹⁵ Kamins and Potter, 1998. p. 77.

¹⁶ *Honolulu Advertiser*, November 5, 1963.

¹⁷ Fukuda, 1980. p.176.

¹⁸ Council for East Asian Libraries, *Statistics*, online. Available at: <http://wason.library.cornell.edu/CEAL>. Accessed December 13, 2005. It is unclear whether these ten would constitute the "top ten" today or not. The comparison is based on total number of holdings.

¹⁹ Interview with Tokiko Bazzell, Japanese Specialist, Hamilton Library. November 16, 2005.

²⁰ One possible answer is that most of the named collections in the Japan collection are specific to one topic: the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection focuses on Ryukyu (Okinawan) materials; the Takazawa collection deals with Japanese social movements; and the Kajiyama Collection consists of the personal library of the late novelist Toshiyuki Kajiyama. Perhaps the Glenn Shaw collection would not have been consistent enough in scope to merit its own division. Also, having a named collection entails more responsibility for the materials - and from evidence in letters about the attachment the family had to the books, perhaps this would have been enough to dissuade both the family and the University from insisting on giving the collection a name.

²¹ Finally, I would like to thank Tokiko Bazzell for providing the inspiration and initial momentum for taking up this project and Andrew Wetheimer for encouraging me to publish.

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