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## MG 491 - Grace Taylor Milne Collection

**Dates:** created and collected ca. 1933-1968, predominant 1937-1941

**Extent:** 1.42 m of textual records, books, 138 photographs, ~319 negatives, memorabilia.

**Biography:** Grace Elgin Taylor attended the School of Household Science at the University of Saskatchewan, and received her bachelor's degree in 1929. She subsequently received a master's in Home Economics. She went to Japan as a United Church missionary, remaining there from 1937 to 1941. She returned to Canada when war with Japan appeared imminent. She married Mervyn Milne 15 July 1942; they had two children, Courtney and Bonnie.

**Scope and content:** This collection primarily contains materials acquired by Grace Taylor during the three years she spent in Japan, just prior to the outbreak of World War II. In addition, the collection includes diaries from Grace, her husband and their daughter; and numerous family photographs.

**Restrictions:** Files marked as restricted require vetting by the archivist before release.

Donated to the University Archives & Special Collections by Bonnie Milne Nygren in 2014.

Related collections at the U of S: Courtney Milne fonds

*Original finding aid by Cheryl Avery, 2015. Edited for formatting by Amy Putnam, 2019.*

Books

[Bonsei].

Book cover.

Fabric cover with [ivory] clasp.

Boxed Set: Art and Artifacts.

Black and white images in envelopes; in Japanese. Water damage to case has not affected the prints.

Caiger, C. Dolls on Display: Japan in Miniature. – [ca. 1933].

Tokyo: The Hokuseido Press.

Calligraphy.

Notebook for practicing Japanese writing.

Fukukita, Yasunosuke. Cha-No-Yu: Tea Cult of Japan. – 1938.

Tokyo: The Hokuseido Press.

Halladay, Anne M. Toshio and Tama. – 1949.

New York: Friendship Press.

Handcrafted paper notebooks in case. – 1937-1938.

Separate notebooks inside: "Games;" "Flower Arrangements;" "Christmas Greetings." Each contains some notes written by Grace Taylor during her time in Japan.

Japanese [Hanko?] – Signature Seals/Stamps.

Accordion book of seals from cities, shrines, etc.

Koehn, Alfred. Japanese Tray Landscapes. – 1937.

Peking [Beijing]: Lotus Court Publications. First edition; with colour prints.

[Landscape Prints].

Book of prints; some appear to be tray landscapes.

[Landscapes].

Book of landscape images; many of which are tray landscapes.

Lee, Frank H. Tokyo Calendar. – 1934.

Tokyo: The Hokuseido Press.

Includes mimeographed notes on Nara inside; notes on artists.

Okakura, Kakuzo. The Book of Tea.

In Japanese and English. Some annotations. Some water damage to cover.

Tourist Library. – 1935-1939

Includes “History of Japan;” “Tea Cult of Japan;” “Kabuki Drama;” “Japanese Folk-Toys;” “Castles in Japan.” Some have water damage.

Unidentified.

Book in Japanese; given to Grace in 1939.

## **Box 2**

### Diaries

Bonnie Milne. – 1961-1968. – 3 folders. – **RESTRICTED.**

Covers the period from Grade 10 through University.

Grace Taylor Milne. – 1938-1946.

Includes “our wedding day” – 15 July 1942. Notations on birthdays extend to the 1970s.

Mervyn Milne. – 1934.

### Photographs, Pictures, Postcards

Pictures. – [ca. 1936-1939].

8 original watercolours, 15 woodblock prints [not original], 2 chromo-lithography illustrations.

Photographs. – 1937-1968. – 134 photographs.

Include images of Japan; 1314 Colony Street; trip to California; Ellis Hall; Bonnie (graduation); Grace and Mervyn’s 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; Milne Distributers; miscellaneous family photographs.

Negatives. - ~319 negatives.

Postcards. – [ca. 1930s]. – 26 postcards.

From Japan. Some have been annotated by Grace.

### Memorabilia

## **Box 3**

Bowls, plates, ceramics. Miniature dolls, carved stamp; ceramic container with ink; silkworm cocoons; miniature household [doll] furniture;

## **Box 4**

Tray landscape materials: porcelain tray; fabric items (silk jacket, cloths).

**Box 5**

Six scrolls of writing paper; 12 fans (some appear hand-painted); 4 dolls; wisk, etc.

**Box 6**

Tray landscape materials: miniature houses, figures bridges, trees, animals, etc.; tin container with brushes, sieve, spatulas, etc.

**Box 7 & 8**

Coloured sand and washes (powders) to create tray landscapes.

Loose: plate; box.

**2015-070**

**Box 9**

[Continuation of Japanese memorabilia]

Two plate and teacup sets. (One in white and gold, one in a leafy green outdoor motif)

Metal spoon. (geisha [?] holding an umbrella and shamisen)

Pin.

Keychain.

Green scarf (floral motif)

**Photographs / Postcards / Correspondence**

Tiny Saskatoon Star Phoenix – 8x10 cm.

Correspondence. 1927.

One letter from Uncle Gilpin to Mervyn.

Wedding invitation. – 1942.

Invitation to Grace Elgin Taylor and David Mervyn Milne's wedding.

Postcards. – 1916, 1923, nd.

Postcards to Mervyn Milne with messages on the back.

Photographs. – nd, [1900s]

Riverbank Farm – David Scott's Farm 12<sup>th</sup> Concession Township of Howick; Milne Brothers (Livingston, Courtney, J.G., Will, Gilpin); Ed Sparrow, Livingston Milne, Ella and John Harrison, Margaret Harrison (Milne); John George Milne, Jim & Jessie Donaldson