

# AARON M. COHEN PAPERS

*Accession no. 2009/9/7*

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Processed by James Henry Benson, 2018–2019  
Revised by Gail E. Lowther, September 2020

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Accession no. 2009/9/7

Shelf location: M1B 8, 1

Physical extent: 0.5 linear feet

### **Biographical Sketch**

Aaron M. Cohen (b. February 1938) is a scholar specializing in modern Japanese history and Japan's international relations, particularly before WWII and including subjects regarding political, economic and social history, and the performing arts. He received a B.S. in landscape architecture from Cornell University in 1957 and completed graduate work in Japanese Studies at Seton Hall University's Institute of Far Eastern Studies and post-graduate work at the Tokyo University of Agriculture.

Professionally, Mr. Cohen worked as an economist, consultant, translator, and educator. He lived in Japan for more than three decades, and, from 1985–1997, he served as Chief Financial Economist for Daiwa Institute of Research. Additionally, he taught for some time as an adjunct lecturer at Reitaku University in Chiba, Japan. As an independent scholar, he authored several articles pertaining to pre-WWII Japan in various scholarly journals (e.g., *Nanzan Review of American Studies*, *Bright Lights Film Journal*, *The Reitaku Journal*, *Monumenta Nipponica*), including discussions of the introduction and proliferation of European classical music in Japan from the 19th century onward.

### **Provenance**

The materials in this collection were the gift of Aaron Cohen, received in September 2009.

### **Scope and content note**

The collection contains press clippings, original writings, and other documents that detail European classical music in Japan in the 19th century and also in the late 20th century. The materials were collected by Mr. Cohen over the course of his research on the topic for an article for *Asian Cultural Studies*, vol. 23 (1997). Mr. Cohen's research later appeared as a book chapter:

Aaron M. Cohen, "The Stage is the World: Theatrical and Musical Entertainment in Three Japanese Treaty Ports," in *Culture, Power, and Politics in Treaty Port Japan, 1854–1899: Key Papers, Press and Contemporary Writings*, Vol. 1 (Historical Perspectives), edited by J. E. Hoare (Folkstone, Kent: Renaissance Books, 2018): 393–417.

## **Restrictions and Use**

Use of these papers is restricted to research purposes. In regards to any reproduction of any of the contents, the provisions of the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions do apply.

## **Associations**

RTWSC holds the professional papers and research notes of several musicology faculty and alumni, including performer-scholars. Particularly notable are the collections of Charles Warren Fox (ESM musicology faculty, 1932–70) and Alfred Mann (ESM musicology faculty, 1980–87), both of which preserve research materials and article drafts by the respective scholars; the collections of Malcolm Frager, Edward Waters (ESM alum, BM 1927, MM 1928), and Abram Loft (ESM chamber music faculty, 1979–1986) also contain distinct series of research materials.

Although the vast majority of the department's holdings and collections pertain to Western Classical music and its performance, RTWSC houses a handful of items relevant to non-Western music scholarship. The Boris Kremenliev Folk Studies Collection is comprised of books and research notes relating to Balkan, Slavic, and other Eastern European folk musics.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The Aaron Cobb Papers comprise one series of research documents in various formats (e.g., scholarly articles, press clippings). The items were originally organized in file folders, and the original organization and folder titles have been preserved in the headings.



*Image from front cover of brochure from the Yokohama Archives of History. From Aaron M. Cohen Papers, Box 1, Folder 1.*

# INVENTORY

## Box 1

- Folder 1 “Actualities and Influence of British & French. Kanami Naktake.”  
Kanami Naktake, “[Actualities and Influence of British & French Garrisons in Yokohama as the Time of Late Edo (Bakumatsu) and Restoration with Meiji.]” (article in Japanese), *Yokohama Kaikō Shiryōkan kiyō* [Annals of the Yokohama Archive of Port History], vol. 12 (March 1994): 1–33. Facsimile of article. 17 leaves (33 pp.).  
Also in folder: brochure from the Yokohama Archives of History. 1 color brochure.
- Folder 2 “Music Materials Exploration, Tokyo and Surrounding Area, Music Library Association.”  
Bound conference booklet, in Japanese; dated March 1979. 146 pp. Maps, programs, brochures, newspaper clippings, manuscript notes, and other documents interleaved throughout.
- Folder 3 “Newspaper clippings.”  
Facsimiles of newspaper articles from French- and English-language newspapers in Japan; dated from late nineteenth-century (bulk 1860–1874). Original order (not chronological) preserved. 107 leaves.  
Accompanied by manila folder labeled “The Stage is the World: Newspaper Copies.”
- Folder 4 “Premiere and Early Performances in Japan.”  
Drafts of four appendices from unidentified publication. 5 typescript drafts, with annotations in ink. 15 pp., 14 pp. (incomplete), 6 pp. (incomplete), 15 pp., 9 pp. (incomplete). Titles represented:  
- Appendix 1. Premiere and Early Performances in Japan.  
- Appendix 2. Amateur Performances by Sailors.  
- Appendix 3. Early Performances of Musical Compositions in Japan, Other Than by Sailors.  
- Appendix 4: Garrison Theatricals and Other Productions in Yokohama.
- Folder 5 “The Sino–Western Miscellany, being Historical Notes about Foreign Life in China,” by J. H. Haan. Volume 1.  
Spiral-bound volume. 111 pp.  
- Facsimiles of 3 newspaper clippings (1908, 1909, 1866) affixed to inside front cover and title page. 3 pp.

Folder 6 “Stage is the World.” [File of Japanese newspapers.]

*From folder labeled “Stage is the World.”*

Facsimiles of newspaper articles from English- and French- language newspapers in Japan; dated from 1872–1915. Original order (partially chronological) preserved. 201 leaves.