Shimura, Asao.


Abstract: Asao Shimura (born 1950) is a papermaker and authority on papermaking techniques and historical papermaking processes. He has published over twenty-five miniature handmade books documenting the history of papermaking and natural dyeing processes. Shimura exchanged letters and various paper samples with English printer Gilbert A. Beale between 1978 and 1980.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F946
Creator: Shimura, Asao.
Title: Asao Shimura correspondence with Gilbert Beale regarding Japanese papermaking
Extent: 53 items
Language: Materials predominantly in English. Newsletters and receipts also in Japanese.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F946, Asao Shimura correspondence with Gilbert Beale regarding Japanese papermaking, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Box 66, F946: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes
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Biographical Note

Japanese papermaker Asao Shimura (born 1950) is an authority on papermaking techniques and historical papermaking processes. He has published over twenty-five miniature handmade books on the history of papermaking and natural dyeing processes.

Shimura grew up in Tokyo and attended Tokyo Technical College, where he studied industrial chemistry and water analysis. After graduating in 1971, Shimura conducted an extensive tour of traditional papermaking and natural dyeing techniques throughout Japan. With a small platen press, Shimura began producing miniature books under the imprint of the Bunseido Press, which later became Cannabis Press (also referred to as CP). In December 2008, Shimura changed the press's name to Asa Press.

Sources:
Scope and Content Note


The correspondence includes receipts for paper purchases made by Beale and lists of other available items to purchase, including papermaking tools and Shimura's miniature books. Shimura and Beale discussed paper samples according to size and weight. The two also speculated on the etymology of washi (Japanese paper) names, such as kozo, mitsumata, gampi, and kuwa. Shimura also printed his Bunseido Press newsletters on his handmade paper; in the newsletters Shimura announced travel plans for workshops and lectures.

Also included is a letter from Shimura to Donn W. Sanford, who had inquired about Shimura's miniature books he had obtained from Beale. There are also two envelopes for which there are no associated contents.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Shimura, Asao--Correspondence.

Beale, G. A. (Gilbert Alexander)--Correspondence.

Corporate Names

Bunseido Press.

Cannabis Press.

Asa Press.

Cadenza Press.

Topical Terms

Paper, Handmade--Specimens.

Paper--History--20th century.

Papermaking--Japan.

Papermakers--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms

Japanese paper (handmade paper)

Correspondence.

Newsletters.

Occupation

Papermakers.

Personal Contributors

Beale, G. A. (Gilbert Alexander), correspondent.

Related Materials in this Repository
This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Bunseido Press sales material, 1978-1979 [Box 66 F946]

Includes printed receipt; lists of papermaking tools and titles by Shimura available for purchase; an issue of Shimura's Good News newsletter (January 25, 1979); an invoice; and Shimura's envelope addressed to Beale.

Letter from Shimura to Beale, 1978 August 14 [Box 66 F946]

Includes a price list for Shimura's handmade paper, five paper samples, a receipt from Bunseido Press, and Shimura's envelope addressed to Beale.

Letter from Beale to Shimura, 1979 April 16 [Box 66 F946]

Beale inquired about the naming of Japanese paper, the uses of indigo paper, printing on Amate paper, and Japanese governmental watermarking.

Letter from Shimura to Beale, 1979 June 20 [Box 66 F946]

Shimura explained naming conventions in Korean papermaking and some of the uses of indigo. Also included is a price list of various types of paper with price adjustments in Shimura's hand, fourteen paper samples, and Shimura's envelope addressed to Beale.

Letter from Beale to Shimura, 1979 July 19 [Box 66 F946]

Letter from Beale to Shimura, 1979 September 20 [Box 66 F946]

Letter from Shimura to Beale, 1979 October 30 [Box 66 F946]

Letter from Shimura to Beale, 1979 August 2 [Box 66 F946]

Bunseido Press invoice, 1979 August 5 [Box 66 F946]

Includes an invoice and Shimura's envelope addressed to Beale.

Cannabis Press sales material, 1980 [Box 66 F946]

Includes three issues of Cannabis Press News newsletter, four paper samples, and lists of paper and titles available for purchase.

Letter from Shimura to Sanford, 1999 January 12 [Box 66 F946]

Also includes a paper sample and Shimura's envelope addressed to Sanford.

List of paper types, undated [Box 66 F946]
List of paper types written in Shimura's hand.

Envelope, 1978 June 27 [Box 66 F946]

Envelope, 1978 July 29 [Box 66 F946]