RE-ENVISIONING JAPAN:

Recuperating Ephemeral Histories through Collaborative Digital Curation, DH Pedagogy, and Web-based Publication

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#BUDSC16, 10/29/2016

I. Introducing *Re-envisioning Japan*: Project, Pedagogy

II. New Critical Practices: Collaboration, Technology

III. Future directions: Encounters and "*Routes*"

THE PROJECT: "*Re-Envisioning Japan: Japan as Destination in 20th Century Visual and Material Culture*"

Asakusa

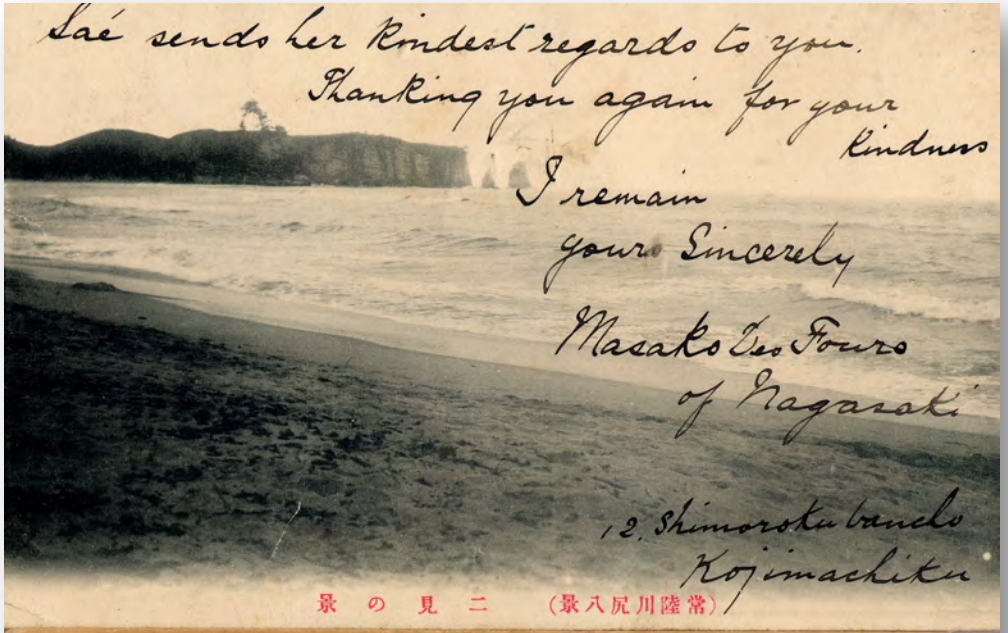
Tokyo's entertainment district

Topical postcards as visual record of place,
Particularly urban landscapes, e.g.

Tokyo and Yokohama

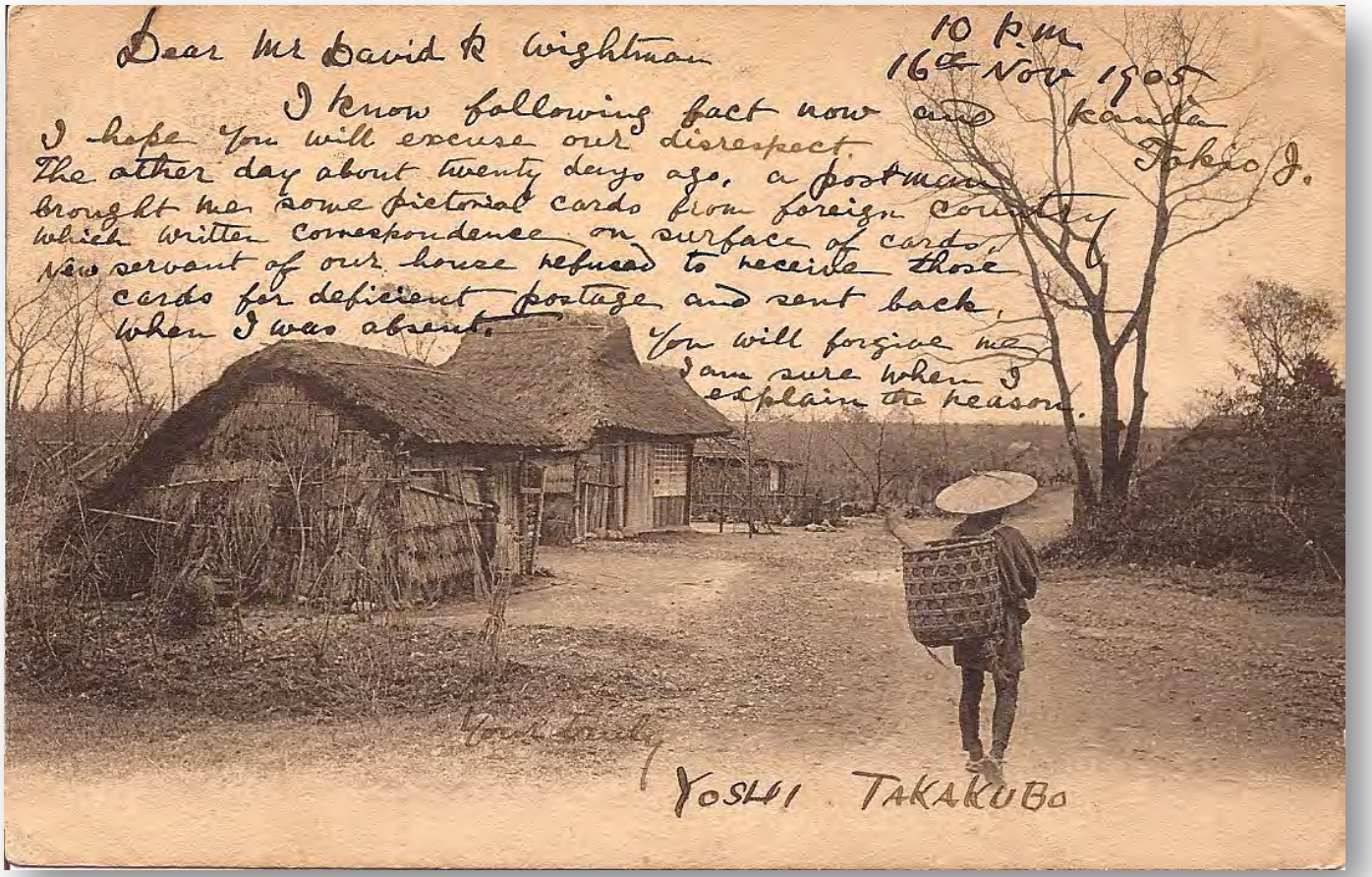
Benten-dori

main street, Yokohama



Global circulation
of objects and images . . .

. . . and traces of **personal encounters** at a distance



(1905)

10 p.m. 16th Nov. 1905 Kanda Tokio J.

"Dear Mr David R Wightman – I know following fact now and I hope you will excuse our disrespect. *The other day about twenty days ago, a postman brought me some pictorial cards from foreign country . . . . New servant of our house refused to receive those cards for deficient postage and sent back, when I was absent. You will forgive me I am sure when I explain the reason.*

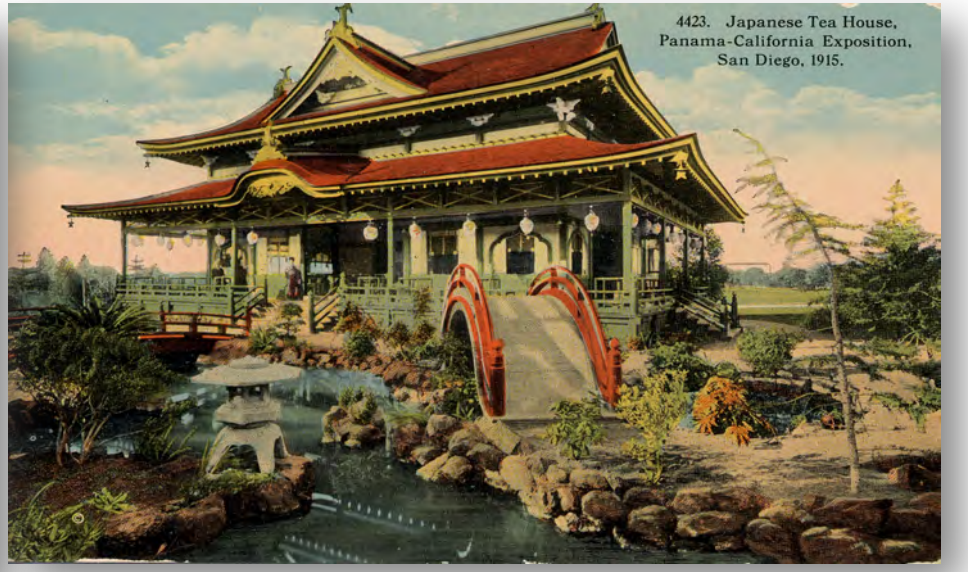
Your truly, YOSHI TAKAKUBO

Exposition Universelle 1900 Paris

figure_WORLD'S FAIR - 1904
ST. LOUIS, U. S. A.
Japan on the Pike where Mary Brent and I have been living for the last week
W.S.D.C.

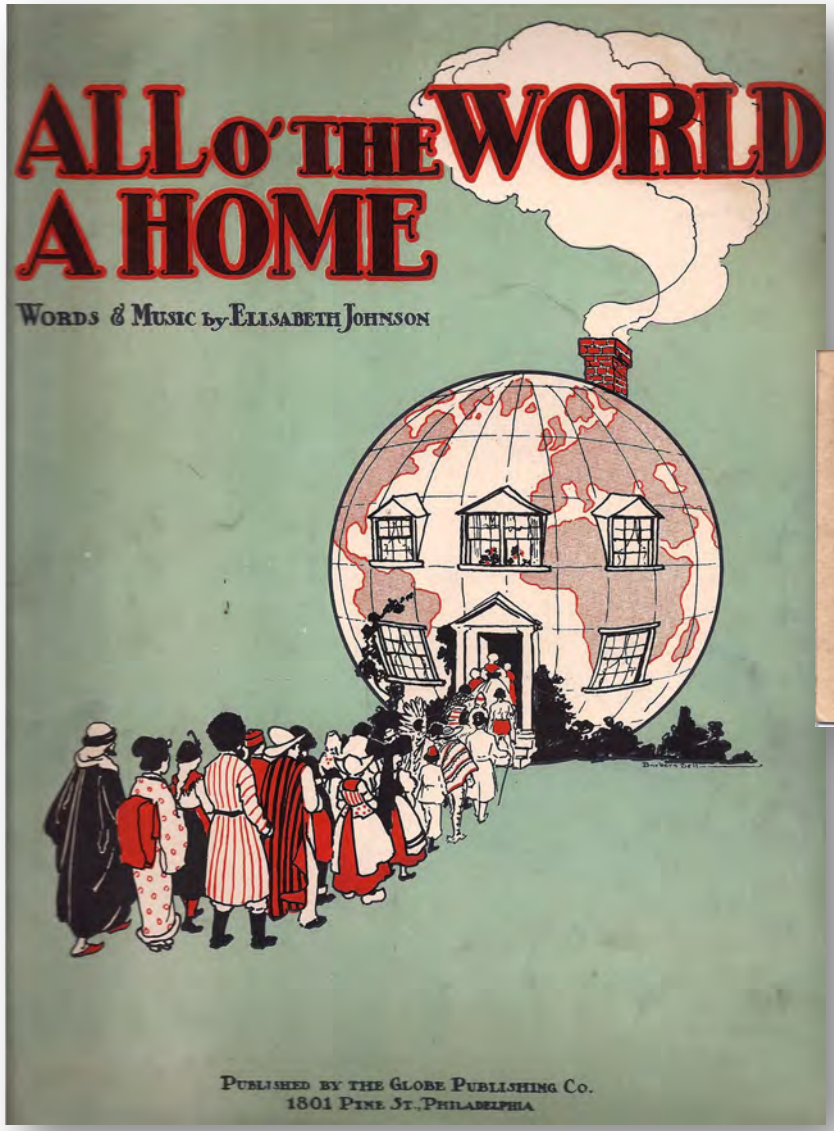
St. Louis World's Fair 1904

Japan-British Exhibition 1910



Panama-California Exposition 1915 San Diego

JAPAN IN THE WORLD



"Today we chin with China, and faraway Japan. . . ." (1926)

Y.M.C.A. (n.d.) →

"Japan's mission is to harmonize the Civilization of the East and West" USA (n.d.)

"For the Rights of Mankind" (1917)

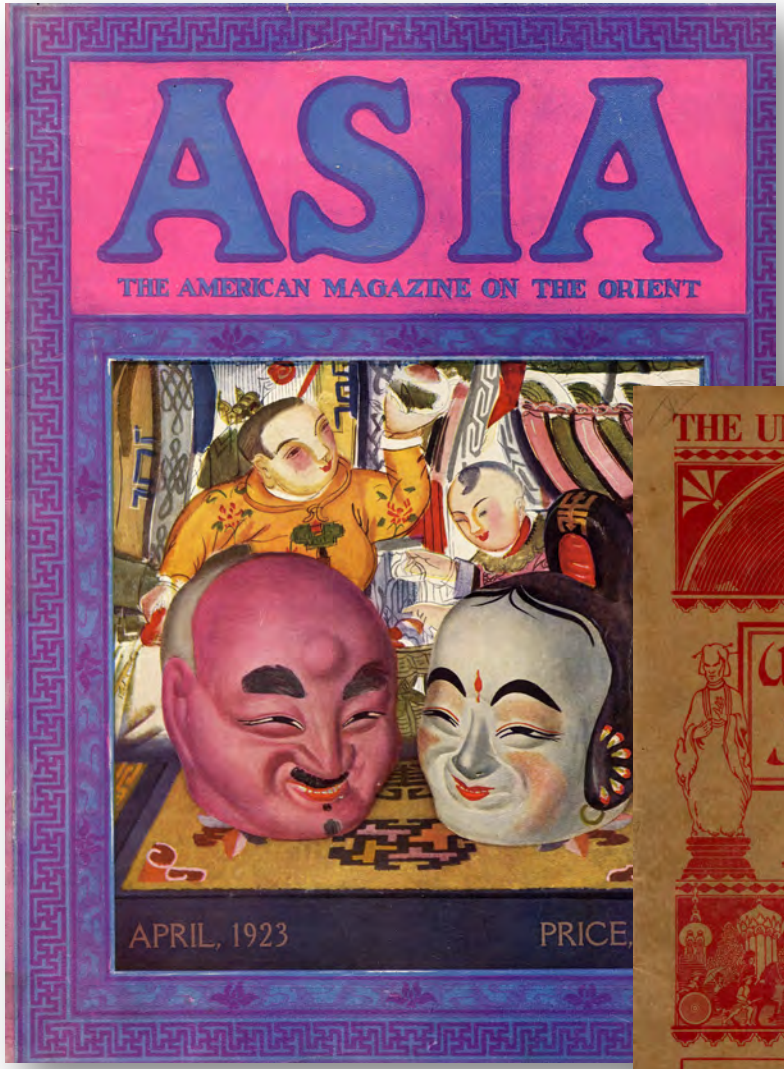
***Japan conjured up as amusement park*: Japan Gardens, Wonderland, Revere Beach, Massachusetts (1906-1911)**

FILMS

Moving images defined the 20th century in an unprecedented way--
REJ includes recuperated 16mm, Regular (Standard) 8mm, Super 8mm
& Archival films

EDIFICATION & INFORMATION:

General culture, history, language, social work,
US Occupation (1945-1952), US WW II propaganda



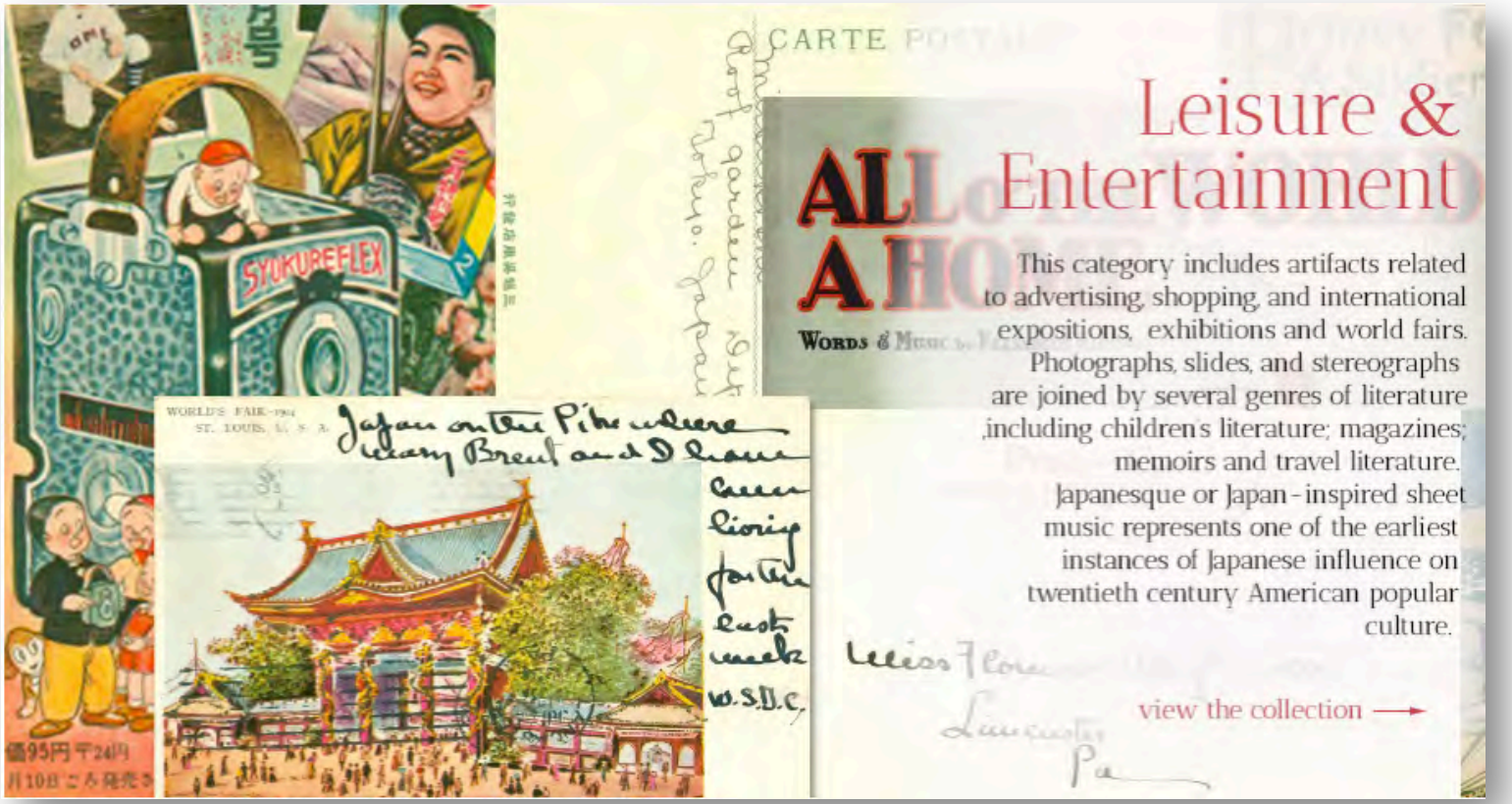
1923

1916

1935

Magazines, assorted publications

Propaganda and Postwar Allied Occupation



LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT:

Advertising, shopping, World Fairs, Photographs, Slides, Stereographs, Literature, Sheet Music

Images, objects not of Japanese origin

JAPAN.

THE Japanese are a progressive race, generally small of stature, but strong and graceful. They are patriotic and intelligent; even the lower classes being less ignorant than corresponding classes in Europe.

The women, who enjoy much more freedom than their Asiatic sisters, have held an important place in the field of politics, of art and of letters. Gentleness of voice and manner, implicit obedience and politeness, are essentially characteristic of Japanese women.

A girl must, unless she be a nobleman's daughter, know how to cut and make clothing, wash it, and attend to all household duties. The picturesque, flowing dress, which has so long been associated with the Japanese, is fast disappearing in favor of the tight-fitting Paris fashions; but the women of the middle and lower classes, many of whom are engaged in manufactures, still cling to the older and more comfortable style shown in the illustration.

Singer agencies are to be found in the principal commercial cities of Japan, and the use of Singer sewing-machines is constantly increasing.

But One Standard of Quality

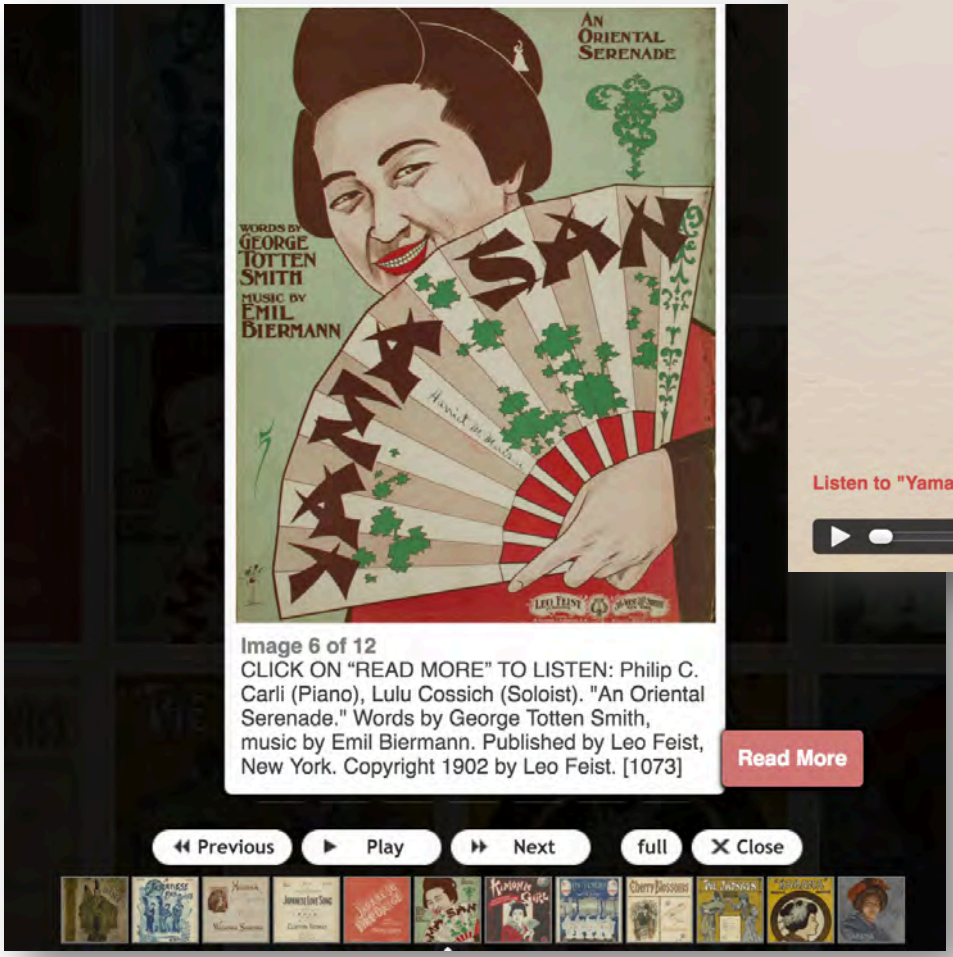
There are three distinct types of Singer sewing-machines for family use, but there is only one standard of quality—

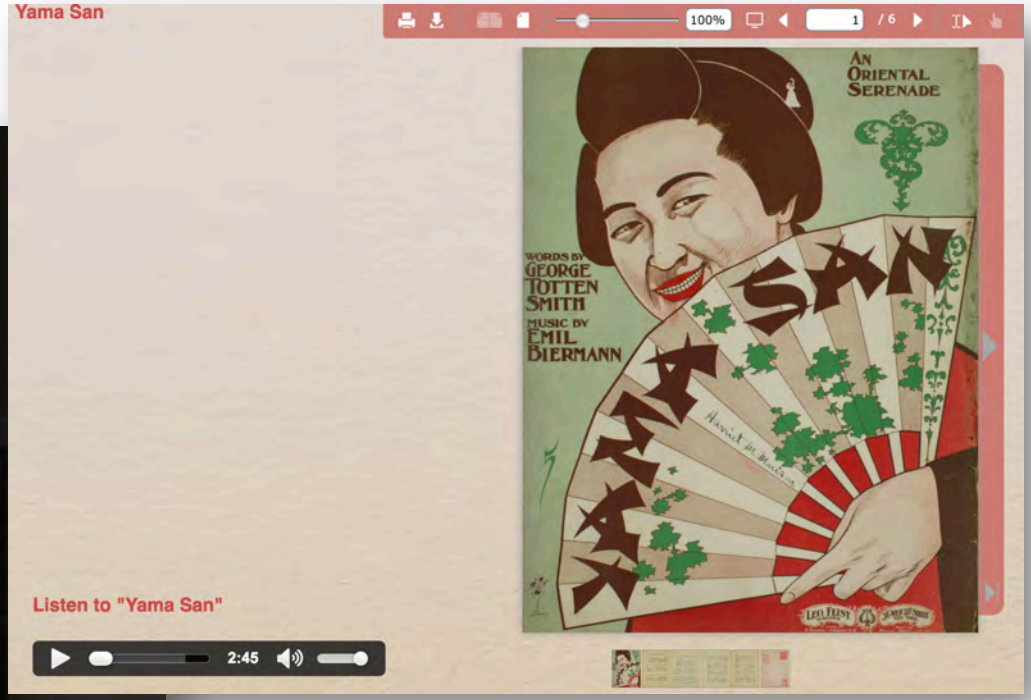
The Best.

There is a wide range of prices, depending on the style of cabinet work and ornamentation, but whether the price be the lowest or the highest, the working quality of the machine is the same and has been fully tested before leaving the factory.

Singer Co. promotional item: Popular consumption---- product *and* edification

Sheet music: Orientalist fantasy and entertainment



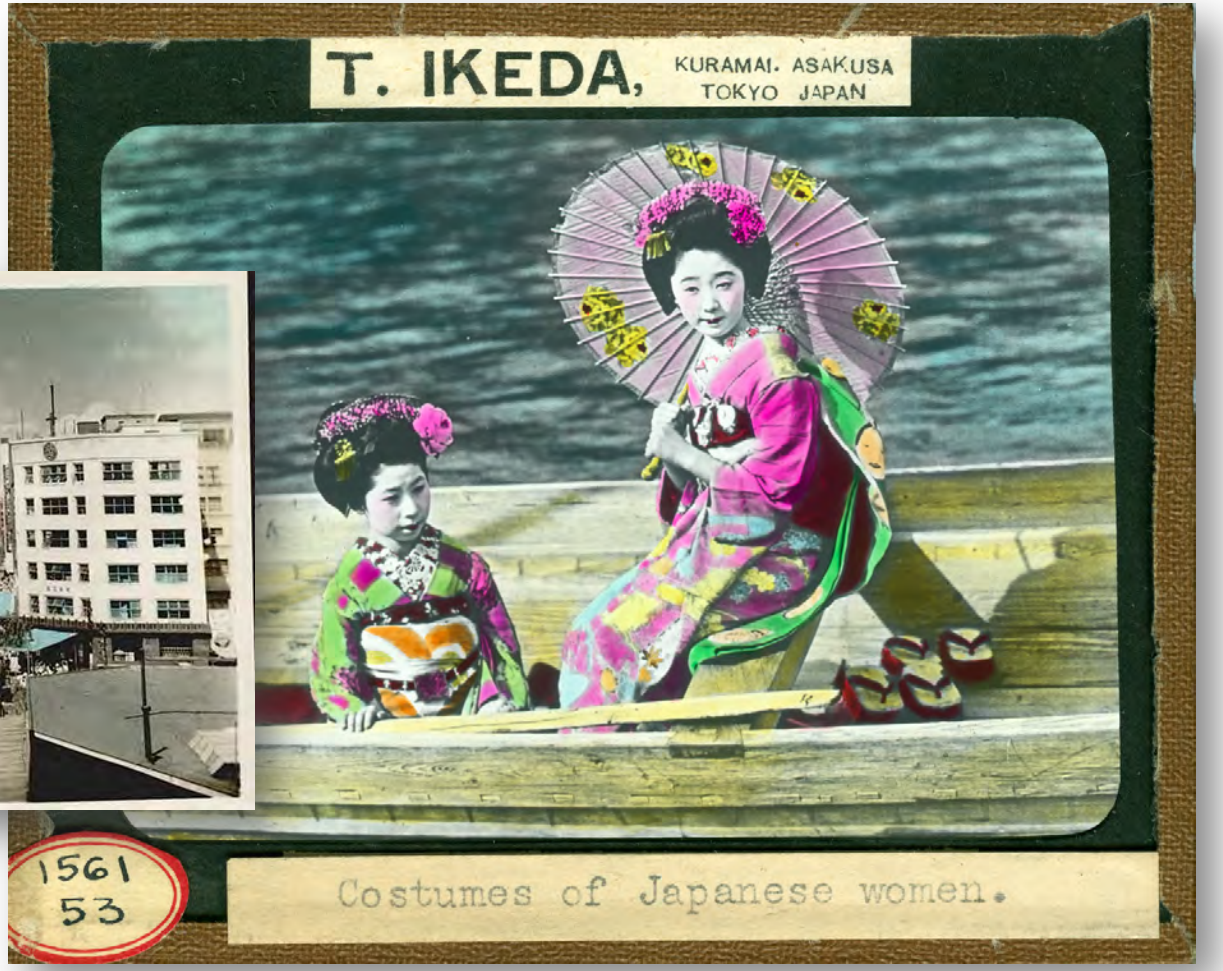


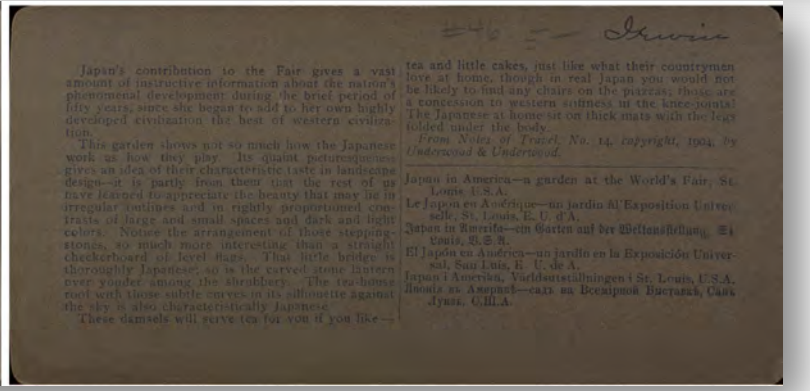
RECORDED SHEET MUSIC

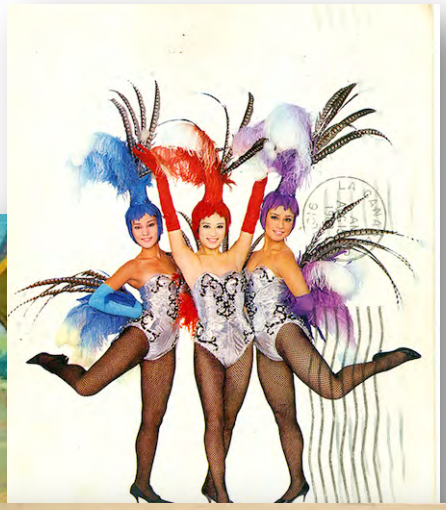
YAMA SAN (1902)

http://rej.lib.rochester.edu/viewer/26

Photographs, Glass slides, Stereographs







Advertisements, entertainment, children's literature

TOURISM & TRAVEL:

Brochures, Guide Books, Hotels, Travel (Air, Land, Sea)

Travel Brochures, Postcards: Railways and Shipping Lines promotional material touting Japan as a "two-hemisphere attraction"

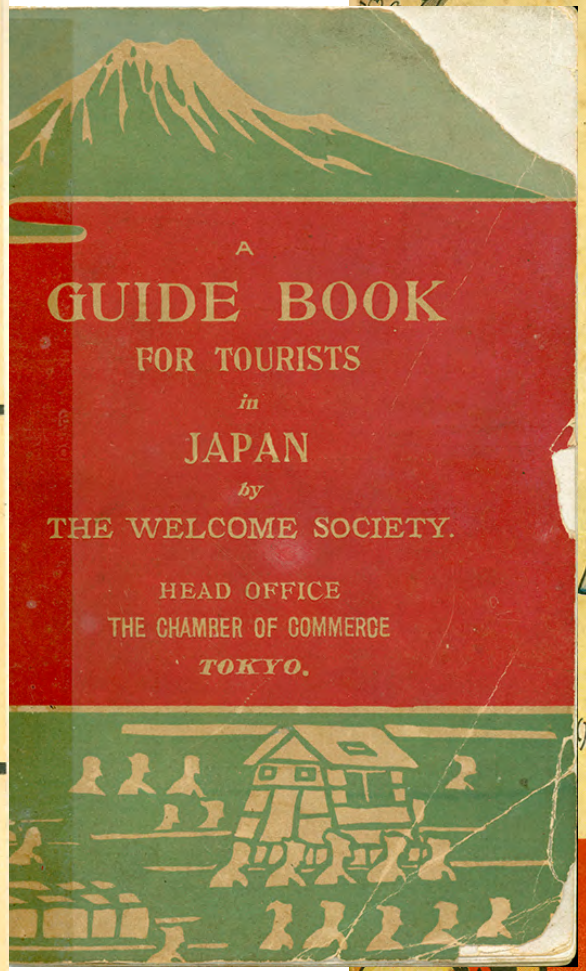
Board of Tourist Industry, Japanese Government Railways (n.d., c. late 1930s)

(n.d.)

Nippon Yusen Kaisha (N.Y. K. Shipping Line) ephemera

1935

1906



Esperanto Guide, Japan Gov. Railways 1927

PEDAGOGY

“Tourist Japan”

Using travel and tourism culture to illuminate the relationship between Japan’s modernization processes and identity formation

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Critical awareness of how tourism, actual and virtual, and the artifacts that tourism and travel generate construct a rich history of national image and cultural identity in 20th c Japan (both positive, e.g., tourist campaigns, educational films and negative, e.g., WWII anti-Japanese propaganda)→ how has Japan defined itself and been defined by others?

2. Studying Japan's past through its visual and material culture→critical analysis of the complex relationship between images/objects and people

3. Learning how to use material culture in historical research, and why this approach is significant→learning practical skills, and practicing this hands-on approach to historical research

REMEMBERING JAPAN: Introduction | **Leaving Japan, Coming Home** | Leaving Japan, Leaving Home

LEAVING JAPAN, COMING HOME

Babysan: A Private Look at the Japanese Occupation by Bill Hume

Babysan is a 128-page book by American Cartoonist Bill Hume. The book collects the cartoons of Bill Hume and provides additional commentary on the opposite page. The cartoons center on the character, Babysan—a Japanese girl who juggles numerous G.I. boyfriends. Babysan is both innocent and sexual, coy and silly, entertaining Americans in their leisure time. Through the illustrations and commentary, the book portrays differences between Japanese and American—differences that presumably G.I.s will run into while occupying Japan. The book takes a familiar and humorous tone that attempts to situate the reader as someone who has gone through similar experiences and will laugh in recounting these humorous cultural communications—a form of address clearly motivated by its origin as a comic strip for the American military in Japan. The book presumes an audience that has common shared experience of their time in Japan and in turn attempts to express this common experience. This new mediated experience then serves as a point of unification for this group.

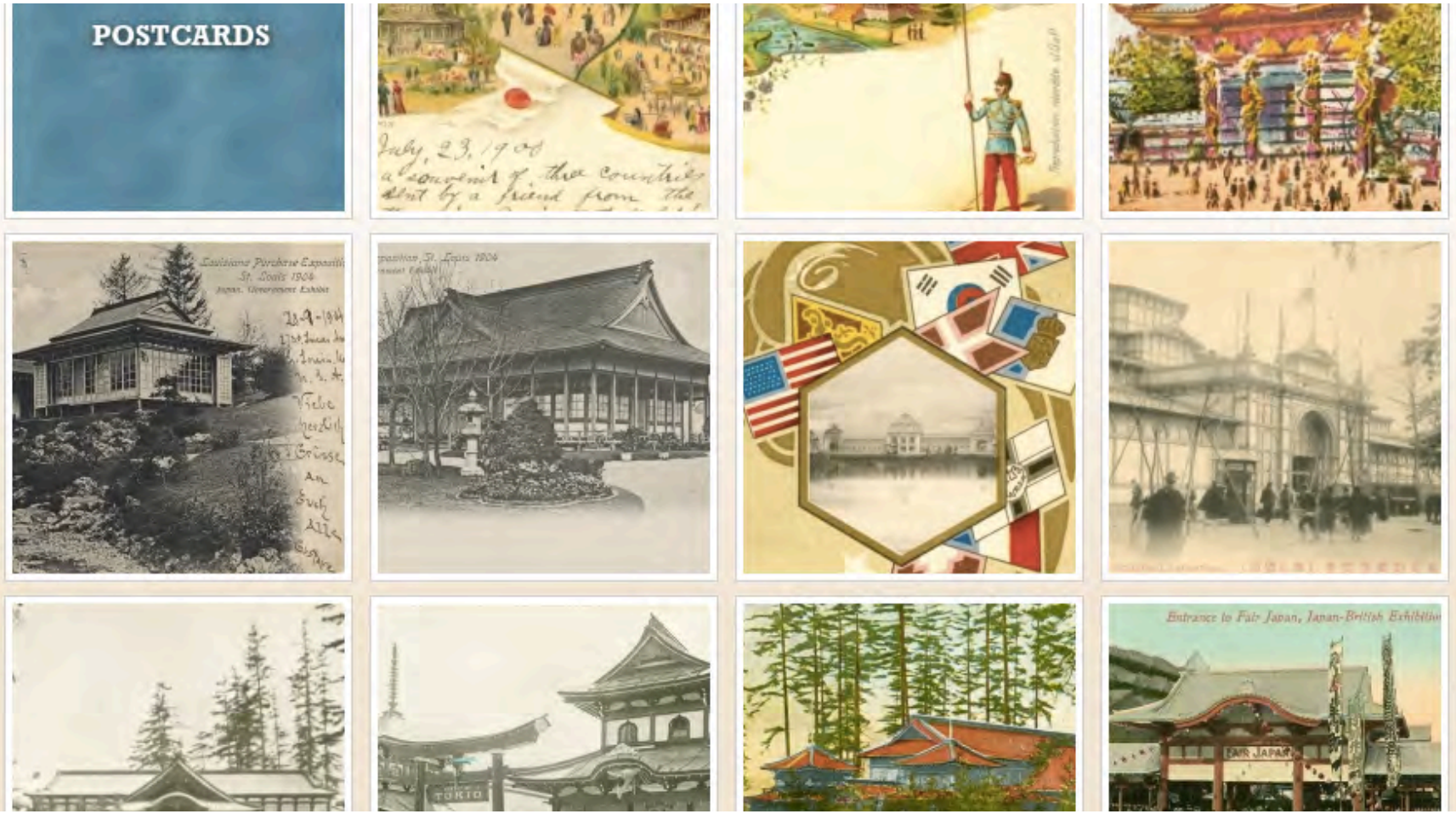
"TOURIST JAPAN" Student exhibit

II. New Critical Practices, Collaboration, Technology

New Critical Practices in the Library

1. Curation
2. Pedagogy
3. Web Based Publication

Curation


POSTCARDS
July, 23, 1904
a souvenir of the countries
sent by a friend from the
Louisiana Purchase Exposition
St. Louis 1904
Japan. Government Exhibit
TOKIO
Entrance to Fair Japan, Japan-British Exhibition
FAIR JAPAN

Pedagogy

Silver Bells

Silver Bells: An Introduction | Silver Bells Vol. 1 no. 8 | Silver Bells Vol. 1 no. 12

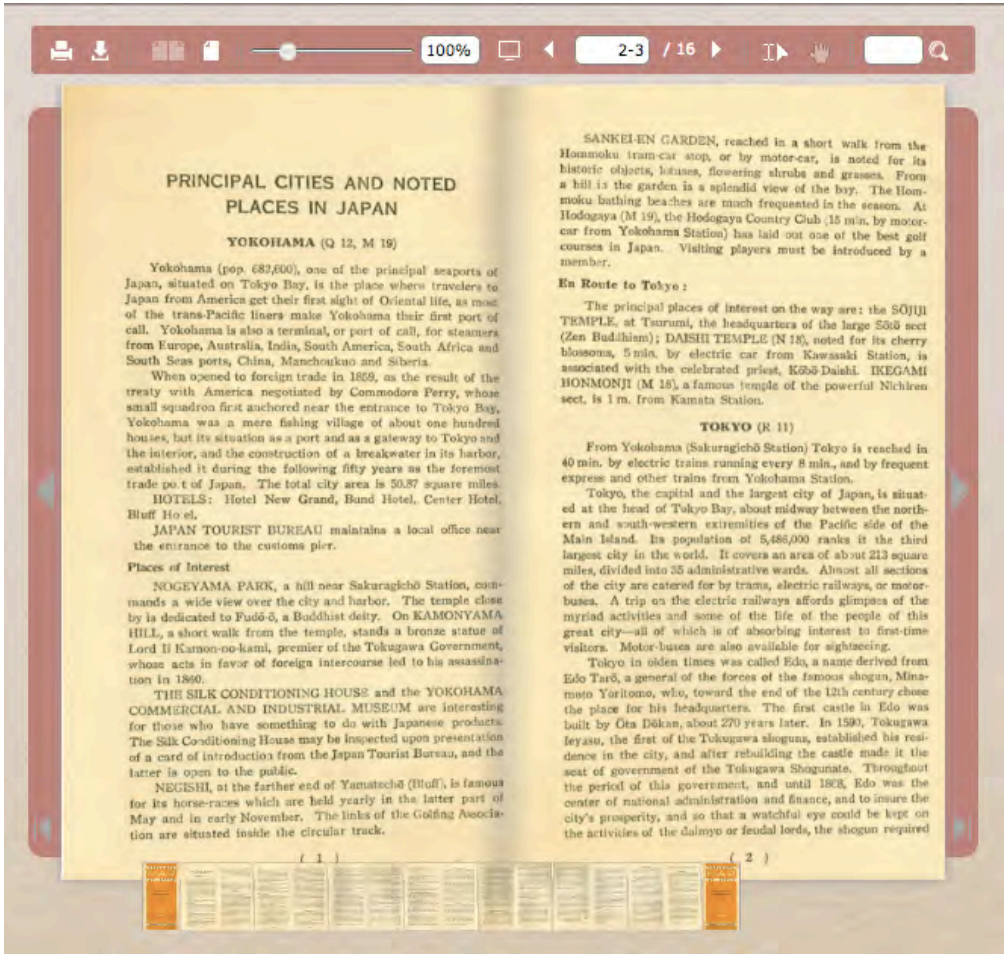
SILVER BELLS VOL. I NO. 8

This Issue of Silver Bells was published in August 1952. The cover of this issue is a picture from the story of Urashima Taro, the primary story featured in the issue. The story is about a fisherman who saves a turtle, only to later learn that the turtle is the princess of the sea. He is given the ability to breathe underwater and is invited to the underwater kingdom, where he chooses to live with the princess. The fisherman stays for some time before asking to go visit his mother, and the princess gives him a mysterious box, telling Urashima that it will protect him, but that he must never open the box. Urashima visits his village to find that it has completely changed, and learns that he has been gone for centuries. Distraught that the village he knew is now gone, he opens the box without thinking, and he suddenly grows centuries older.

Urashima Taro provides an example of the sorts of fables regularly featured in *Silver Bells*. Each issue is filled with colorful pictures and children's stories. The stories originate from Japan and are translated into English. Many lovely cartoon characters

This image shows the cover of the eighth issue of *Silver Bells*.

Web Based Publication



PRINCIPAL CITIES AND NOTED PLACES IN JAPAN

YOKOHAMA (Q 12, M 19)

Yokohama (pop. 682,600), one of the principal seaports of Japan, situated on Tokyo Bay, is the place where travelers to Japan from America get their first sight of Oriental life, as most of the trans-Pacific liners make Yokohama their first port of call. Yokohama is also a terminal, or port of call, for steamers from Europe, Australia, India, South America, South Africa and South Seas ports, China, Manchoukuo and Siberia.

When opened to foreign trade in 1859, as the result of the treaty with America negotiated by Commodore Perry, whose small squadron first anchored near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Yokohama was a mere fishing village of about one hundred houses, but its situation as a port and as a gateway to Tokyo and the interior, and the construction of a breakwater in its harbor, established it during the following fifty years as the foremost trade port of Japan. The total city area is 50.37 square miles.

HOTELS: Hotel New Grand, Bund Hotel, Center Hotel, Bluff Hotel.

JAPAN TOURIST BUREAU maintains a local office near the entrance to the customs pier.

Places of Interest

NOGEYAMA PARK, a hill near Sakuragichō Station, commands a wide view over the city and harbor. The temple close by is dedicated to Fudō-ō, a Buddhist deity. On KAMONYAMA HILL, a short walk from the temple, stands a bronze statue of Lord Ii Kamon-no-kami, premier of the Tokugawa Government, whose acts in favor of foreign intercourse led to his assassination in 1860.

THE SILK CONDITIONING HOUSE and the YOKOHAMA COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM are interesting for those who have something to do with Japanese products. The Silk Conditioning House may be inspected upon presentation of a card of introduction from the Japan Tourist Bureau, and the latter is open to the public.

NEGISHI, at the farther end of Yamatechō (Bluff), is famous for its horse-races which are held yearly in the latter part of May and in early November. The links of the Golfing Association are situated inside the circular track.

SANKEI-EN GARDEN, reached in a short walk from the Honmoku tram-car stop, or by motor-car, is noted for its historic objects, lotuses, flowering shrubs and grasses. From a hill in the garden is a splendid view of the bay. The Honmoku bathing beaches are much frequented in the season. At Hodogaya (M 19), the Hodogaya Country Club (15 min. by motor-car from Yokohama Station) has laid out one of the best golf courses in Japan. Visiting players must be introduced by a member.

En Route to Tokyo:

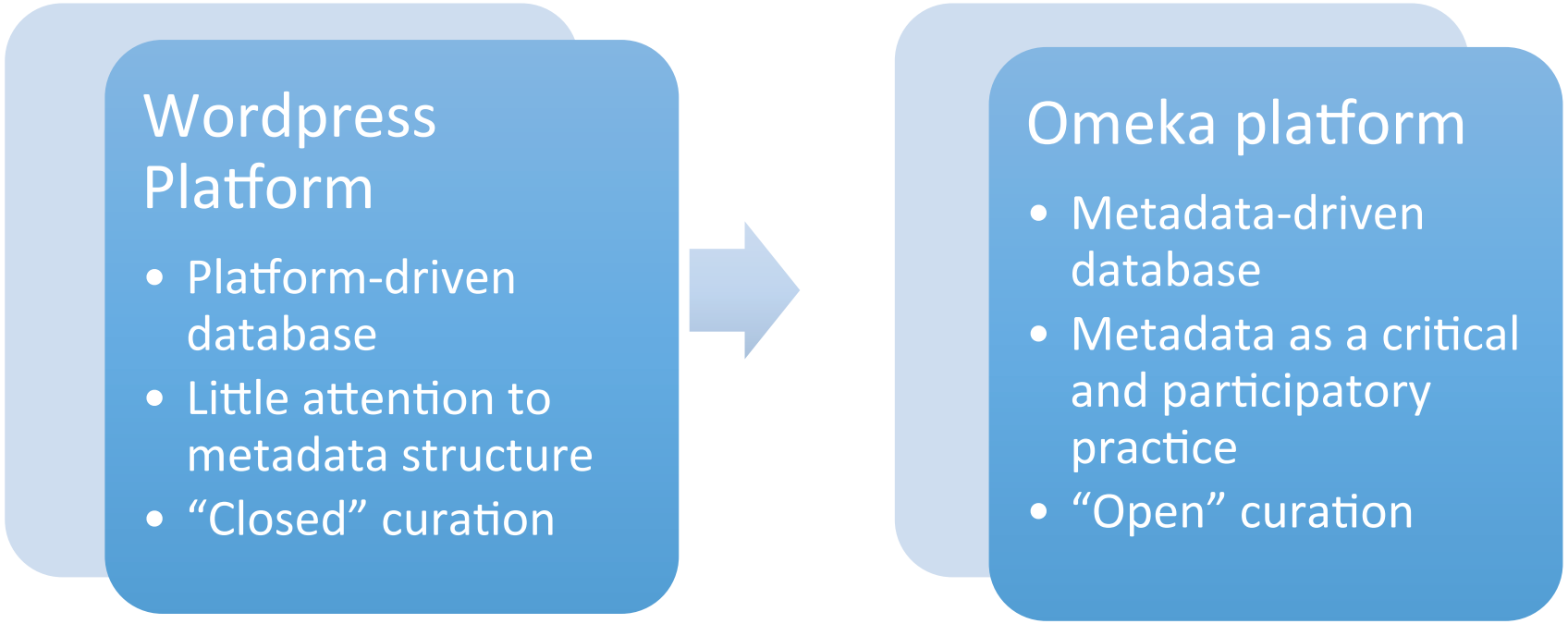
The principal places of interest on the way are: the SŌJIJI TEMPLE, at Tsurumi, the headquarters of the large Sōtō sect (Zen Buddhism); DAISHI TEMPLE (N 18), noted for its cherry blossoms, 5 min. by electric car from Kawasaki Station, is associated with the celebrated priest, Kōbō-Daishi. IKEGAMI HONMONJI (M 18), a famous temple of the powerful Nichiren sect, is 1 m. from Kamata Station.

TOKYO (R 11)

From Yokohama (Sakuragichō Station) Tokyo is reached in 40 min. by electric trains running every 8 min., and by frequent express and other trains from Yokohama Station.

Tokyo, the capital and the largest city of Japan, is situated at the head of Tokyo Bay, about midway between the northern and south-western extremities of the Pacific side of the Main Island. Its population of 5,486,000 ranks it the third largest city in the world. It covers an area of about 213 square miles, divided into 35 administrative wards. Almost all sections of the city are catered for by trams, electric railways, or motor-buses. A trip on the electric railways affords glimpses of the myriad activities and some of the life of the people of this great city—all of which is of absorbing interest to first-time visitors. Motor-buses are also available for sightseeing.

Tokyo in olden times was called Edo, a name derived from Edo Tarō, a general of the forces of the famous shogun, Minamoto Yoritomo, who, toward the end of the 12th century chose the place for his headquarters. The first castle in Edo was built by Ōta Dōkan, about 270 years later. In 1590, Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first of the Tokugawa shoguns, established his residence in the city, and after rebuilding the castle made it the seat of government of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Throughout the period of this government, and until 1868, Edo was the center of national administration and finance, and to insure the city's prosperity, and so that a watchful eye could be kept on the activities of the daimyo or feudal lords, the shogun required

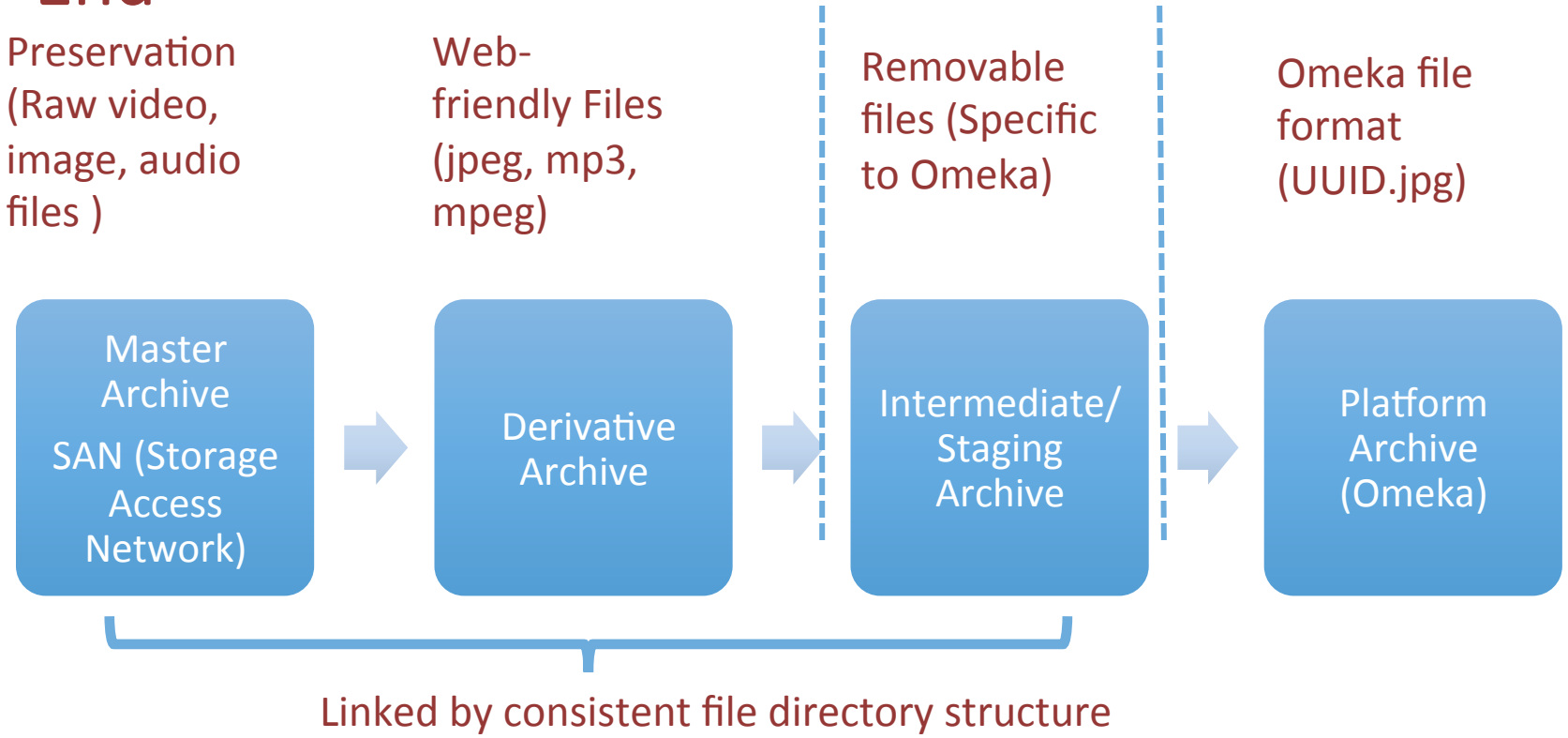

Wordpress Platform
• Platform-driven database
• Little attention to metadata structure
• “Closed” curation
Omeka platform
• Metadata-driven database
• Metadata as a critical and participatory practice
• “Open” curation

Creating Sustainable and Transportable Data Model that Supports Humanities Scholarly Practice Both in the Front-End and the Back-End

Problems with Wordpress site:

- Difficult to locate the physical files (platform-over reliance)
- Unstructured data/metadata model

Creating Sustainable and Transportable Data Model that Supports Humanities Scholarly Practice Both in the Front-End and the Back-End



Curating Digitized Film Archive

Custom-built timeline:

- Representing critical intersections between small-gauge film, tourism, and education through the 1970s
- Categorized by gauge (16mm, 8mm, Super 8mm)
- Allowing users to see the connection between the collection according to the date when the films are created

III. Future directions: Encounters and "*Routes*"

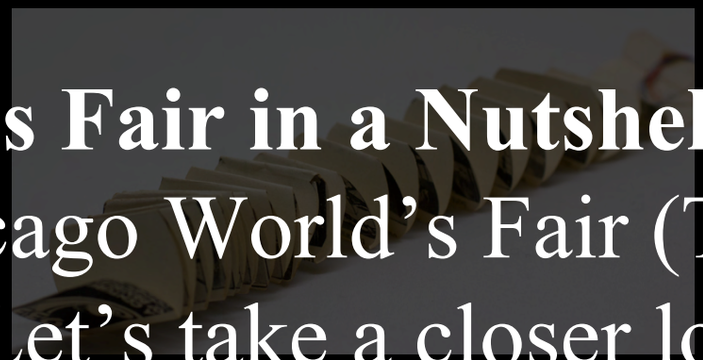
"Encounters:" comprehending human experience on a granular level through narratives of embodied by individual objects

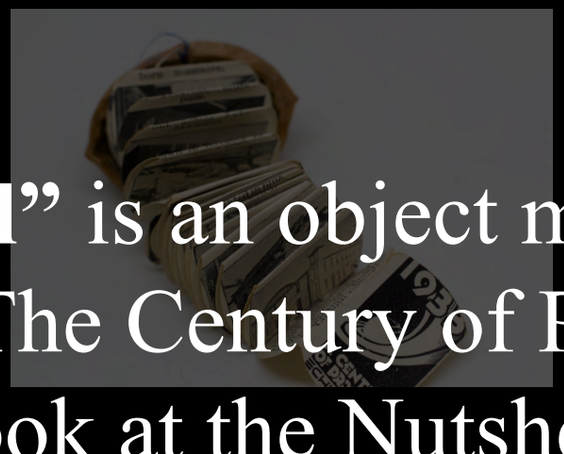
THE WORLD'S FAIR IN A NUTSHELL

"A CENTURY OF PROGRESS"

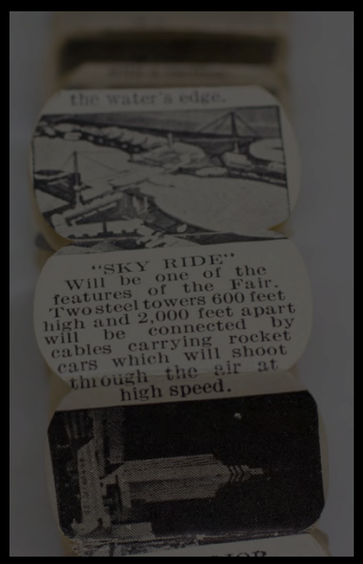
1933 Chicago World's Fair

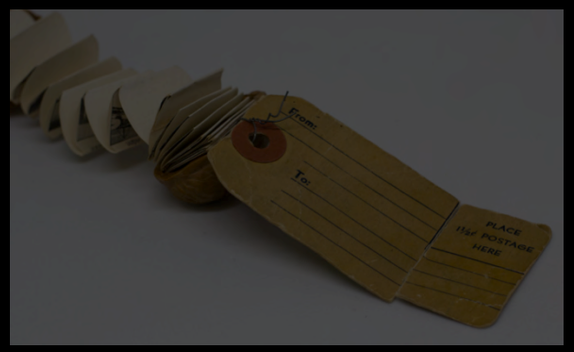
[Quicktime Movie]

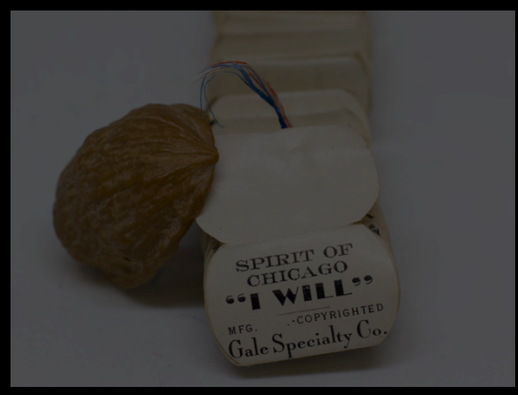




“The World’s Fair in a Nutshell” is an object made for the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair (The Century of Progress Exposition). Let’s take a closer look at the Nutshell.



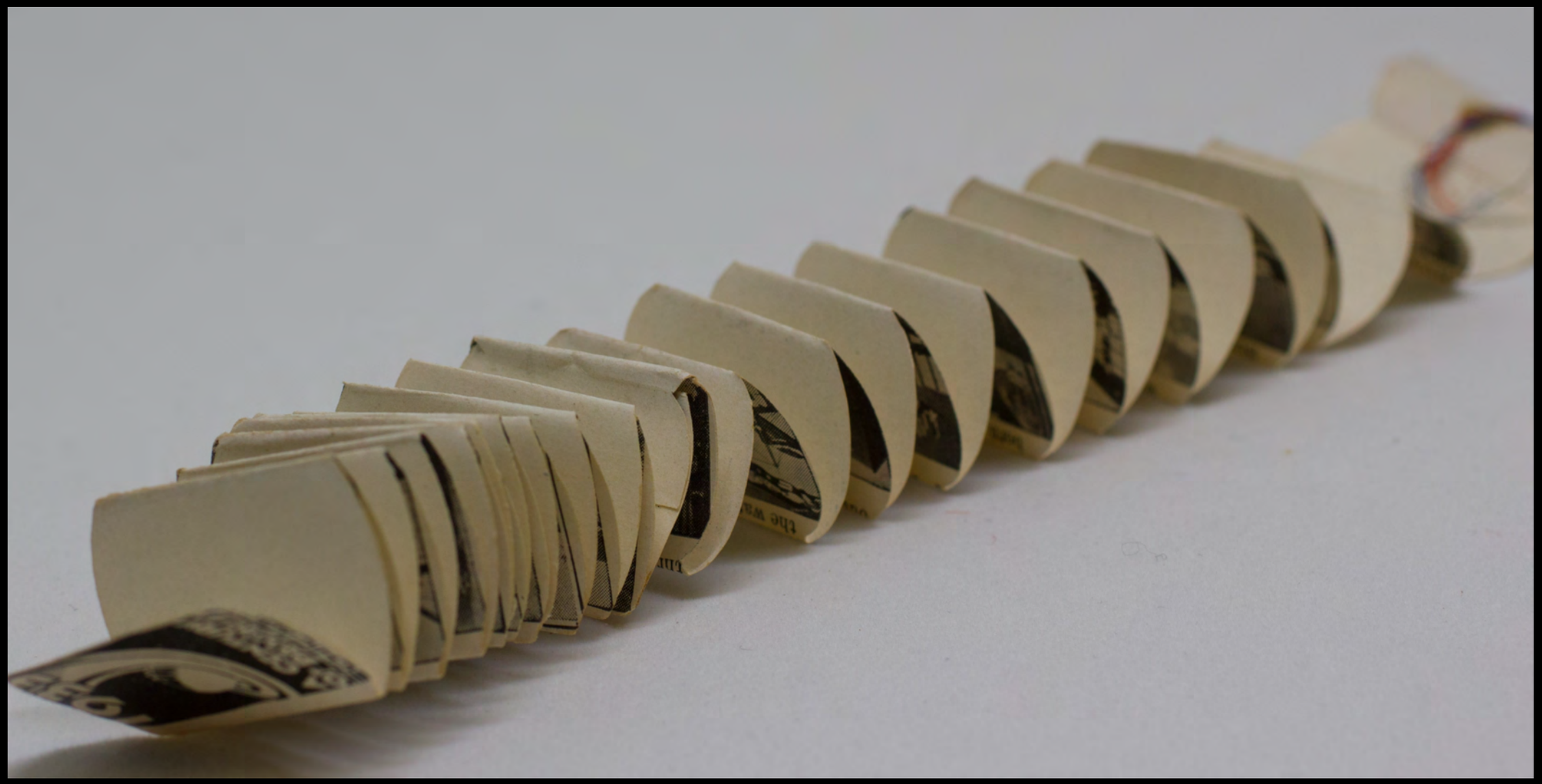




The nutshell is real.

It opens.

Tucked inside: a strip of paper, alternating images and text on accordion-style folds.



Photographs of fair locations alternate with descriptive captions. On the first fold: the Fair logo, date (1933) and theme, “A Century of Progress.”

Lincoln Park.
Lincoln Park.
Lincoln Park.

Select locations include administrative buildings and re-creations of U.S. historical sites (e.g., “the Wigwam” and a log cabin replica of Abraham Lincoln’s birthplace).

These images and descriptions memorialize the past and celebrate the future.

Fair.

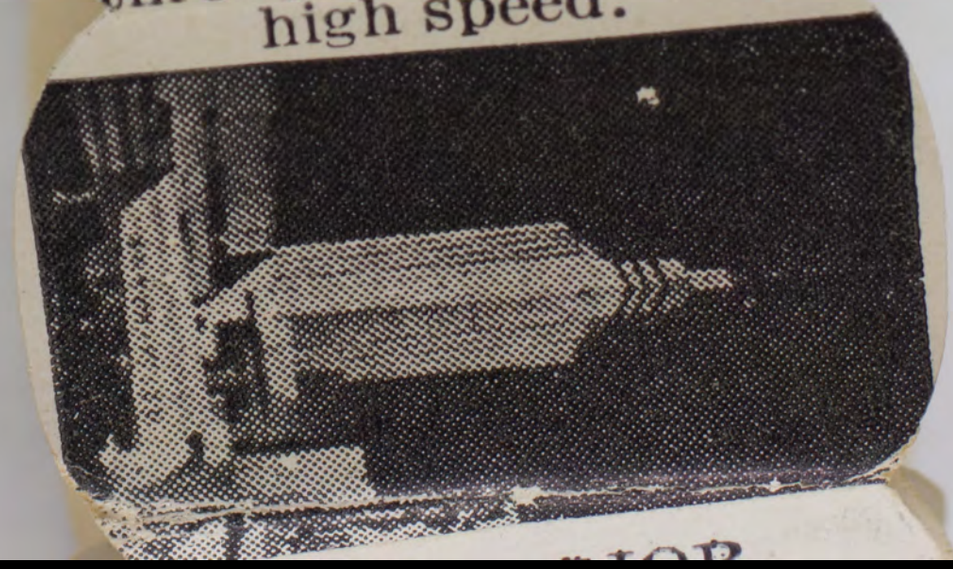
BLOCKHOUSE AND BARRACKS Of the "Third Fort Dearborn." Near here stood the original blockhouse and barracks of the old fort whose inhabitants were victims in 1812 of the Dearborn Massacre.

SIMPLICITY Of modern architectural design is shown in this photographic study of the exhibition hall, through which all visitors to the Administration Building of A Century
high speed.

Entertainment called the “Sky Ride” is referred to in the future tense—was the Nutshell made before the Fair opened?

the water's edge.

"SKY RIDE"
Will be one of the features of the Fair. Two steel towers 600 feet high and 2,000 feet apart will be connected by cables carrying rocket cars which will shoot through the air at high speed.



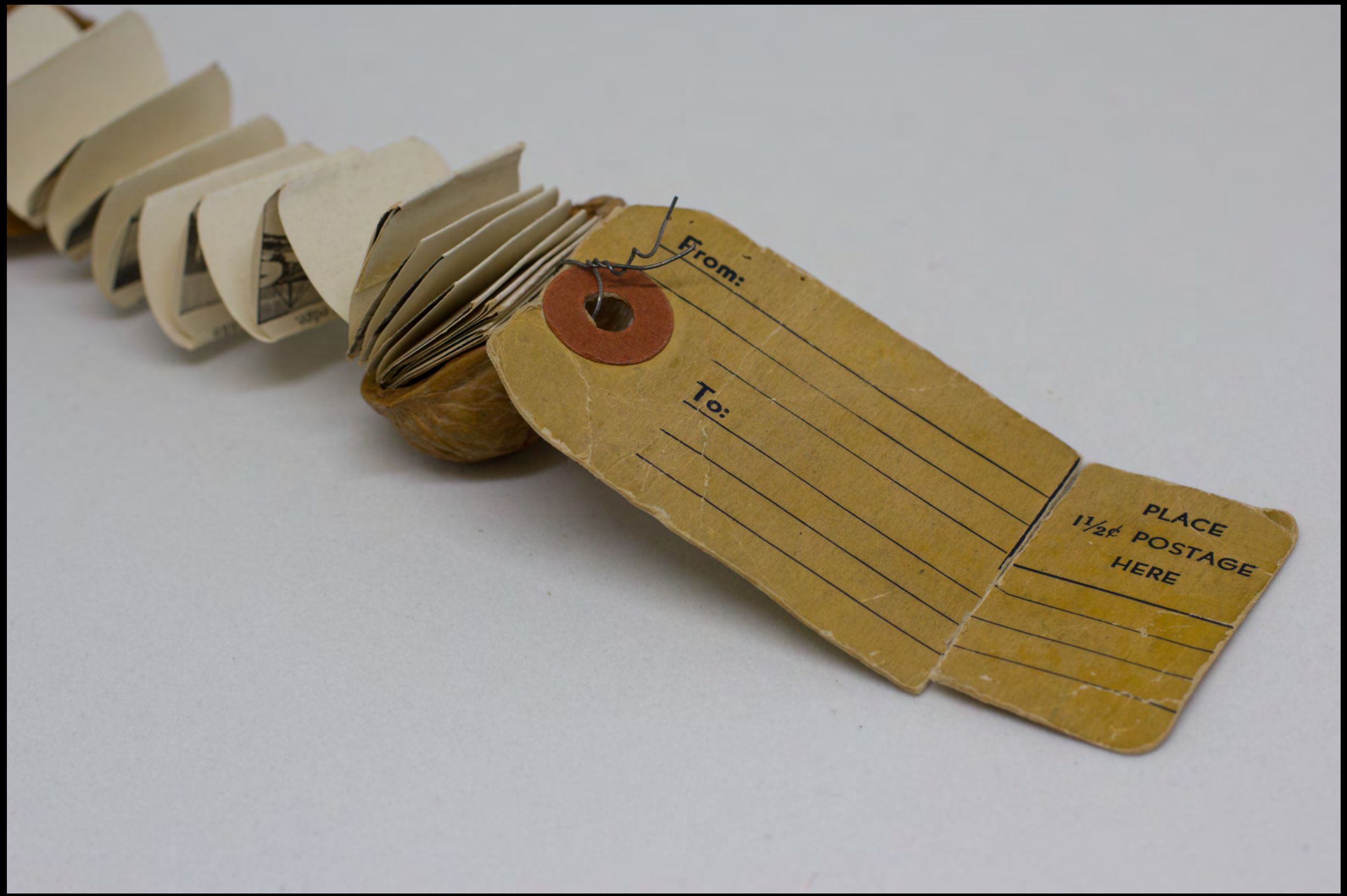
The Nutshell appeals to the imagination of the recipient. The “Sky Ride” promises high speed rocket cars shooting through the air—a novel, delightful experience!

One Nutshell half has a tag: “The World’s Fair in a Nutshell” (aptly named). This half of the shell has the brand stamp, “Diamond,” still used today.

MFG. BY
TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.
CHICAGO
1893-19

the water's edge.
1803-19
TRAVEL TRANSPORT BUILDING
33
CHICAGO
WORLD'S FAIR
1934
CENTURY
OF PROGRESS
CHICAGO
TRADE MARK REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
MFG. BY
U. S. A.
THE WORLD'S FAIR IN A NUTSHELL
COPYRIGHT 1932
CHICAGO. U. S. A.

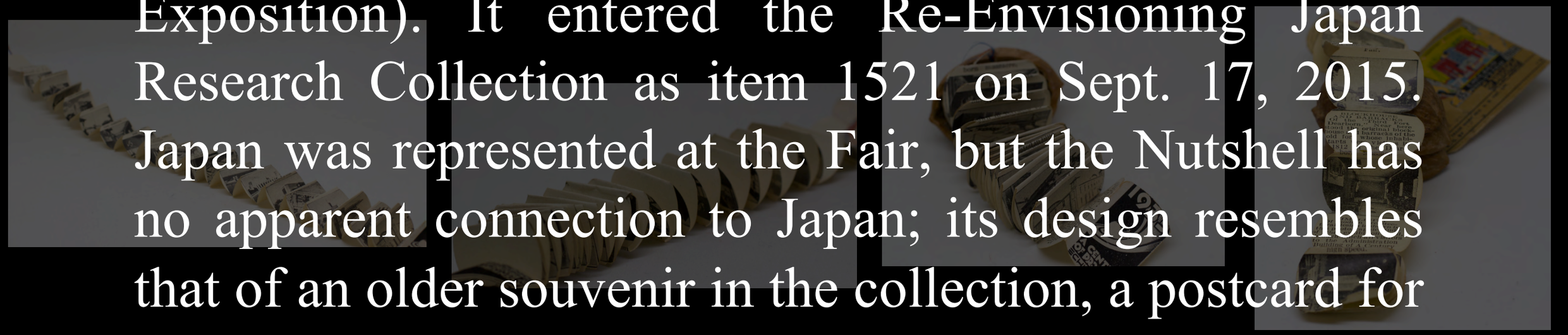
The tag is a mailing label. This also suggests the Nutshell might have been used to promote the Fair even before it opened.

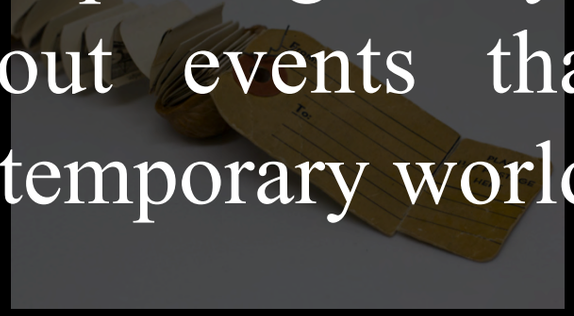

From:
To:
PLACE
1½¢ POSTAGE
HERE

Visions of the future and technological progress are key to the Nutshell's rhetoric. "I WILL" is written beneath the "Spirit of Chicago;" building captions celebrate the simplicity of modern architecture; exhibits focus on emerging communication technologies.

SPIRIT OF
CHICAGO
"I WILL"
COPYRIGHTED
MFG.
Gale Specialty Co.

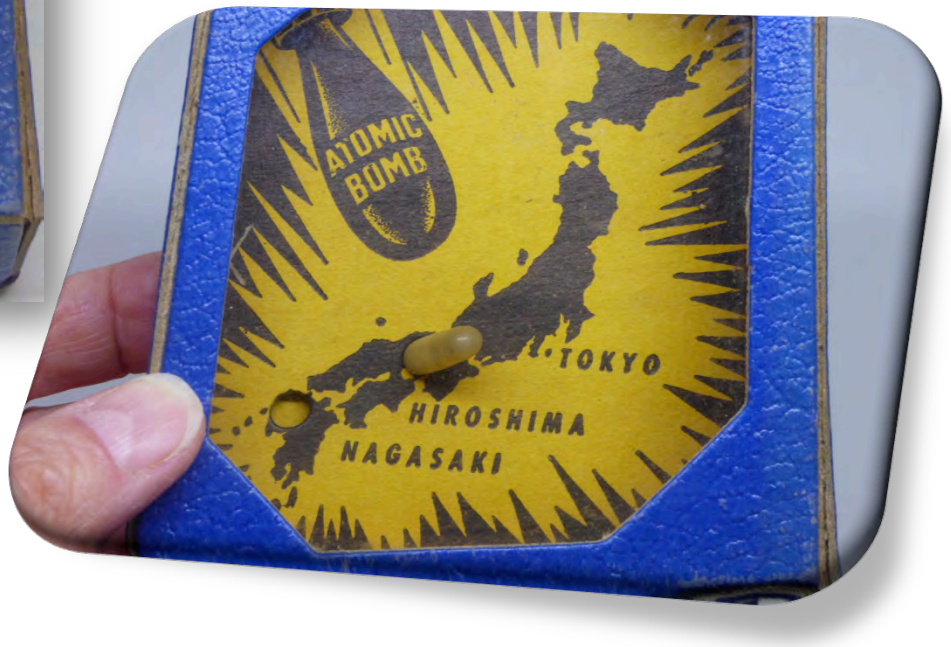
"The World's Fair in a Nutshell" was made for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair (The Century of Progress Exposition). It entered the Re-Envisioning Japan Research Collection as item 1521 on Sept. 17, 2015. Japan was represented at the Fair, but the Nutshell has no apparent connection to Japan; its design resembles that of an older souvenir in the collection, a postcard for the 1911 Exposition de Charleroi Village Japonais. In hand, these small objects are compelling. They conceal a wealth of information about events that were microcosmic distillations of contemporary world views.



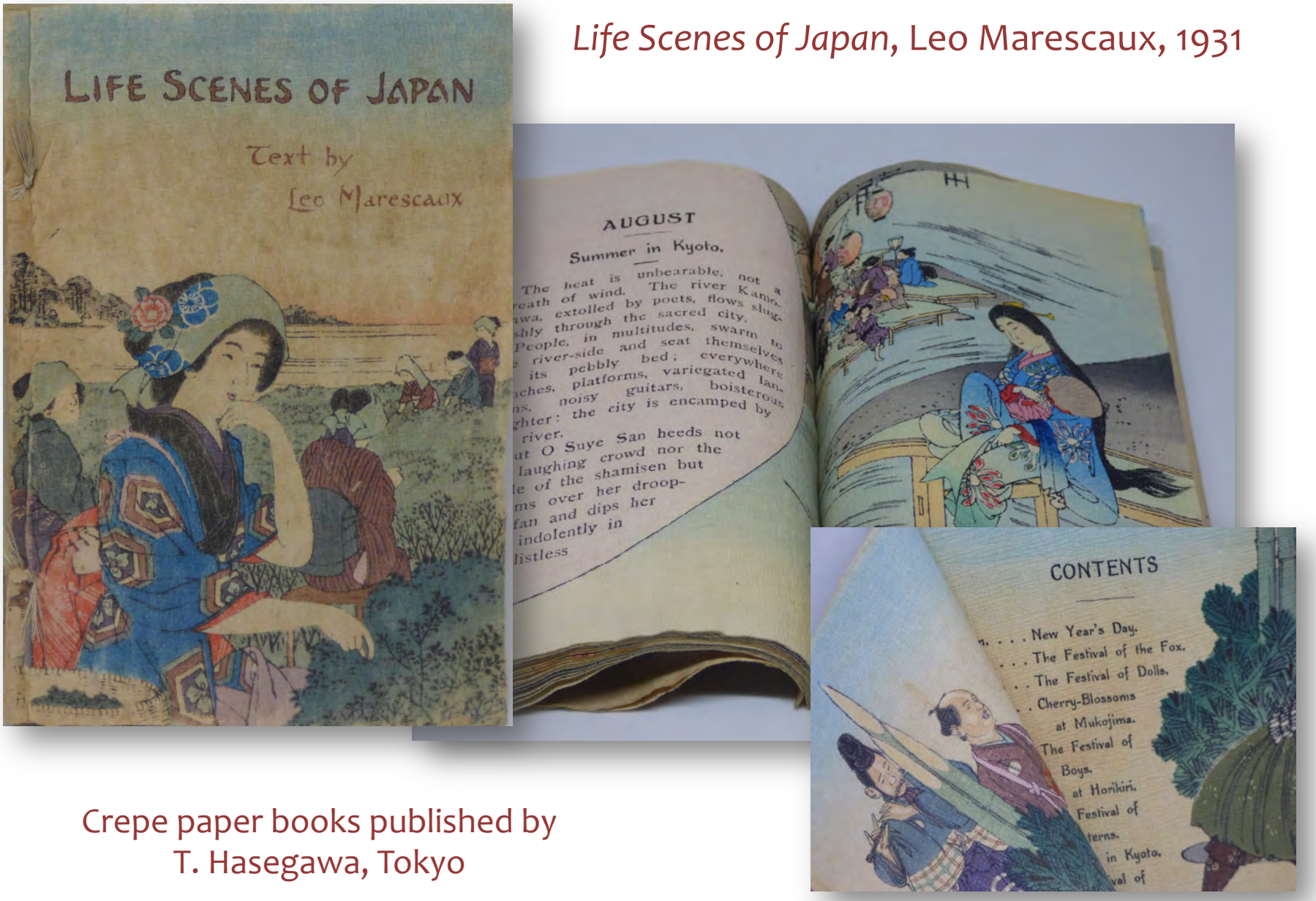


Other encounters:

The A.C. Gilbert Co.
Atomic Bomb
Dexterity Toy
c. 1945



Life Scenes of Japan, Leo Marescaux, 1931

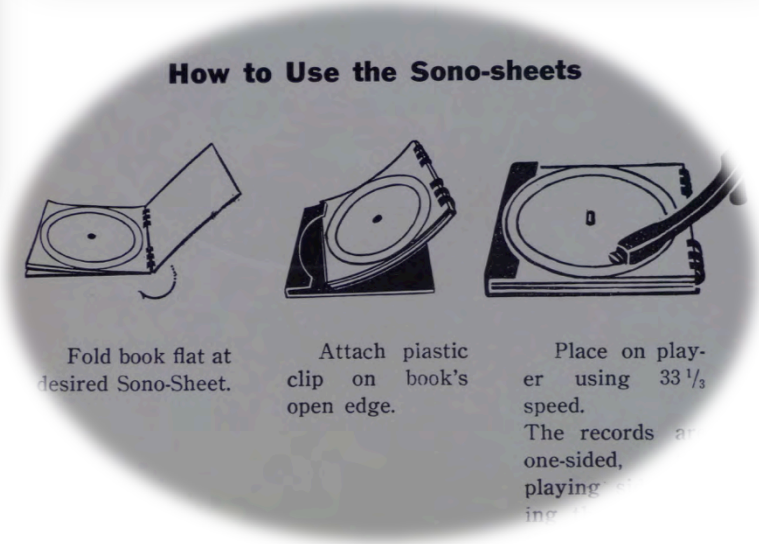


Crepe paper books published by
T. Hasegawa, Tokyo

"The Hanako"
Japanese Doll with Three Wigs

American Geographical Society "Around the World Program," 1956

Available by mail subscription

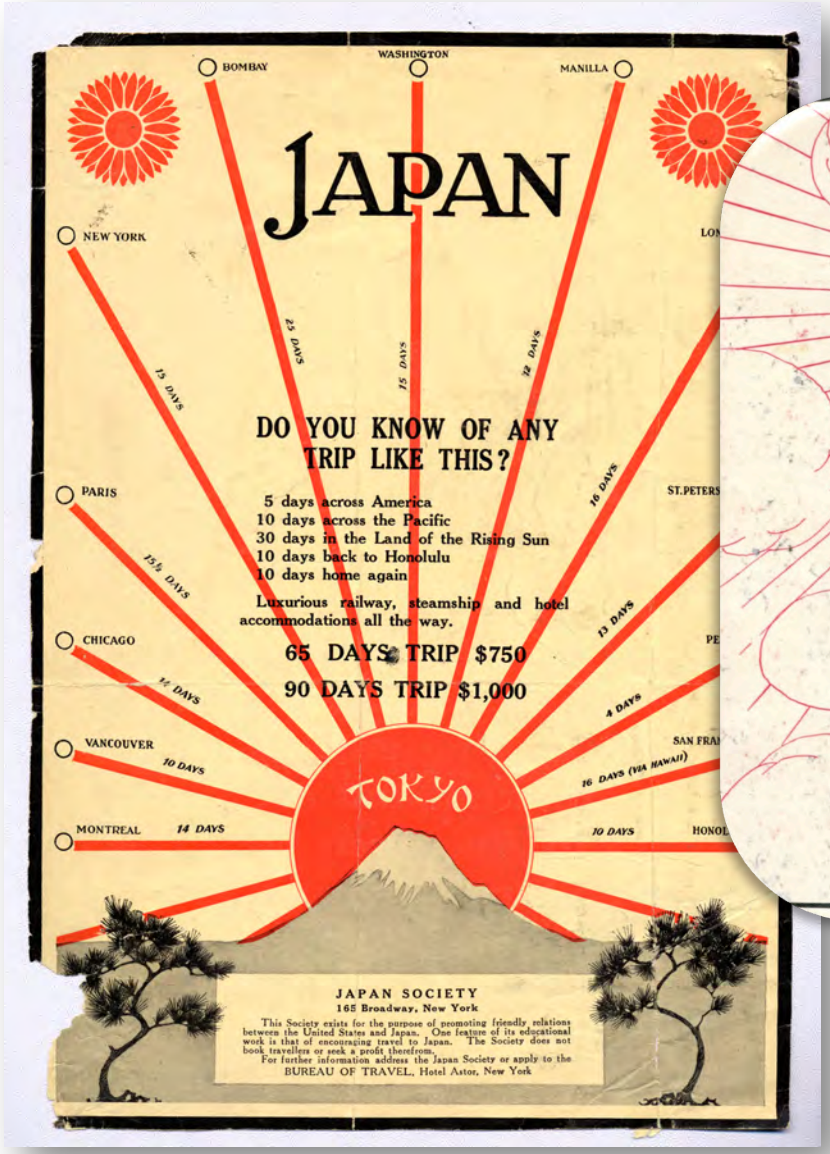


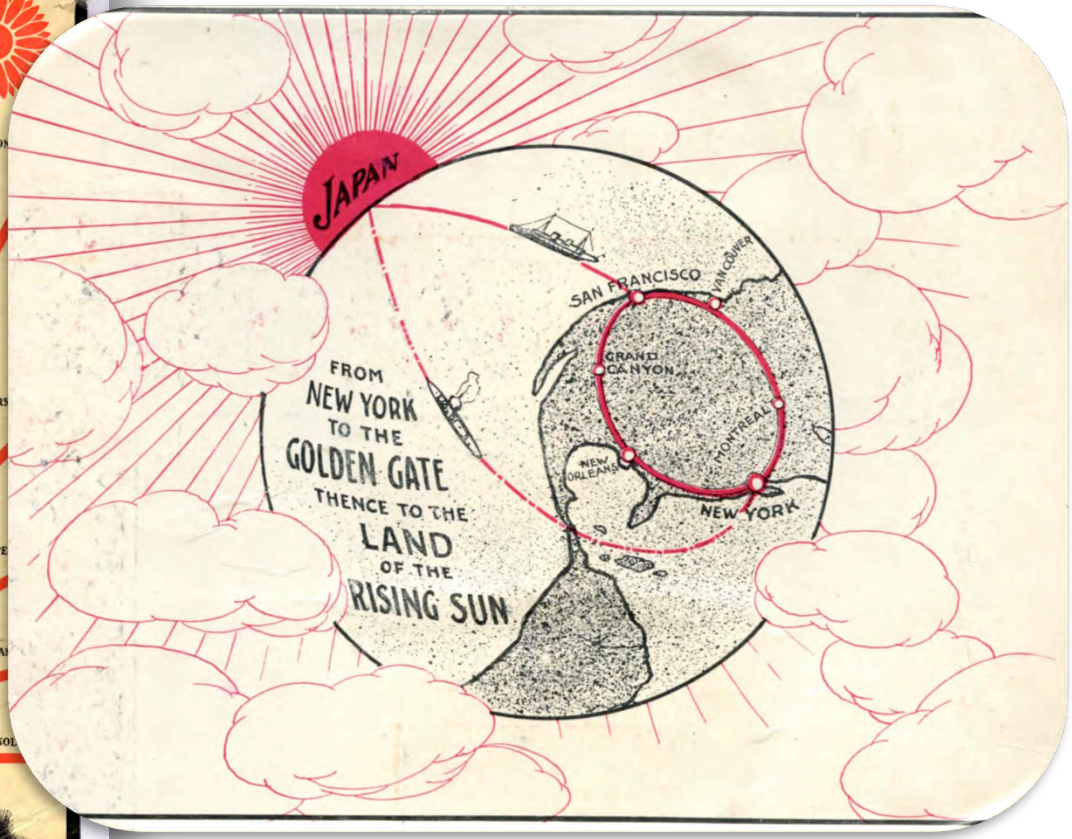
This is Japan in Sounds

Asahi Sonopresse, 1960
6 - 331/3 LPs (sonosheets)

Nikko Panorama Postcard (n.d.)

Multimodal scholarship accommodating the dynamic variety of human experience





"Routes," promoting an interdisciplinary community of practice for object-based scholarship and pedagogy related to the study of Japan, and border-crossings between Japan and the rest of the world

THANK YOU

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Previous Wordpress site http://humanities.lib.rochester.edu/rej/

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