

4 September 2013

Dear Professor Faherty,

With the generous funds provided by the ARC Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies, I was able to conduct archival research in Los Angeles in August 2013, research that was indispensable to the beginning stages of my dissertation project, as I finalize my prospectus. My main archival research occurred at the Charles E. Young Research Library of UCLA, at which I examined materials from approximately 15 folders of the following collections: (1) 2010 - Japanese American Research Project collection about Japanese in the U.S. (Yuji Ichioka papers), 1893-1973; (2) 122 - Finding Aid for the Manzanar War Relocation Center Records, 1942-1946; and, (3) 131 - Finding Aid for the Collection of Material about Japanese American Internment, 1929-1956 bulk 1942-1946. These materials largely fall under three categories: (1) reports and speeches commissioned by the War Relocation Authority; (2) newsletters produced within the multiple assembly and relocation centers; and, (3) newspaper clippings and pamphlets that gauged various reactions to the long period of internment.

This trip was immensely valuable in allowing me to understand the various perspectives and claims made throughout the nation at the time. It illuminated for me the complexity of racialization during the period, particularly evidenced by the claims made by the WRA that both justified the confinement of inmates even as they convinced Americans about their loyalty and the need to facilitate in their resettlement and rehabilitation into the nation post-internment. As I move forward, I intend to further pursue the inquiries raised through my engagement with the archives. For my project I am interested in exploring the type of campy irony characterized by the exaggerated absurdity that often accompanied anti-Japanese discrimination in the press, along with the central irony that allowed for the WRA and officials to justify and simultaneously disavow the enemy racialization and encampment of Japanese Americans. Consequently, I aim to look into the private correspondences of WRA Director Dillon S. Meyer, hopefully to better understand the decisions made by the WRA about the official stance to be taken on the relocation of inmates and how they decided to frame the internment as tragic but necessary. I also plan on looking through more newspaper clippings, especially from Hearst press, for anti-Japanese cartoons and visuals.

In addition to visiting the special collections at UCLA, I was also able to visit the Cornerstone Theatre Company, which produced Chay Yew's 1998 play *A Beautiful Country*, a text central to my project for thinking through Asian American racializations. Although this play has been an important text for my thinking throughout, I have never been able to view a recording of it, as it is not available in any library or archive. It was great that I was able to arrange a viewing of a digital recording housed there exclusively. This would strengthen my reading of the play and my project more generally, especially as I present on this play later this month at the Critical Ethnic Studies Association conference in Chicago.

Thank you so much to you, Dr. Faherty, Provost Lennihan, and everyone else responsible for coordinating this important award and making it possible. I truly appreciate your support toward students and our scholarly efforts.

Warmest regards,

Chris Eng