

# THE PHILLIPS --- COLLECTION

*East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection*

2005

Finding Aid

The Phillips Collection  
Library and Archives  
1600 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW  
Washington D.C. 20009  
[www.phillipscollection.org](http://www.phillipscollection.org)

# CURATORIAL RECORDS IN THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION ARCHIVES

## INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

**Collection Title:** *East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection*; exhibition records

**Author/Creator:** The Phillips Collection Curatorial Department. Sue Behrends Frank, Assistant Curator

**Size:** 1.7 linear feet; 4 document boxes

**Bulk Dates:** February – October 2005

**Inclusive Dates:** 1986; 2005

**Repository:** The Phillips Collection Archives

## INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

**Restrictions:** The collection contains restricted materials. Please contact Karen Schneider, Librarian, with any questions regarding access.

**Handling Requirements:** Care should be taken in handling audio cassette tape reel of Diane Rehm radio show, Box 3, Folder 16.

**Preferred Citation:** The Phillips Collection Archives, Washington, D.C.

**Publication and Reproduction Rights:** See Karen Schneider, Librarian, for further information and to obtain required forms.

## ABSTRACT

*East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection (2005)* exhibition records contain materials created and collected by the Curatorial Department, The Phillips Collection, during the course of organizing the exhibition. Included are exhibition planning files that document the preparation and logistics for the show.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

This exhibition was first proposed in December 2004, when a loan to The Phillips Collection from a private collection in Japan was negotiated for the print series *The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido* by master Japanese printmaker Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858). Susan (Sue) Behrends Frank, Assistant Curator, TPC, had primary responsibility for the exhibition. These records document her work as the show's organizer, working in association with Takahide Tsuchiya of the Mori Arts Center, Tokyo, Japan, where a travelling show from TPC, *From El Greco to Picasso: European Masterworks from The Phillips Collection* would be on exhibit in the summer of 2005, and who made possible this loan of the Hiroshige Tokaido series for exhibit at TPC.

There had been a flurry of activity over the course of a few months as the exhibition was finalized under the direction of Frank, before opening at TPC on June 25, 2005. During the

course of that activity, Dr. Frank took a fresh look at the museum's permanent collection and identified a number of threads that had appeared from the earliest days of the collection and continued through subsequent decades, things seen as links to museum founder Duncan Phillips's admiration for Japanese woodblock prints.

Duncan Phillips (1886-1966) was profoundly influenced by his first trip abroad in 1910 – an extended family vacation to Asia that was primarily spent in Japan. From his earliest purchases of Japanese prints acquired for his own enjoyment, Hiroshige was a personal favorite of Phillips, who owned five of the most well-known prints from *The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido*. Throughout his long career building the museum's collection, Phillips's acquisitions of American and European works show that his own tastes were attuned to Japanese formal values – asymmetrical composition, flat pure colors, and decorative design – confirming his lifelong interest in merging an Eastern aesthetic with a Western sensibility.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Curatorial records in this collection document the research and planning for the exhibition entitled *East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection*. Organized by The Phillips Collection, the show opened at the museum on June 25, 2005, and remained on view through September 4, 2005. Shown in its entirety was the print series *The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido* (Hoeido edition, 1833-34) by Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858), considered the foremost specialist in landscape among the Japanese masters of the color woodblock print, known as the School of Ukiyo-e (“pictures of the floating world”). Featured were Hiroshige's 55 woodblock prints that depict stops along the fabled Tokaido Road, the Eastern Coast highway linking Edo – present-day Tokyo – with the imperial city of Kyoto.

The *Tokaido* series was mounted not in numerical order, but displayed “in conversation” with works from the museum's permanent collection by European and American artists influenced by Hiroshige and reflecting Duncan Phillips's aesthetic sensibility, especially in relationship to landscape painting, including Pierre Bonnard, Paul Cezanne, John Twachtman, Maurice Prendergast, Oskar Kokoschka, Morris Graves, Milton Avery, and others. Supporting items also displayed included a diary from the Phillips family trip to Japan in 1910, when Duncan Phillips was 24; a rare book from TPC Library; a loaned painting by Paul Gauguin, and three related Hiroshige prints (loaned from the Library of Congress). There was no catalogue created to accompany the exhibition. The show did not travel.

The *Tokaido* series by Hiroshige was on loan to The Phillips Collection from a private collection in Japan, courtesy of the Japan Art Corporation, Ltd., The Mainichi Newspapers, TBS Vision, Inc., and the Mori Arts Center (Tokyo). Transportation assistance was provided by All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd (ANA). Lockheed Martin was the sponsor of the works of Hiroshige. The exhibition was co-chaired by Howard H. Baker, Jr. (former U.S. ambassador to Japan and former Senate majority leader), Thomas S. Foley (former U.S. ambassador to Japan and former

speaker of the House of Representatives), and his Excellency Ryozo Kato (then the ambassador of Japan).

Records in this collection consist of the exhibition planning files of the curator. The bulk of the planning files are comprised of correspondence regarding the organizing and logistics of the exhibition, financial and funding records, wall and label text, installation designs, educational activities and public programs, special events, attendance records, and public relations including press reviews, an audio recording from the Diane Rehm radio show, and visitor commentary.

### **CUSTODIAL HISTORY AND ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

This collection is owned by The Phillips Collection, and was accessioned from the curators' offices in accordance with the museum's records schedule.

### **PROCESSING AND DESCRIPTION INFORMATION**

**Date Processed:** June 2011

**Processed By:** Colleen Hennessey, Archives Assistant, supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian

**Processing Notes:** After an initial survey of the collection, some duplicate materials were identified and a number of documents were determined to be of no future reference value for the collection. In discussions with the librarian, approval was given to photocopy documentation, weed duplicate documents (retaining those with hand-written notes), and discard selected drafts. Boxes and folders containing restricted materials were marked with a red dot (see note above re 'restrictions'). Folder headings were maintained when possible, but were re-written in some cases for greater clarity and accuracy. Metal fasteners were removed and replaced with plastic clips when needed. Post Its were photocopied if necessary, or otherwise removed. All documents were re-folded into acid free folders.

**Finding Aid Written By:** Colleen Hennessey, Archives Assistant, supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian

### **RELATED MATERIAL**

The Phillips Collection Library houses archival manuscript material documenting Duncan Phillips's interest in the Japanese aesthetic, including the travel diary kept by his father of the family's 1910 journey to Japan and China, as well as an early Duncan Phillips essay, "Nationality in Pictures" (published in *The Enchantment of Art*, 1914) that reveals his familiarity with the Tokaido road and with Hiroshige's prints of this ancient Japanese highway. There is also a record of Duncan Phillips's library that references his books related to Japanese prints. *Hiroshige* by Yone Noguchi (1940), a rare book from the library, was displayed in the exhibition.

Three Hiroshige color woodblock prints owned by the Library of Congress were lent for display in the exhibition from the series *Thirty-six Views of Fuji* (FP 2 –JDP, nos. 1232 and 1235); and the album *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo* (FP 2 –JDP, no. 1517).

Library of Congress  
Prints and Photographs Division  
101 Independence Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4730

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/>

An archived sound recording may be found at:  
The Diane Rehm Show (WAMU 88.5 American University and National Public Radio)  
Wednesday, 13 July 2005  
*East Meets West: Hiroshige at the Phillips Collection*  
Featured guests: Sue Frank, Eric Denker, and Keiko Hiratsuka Moore

<http://thedianerehmshow.org/shows/2005-07-13/east-meets-west-hiroshige-phillips-collection>

### **ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection is organized into one major series.  
Series I: Exhibition Planning

### **Box Inventory**

#### **Series I Exhibition Planning, 1986; 2005**

Series I files document the fast-paced activities that went into the planning under short notice for this exhibition, as well as the public program activities that took place during the course of the show, special events, and press reviews and visitor commentary. The files also include a rack card that was distributed to the public and the press kit that houses a checklist and a copy of the wall text and object labels for most works of art in the show (labels for TPC library and archival materials are not included). An enthusiastic public had also requested and received wall text and label copy, as no catalogue was created to accompany this exhibition. The formal lender agreement for this show is not housed with these records.

<b>Box I</b>	Folder 1	Attendance records, July – September 2005
	Folder 2	Budget, 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 3	Checklists, including revised final list of works, 21 July 2005
	Folders 4-9	Correspondence, February – September 2005

<b>Box 1 cont'd.</b>	Folder 10	Education – newsletters, June-August 2005
	Folder 11	Education – Teacher Program kit, 30 June 2005
<b>Box 2</b>	Folder 1	Education – Teacher Program kit <i>cont'd.</i> , 30 June 2005
	Folders 2	Education – Teacher Program kit, resource material, 2005
	Folder 3	Exhibition planning meeting, 18 March 2005, & notes
	Folder 4	Funding – correspondence, including shop images, 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 5	Funding – donations, 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 6	Funding – All Nippon Airlines (ANA), 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 7	Funding – Lockheed Martin, 2005 [restricted] <i>See also:</i> Membership (dinner of 23 June) box 3, folder 9
	Folder 8	Funding – <i>Exhibition Sponsorship Report</i> for Lockheed Martin, 1 v., 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 9	Hiroshige prints owned by Duncan Phillips, 2005
	Folder 10	Installation – banners, signage, wayfinders – correspondence and images, 2005
	Folder 11	Installation – casings, mats, frames, wall colors – correspondence, plans, elevation drawings, 2005
	Folder 12	Installation – labels – correspondence, 2005
	Folder 13	Installation – labels and wall text, final versions, undated
	Folder 14	Installation – labels and wall text, with images, undated
<b>Box 3</b>	Folder 1	Installation – labels and wall text, early long drafts, undated
	Folder 2	Installation – views of mounted exhibition, undated
	Folder 3	Japan Information & Cultural Center – related exhibition: <i>Ukiyo-e Prints on View</i> , 2005
	Folder 4	Japanese prints, TPC – Sotheby's (NY), 1986 [restricted]
	Folder 5	Lender – Library of Congress, 2005
	Folder 6	Lender – Private Collection, 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 7	Marketing – <i>Museum Communications</i> report, 2005
	Folder 8	Membership – Artful Afternoons patron summer lunch series, correspondence, 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 9	Membership – Chairman's Circle dinners (27 April and 23 June); Director's dinner (9 May) 2005 [restricted]
	Folder 10	Membership – <i>Members Newsletter</i> (June-September 2005 issues) and related internal correspondence, 2005
	Folder 11	Membership – quarterly magazine (Summer 2005) and author correspondence, 2005
	Folder 12	Public Programs – lecture – <i>Revealing Japan's Lost World: The Art of Hiroshige</i> , Kenichiro Hashimoto lecturer, 30 June 2005

- Box 3 cont'd.**
- Folder 13 Public Programs – demonstrations and talk  
– *Celebrating Japan: An Evening of Japanese Art and Culture*, 21 July 2005
  - Folder 14 Public Programs – lecture  
– *From Manet to Bonnard: The Allure of Japan in nineteenth Century Art*, Eric Denker lecturer, 28 July 2005
  - Folder 15 Public Programs – lecture  
– *You Are What You Wear: Kimonos Revealed on the Tokaido Road*, Ann Marie Moeller lecturer, 1 September 2005
  - Folder 16 Publicity – Diane Rehm radio show  
– internal correspondence, 2005  
– audio cassette tape, 1 reel, 13 July 2005
  - Folder 17 Publicity – exhibition fact sheet drafts, 2005
  - Folder 18 Publicity – press preview and correspondence, 2005
- Box 4**
- Folder 1 Publicity – press kit, 2005
  - Folder 2 Publicity – press clippings; articles; online coverage, 2005
  - Folder 3 Rack card (printed handout), and correspondence, 2005
  - Folder 4 Special events – internal correspondence, 2005
  - Folder 5 Special events – invitations for opening receptions, 2005
  - Folder 6 Visitor comment sheets, 2005 and undated
  - Folder 7 Visitor comment book, 1 v., pp. 1-152, 2005

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