Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition
Centennial Celebration

A 2-Day Symposium:
Asian-Pacific Perspectives

Organized by Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee

Sponsors:
4Culture 2008 Special Program
The Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture;
The National Archives & Records Administration

Only four Asian-Pacific groups participated in the 1909 exposition: Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, and Hawaiians. How and why their cultures were presented to fair goers has been a neglected subject. As part of Seattle city's centennial celebration for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, the symposium is intended to reveal stories of Asian Pacific participants as a way of understanding the development of their communities and their images in their own eyes and those of European Americans, some supportive and others fiercely hostile. See www.cinarc.org for details.

Day 1: 9/12/2009
Sat, 9:00 - 16:30
National Archives and Records Administration
6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-7999

Self and Projected Images of Asian & Pacific Immigrants in the Age of AYPE: 1905-1910

Session I.
Chair: Lorraine McConaghy (Museum of History and Industry, Seattle)
Chuimei Ho (Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee).

Session II.
Chair: Priscilla Wegars (Asian American Comparative Collections, of Idaho)
Sarah Nelson Smith (formerly NARA archivist).

"How Ready Were the Chinese and Japanese Communities in Seattle to Join the AYPE?"

Jeffer Daykin (Portland State University & Portland Community College)
"Calming the Waters of Japan-US. Relations through Commerce: The Reception of Shibusawa Eiichi's Trade Commission at the A-Y-P"


Trish Hackett Nicola (Independent Genealogist).
"The Chinese Community at the A-Y-P Exposition."

Session III.
Chair Gail Nomura
(American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington)

Dorothy L. & Fred Cordova (Filipino-American National Historical Society)
"Filipinos in Washington and the AYPE."


Trish Hackett Nicola (Independent Genealogist).
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**Session IV.**  
**Chair: Connie Sugahara**  
(Cherry Festival Committee, Seattle)

David A. Rash (Madsen, Kneppers & Associates, Inc., Seattle)  
"Asian Imagery at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and in Seattle."

Dan Kerlee (AYPE Specialist, aype.com).  
"Japanese art and crafts at AYPE - what beauty, and messages, do they convey?"

**Day 2: 9/13/2009  
Sun, 9:00 - 17:30**

The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle.  
**There will be a tour of the former AYPE fairgrounds.**

**Asians and Pacific Participants at the Fair:**

**Fear and Friendship**

**Session V.**  
**Chair: Bettie Luke**  
(Organization of Chinese Americans, Seattle)

Bennet Bronson (Chinese in Northwest America Research Committee).

"Asians and Pacific islanders at the AYPE - an overview."

**Session VI.**

**Chair: Assunta Ng**  
(Northwest Asian Weekly, Seattle)

Martha Hoverson (Hawaii Public Library). "Hawaiians at the AYPE."

Shea Aoki (Japanese American Service League, Seattle) & Chuimei Ho (CINAC).  
"Tatsuya Arai and other Concessionaire for the 'Streets of Tokio' at the AYPE."

**Session VII.**

**Chair: Connie So** (American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington)

Cherubim Quizon (Anthropology Department, Seton Hall).  
"Of 'dead exhibits' and living things: lessons from the Philippine ethnological displays at St Louis and Seattle."

Patricia Afable (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution) & Deana Weibel (Grand Valley State University).  
"Performers, Interpreters, and the Showman Onstage and Offstage at the Pay Streak's 'Igorrote Village'."

**REGISTRATION**

Inquiries: Bronson@cinarc.org or www.cinarc.org.
The fair was evolved from an idea of Godfrey Chealander’s. Chealander, then Grand Secretary of the Arctic Brotherhood, was involved in the Alaska Territory exhibit: at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon. Originally, he pitched William Sheffield of the Alaska Club and James A. Wood, city editor of the Seattle Times on the idea of a permanent exhibit in Seattle about Alaska. This merged with Wood’s desire for an exposition to rival Portland’s. They soon gained the backing of Times publisher Alden Blethen—remarkably, for the time, without gaining the opposition of the rival Seattle Post Intelligencer. [1]

Edmond S. Meany proposed that the exposition be held on the then largely forested campus of the University of Washington, which in 1905 had exactly three buildings and little deliberate landscaping. At the time, this was considered rather far from the center of town, but Meany eventually sold the others involved on the idea that the forested campus could, itself, be an attraction for out-of-town visitors and that the trolley ride from downtown would not be an obstacle to attendance. Of course, he was also highly aware of what the landscaping and structures could do for the campus. [2]

The state legislature endorsed the fair, with the proviso that it would produce at least four permanent buildings, and that any state monetary contribution would be focused mainly on those buildings. King County (the county in which Seattle is located) stepped up with US$300,000 for a forestry exhibit—the largest log cabin ever built—and $78,000 for other exhibits. Because the original Klondike gold strikes had been in Canada, the concept soon evolved to an “Alaska-Yukon Exposition”; later, at the behest of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the “Pacific” theme was also added to emphasize the Oriental trade. [3]

Although the fair almost certainly could have been ready for 1907, it was postponed so as not to conflict with the Jamestown Exposition. This turned out to be good fortune for Seattle, because 1907 proved to be a bad year for the economy. If the exposition had been held that year it almost certainly would have been a financial failure, rather than the success it was in 1909. [4]

-Wikipedia