

EVENT

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)

Chumei Ho (Chinese in
Northwest America Research
Committee).

"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"

Session II.

Chair: Priscilla Wegars
(Asian American
Comparative Collections, of
Idaho)

Sarah Nelson Smith
(formerly NARA archivist).

"The Chinese Exclusion Act
in the Era of the Alaska
Yukon Exposition."

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."

Ken Tadashi Oshima
(Department of Architecture,
University of Washington)
"Japan: The Architecture of
Abodes Abroad."

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),
"Tatsyua 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".

Session VIII.

**Chair: Lorraine
McConaghy** (Museum of
History and Industry, Seattle)



Richard Kay (Kong Yick
Company, Seattle).
"Lew G. Kay, the
Chairperson of China Day at
the AYPE."

Howard King (Retired
Engineer, Seattle).
"My Grandfather, Ah King,
the only Chinese
concessionaire at the AYPE."

Tina Song (Independent
Architect, Seattle).
"The Chinese Architecture at
AYPE and other
Expositions."

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