

# Preliminary Guide to the Doolittle Collection of Japanese Drama

DRA 11



Compiled by Jessica Tam

2009

Arts Library Special Collections

180 York Street

New Haven, CT 06511

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<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections  
Arts Library Special Collections  
180 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-432-1712  
haasalsc@yale.edu  
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

**CALL NUMBER:** DRA 11

**TITLE:** The Doolittle Collection of Japanese Drama

**DATES:** 1897-1974

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.17 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English, French, Chinese, and Japanese.

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains numerous designs of unknown origin depicting scenes from the traditional Japanese stage. The scenes displayed are derived from Noh (or Nō) dramas, a performance tradition which draws on Buddhist scripture and Japanese mythology and combines music, dance, and poetry in a highly formalized staging.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.dra.0011>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.dra.0011>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Doolittle Collection of Japanese Drama was housed in the former Drama Library until its transfer to the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library in 2008.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University.

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## **Preferred Citation**

The Doolittle Collection of Japanese Drama, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The collection contains numerous designs of unknown origin depicting scenes from the traditional Japanese stage. The scenes displayed are derived from Noh (or Nō) dramas, a performance tradition which draws on Buddhist scripture and Japanese mythology and combines music, dance, and poetry in a highly formalized staging.

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## **Arrangement**

Box listing only.

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**Collection Contents**
**Box listing**

b. 1	47 colored prints of theatrical scenes from Nō plays; labeled #1-12; #12c.2-46; #67-70; #355	undated
b. 2, f. 1	20 colored prints with handwritten notes; labeled #47-66	undated
b. 2, f. 2	1 black and white photograph of figure in Nō costume; labeled #239	undated
b. 2, f. 3	25 handwritten notes to accompany each print pair; labeled #84-109	undated
b. 2, f. 4	"No Sugata (Figure of Nō dance)" folder containing photo, Japanese text, colored drawings, and prints.	undated
b. 3, f. 1	1 unbound book, <i>No-Dance Pictures</i> , containing 124 colored prints in 3 parts with corresponding handwritten notes by Kogyo; labeled #110-195	1897-1898
b. 3, f. 2	1 figure painting on canvas panel; labeled #228 <i>9 inches x 12 inches</i>	undated
b. 3, f. 3	3 figure collages on cloth; labeled #314-316	undated
b. 4	3 colored scrolls with a single mask on each one; labeled Nō Mask, Doolittle Collection #309-311	undated
b. 5	28 colored paintings of figures on tan fabric mounted on cardboard <i>9.5 inches x 10.75 inches</i>	undated
b. 5	3 colored paintings of landscape on tan fabric mounted on cardboard <i>9.5 inches x 10.75 inches</i>	undated
b. 5	1 colored painting of a bird on tan fabric mounted on cardboard <i>9.5 inches x 10.75 inches</i>	undated
b. 6, f. 1	1 sketchbook containing 5 pencil drawings of costumes	1934
b. 6, f. 2	1 sketchbook of 4 pencil drawings of costumes	1934
b. 6, f. 3	1 sketchbook labeled "No-Dance I" and containing 34 pencil drawings of costumes and colored photographs and postcards of costumed actors	1934
b. 6, f. 4	Typed out: "Synopses of I. Ashi-Kari (The Reed Cutter). II. Yugyo-Yanagi (Preaching and the Willow). III. Ama (Fisher Girl). Kyogen, Fusenai (Already translated), and Nagamitsu (long and shining - Name of Sword)." "No Dramas. Complete Plays of Yuya. Dojoji. Synopsis of Kiyotsune, Farce Shuron, Tomonaga, Senjul Kurama Tengu-No plays."	undated
b. 6, f. 5	1 scrapbook containing paste prints, photographs, and articles	undated
b. 7, f. 1	1 accordion-style book with 5 colored paintings; labeled #242-246	undated
b. 7, f. 2	1 accordion-style book entitled "No-Dance" with 61 colored prints of costumed Noh actors; labeled #247-307	undated
b. 7, f. 3	1 pamphlet containing Chinese text; mask on cover <i>5 inches x 9 inches</i>	undated

b. 7, f. 4	3 pamphlets; 3 prints; miscellaneous ephemera [folder labeled "Contents of this folder NOT Doolittle. From Baker Collection."]	undated
b. 8, f. 1-3	3 bound volumes containing colored paintings of figures and shop signs. English index indicates: "Dresses of the Tang, Sung, Yuan, Ming, Ch'ing Dynasty" and "Trade and Shop Signs;" labeled #317-354	undated
b. 8, f. 4	1 portfolio "Murals in the Tomb of Li Chung-Jun of the Tang Dynasty" in English, French, and Chinese. Contains diagram of tomb and photographs of tomb wall drawings.	1974
b. 9	6 scrolls of varying sizes; both color and black and white illustrations; many inscribed, including: 1 scroll labeled, Nō Mask, Doolittle Collection #308; 2 scrolls containing signatures, including Mary Florence Denton	1920 undated
b. 10	3 scrolls with color illustrations: 1 scene with 2 figures; 2 Nō Masks, labeled Doolittle Collection #312-313	undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Nō

Nō -- Japan -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Printouts

### **Names**

Denton, Mary Florence, 1857?-1947