

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words



公会堂と平和記念館
平和記念公園内に、新設されたモダンな公会堂 平和記念館と共に市民の憩いの場所であり観光の中心地である。

Connecting Through Canon in Post-Occupation Japan

A PUBLIC HALL AND PEACE MEMORIAL HALL

November 2023 - January 2024

While the Occupation of Japan formally ended on April 28, 1952, the U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Treaty allowed for the continued presence of United States military personnel in Japan. Some men who served under this treaty were trained to maintain military communication capacities used by both countries. In the process, they came into contact with a transforming Japanese landscape.

Drawing from the Gordon W. Prange Collection's post-Occupation materials, the exhibit explores how one serviceman, George Peter Demeroukas, documented his time in Japan outside of his military duties. Demeroukas was a second-generation Greek immigrant from Chicago, Illinois, who, after being drafted, worked in Japan on military radio broadcast and telecommunication stations. His service was his passport, and while his initial hope was a posting to Europe, his second choice-assignment to Japan became his first love. He would capture scenes of everyday life and send the photos back to his family to connect them with his personal experience of the country.

As Demeroukas wrote, "The pictures I send home do my storytelling". Viewers are invited to reflect upon the ways in which he tried to make sense of a country on the cusp of change, and how his vernacular lens was shaped by his self-identity.

The exhibition team at the Gordon W. Prange Collection would like to thank Karen Adjei, an iSchool Field Study graduate intern, for curating the exhibition using materials from the George P. Demeroukas Papers.

