

September 24, 2010

Re: The Jacoulet-Finkin Correspondence

In 1946, I, Michael Finkin moved from New York City to Tokyo, Japan to undertake the management of a thirteen branch library system in Japan (which was originally under the U.S. State Department, then transferred to GHQ, the U.S. occupation authority). This system catered to the Japanese public and was part of the democratization program.

One of the branch libraries was near Karuizawa, the home of the artist Paul Jacoulet, a French national who was a celebrity in the Japanese art world. On one of my regular branch visits, Miss Baker, a local staff member suggested I should meet Jacoulet, which I did and a friendship developed.

In September 1947, my wife Dorothy Finkin and our children arrived in Japan. She subsequently met and also became a friend of Jacoulet.

In August 1949 we returned to New York. Dorothy became Paul Jacoulet's New York agent in 1951 which relationship continued through 1957. During this period Paul wrote many letters to my wife Dorothy. These letters were addressed to me although I was not involved with my wife's representation of him and it was Dorothy who was writing to Paul. Although Jacoulet's letters contain much information and instructions regarding sale of his art, they also focus on family matters, finance his health and state of mind.

Dorothy's representation of Jacoulet was vigorous and faced constant rejection by the art world. Critics in New York called it "poster art" refusing to take it seriously. Many refused to accept that a Frenchman could be a leading exponent of a Japanese art form. Auction houses and galleries were dismissive. She arranged shows at the Guild Theatre and elsewhere, gave lectures, appeared on TV and tirelessly visited up scale decorators and potential buyers, often with little success. Years later Paul Jacoulet became accepted but this was long after his death.

Michael C. Finkin

COLLECTION OF EUGENE F. FINKIN
PAUL JACOULET ARCHIVES
LETTERS

Written by Paul Jacoulet

1. December 28, 1950, typewritten, one page
2. December 8, 1951, typewritten, one page
3. December 26, 1951, typewritten, one page
4. January 10, 1952, typewritten, two pages plus purchase invoice
5. January 11, 1952, typewritten, two pages plus two-page price list
6. February 1, 1952, typewritten, one page, plus one-page price list
7. February 7, 1952, typewritten, four pages
8. March 4, 1952, typewritten, two pages [Includes philosophy of wood-block art appreciation.]
9. March 14, 1952, typewritten, one and one-half pages
10. March 18, 1952, typewritten, one and one-half pages
11. March 28, 1952, typewritten, one plus pages
12. April 3, 1952, typewritten, one page
13. April 4, 1952, typewritten, one page
14. April 14, 1952, typewritten, one page
15. April 25, 1952, typewritten, one plus pages plus one-page list
16. May 9, 1952, typewritten, one page
17. May 21, 1952, typewritten, one plus pages
18. Undated, from content May/June, 1952, typewritten, one page
19. June 27, 1952, typewritten, one page
20. July 1, 1952, typewritten, one page
21. July 15, 1952, typewritten, one page
22. July 23, 1952, typewritten, one page
23. August 18, 1952, typewritten, one page
24. August 27, 1952, typewritten, one page
25. August 30, 1952, typewritten, one page
26. September 7, 1952, typewritten, one page
27. September 14, 1952, typewritten, one page

28. September 20, 1952, typewritten, one page
29. September 26, 1952, typewritten, one page
30. October 9/11, 1952, typewritten, one page with annotated list of out of prints by series including seals
31. October 27, 1952, typewritten, two pages
32. November 26, 1952, typewritten, one page
33. December 1, 1952, typewritten, one page
34. December 15, 1952, typewritten, one page with list
35. December 29, 1952, typewritten, one page
36. January 13, 1953, typewritten, one page
37. January 22, 1953, typewritten, one page
38. February 13, 1953, typewritten, one page
39. February 24, 1953, typewritten, one page
40. March 29, 1953, typewritten, one page
41. April 15, 1953, typewritten, one page
42. May 10, 1953, typewritten, one page
43. June 5, 1953, typewritten, one page
44. July 15, 1953, typewritten, one page
45. August 7, 1953, typewritten, one page
46. September 19, 1953, typewritten, one page
47. October 10, 1953, typewritten, one page
48. November 30, 1953, typewritten, two pages
49. December 15, 1953, typewritten, one page
50. January 18, 1954, typewritten, one page
51. January 31, 1954, typewritten, two pages
52. March 7, 1954, typewritten, two pages
53. March 10, 1954, typewritten, one page
54. March 11, 1954, typewritten, one page
55. March 31, 1954, typewritten, one page
56. April 19, 1954, typewritten, one page

57. April 22, 1954, typewritten, one page
58. May 8, 1954, typewritten, one page
59. May 19, 1954, typewritten, one page
60. June 16, 1954, typewritten, one page
61. July 19, 1954, typewritten, one page
62. July 22, 1954, typewritten, one page
63. September 24, 1954, typewritten, one page
64. December 6, 1954, hand written, one page, two sides
65. December 26, 1954, hand written, two pages, one written two sides
66. June 22, 1955, typewritten, one page
67. July 30, 1955, typewritten, one page
68. September 1, 1955, typewritten, one page
69. September 11, 1955, typewritten, one page
70. November 7, 1955, typewritten, one page
71. November 19, 1955, typewritten, one page
72. June 8, 1956, typewritten, one page, with envelope
73. September 16, 1956, typewritten, one page, with envelope (date from postmark)
74. December 31, 1956, hand written, one page, with envelope (date from postmark)
75. January 23, 1957, typewritten, one page, with envelope
76. November 8, 1957, typewritten, one page, with envelope

Written by Louis Rah, secretary of Paul Jacoulet

77. April 8, 1952, typewritten, one page plus list of prints [year is assumed from its sequence in storage]
78. August 30, 1952, typewritten, one page [year is assumed from its sequence in storage]
79. November, 1952, typewritten, one page [month is assumed from text of letter]
80. May/June, 1953, typewritten, one page with six pages of annotated lists [date is assumed from its sequence in storage]
81. December 14, 1955, typewritten, one page

Written by Peter Martin

82. February 24, 1953, typewritten, one page

COLLECTION OF EUGENE F. FINKIN
PAUL JACOULET ARCHIVE
PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 10-1/2x7-1/4, glossy,
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Paul Jacoulet
drawing in his studio (Japanese room)
rare hakemono by an old artist reputed for birds
May 1953
Karuizawa Japan"
2. 4-1/2x3-3/4 glossy
Jacoulet and his adopted family
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Paul Therese Pepé
et Ryû
chez a moi a Karuizawa
May 1952"
3. 10x7-3/4, matte (same as #2, no writing)
4. duplicate of #3
5. 7-3/4x10, matte
Portrait of Paul Jacoulet
6. duplicate of #5
7. 5-1/2x3-3/8, matte
Michael Finkin, Dorothy Finkin, Paul Jacoulet, circa 1948-49
8. 10-1/2x7-3/8, glossy
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"The great printing artist
Onodera and his son in the printing shop
at Paul Jacoulet's house in Karuizawa Japan
May 1953"
9. 10-3/8x7-3/8, glossy
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Jean-Baptiste Rah (Shö-chan) assistant secretary
of Paul Jacoulet (Korean) in his working room
preparing the papers for prints.
Karuizawa Japan
May 1953"
10. 10-1/2x7-7/16, glossy
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Paul Jacoulet in his garden
with his second secretary Louis Rah
his daughter Therese (6 years old) and Pepé son of the first secretary Rah
May 1953
in Karuizawa Japan 1953"

11. 10-1/2x7-1/2, glossy
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Louis Rah (Ryû) second assistant secretary of Paul Jacoulet
(Korean) packing and putting order to the prints in his
room at Karuizawa Japan – Paul Jacoulet's house
May 1953"
12. 2-1/4x3, glossy
Paul Jacoulet with American woman,
1948-49
13. 4-3/8x3, glossy
Paul Jacoulet with Dorothy Finkin (on right)
and an American woman, 1948-49
14. 10x8, glossy
Michael Finkin (left) in New York (circa 1953) with exhibition wall of Paul Jacoulet framed prints
15. 7X5, glossy
Dorothy Finkin (left) at her booth exhibiting Paul Jacoulet prints at New York Antique Show, 1951
or 1952
16. duplicate of above
17. 2-3/8x3-1/2, glossy
Jacoulet's adopted daughter
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Therese Jacoulet, May 1, 1954, Karuizawa, To Finkin Family, Paul"
18. 4-1/2x3, glossy
Handwritten by Paul Jacoulet on back:
"Paul Therese Kirei
in my garden - first picture taken after my great illness
September 1956
Karuizawa
to my good friends all the Finkin family
Paul"

COLLECTION OF EUGENE F. FINKIN
PAUL JACOULET ARCHIVE
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, AND COLLATERAL MATERIAL

- 1/2. Two pages of magazine with article on Jacoulet, plus pasted clipping, with photo of Jacoulet holding "Jade Lady" print, Time, May 20, 1946
3. Newspaper page, plus clipping of runover, of feature article on Jacoulet, with photos of Jacoulet, the print "Retour de la Jungle" and worker in Jacoulet's Karuizawa studio, Far East Stars and Stripes, May 16, 1948
4. Newspaper clipping on Jacoulet exhibition. Press Journal, circa 1950s
5. Newspaper clipping with article on Jacoulet exhibition, Pacific Stars and Stripes, November 23, 1950
6. Newspaper clipping about Dorothy Finkin representing Paul Jacoulet, including photo with two Jacoulet prints, Long Island Daily Press, April 29, 1952
7. Newspaper page with article on Jacoulet, New York World Telegram and Sun, May 1, 1952
8. Newspaper page with column including paragraphs on Jacoulet exhibition, Washington Times-Herald, July 6, 1952
9. Newspaper page with listing paragraph on Jacoulet exhibition, The Sunday Star, Washington, July 6, 1952
10. Newspaper folio with article on Jacoulet exhibition, NY Daily News, Brooklyn Section, August 13, 1952
11. Newspaper page with article on Jacoulet exhibition, Brooklyn Daily, August, 13, 1952
12. Newspaper clipping, mentioning Jacoulet exhibit, New York Times, January 19, 1953
13. Newspaper clipping with article on Jacoulet, including photo of artist and of a wood block print, Tokyo Evening News, July 17, 1953
14. Newspaper clipping of article on Jacoulet, with photo of "December Night", Pacific Stars and Stripes, circa August 14, 1953
15. Newspaper clipping of article on exhibition Dayton Art Institute and Jacoulet history, with image of A Snowy Night, circa 1953
16. Newspaper clipping of column including lecture and exhibit of Jacoulet at woman's club, circa 1954,
17. Newspaper clipping on Jacoulet traveling, Australia, hand dated "8.11.54, Perth"
18. Newspaper clipping with biographical article on Jacoulet, with photo of "Jade Lady", English Mainichi, circa September, 1955
- 19-22 Newspaper page and three clippings of article on Jacoulet including photo of artist, Brooklyn Eagle, Jan. 9, 1955
23. Newspaper page plus clipping of article on Jacoulet, France-Amérique, (clipping was glued to France-Amérique letterhead) January 23, 1955

24. Newspaper clipping Paul Jacoulet by Stuart Griffin, hand dated November, 1950
25. Newspaper clipping of article on Jacoulet, with photo of "Giant 'aristocloche' Flowers of Tondano, Celebes", Asahi Evening News, circa 1956
26. Newspaper clipping announcing "Mongul Prince with a Falcon" including image.
27. Newspaper clipping of article featuring the Black Lotus with photo of Jacoulet and his uncle Jean Jacoulet, The Japan Times, August 3, 1959
28. Sales brochure "Paintings and Colour Prints by Paul Jacoulet" including black and white reproduction of five prints, possibly 1940-41
29. Sales brochure on the Paul Jacoulet Rainbow series, including color images of three prints and commentary on Jacoulet and the Rainbow Series by Junji Kato, Eisaku Wada, Yone Noguchi, Saburosuke Okada and Zoe Kincaid.
30. Exhibition brochure on Paul Jacoulet by William Hartnett, two color, including one image of one print
31. Press release on exhibition, Brooklyn Public Library, August 8, 1952
32. Press release, New York University January 14, 1953
33. Press release, The Asia Institute, 1956
34. Lecture handout on Paul Jacoulet and Dorothy Finkin, circa 1952
35. Original drafts of article on Jacoulet for TIME magazine by William C. Hartnett
36. Typed biographical account of Jacoulet career development by unknown intimate
37. Dorothy Finkin "Jacoulet" business card
38. Newspaper clipping announcing sales of Jacoulet prints by the Hogarth Shop, New York Times, (circa 1952)