



## **The Iretta Hight Retan Collection**

Kamehameha Preparatory Department, 1888-1889  
Kamehameha School for Boys 1890-1892

**Finding Aid**

**Kamehameha Schools Museum Archive**

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# Finding Aid

By Candace W. Lee  
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**Abstract:** The Iretta Hight Retan Collection contains her handwritten journal from her teaching years at Kamehameha Preparatory Department from 1888-1889 and at Kamehameha School for Boys from 1890-1892. Photographs of her travels around the islands are also included

**Title:** The Iretta Hight Retan Collection

**Dates:** 1888-92

**Size:** .5 linear feet (1 legal size gray box)

**Provenance:** The Iretta Hight Retan Collection was deposited by her daughters, E. Elizabeth Retan and Lucile Goodwin in 1988. Iretta Hight was one of the first teachers at the Preparatory Department and then taught at Kamehameha Schools for Boys before returning home.

**Access:** Access is by permission of the archivist or director.

**Language:** In English

**Added Entries:**

1. Kamehameha Schools Preparatory Department
2. Kamehameha School for Boys
3. Photographic prints

**Citation:** Kamehameha Schools. Users of this collection are responsible for using the materials in conformance with U.S. copyright laws.

**Biographical note**

The October 1888 *Handicraft* states: *Miss I.M. Hight comes to us after a successful year of teaching in the Preparatory School, taking the position made vacant by the resignation of Miss. M.E. Hillebrand. The school is to be congratulated on the accession of teachers.*

The April 1892 *Handicraft* reports: *We regret to announce the resignation of Miss I.M. Hight who has been connected with the Kamehameha Schools four years, teaching for one year at the Preparatory and three years at the Manual...*

The October 1892 *Handicraft* reports: *Mrs. I.M. Hight Retan is at Niles, Michigan from which place pleasant reports come of the wedding at Salt Lake City, and of the journey overland via San Francisco and the Northern Pacific.*

In a letter to Ms. Gail Fujimoto [Midkiff Learning Center Head Librarian] on October 1, 1988, E Elizabeth and Lucile R. Goodwin write: *Arriving in the States she was married to Fred Retan after their eight-year engagement, and their home in a Boston suburb became a center for visits by faculty and friends of Kamehameha Schools—visits that notably enlivened our childhood.*

## CONTAINER LIST

1987 inventory and labels

Folder number	Item number	Description
IHR 001		Transcription of the 1888 part of the handwritten diary
	01	Transcription of the 1888 part of the handwritten diary
IHR 002		Institutional correspondence concerning the collection
	01	February 18, 1981 Letter to Ms. Goodwin at Oberlin College Archives from Miss Gertrude Jacob
	02	1 October 1988 Letter to Ms Fujimoto of Frank E. Midkiff Learning Center from E. Elizabeth Retan and Lucile Goodwin of Pacific Grove, Oregon (2 copies)
	03	September 12, 1988 Letter to Mrs. Goodwin from Gail Fujimoto, Librarian.
	04	July 2012 Letter to Kamehameha School Archives from Patricia Elizabeth Barteveian of Newton, Massachusetts requesting copies of all the photographs. CC to William C. Ely, Counsel, 1 Boxton Pl #2500, Boston, MA 02108
	05	Original inventory
	07	Envelope from Patricia Barteveian, 160 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 U.S.A.
IHR 003	06	First page with 4 missing items highlighted and checked
		Hight, Iretta (Mrs. Fred Retan) Teacher KS 1888-1892 for the vertical file prepared by Janet Zisk c1992
	01	Photocopy and duplicate of a letter of appreciation dated June 2, 1892
	02	<i>Handicraft</i> October 1889 page 2: "Miss I.M. Hight comes to us after a successful year of teaching in the Preparatory School..."
	03	<i>Handicraft</i> (date unknown): "Next month: <i>The Legends of Kamehameha</i> will appear."
04	<i>Handicraft</i> April 1892 page 2: "We regret to announce the resignation of Miss I.M. Hight, who has been connected with the Kamehameha Schools four years teaching for one year at the Preparatory, and for three years at the Manual..."	

	05	Handicraft October 1892: "Mrs. I.M. Hight Retan is at Niles, Michigan from which place pleasant reports come of the wedding at Salt Lake City..."
IHR 004		Original handwritten diary
	01	Original handwritten diary
IHR 005		Kamehameha Note Book and additional primary source information
	01	In a Kamehameha Note Book entitled <i>Legends of Kamehameha</i> . [poetry by Iretta Hight.] Friday Evening Rhetoricals. April 15th 1891.
	02	<i>Handicraft</i> May 1892 page 1: "Legends of Kamehameha by Miss I.M. Hight." (poetry)
IHR 006		Oberlin College Archives letter and photocopy
	01	Oberlin College Archives letter and photocopy
IHR 007		<i>The Story of the Morning Stars</i> by Hiram Bingham, Jr.
	01	<i>The Story of the Morning Stars</i> by Hiram Bingham, Jr.
IHR 008		Eighteen period photoprints
	01	'Iolani main gate, draped in mourning cloth for Kalākaua's funeral. 11.5 x 9 cm



02



Japanese lanai, Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Small corner torn. "Severin-Bolster" photo. 23.5x18 cm.

03



Kalākaua commemorative seal. 17 x 23.5 cm.

04



Large group of KSG students probably preparing to march in the Kalākaua funeral procession. 21 x 15 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin and mount.

05



Kalākaua funeral procession with kahili attendants and other marchers; spectators, very crowded street, Bethel Church in background 24 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

06



Street procession. Royal Guard. Uniformed marchers. 24 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

07



Kalākaua laying in state in 'Iolani Palace throne room. 24 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

08



'Iolani Palace grounds showing large crowd gathered, including Royal Guard, probably for the funeral. 24 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

09



Palace guards at 'Iolani Palace. 17 x 24 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

10



King Kalākaua portrait in full uniform 17 x 24 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

11



Torso photo of Hawaiian man with one side of head shaved, described in the diary as servant accompanying the coffin in procession. 17 x 24 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

12



Shoreline coconut grove and lagoon with small sailboat. Probably Island of Hawaii. 23.5 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

13



Carriages on Volcano Road 24 x 18 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

14



Seven Hawaiian girls with musical instruments. 20.5 x 15 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

15



Men and women seated in front of Hawaiian Hotel 16.5 x 24 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

16



Ali'iōlani Hale. 18 x 11 cm. Mounted on 24 x 17 cm stock.

17



Music Hall; showing result of the bombardment July 30, 1889. 19 x 11.5 cm. Mounted on 24 x 17 cm stock.

18



Samuel Kauhane. A pure Hawaiian of chiefish descent. J.J. Williams: Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. 14.5 x 21 cm Mounted on 17.5 x 25 cm stock.

IHR 009

Fourteen photoprints and one hand-painted card

01



Blue proof of three women standing under a tree. 12 x 17 cm.

(second photo is digitally color balanced -cwl)

02



Blue proof of women relaxing after tennis (?) 19 x 12 cm.

(second photo is digitally color balanced -cwl)



03



Two goats on rock wall with wooden fence. 19 x 11.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

04



Picnic group in forest. 19 x 11.5 cm.

05



Three people seated in front of Mrs. George Castle's house. 18 x 12 cm. Mounted on 21.5 x 13.5 cm. cardstock.

06



Lava flow, probably a tree mold. 17 x 23.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

07



Volcano rift crack. 23.5 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

08



Rainbow Falls, Hilo, Hawai'i. 17 x 24 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

09



Lava flow and steam. 23 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

10



Shore scene Hawai'i island. 17.5 x 23.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

11



Lava flow with lava lake 22.5 x 17 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin and mount.

12



Lava flow with lava lake. 23.5 x 17.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

13



Ōhia tree fern forest with pāhoehoe. One person. 17.6 x 23.5 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

14



Three children with wheelbarrow. 20.5 x 15 cm. Probably a photographer's proof; muslin end mount.

15



"Aloha Nui Oukou" hand-painted card tied with three blue bows. Ink on film card depicting grass house and coconut trees. 20 x 12 cm.

IHR 010

01



Three matted photoprints by commercial photographers

5th grade with names. J.A. Gonsalves, Photographer. Honolulu. 24 x 18 cm. Mounted on 31 x 25 cm. cardstock.

02



The Champion Team. Photograph by J. Williams, Honolulu. 19.5 x 15.5 cm. Mounted on 31 x 25.5 cm cardstock.

03



"The Morning Star" missionary ship at Honolulu Harbor. Large crowd. 23.18 cm. Mounted on 36 x 28 cm cardstock.

IHR 011

01



One matted photograph

Hula Dance. Matted photoprint. 24 x 17.5 cm. Mounted on 27.5 x 24.5 cm. cardstock.

