

The Japanese Language School Project
The Interpreter
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***The Japanese Language
School Archival Project***

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Editorial

Shortly after my grandfather passed away in December, 1995, my grandmother began telling stories that she had never told before. One such story was about the letters she received from my grandfather during World War II. He wrote about his experiences, the people and countryside, his ardent love and his dreams for the future. He was a man of few spoken words, so she treasured the weekly correspondence. Gram kept them in her chest of drawers, tied with a satin ribbon. Several years after he returned from the war, my grandfather found the letters and burned them. He said that they brought back too many bad memories. My grandmother was crushed. She was quiet for a little while after telling her story, and then said "I wish I had them to read now." As his granddaughter, I am torn, because clearly the letters were painful to him. Because of that, it is understandable that he would want to destroy them. On the other hand,

I wish that I could have read them. As an archivist and historian, I see the loss of the letters as a blow to the study of the World War II wartime experience. From what my grandmother remembers about them, they were a beautiful testament to my grandfather and provided a view of the war that received little attention at the time.

-Molly Tindle

**CALLING ALL
COLLECTIONS
Address Lists Needed**

The Archives has reached more than 150 JLS graduates primarily through the address lists gathered by Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson. Our reliance on the Pineau and Hudson materials, though, has reduced our scope, confining our field of contacts mostly to the first two graduating classes. Many of those we have contacted through referrals were not found on these lists. Since we want our archival collection to be as balanced and all-encompassing as possible, we are putting out an SOS to alert anyone who may have address lists for later graduating classes, or knowledge of who may own such address lists. If you fall into either of these two categories, or have any knowledge which might facilitate our search, please contact the Archives. We also welcome individual addresses.

**Scott Shaver Joins
The Calling Effort**

Scott is working in the archives as a student assistant for the summer, and is assigned to calling the JLS graduates. Scott graduated with a B.S. in education from Kent State University in 1993. He is attending CU with plans to earn an MBA.

**MATERIALS OF
INTEREST**

Having spoken with many of you on the telephone, I have often detected a willingness to help in our task, but an uncertainty that you personally have anything in which we would be interested. You probably understand that we are looking for everything from war correspondence to academic reports to oral histories to photographs, and even simple vitae or résumés. The Archives knows that the materials in your possession may be limited. We encourage you to send either a vita or résumé outlining what you did with your JLS education, or why you did nothing relating to your JLS preparation. We also understand the sentiment which prevents you from readily handing over all your correspondence from wartime separations, or why photographs hold great importance for your memories. The Archives wants to stress that we want to preserve your memories while promising to give you and your family free access to all materials connected with your collection. If, however, our assurance is still not enough to induce you to donate the originals of your material now, the Archives will be willing to take photocopies of your materials into the collection, on the understanding the originals will be forthcoming. The Archives would of course be willing to make photocopies for you of the originals you deposit at our facilities. We would most desire the originals since preservation of the documents is the Archives paramount concern.

-Olivia Kaferly

**Japanese-American
Claims Against
CU Unsubstantiated**

In 1993 and 1994 we were contacted by counsel from California and approached by as many as four local Japanese Americans for documents relat-

ing to the treatment, pay, and benefits received by Sensei at the Japanese Language School. At the same time the Office of Redress Administration in the Department of Justice was attempting to compile information on restrictions placed on Sensei, lower pay scales received by Japanese American Instructors, and whether instructors were under threat of removal to internment camps if they terminated their JLS employment. Considerable compensation was available to those who could verify such claims. In short, children of Sensei were claiming that CU Boulder had been a kind of "internment camp" of its own, for which further compensation outside of the \$20,000 received by JA internees and their children, could be granted.

The Archives had always assumed the Navy would have those records. A check of the Regents Minutes of the University of Colorado revealed the Navy contract, instructor lists, and pay scales. The pay rates demonstrated that JA Sensei pay scale was commensurate to those of instructors in other CU language departments. Particularly undercutting to claims of ill treatment and for redress was the testimonial signed by all the instructors, thanking President Stearns and Captain Roberts for the treatment they had received here. As it turned out, the claim that Boulder was an "internment camp" was unsubstantiated.

Evidence indicates that University officials and Navy officers worked ceaselessly to insure that JA Instructors were treated well both on campus and in town, that anti-JA sentiment in town was nipped in the bud, that Nisei were not ghettoized in Boulder, and that JAs were not needlessly harassed by authorities. The whole issue of travel restrictions, removal to internment camps, and benefits would have fallen outside CU authority. There was a tangle of authorities concerned

with the supervision and restriction JA and Japanese aliens: FBI, military, and civil. CU was forced to comply with them, often reluctantly, and many times with resistance.

CALL FOR ARTICLES OR ARTICLE TOPICS

The Archives invites all readers of *The Interpreter* to contribute articles. Please send us any article topics you would like to have addressed in future issues.

The Facility and Hours

Archives is located in the basement of Norlin Library at the east end of the historic quadrangle on the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado.

The Archives is open MWF, 1100-1700, but is staffed from 0800-1700, M-F. Out of town researchers may arrange for early and every day entry. Photocopying and both photographic and audiovisual reproduction services are available.

To Donate

If you wish to donate your materials, please contact the Archives to insure the proper mailing address. For large shipments, the archives will reimburse expenses. Upon receipt of materials we will send the donator a deed of gift with instructions. The donator must return to the Archives signed deeds of gift. The Archives will then provide copies of preliminary inventories and guides to donors and donor families when available. Feel free to contact us at any time.

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