

**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.*

**CU Archives & Pomona College Not in Competition**

A number of JLS graduates who had been contacted by both the CU Archives and Dr. Loureiro, the Archivist of the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College, believed that the two institutions were in competition for their papers. This was especially true of grads that had attended the Pomona Conference in April 2000.

While Dr. Loureiro and Professor Dingman are collaborating, on their own, to video interview JLS graduates, to write a book, and to create a digital archives of their interviews, they are not seeking to develop a paper archives.

Dr. Loureiro stated, "The PBI Archive is strictly a film and video repository. The ONLY "paper" collection that we have are two boxes of posters and various art work. We have no intention to go beyond our film and video collection."

**THE CAPTURE & RETURN OF ADMIRAL OTA'S DAGGER**

After the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill and Horse Shoe Cove on Okinawa, we heard from a prisoner that there was a large cave near Itoman. Division HQ sent LT John Chafee (now Senior Senator from RI) to accompany our intelligence section's check of "the cave". Because of the large number of colored communication wires running into the tunnel, we knew immediately that it was a very important command installation and that this sector was commanded by Admiral Ota. The underground passage was five feet wide by more than six feet tall. What had been a command post had obviously been transformed into a sickbay, as wounded and dead Japanese lay in rows on either side of a muddy aisle running down the center of the tunnel floor. Huge blow flies clogged the air and covered the bodies.

Wary of resistance, we lit the bodies with flashlights to check their status. After passing rows of wounded, groaning "misu" (water) and "itai" (it hurts), we came to some side portals filled with Japanese dead and near dead, strewn with bandages and equipment. At the end of the tunnel, in a circular room ten feet in diameter, lay a half a dozen Japanese officers who had committed "seppuku". We took all the gear we could manage (I got the Admiral's dagger) and made our way out.

When I got back to Yale in 1946, I gave Dr. Matthew Griswold, the Yale "family doctor", Admiral Ota's dagger.

30 years later I received a letter from him dated October 10, 1975. Dr. Griswold, then 85, had taken the dagger to the Japanese Embassy the previous April for delivery to Mrs Ota. In September 1975, the Japanese Embassy invited Dr. Griswold to attend a reception held in his honor on the Japanese training

vessel, the *Katori*, then docked at Annapolis. The reception was changed to Dahlgren Hall due to inclement weather. Dr. Griswold was given a kakemono (large scroll) and an imari vase, gifts of Mrs. Ota. Doctor Griswold never mentioned my name to the Japanese.

*Hart H. Spiegel, JLS 1943; 4th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division*

**Command Historian Of Defense Language Institute Praises JLS Project**

James C. McNaughton is the Command Historian of the DLI at the Presidio of Monterey. Having recently finished proposals for the recent Medal of Honor awards for WWII Nisei veterans, He is now completing what he hopes will become the Army's official history of the Japanese-American soldiers who served in the Military Intelligence Service, together with their Caucasian team leaders.

In July, we contacted Dr. McNaughton in order to develop links between various institutions that are either acquiring archival collections or developing histories on the topic of WWII Japanese Language Schools. We had already contacted the University of Michigan, home of the US Army JLS, and the Archives of the US Naval Academy. Dr. McNaughton gave us several contacts and suggestions and praised our efforts to collect the papers of JLS graduates. The DLI is the linear descendant of all WWII language schools. Nevertheless, neither he nor the USNA archivist feel that CU was in any way trespassing on DLI or Navy turf. Both men were pleased that an active program was collecting such valuable archival material.

**Calling All E-mailers**

Bill Amos, an unrepentant email advocate, seeks any and all JLS

graduate email addresses. His idea is to have them published in *The Interpreter* so that graduates could converse with each other. The conversations that result may save a historical record that would otherwise be lost.

Those with email addresses wishing to give permission for their email addresses to be published, please email David Hays, [arv@colorado.edu](mailto:arv@colorado.edu). Copy your message to Bill Amos [wamos@together.net](mailto:wamos@together.net). He will insure that relevant correspondence regarding WWII and the JLS will come to the Archives.

**Molly Tindle in Florida**

Ms. Molly Tindle, Assistant Archivist, whose work was so instrumental in developing this third round of Japanese Language School manuscript acquisitions, has moved to Florida with her husband. While she will be seeking archival work in any of the Tampa area collections repositories, she wants to continue her involvement with the JLS Project. She will welcome calls or correspondence from the Central Florida/Tampa area JLS graduates or kin. Her address as of September 1 is:

**Ms. Molly Tindle  
2606 Little Road  
Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 662-6194**

She told us she would be happy to consult with graduates about what to send, how material is treated in the Archives, and may even be available to help box and ship archival papers to the Archives. Most of all, she would like to meet JLS graduates, to whom she has only spoken on the phone.

**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.

### **Contact**

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frontpage.htm](http://www-libraies.colorado.edu/ps/arv/frontpage.htm)

### **New Collections Sought**

The Japanese Language School Project seeks World War II correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, diaries, journals, and records, as well as the complete professional and personal papers of those JLS graduates who went into Asia and Japan related careers: in the Foreign Service, in intelligence, in academia, in business, in missionary work, and in any sort of US/Japan exchange or reconciliation effort or organization. Graduates who have nothing else can send a resume or vita.