

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.

Passing Down Heirlooms: A Dangerous Solution

Several donors have sent the Archives copied materials, probably with the intent of giving originals to friends or family members. While on the surface this appears to be a very admirable choice, the truth is many of these originals will be lost as they are handed from generation to generation. As the family grows the materials tend to become spread out, leaving pieces of history with different family members, until family members may have one letter a piece. However, if the original materials are donated to a repository they can remain intact for future generations.

I know. This has happened in my family. While trying to create a family history we have frequently failed to locate many fondly remembered items that we suspect are now lost in a distant relative's attic or in a land fill.

Cynthia Ploucher
Student Assistant

Seeking Memories of Frank G. Ryder, JLS 1943 (1916-1996)

I am extremely interested in the JLS Project, and since I was not married to Frank at the time he studied at Boulder I would be extremely interested in hearing from friends who knew him at that time.

As was the case with many of the veterans who served in World War II, Frank told me very little about what happened at that time. Following graduation from Boulder he was sent to the South Pacific to do translating and interrogation in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. He was assigned to an Australian division. At some point, his ship was hit by a kamikaze plane and he was fortunate to be rescued. He sustained multiple injuries, including the loss of his right eye, was awarded the Purple Heart, and was honorably discharged in January of 1946.

He joined the faculty at Dartmouth College, teaching both German (his major at the University of Minnesota) as well as Japanese. His students in Japanese were few but loyal, and he continued to teach Japanese until the enrollment became too sparse. Some years later he was considered for a job with the US State Department to go to Japan as a cultural attaché of some sort, but by that time we had three small children and he felt his Japanese was too rusty for him to be an effective man for the job. This is the extent to which he used his Japanese language skills.

Among the names of Navy people I recall him mentioning, the following stand out: Ed Rosston, John Williams, Dave Parks, William Newton, S.S. Stratton, Paul Gilman, Roger Pineau, Cliff Graham, Bob Ward, Bob Ligon (?), Dick Finn, Bob Shed, and Bob White.

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Desjardins Family Found

Through the kind assistance of Marylou and Norton Williams (both JLS 1944), the family of Paul Desjardins has been located by the JLS Project and been placed on our mailing list. They will require time to sift through his papers to determine what they can send to the Archives. The children do not know very much about their father's war and immediate post war experiences and would welcome any information, stories, or copies of photos. Margaret Desjardins (daughter) can be reached at DejaVeux@aol.com or at 261 LakeView Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Edgar Whan, John D. Swanfeldt & Albert Weissberg Collections Completed

Three small collections, the Whan, Swanfeldt and Weissberg Collections, have been organized and processed by Cynthia Ploucher (CU, 2002), Sarah A. Johnson (CU, 2003), and Megan Lillie (CU 2003) three of our student assistants.

The Whan Papers contain WWII correspondence sent back and forth between Whan and his wife. This collection also holds military documents, resumes, and memorabilia.

The Swanfeldt Collection is largely made up of Japanese language books, texts, readers, recognition manuals, and dictionaries. Very little personal material was given to the Archives.

The Weissberg Papers consist of almost daily correspondence from Lt.Jg. Weissberg to his wife from 1944 to 1945. These materials have been preserved in acid free folders and boxes. As with all original correspondence collections, an acid-free bond user-copy is made of the original letters and a subsequent copy is sent to the donor.

**Pre-Boulder JLO
Papers sought**

It was the Japanese Language School Project's initial aim to focus exclusively on the JLS and its graduates only when the school was at CU, in both its Japanese and Oriental language modes. Our scope was to be wider than the 1942-1943 focus one can find in the Pineau lists. However, several factors have contributed to the further widening of our initial focus. First, Roger Pineau included the names and files of quite a few pre-1942 JLOs within his collection, names we included without realizing they were not among the Boulder lists of entrants.

In addition, in the past several months it has come to our attention that no one is collecting the material of the Tokyo, Berkeley of Harvard "Boys." While a few career scholars have placed their papers with their respective universities, we remain the only major repository actively seeking US Navy JLS material. Since no one else seems interested, we thought we had better pick up the slack.

So we have looked up the widows of Albert Kane, William Gannt Miller, and David Anthony, as well as a contact for some materials of Captain Zacharias. The number of these contacts are few, so they will not detract from the "Boulder" focus.

If you have the addresses of any pre-1942 JLO or family, please feel free to contact us.

Sarah Johnson Catalogs Small Collections

Ms. Johnson is also busy cataloging small donations to ease researcher access. The collections of Calvin Dunbar, Gene Gregg, John Cromie, John Hasbrouck, Frank Turner, Glen Slaughter, Robert Thornton, and Warren Johnston.

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-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/frontpage.htm)

New Collections

The following are further collections held, promised, or recently received by the Archives:

- Verner F. Chaffin
- Richard Moss
- Edwin P. Ruebens
- Alfred L. Scanlan
- Russell L. Stephens
- Lawrence A. Seymour
- Robert D. Thornton