

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.

**US Army JLS Materials
Tossed at
The University of Michigan**

During the years I was a graduate student at the University of Michigan (1969-74), I spent innumerable hours in the Freer Building where the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations was based. One day I discovered several boxes of discarded books and papers in the hall, awaiting the trash pickup. A little investigation revealed them to be textbooks and papers (even some student work with red circles and check marks) from the Army Language School, materials which had been stored somewhere in the attics but were now being discarded. An inveterate scavenger, I helped myself to a number of the texts, most of which I recently turned over to the University of Colorado Archives Japanese Language School Program. Unfortunately, I had discarded a number of them over the years, during moves from one place to another. Having learned how

little of the material regarding the military language schools has been preserved, I wish now I had had the sense (or the acquisitiveness) to take the whole collection and preserve it!

*Laurel Rasplica Rodd
Professor of Japanese*

**In Memoriam,
Ernest Beath,
USNR, JLS 1943
(1920-2001)**

Ernest Ballard Beath Sr., a retired analyst with the National Security Agency who served as a translator in World War II for Adms. Thomas C. Kincaid, J.J. 'Jocko' Clark and John S. McCain, died February 8 of complications from diabetes at his home in Cambridge, MD. He was 80.

Mr. Beath was born Feb. 20, 1920 in Kaiying, China to missionary parents from Wisconsin. As a small boy, he loved to sail, once fabricating a tiny boat out of plywood and tar, christening it the "Tarbaby" and sailing it with a friend down the Huangpu River into Shanghai.

He graduated from the Shanghai American School in 1937 and then came to the United States for college. After briefly attending Wake Forest University in North Carolina, he transferred to the University of Southern California, where he earned a degree in international relations. Later he studied Japanese at the JLS at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

The Navy Reserve put his language skills to good use during WWII, assigning him to work as a translator on aircraft carriers in the South Pacific. As an interpreter, he worked directly for Adms. Kincaid, Clark, and McCain, translating enemy radio dispatches and interviewing prisoners of war.

"Admiral McCain said he wasn't going to sea without Ernie Beath; he wanted him on his staff," recalled Eleanor

Poteat Beath, his wife of 55 years. "He'd listen to the reports and hear that the airplanes were coming, and tell them to get ready."

The young lieutenant's work later merited several mentions by Admiral Clark in his 1967 memoir, "Carrier Admiral". Of one skirmish, the admiral wrote: "We knew from Lieutenant Beath's Japanese intelligence that over a hundred planes had collected at Iwo and Chichi and were only waiting for more favorable weather before heading south to attack our invasion forces." It allowed a preemptive move that blunted the Japanese attack, he wrote.

Mr. Beath's service earned him two Bronze Stars and other medals and citations.

After the war, he joined NSA and from 1964 to 1967 headed its Taiwan Defense Command.

On retiring in 1974, he and his wife moved from Annapolis to Town Point, MD to Cambridge, where he turned his attentions to restoring a 1791 farmhouse and sailing on the Little Choptank River.

But he didn't retire his language skills.

For several years, he volunteered with the Project Read Program through the Dorchester County (MD) Public Library, teaching English to Chinese immigrants. He belonged to the NSA's Phoenix Society.

Mrs. Beath writes that "We received the Coloradan just before he died. He had all his 'marbles' 'til the end so was very pleased to have me read the article and hear about the picture of him in it."

*Obit from the Baltimore
Times-Sun, February 11, 2001
And Mrs. Beath*

**Robert Fuld, JLS, 1943
Died January 2, 2001**

Robert Fuld, of New York City, passed away in January. His brother, Fred Fuld of Palos

Verdes, California, donated his books to the JLS Project.

**Contacts & Washout
Rates:
A Comment**

Interested also in numbers and percentages, I was struck by Twila Slesnick's letter in *Interpreter* #15, that of 88 women entrants to the Japanese program, 69 finished (78.4%).

Some years before, at the 1992 Reunion at Boulder, I remember Roger Pineau in a speech saying that in an early class of 152, 139 graduated (91%).

In contrast to those figures, the class that I was in (1 May 1944 - 9 June 1945) started with 49, of whom 10 graduated (20.4%).

These are the only figures I have. If your 98 contacts are with graduates, and the graduates/entrants percentages of later classes are close to those of my class, your contact picture would look a lot better.

*Duane J. Flaherty
JLS 1945*

[Ed. Note: I have heard similar statements about the much higher washout rate in the later classes. It must have been far more difficult to find appropriate and qualified candidates after 1943, when a great percentage of men were already under arms or were alternatively placed in vital positions. To make up for the fall-off in numbers of graduates, I suspect the 'recruiters' cast their nets more broadly.]

**Former Student of
Helen Craig McCullough
Volunteers**

Ms. Lisa Spalding, former student of Professor of Oriental Languages, Helen McCullough, called to tell us that she had read the *Coloradan* article and told us she wished to volunteer her services as a tribute to her former professor, a JLS graduate of 1944 and WAVE officer. Ms. Spalding will be handling the

Japanese Language texts as they arrive, to sort for duplicates.

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

Bruce Montgomery, Curator,
or David Hays, Archivist,
Archives,
University of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 184
Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

Phone (303) 492-7242

Fax (303) 492-3960

Email:
montgomb@spot.colorado.edu
arv@colorado.edu

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

New Collections

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