

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.

JLS Reunion Slated for June 6-9, 2002

On June 1, I attended a meeting with Professors Laurel Rodd and Steve Snyder, two people from the CU Foundation, the East Asian Library faculty member, Lisa Spaulding and Tomizo Yano. The dates, June 6-9, 2002 were chosen to both insure that campus facilities would be operating for Summer School and to avoid Father's Day.

We hope those who preferred the later date can still come a week earlier. I chose a four-day format in order to allow those JLS grads from far away to feel as if they received their travel's worth. Future issues of *The Interpreter* will carry details of scheduled activities: tours, a reception, exhibits, a dinner, and a general host area. Guests will stay at either the University Club (Faculty Club) or at the College Inn. More to come.

Hirabayashi Sensei Contacts Archives

With respect to your Archival Project on the JLS, I am sure that you are familiar with the fact that I did not serve very long as an instructor at the Navy School. I was in Boulder beginning in December 1942 to July 1943. Teaching Japanese language to the Naval officers was a real challenge but a satisfying experience for me. I also had the privilege of teaching the initial group of WAVE students. The Phi Beta Kappa students were all exceptional and we should be proud of their efforts during the war.

In your newsletter, *The Interpreter*, I have noted that Roger Pineau, Don Keene, and Ed Seidensticker are people with whom I was acquainted. They were outstanding Naval Officers. I wish to compliment you and others who are working on this ambitious project.

Martin Y. Hirabayashi
Sensei, 1942-1943

Reverend Telfer Mook (JLS 1943) Contacted by JLS

Reverend Mook's daughter, who had just moved to Boulder, happened to read the article on the JLS in the *Boulder Magazine*. She wasted no time contacting Don Willis, who had been interviewed for the article. Don called us, and I contacted Ms. Frances Lora.

She stated that Rev. Mook was in fine health and was planning to drive to Boulder this Summer. Whereupon, I invited both father and daughter to visit the Archives and inspect the JLS collections. Lt. Mook had started the school for displaced children on Tinian, with which Warren Johnston was also involved, during the War.

Professor & Mrs. Slesnick, researching in the Pineau Collection and the Humel Diary,

found the following letter that refers to Mook's efforts on Tinian while answering another question that had arisen recently, that of the origin of the phrase, "Boulder Boys".

"While you were unaware of the fact, I was spending a few days on Tinian, which is a somewhat smaller island to the north of Guam in the self same Marianas group. There I visited Camp Churo, where are interned the nationals of our present enemy—Japan. I marvel at the things our men are doing to rehabilitate the civilian Japanese. On Tinian, at least, our Military Government is doing a fine job—humane and sensible—in setting those people back on their feet. I have rarely been proud of the *Boulder boys* [italics mine], but there are some jobs in which the natural ability and good sense they have can do much good."

George Romani
JLS 1943

March 8, 1945
Pineau Collection, 22-25

[Ed.Note: It appears that one can find references to "Harvard Boys" and "Berkeley Boys" in Humel's 1941-42 diary. Romani, with his odd disaffection for his Boulder classmates, used "Boulder Boys" in 1945. I recall the common use of "boys" in 1940s films, meaning men. It seems the Pacific Theatre with its high numbers of sailors and marines was well suited for the use of group identifiers. It may have been the way that JLOs could indicate running across classmates to their wives or other correspondents without being tripped up by the censors. Chaffin, Romani and Whan were only three of many who used the term during the War. Its use may not have been as common in Washington, DC. Captain Pineau's correspondence refers to Boulder Boys continuously in letters from the 1940s to the 1960s, and in a 1966 letter to David Ward, refers to CAPT Art Gassaway as a "Bobo". So the phrase, "Boulder Boys," seems to trace its origins from World War II. Thanks go to Cynthia Ploucher, working on the Chaffin Letters, and to the Slesnicks, who were in the Archives this week and found a number of pieces of correspondence referring to Boulder Boys.]

CINCPACFLT Invites David Hays To Display Dedication "History of Naval Intelligence in WWII"

We were pleased to receive an invitation from the offices of the Directors for Intelligence and Cryptology at CINCPAC to attend the dedication ceremony for a display honoring JICPOA and FRUPAC on 1 June at 7:30, the 59th anniversary of the battle of Midway. Unfortunately the JLS budget for travel is limited to non-existent, much as I would have enjoyed attending. I hope that a number of JICPOAns were able to go.

US Navy JLS Project On CU Archives Web Site

During the winter 2000/2001, the Archives staff was able to pull together information to place the US Navy JLS Project on our web page. The information became active in April 2001. The site can be found either through our Western Americana or our University collection area description.

So far, the site includes the project description, two progress reports, and a list of collections promised, received, and processed. In the future, we will include all of the *Interpreters*. At this point, since our pages have no photographs, we do not plan to insert any for the JLS page. The web site address is located on the back of this publication.

New JLS Website:

<http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm>

Archives Departures

Ms. Lena Potyondy graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in History and Mr. Paul Irwin left us for internships in his field. I will recruit 3 more students. Megan, Sarah, Cynthia & Scott remain

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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New Collections

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

- Paul F. Boller, Jr.
- John R. Cromie
- Col. Thomas E. Williams, Sr.
- Glen Slaughter
- John D. Swanfeldt