

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.

Seidensticker Reprise

I am grateful to Professor Rodd for her excellent article in the May 1st issue of *the Interpreter* on Ed Seidensticker. I served with Ed during 1948 to 1950 in the "State Department arm of SCAP". The Department called us "The Office of the United States Political Adviser". General MacArthur, eschewing the need for advice from anyone, called us his "Diplomatic Section."

Another facet of Ed's career merits mention. In addition to his splendid literary career, he was also a warrior. He volunteered to be commissioned in the Marine Corps, which he knew would get him closer to the sharp edge of combat. Ed and I did not serve in the same division, so I do not know the campaigns in which he would have been involved prior to Occupation duty in Kyushu.

Best Regards,
Glenn Nelson
JLS, 1944

Japanese Contradictions

The Japanese people have never bothered themselves with worry about contradictions....

In Tokyo one day last October I noticed a Japanese crossing the street across from the Imperial Palace gate. He stopped, faced the palace grounds, doffed his cap and was beginning a ceremonious bow when a jeep full of GIs [drove by] dangerously close and honked. The Japanese jumped a foot in fright, dropped his hat, turned and waved sheepishly at the grinning GIs. Then as the jeep bumped merrily on down the street he composedly completed his bow and went his way.

The fact that the presence of the jeep made the bow rather ridiculous, or the disturbing thought that he might better have directed his bow at the jeep than at the palace never entered his head. He didn't stop to figure out the sense or lack of sense in his action then, nor had he before. He simply acted in the pattern, in the mold that had at sometime been laid out for him....

The Japanese are fabulously polite — usually.... But get the Japanese into a railroad station, a place where politeness would help the traffic a little and keep crowding and congestion at a minimum for the good of everybody. There is bedlam. The pushing and surging and crowding and elbowing that goes on in Japanese railroad stations is reminiscent of the flying wedge in American football history. It would not be odd to see a man taking off his hat to greet a woman acquaintance with one hand and pushing her onto the railroad train with the other. It is common, these days, to see a would-be passenger toss a brick through the window of a passenger car and climb in after it to be assured of getting a seat. Indeed the Japanese seem to be at once the politest people on earth and the rudest....

Along the outside wall of the Imperial Palace grounds in

Tokyo stretches a wide moat. The moat is full of fish, said to be "Imperial Carp". One day a friend and I were walking around the palace grounds alongside the moat. At one point there were perhaps a hundred Japanese sitting along the bank of the moat fishing. We watched them for a while, then walked over to chat with a Japanese policeman on the corner.

"How's the fishing in the moat?" we asked.

"Oh," he said, "No one can fish in the moat. It is against the law."

We looked at the long line of Japanese fishing — at least they had poles with strings on them and were dangling them in the moat. We looked back at the Japanese policeman, asked him again, heard him repeat that no one could fish in the moat. Then we gulped, wondered if he was crazy, and went down the street....

Hilary Conroy
JLS 1945

Excerpts,

"Japan Changes Faces",
A Memoir of Occupied Japan,
1946

[Ed. Note: The Japanese, of course, would have their own take on Western or American inconsistencies.]

FDR Notes

The latest Interpreter had that wonderful anecdote about Lucy Anne Porterfield's remark upon FDR's death. In a similar vein, I can remember how vociferously anti-Roosevelt Jean Baer was. That is, until we had finished our training in Northampton and were on the funky old train with a pot-bellied stove that took us to Springfield, Massachusetts on our way to Washington and our duties.

As we pulled into the Springfield station, we found ourselves on the track next to the one bearing the train from which FDR was addressing the crowd in the street below. I guess they considered us secure enough to be that close. Guess who was out

there on the platform leading the cheering -- Jean, of course. I guess that is an example of respect for the office and/or not the man! But it was a thrill to be that close to the President.

When his funeral took place, we were not allowed to join the crowds along the route. Was it really that important to keep us at our desks?

Cheers,
Marylou Williams
JLS 1943

[Reprint from #24]

War Crimes Trials Interpreters' Assistance Needed: Kwajalein Bodies Sought

During the War Crimes trials held on Kwajalein in 1945, it was discovered from native Marshallese that Americans had been beheaded on Kwajalein.

Lt William P. Mahoney, interpreter Lt David Osborne, and reporter Y1c William A. Bell flew to Tokyo and obtained confessions from Admiral Koso Abe and Captain Hiyahsi concerning the execution of Americans

These men confessed to the execution of 9 Makin Marine Raiders on October of 1942 on the southwestern end of Kwajalein. Abe was found guilty in the Guam trials and executed for the crimes on Guam. Due to the bomb damage on Kwajalein, attempts to recover the bodies were not made at that time.

Existing court records give a vague description of where the site was located on the island however; it is believed that the US knew the location of the site at the time. In fact, war crimes prisoner Admiral Masahi Koyabashi stated in 1948 that a corporal at the Guam stockade showed him a diagram that refreshed his memory of the execution site. In addition to the marines, several US Army Air corps pilots had disappeared on Kwajalein. (see over)

(Kwajalein Cont'd)

The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii (CILHI) is investigating the possibility of locating, recovering and identifying US remains on Kwajalein. **Anyone with any knowledge of US POWs executed on Kwajalin, please contact Tripp Wiles at 808-449-5260 x 221 or wilesm@cilhi.army.mil**

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\$Donations Accepted

There are those of you who may not have papers to donate to the Archives, but who may wish to support the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project in other ways. We are setting up a cash account to fund Archives activities regarding the JLS/OLS Project. To date, the Archives has spent in excess of \$10,000 of its own funds on the project. If you wish to donate, make your check out to The University of Colorado and mail it to our contact address.

Contact

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New JLS Website:

[http://www-
libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/
jlsp.htm](http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm)

New Collections

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

- Holland Gary
- William C. Howe

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Albert Karr
- J. Keith Mann
- Vickie Yumoto