

**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.*

**From a Cryptographer**

My father was the Navy's principal cryptographer in World War I. This was the reason (truly!) that I was assigned to take the Navy's cryptography course – they thought I might have the right genes. When I proved successful, I was transferred from Naval Intelligence, where I was working, to the Communications Security Section. This was well before the war broke out.

I have forgotten when the boys from Boulder first burst upon us. I was working then on the Japanese Merchant Marine Code; I remember that a couple of them were assigned to me. They came and went – I have no recollection of even their names except for one young man named Gillespie. He was a *star*, from every point of view; I was not surprised (though disappointed) when he was sent out to the fleet. I remember him for two reasons: his ability to and the fact that his wife called me one day and asked me for advice with a problem she was having. I have always considered that the

supreme compliment: that he should have told her to call me. Anyway, I was able to locate the proper person to help her, and after the war was over, young Gillespie sent me a beautiful piece of silk, from which I had a dress made which I wore for years!! If you have him in your list and he is still alive, please give him my warmest greetings.

There was one other Boulder boy who gained fame – briefly – by translating a message, *Torpedoes Rendezvousing in the Moonlight*. But even his name I have forgotten.

I am sorry to not be more helpful. I daresay some of them remember me; I worked up until the last minute of pregnancy and I understand that they were selling tickets on who was going to have to take me to the hospital. I can't swear that it was true, but my boss told me that he had to assign six Boulder boys to cover my job while I was away!

*Ms. Eunice W. Rice  
US Navy*

*Communications Security Section*

*[Ed. Note: Mrs. Robert H. Rice resides at 108 Morningside Commons, Brattleboro, VT 05301-3633]*

**Plans for Reunion  
Developing  
RSVPs Needed**

I am certain that useful suggestions will come from the JLS graduates and kin once I offer up some ideas on what might take place at the Reunion.

Although the Event is planned to take place over four days, participants may come and leave early, come late and leave late, or any variation, in between. At this point, we are projecting that participants will only be asked to pay for their transportation and lodging. Lodging, at this point, is divided between the College Inn and University Club. The University Club will provide a central and convenient residence for those who are confined to

wheelchairs or who find walking around difficult. Its central location will allow participation without as much moving around.

There will be a Friday reception, a Saturday dinner, and an afternoon "Timber Tavern on Campus" on the veranda of the University Club.

We anticipate that everyone may not want to stay with the schedule, as groups of graduates and kin may want to meet on their own over breakfast, lunch, drinks, or dinner. Many may want to observe religious services. For these purposes, we will include maps, lists of suggested restaurants, and a list of churches and synagogues. This is *your* Reunion, so you are the boss. Just in case, though, there will be plenty of events to attend: a symposium, films, exhibits, and tours.

*David M. Hays  
Instructor/Archivist*

**Vickie Yumoto Gives  
First Check to  
JLS Archives Fund**

Ms. Vickie Yumoto, widow of the late Yumoto Sensei (John), has not only donated most of the extant materials relating to her husband's time as a JLS instructor, she is also the first person to contribute money to the US Navy Japanese Language School Archival Fund.

The fund will need to build before it can be applied to the requirements of the JLS Archival Project: archival processing, cataloging, reunion costs, and other project expenditures.

**Origin of Bobo & Boga**

The Slesnicks came across a letter in the *Pineau Collection*. On 4 March 1945, Robert Kinsman wrote to Roger and Maxine Pineau, "As ever, thank you for whatever news of the Boulder Boys and Gals (Bobo to Boga) [If I, too, may be permitted to coin a word to match your 'bogas']".

**Questions on  
Army JLO's**

As most of you know, Prof. Irwin and Mrs. Carole Slesnick are researching a book on the role of military and Naval Japanese Language Officers and enlisted linguists from 1910-1946. While in Boulder, they came across "stories of Sydney Mashbir" in the *Roger Pineau Collection*. Sidney Mashbir evidently was quite a character. The Slesnick's wonder if anyone knows if Mashbir is still living. Mr. Mashbir was a Tokyo-trained US Army JLO. Prof. Slesnick also came across several references to Boulder JLOs who worked with various army officers. Does anyone know about Army officers trained in Tokyo? Lionel Casson worked with brothers George and John Colton. Were they Army? Prof. Slesnick doesn't find them in our Navy/Marine Corps lists. Jack Steele seems to have been Army also, but Prof. Slesnick is not sure.

If any one has information on these linguists please contact Prof Slesnick. His address is

Professor Irwin Slesnick  
518 Highland Dr.  
Bellingham, WA 98225,

Email: Carole Slesnick  
<Ceve3@aol.com>

**WWII Treatment of  
Nisei Doctors**

There were at least 3 successful doctors of medicine in the San Francisco Bay area when Pearl Harbor occurred. These three were graduates of Stanford School of Medicine and two had Mayo Clinic experience. When they were interned in a concentration camp in Wyoming they applied for licenses to practice medicine in Wyoming and Colorado where there were Japanese American populations which needed their services. The applications were denied by both

states and all three doctors volunteered their services as Sensei at [the US Navy JLS at CU in] Boulder, Colorado.

When we had a one week leave in the Spring of 1943, Dr. Imai learned that I was going to San Francisco and asked if I would be interested in driving his late model Cadillac back to Boulder. I agreed, and after getting the car out of storage, retrieved a chest of sterling silver flatware from a bank vault and then went to his home in Alameda to collect a box of personal effects in a locked

closet. The house was in a poor section of Alameda, which at that time had been the only area in which Japanese Americans could find a home, although he could have afforded a much better neighborhood. That is the way we treated those American citizens even before the war.

*Frank L. Mallory  
JLS, 1943*

*[Ed. Note: We have located the following members of the Imai family: Mr. Kent Imai, 225 Southwood Dr., Scotts Valley, CA 95066-3635; Mr. Bruce Imai, 5 Winship, San Anselmo 94960-2531; Ms. Martha Imai, 1 Baldwin Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401.]*

## Contact

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### New JLS Web site:

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

## New Collections

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

- Frank L. Mallory

## \$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- J. Keith Mann
- Harris I. Martin
- Stuart H. Prestrud

## 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.