

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.

New Students Join Archives

In August, the Archives hired four new students: Terry Burke (f), Natalie Sichko (s), Megan Applegate (s) and Alvie Sellmer (j). All will need training before any will be assigned to JLS tasks. David Nelson (s) is an intern whose interest is the JLS. He is creating an extensive cross-reference index for all JLS collections. He is starting with the *Captain Roger Pineau Collection*. We will have 8 students, 2 part-time instructor/archivists, and five interns.

**60th Reunion
of US Navy JLS at
CU
Still on for
6-9 June 2001**

I keep asking JLS grads if they are coming to the reunion. There will be a number of events, but plenty of time will be available for private get-togethers in town.

**Edward G.
Seidensticker
Given Honorary
Degree
By CU**

On August 11, 2001, the University of Colorado conferred upon Edward G. Seidensticker the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, as part of the summer Commencement ceremonies. Seidensticker, now Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, is a native of Colorado (born and raised in Castle Rock) and an alumnus of CU-Boulder and of the US Navy Language School. He is also contributing his extensive personal archives and papers to the University Libraries. There they will be of great value to faculty and students researching the history of postwar Japanese literature, translation studies, and scholarship on Japan, as well as increasing our understanding of the role the US Navy Japanese Language School.

Held on the lawn under the huge trees south of Old Main, the August Commencement ceremonies are the most intimate and pleasant of the three Commencements held each year. While we were pleased with the timing of the event in that regard—we wished more of Seidensticker's friends, former colleagues, and students could have attended. In addition to the ceremony itself, Seidensticker was guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by President Elizabeth Hoffman, at a brunch hosted by Chancellor Richard Byyny, and at a small reception held by East Asian Languages and Civilizations and the University Libraries. Since many of those who would have liked to celebrate with us were out of town for the summer, we look forward to inviting Seidensticker back in the near future for a talk and another celebration.

It gave me (as a former student of Professor Seidensticker at the University of

Michigan) and everyone affiliated with East Asian Languages and Civilizations and the Libraries great pleasure to honor Seidensticker for the more than a half-century of extraordinary contributions to world reception of Japanese literature and to mutual understanding (based on clear-sighted assessments of differences and similarities) between the U.S. and Japan.

*Laurel Rasplika Rodd
Professor of Japanese and
Comparative Literature*

**Solomon B. Levine's
Papers Undergoing
Initial Processing**

The 60 boxes of Solomon B. Levine's professional papers and books are now being processed. Cynthia Ploucher is performing a survey of the collection in order to pull together its constituent parts: books, correspondence, academic files, and other materials. Photographs will require mylar protection, materials will need refolding, and reboxing. When organized, a guide will be developed.

Each guide contains an abstract, a short biography, a scope and content and a container list. We use the Wisconsin State Historical Society format, which does not allow for individual change. Some donors mistake our guides for "publications" and probably worry too much about what our introductory segments contain.

Researchers pay little attention to our guides other than to direct them to your primary sources. Whatever a donor wants included, militarily, or biographically, should be provided as a primary document.

Longer biographies, written by the donor are in demand and very welcome, they will be foldered as part of the collection, and not be confused with the short contextual piece that we compose.

**The Ben Galland
Collection
Holds JLS Letters**

Ben Galland, a CU Law Professor (1931-1954), received letters from a number of his former students during World War II. The collection has been in the Archives for more than 20 years. This semester, the partially processed collection is receiving treatment from Archival Intern, Jennifer Hampsen. The letters come from all theaters and places. One was a leisurely note written from a staff car of a lieutenant looking for possible headquarters for generals in Luxembourg, dated 13 December 1944. I wondered how close Peiper's King Tigers got to his staff car?

While assisting Ms. Hampsen, I noticed letters from William Massar to Professor Galland, along with a silk address, signature book. Massar, JLS 1943, is on our contact list, but has yet to correspond with us. We would appreciate any information he could give us on Ben Galland and on the address/signature book.

*David M. Hays
Editor*

Sensei Project I

In an effort to learn more about the experiences of the former language instructors of the JLS at Boulder between 1942 and 1946, I have been working on several projects—all of which originated from last Spring's interview with Mrs. Miya Sano, widow of the former instructor, Joe Sano. I wrote a short piece about this interview in the June 15th *Interpreter* issue #24. I am still in contact with her by the way, as we have become friends. I plan to go to her house for dinner next week as she still loves to entertain.

My search for surviving sensei continues. Recently, I mailed out survey questions to former sensei and their family

members on the following topics: recruitment as a Japanese language teacher for the JLS; internment in concentration camps prior to coming to Boulder and the journey to Boulder; working as a Japanese language instructor; and life after leaving the school. I believe the answers to these questions will provide a deeper understanding of not only the experiences of the sensei of the JLS but also of the internment of over a hundred thousand Japanese Americans living on the West Coast.

While still in California, the sensei had to wear badges everywhere they went that gave them special permission to go about their teaching duties while the internment of all Japanese Americans was pending. In addition, all sensei were required to sign numerous oaths and forms while being investigated by the Naval Intelligence Service regarding their loyalty to the United States. When the only other option was incarceration in one of the internment camps

which were scattered throughout the Western U.S., the sensei must have valued their position at the school and done what was required to protect it. The predicament of the sensei was extremely unique and complex considering the situation in the United States in 1942 for Japanese Americans.

Jessica Arntson

New JLS Website:

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

Contact

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

Phone (303) 492-7242

Fax (303) 492-3960

Email:

arv@colorado.edu