

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.

60th Reunion of US Navy JLS at CU 6-9 June 2002

Planning continues for the reunion. Please set aside plans to come to Boulder in early June.

Royal Navy JLOs Remembered

The enclosed citation concerning Bill Beasley may be of passing interest to you. Although Bill and I became quite good friends, I never learned where he had acquired his knowledge of Japanese. I do not recall any Royal Navy guys around Boulder.

Do you have any information about Royal Navy Language Officers?

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[Ed. Note: There was a Japanese Language School in London, during WWII: see Oba, Sadao. *Senchu Rondon Nihongo gakko*. English. The "Japanese" War: London University's WWII secret teaching programme

and the experts sent to help beat Japan. translated by Anne Kaneko. Folkestone, Kent : Japan Library, 1995. viii, 171 p., [8] p. of plates, 1 folded map : ill. ; 24 cm.

We compiled a list of 11 RN Officers who attended the US Navy JLS at CU, but failed to find Beasley, who was a Boulderite: Catt, Gowing, Kennedy, Quine, Wilkinson, Heath, Holles, Lansky, Morris, Jaffray and MacKintosh. We then mailed the list to the British Consulate, who then forwarded the request to the Royal Navy Records Centre, who then recommended the Navy News, who then posted the names and our enquiry in their newspaper. We have, as yet, had no luck in contacting them.]

Marine JLO Response

In the December 1 *Interpreter* Bob Moore wanted to know if any Marine JLOs served a useful function. I got to the field in time to make the Okinawa Campaign. My fellow JLO in the 29th Marines was veteran Glen Slaughter, who said that in his previous campaigns there was almost no-one to interrogate. On Okinawa, with the help of a valiant Okinawan volunteer, we extracted a lot of Okinawan civilians from the caves and holes where they would otherwise have been blasted or entombed by satchel charges. There were few military POWs until the latter part of the campaign, when there were many. After wars end, I spent six months in China (6th Marines G2) assisting in the repatriation of shiploads of troops and civilians and doing some other interesting assignments where Nihongo was vital. The utility of the Marine JLO probably depended on where he was.

Semper Fi

Glenn Nelson
JLO, 1943
USMCR

[Ed. Note: I have found that JLOs express a variety of feelings regarding their overall usefulness and the utility of their language training in WWII. It is the old teeth or tail of the dragon argument.]

JLS Transcripts Found

After spotting a CU transcript in the Robert Moore Papers in November, Archives staff checked the CU transcripts on site to determine if all JLS students were given transcripts. After a thorough check, we determined that contrary to popular belief, the US Navy JLS/OLS students were actually enrolled at CU in either a graduate or undergraduate capacity. The credits given were CU credits. A complete list of graduates can now be determined from these transcripts. Moreover, all of you JLS grads out there are actually alums of CU. The transcript grades are closed, but certain data on the form is public information, such as name, dob, pob, graduation, commissioning.

"Summer Group" Article Correction

"My thanks to Norman Juster for correcting the mention of USNR and USMCR commissioning practice at the USNJLS after July 1944, following the graduation of our Summer Group at Boulder during that month. I was not there after that date but relied on the comments of several NavJapLang students who were.

The phrase which appeared in the 2nd column of the Oct. 15, 2001 *The Interpreter* reads "...wore uniforms, since they were commissioned immediately upon reporting for duty..." should read "...wore uniforms after their commissioning, upon completion of the required background checks and other procedures..."

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1944

UH Scholar Proud He Fought Loyalty Oath

A world-famous scholar of Japanese literature who once was denied employment at the University of Hawaii because he refused to sign a state loyalty oath returned to the campus yesterday to receive an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters.

Edward George Seidensticker, 80, known for helping bring new, faithful translations of Japanese literature to the English speaking world, said he likes to be remembered in Hawaii for stirring voters to strike the loyalty oath law from the state constitution.

Loyalty, Seidensticker said then, is like love: It can be given, but not demanded. The issue was raised in 1990 when Seidensticker, a retired Columbia University professor, was about to accept Hawaii's offer of a three-year endowed appointment as a distinguished professor of Japanese cultural history. When he learned the requirement that all state employees sign a loyalty oath, he refused.

Not that his loyalty was ever questioned. He served four years in the Navy and the Marine Corps during World War II, and in the Marine Corps Reserve for several years after the war. But he said the oath was demeaning and insulting.

"It assumes there is a possibility or suggestion of disloyalty from (an) employee, and I find that repugnant," he said. Besides, Seidensticker added, such oaths were meaningless because disloyal people would sign them without hesitation.

Then-university president Al Simone sent Seidensticker a letter saying he was not eligible for employment. Only one other professor had refused to come to the university because of the oath, in 1988. The faculty senate had passed a resolution asking that it be abolished; and the American Civil Liberties Union had been looking into another state employee's objection.

When Seidensticker took his stand, many more stood with him, and the voters soon followed. The United Public → (“Loyalty Oath...” Cont’d)

Workers, State Teachers Association and the University’s Professional Assembly unions stepped forward and asked the Legislature to kill the oath.

The university professors, noting that the oath stemmed from a law enacted in 1941, when the loyalty of many Hawaii residents of Japanese ancestry was questioned based on their race and heritage, said the people would be happy to see it stricken.

The Legislature put the matter on the ballot in 1992, “and the

people rose up,” Seidensticker said yesterday. The old wording covering “all public officials” was changed to refer only to top state officials and appointees, national guard and law enforcement. “It’s my place in Hawaii history,” the scholar said yesterday.

Seidensticker’s place is larger than that, said Interim Chancellor Deane Neubauer at winter commencement ceremonies yesterday. He never earned a doctorate, but he didn’t need one, Neubauer said, noting that Stanford, the University of Michigan and Columbia had recruited him to teach because of

his expertise and his “magnificent translation of Japanese classics.” He also has been generous to UH, serving on graduate student committees and contributing to an award in his name in Japanese studies, Neubauer said.

Seidensticker, known for his translation of literature ranging from the thousand-year-old Tale of Genji to the modern novels of Yasunari Kawabata, said he is working on occasional papers and completing his memoirs.

*Walter Wright
Honolulu Advertiser
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New Collections

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

- Royal Wald

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Glenn Slaughter
- Dan S. Williams
- M.L. & N. Williams