

# The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 114B

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

[arv@colorado.edu](mailto:arv@colorado.edu)

Status Report August 15, 2007

## Our Mission

*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, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.*

## Status Report

Seven years after renewing the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, we have increased our contacts to over 600 to whom we have sent more than 174 issues of our project newsletter, *The Interpreter*, as well as information. Since our last Status Report, there has been considerable activity and work performed.

### Major Collections

While the Archives holds such large collections as those of Edward Seidensticker, Roger Pineau, William Hudson, Solomon Levine, Marion Levy, and Charles Cross, there are also promises, parts, and complete holdings of as many as 100 other sensei, graduates, and attendees of the JLS/OLS.

This year we have received the the Kanji & Codes Collection and the Harrison Parker Papers, additions to the Nicholas Vardac Papers and the Marylou Siegfried and D. Norton Williams. The papers we have acquired, along with the

promises of a number of other donors, continue to indicate that we only have received a small portion of the materials we should expect. Many have promised their collections. Still more expect to send their papers to The JLS/OLS Project, but have not yet discussed the matter with us. A number of collections have gone to other repositories but this is alright with us. While we welcome archival contributions, and while we believe JLS/OLS materials should be saved, it does not have to be saved by us. JLS/OLS papers have been donated to the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, Cal Berkeley, Columbia University, the Library of Congress and other prominent repositories. As long as we know where they went, we are pleased that those papers are being saved at such prestigious institutions. If you wish your papers to come to the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, please contact us.

Katherine Harris finished processing the *Marion Levy Papers* in mid-August 2006, when her contract concluded. Remaining funds from the 2005 Freeman Grant were expended on hiring students to perform other JLS/OLS tasks.

### Small Manuscripts

Among the small collections, we received additions to the Craig – Halverson, Norton and Marrylou Williams, and Donald Keene Collection; and the beginnings or entirety of the Fred Franck, E. A. Leonard, Annette Rosling Oral History, Royal Wald, Robert Starr Kinsman, George Buffington, Baldwin Eckel, S.O. Thorlaksson, Paul E. Hauck, Norton Ginsburg, and Edmund Coffin Collections. We usually wait until we are certain we have everything from a donor prior to processing. There are dozens of JLS/OLsers who have promised collections who have yet to send them.

We continue to be pleased with the response of those whose

donations include primarily their JLS and WWII experiences.

### Research

We still await the book by Roger Dingman. In addition, Irwin and Carole Slesnick are still attempting to officially publish the second edition of their book *Kanji & Codes*.

Professor Atsuhiko Wada formerly of Shinshu University, now of Waseda University, published his book *The Japan-US Relationship Viewed from Book Circulation: Toward the Literacy History* [in Japanese] (2007). In it, he finds that USN JLS/OLsers played a significant role in building Japanese language libraries in the US after the War. No surprise to you. See the book's website:

<http://www.shin-yo-sha.co.jp/mokuroku/books/978-4-7885-1036-4.htm>

Recently, we have been contacted by Kojiro Yamada of NHK Japan Broadcasting Co., currently working on a documentary film about the Japanese POW during WWII. Their research team is finding out that POW information was used not only for tactical and strategic purposes, but also for reconstruction of Japan after the war.

As part of this film, he seeks interrogators, and the officers who processed information in Washington during the WWII. He contacted Professor Donald Willis, with our help, researched in the Archives and filmed yours truly. I sent him to Professor Dingman and Dr. Louriero. NHK the largest Public TV network in Asia. He states that his program, *NHK Special*, is the most watched documentary film in Japan with 10-15 million viewers.

We also provided addresses to *Noble PR*, Warner Brothers UK's public relations firm to Larry Vincent, Dan Williams, Tom Fournoy, and Ray Luthy, veterans of Iwo Jima. WBUK is releasing *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima* in the

UK and wanted a few good men to review the films as part of their PR campaign.

### Activities

During the fall of 2006, the JLS/OLS Project funded our two freshmen, Genevieve Clark and Carolyn Michaels to continue to make use of Google™ and *MyFamilyPeopleFinder™* to seek out missing entrants. The two new students, paid on the JLS Fund, restarted updating Winglam Kwan's spreadsheet for all JLS/OLS entrants. Carolyn built a list of the 'unaccounted for', and began rechecking Google™ and found information on at least 100 more.

At the request of Art Dornheim, JLS 1943, we sent "photo albums" out in our December mailing, as sort of a present. He wanted a photo album sent out to everyone. We thought that folks out there would only really want to see their own year groups. So we broke up the mailing list into year-groups and selected photos to scan into a four-sheet insert. Quality scanned "albums" were offered for sale. We used the composite guide to all JLS/OLS photographs crafted by Anna Peterson, Rachel Newton and Anne Getts.

This January, Art Dornheim donated 4/5<sup>th</sup> of the cost of an institutional scanner which will allow for more future "albums".

On November 13, 2006, I taught a class to several sections of a World War II in Asia history class, as their professor, William Wei, was away traveling. The subject of the class was the USN JLS/OLS! I also gave a talk on the project to a library group in early January 2007. The subject of this talk was the mid-to late 20<sup>th</sup> century contributions of JLS/OLS graduates to American academia, intelligence, and diplomacy.

In May I was invited by the Arleigh Burke Branch of the Military Officers Association of America in Boulder to give a talk on the US Navy Japanese

Language at a breakfast meeting. I gave substantially the same speech that I had given to the history classes in January. I handed out some of the same photos I sent out in December 2006, and an outline of the lecture to the 40 people in attendance. The lecture was much appreciated.

### **Chinese, Russian and Malay Programs**

We continue to attract attendees of the other OLS language programs. We have placed several long running stories from the Malay and Chinese programs. I have also posted a number of Russian, Chinese, and Malay obituaries. We continue to look for more alumni of these programs and continue to welcome their stories.

### ***The Interpreter***

Our mailed project newsletter is now up to #114B (B being this status report, we use this "B" issue for status reports so as not to take up a regular issue on our "chest beating"), or 174 issues. We continue the JLS/OLS "delayed conversation" between and among the readership by interweaving the stories, spacing particular writers, spreading out class groups, incorporating all programs, including Sensei and WAVE stories, as well as adding wife and kin stories. In order to maintain the newsletter's spirit, I still add in my own asides and editor's notes [in italics] to provide comic relief, further information, and addresses. Forrest "Woody" Pitts, OLS 1946, our volunteer proof-reader, continues to edit most of the newsletters prior to mailing. We welcome his contribution.

Since we continue to print longer multi-part letters, as well as WAVE biographies from their 1993 Boulder Reunion, we have completed issues until issue #140 (August 1, 2009) and partial issues until #154 (November 1 2010). The backlog up to #120 is posted on our website. The good news continues to be that the newsletter will run on into the foreseeable future, running into 2011.

You already know about the formatting change. In March, the Curator, Bruce Montgomery and

I decided to move to a two-page double sided issue, once a month. The new format saves over \$3,000 per year, or half our postage expenditure at 41¢ per issue, but allows for at least 30% more stories per month. So I have been able to bring much of the backlog into earlier issues.

Upcoming issues include stories about all classes, WAVES, and sensei, as well as the Russian, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, Amoy and Foochow), and Malay programs. There are also a scattering of Marine Enlisted Linguist and Army MIS stories. I have also written some stories about prominent Boulder businesses. Recently, I was able to find an "Internment to Boulder" story by the daughter of a sensei who worked in the JLS/OLS office. All of the Archives student workers lend a hand in preparing the newsletter for mailing. Please send us your ideas and comments. We believe this is *your* newsletter, not ours.

### **Funding**

In May 2007, the Archives received a 3 year - \$30,000 grant to fund the hire Katherine Harris, Ph.D. History, 1983 CU, for three years (\$9,000/year after the campus take) at part-time to begin the processing of the *Charles T. Cross, Harrison Parker, Nicholas Vardac, Kanji & Codes, JLS Oral Interview, and the Jessica Arntson Collections*, as well as surveying the remaining unprocessed collections and other sundry tasks. We wish to thank the Trustees of the Freeman Foundation for their support and trust.

As of May 16, 2007, the Archives has raised \$32,387.50 in the past seven years for the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project, \$15,241.78 remains on hand, as of mid-May.

All donors not only receive our hearty thanks, but also the gratitude of the rest of our 617 contacts. Remember, if you wish to send a contribution, make the check out to the University of Colorado Foundation specifying in your letter that you wish the check to go to the US Navy

Japanese/Oriental Language School Fund, and mail the letter to:

David Hays  
Archives  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
UCB 184  
Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

Donation rules require that donations are placed in the appropriate account. But to insure proper donation, donors must state their wishes. Direct donations to the CU Foundation may not end up in the JLS/OLS account.

### **Assistance to Other Archives and Programs**

We continue to assist other universities, World War II museums and centers, and institutions in Japan in pursuit of widening the awareness of our USN JLS/OLS Archival Project.

While it is an unrelated project, we continue to assist Professor Roger Dingman and Dr. Pedro Loureiro in their grant-funded project to build an oral history interview project on the JLS at the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College. We have also assisted archival institutions holding the collections of many of those on our mailing list. It is our belief that JLS/OLS materials need to be preserved and made available for research, but not necessarily entirely by us. We welcome all efforts to preserve this valuable material.

In addition, Scott Pawlowski, who assisted me so much in sending student archivists to summer jobs in the National Parks, was promoted to the position of Curator of the USS Arizona National Memorial. He may be helping us in the future with JLS/OLS events in Hawaii, as he continues to enlist our students for summer archival work.

### **Staffing**

We still enjoy great luck with student workers in the project. Olivia Kaferly moved from Berlin, Germany to Denver. Molly Tindle still lives in Florida. Her husband passed the bar and they have a little boy. Lena Potyondy, is now going to Nursing School. Scott Shaver is still working in accounting. Alvie Sellmer is now attending

graduate school in Library Sciences at Emporia State University. Cynthia Ploucher is attending graduate school in business. Jessica Arntson, MA East Asian Languages and History, 2003, teaches Japanese and American Government in a Boulder County High School. Megan Lillie, Honors graduate in May 2004, is attending the graduate nautical archaeology program at Texas A&M. Sarah Johnson is now attending graduate School in Library Sciences at Denver University. Rachel Newton graduated in 2005 and Ashleigh Mayer, Elizabeth Campbell, Anna Wagner, Matt Muzia and Elliott Croog all graduated in 2006. Winglam Kwan, Christopher Leighton, and Kathryn Holt graduated in May 2007.

Last fall, I recruited Genevieve Clark and Carolyn Michaels, who I immediately placed on the JLS fund and they have been assigned to the complex task of accounting for the rest of the 470 unaccounted JLS/OLSers. The entire student staff has worked on JLS/OLS collections, correspondence, *Interpreter* mailings, and emails. All student assistants in the Archives work sometimes on JLS/OLS projects. They help edit the newsletter, answer much of the correspondence, and keep the JLS/OLS files in order. I will be recruiting two more students this fall. Karen Gifford works half time on university materials.

### **"Present or Accounted for, Sir!"**

That spreadsheet of all JLS/OLS attendees on our entrance list continues to be useful. Genevieve and Carolyn made another run through the unaccounted for last fall, so we have accounted for all but 220 of a total of 1650 Boulder attendees, as of April 2006. In other words, they found grave sites, bibliographic information, articles, obituaries, Social Security information, or addresses for 195. When we have compiled the information, we will let you know.

I will continue to go through the Google® search again in the future to see if more folks appear.