

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 126B

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

Status Report August 15, 2008

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

Eight years after renewing the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, we have maintained our contacts to over 600 to whom we have sent more than 196 issues of our project newsletter, *The Interpreter*, as well as other information. Since our last Status Report, there has been substantial activity on which to report.

Major Collections

While the Archives holds such large collections as those of Edward Seidensticker, Roger Pineau, William Hudson, Solomon Levine, Marion Levy, Charles Cross and Harrison Parker, 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 received additions to the Nicholas Vardac and Charles Cross Papers. We continue to await the remaining papers of Edward Seidensticker and Philip Manhard. We also continue to await the remainder

of the Norton and Marylou Williams Papers, which promises to be a large collection.

We have acquired the promises of a number of other collections from donors who as yet are not ready to part with their materials. So we continue to believe 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.

Small Manuscripts

Among the small collections, we received collections of and additions to the Donald Carman, Dan Williams, Donald Keene, Arthur Dornheim, Robert T. Engles, Philip Burchill, Paul Hauck, Norton Ginsburg, Grayce Nakasone Scott, Marie Edwards, Calvin Dunbar, Ellis Zacharias, and the Glenn Nelson 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. I am pleased to announce that Professor Atsuhiko Wada's book, *The Japan-US Relationship Viewed from Book Circulation*, was awarded the prize of the Japan Society of Library and Information Science. This has encouraged Professor Wada, now of Waseda University, and his publisher to make a sequel of the book. He is gathering various documents to prepare for his next work, which will be on teaching methods. He has visited our holdings to research this book.

Professor Yujin Yaguchi of the University of Tokyo visited the Archives in August 2007 to look in the JLS/OLS papers, looking for information on the post-battle occupation of the Marianas and the treatment of civilians on the islands.

Several graduate students have also researched in the USN JLS/OLS collections for class and seminar papers. In April, a military student at an armed services intelligence school approached us for possible interview subjects regarding the OP16 Camp Tracy operation, the same topic of interest for the Japanese documentary team last year. I was able to provide several names for him to contact.

We sometimes receive queries from researchers in the intelligence field, especially on the Pearl Harbor attack question. Slowly but surely, word of the impact of the USN JLS/OLS on WWII is filtering out through the worldwide web.

Activities

Dr. Katherine Harris, our Freeman Grant archivist, having begun the *Charles T. Cross Papers* in July 2007, finished that collection in October 2007. A finding aid was sent to the Cross Family and to the Freeman Foundation. Dr. Harris then worked on the *Harrison Parker Papers*, a much larger collection.

During the summer of 2007, a graduate student in library and information sciences performed her practicum at the Archives. We trained her in archival processing. Since Sarah McSweeney's interest was in military collections, I had her contact a number of JLS/OLS small-collection donors to determine whether we would be receiving further papers. Then Ms. McSweeney was directed to survey a number of the collections (first handling and most rudimentary finding aid).

We used the scanner, donated by Art Dornheim, to scan a considerable portion of the JLS/OLS photographs. The photographs of the Roger Pineau Collection are numerous and require some processing prior to scanning. We used these scans to create another "photo album" for the readership, which went out in March. Carla Thilmont was putting together another album when she graduated in May 2008.

During the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters, James Thompkins processed the *Kanji & Codes Collection*. This collection contains the research material used by the Slesnicks for their book. He also reedited the *Calvin Dunbar Collection*. James is an ethnic studies student with some Japanese language experience. In the past, he has also worked on the *USN JLS/OLS Collection*, and several collections on race and ethnicity. His student assistant wages were paid by the JLS fund.

On the week of July 4, 2008, the Japanese American National Museum put on a conference in Denver, entitled "Whose America, Who's American?" I was unexpectedly asked by Arthur Hansen to be part of a panel on how words were used to denigrate, obfuscate, and train during this period. I gave a 10 minute presentation on how the Sensei of the USN JLS/OLS used Japanese words to train those who were later to use words as weapons and peace

offerings. I also enlisted Don Willis and Bob Bruns to help give a USN JLS/OLS tour of the campus.

I found a blog called *Frog in a Well*, which had mentioned Donald Keene in one of their blogs. So I contacted Konrad Lawson at Harvard with information about our project. He wants to interview me via telephone or email for the blog. I also contacted several USNA professors with information about our project, as I had found a midshipman's history paper on the JLS on the web that had not made use of our materials. I have also contacted the ATA, the historian for the NSA and several other organizations.

I started putting together three JLS bibliographies: on Japan/Asia; biographical/ autobiographical; and individual ones for the files. It will take a time to finish. Beasley, Beardsley and Bingham took a day themselves.

Chinese, Russian and Malay Programs

We have attracted 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 #126B (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 186 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 #151 (September 1, 2010) and partial issues until #168 (February 1, 2012). The backlog up to #138 was posted on our website in October 2007, 196 issues in all. The good news continues to be that the newsletter will run on into the foreseeable future, running into 2012.

Since March 2007, the two-page, double-sided issue, once-a-month, format has proven a success. The new format saves over \$3,000 per year in postage from our twice a month format and actually provides more stories.

We continue to include stories about all classes and language programs. I still try to spread out the obituaries, although it is becoming increasingly difficult to do so.

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, 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. Katherine should restart her project in June 2008, after the next installment of the Freeman Foundation grant appears.

As of April 14, 2008, the Archives has raised \$35,837.50 in the past eight years for the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project, \$12,759.72 remains on hand, as of mid-April. We spent \$2,200

on work study students who worked a total of \$6,600 in wages. In other words, when we use the JLS/OLS Fund to pay work study students, each dollar paid from the fund is matched by two federal matching dollars.

All donors not only receive our hearty thanks, but also the gratitude of the rest of our 605 contacts. **Remember, there is a new policy.** If you wish to send a contribution, make the check out to **the University of Colorado** 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.

Please do not make out the check to me, the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project, the Archives, or to the Libraries. Thank you for your consideration.

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.

Staffing

We still enjoy great luck with student workers in the project. Olivia Kaferly is now in Denver. Molly Tindle still lives in Florida. Her husband passed the bar and they have a little boy. Lena Potyondy is going to Nursing School. Scott Shaver is still working in accounting. Alvie Sellmer, attending graduate school in Library Sciences at Emporia State University, has been hired on by the US National Park Service as an archivist. Cynthia Ploucher is finishing graduate school in business. Jessica Arntson, MA

East Asian Languages and History, 2003, moved to Philadelphia with her husband who teaches at Drexel. Megan Lillie is finishing the graduate nautical archaeology program at Texas A&M. Sarah Johnson is now attending graduate School in Library Sciences at Denver University. Of the 2005-07 graduates, Ashleigh Mayer has a job in a CU Psychology lab, Elizabeth Campbell is teaching, Matt Muzia has gotten a job in Norlin Library at CU, Winglam Kwan has an architectural internship, and Kathryn Holt applied for a Fulbright for graduate school in Ireland.

This year we lost 4 student workers, of whom were Carla Thilmont, Anne Getts, Josh Senn, and Chris Leighton, all of whom contributed considerably to JLS/OLS archival operations.

Genevieve Clark and Carolyn Michaels continue to work on JLS/OLS filing, research and the newsletter. They have been reinforced by 5 new students, since so many graduated this year. Kyra Glore, Lindsay Affleck, Doug Muas, Bryan Lyman, and Leanne Glenn were hired and will all be working on aspects of USN JLS/OLS work, from time to time. They will also be going on National Park tasks during the summer, two to the *USS Arizona Memorial* at Pearl Harbor. Karen Gifford works half time on university materials. By the way, Sarah McSweeney performed so well, I used what influence I have [*very little*] and helped get her an archival job with one of the contractors serving the US National Park Service. Three former students are getting their Masters in Library and Information Sciences.

"Present or Accounted for, Sir!"

As of April 3, 2008, in answer to a question that had to posted in a future issue, of those USN JLS/OLSers we have found over the years, I counted 350 living veterans (though not all are interested or receiving the newsletter): 333 men and 17 WAVES. I will continue to go through the Google® search again in the future to see if more folks appear.