

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.

Sono Hi No Uwasa Quips

Looking through a year's copies of Sono Hi No Uwasa, I find tidbits among longer pieces that might serve if you need fillers for *The Interpreter*. - Bill Amos

The first issue was published Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1942, a crude, one-sided mimeograph effort with hand-drawn header and cartoon. Subsequent issues were properly mimeographed on both sides and had a colorful, well-rendered masthead. My last copy is April 30, 1943, Vol. 2, No. 2, which may have been the final issue prepared by our class. Whether or not it continued after we graduated, I don't know.

Vol 1, No 1: (Editorial)

Every newspaper must have a raison d'être -- and *The Uwasa* is no exception. So, in true editorial style, this little paper makes its first appearance in what is hoped will be a long and useful existence. Despite its name, *The Uwasa* will contain very few, if any, rumors.

Status Report

Three years after renewing the JLS Project, we have between 430 and 450 active contacts to whom we have sent more than 75 issues of our project newsletter, *The Interpreter*. The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project continues to be more successful than anticipated. Such acquisition projects usually require years to attract major collections. In the two years since our last Status Report, there has been considerable activity.

Major Collections

We have attracted several major academic collections from those graduates whose academic work involved Asia and Japan. Charles Cross and the Mayer-Oakes Family have both promised their collections to the Archives. We received two boxes of papers from the Family of COL Thomas Williams, USMC. While not a JLO, he was the G-2 of the 6th Marine Division on Okinawa and directed the efforts of several Boulderites. His correspondence, scrapbooks, and photographs constitute an extremely rich collection. Professor Marcia Yonemoto's Freeman Grant funded oral history project, conducted during the 60th Anniversary Reunion developed 40 oral histories, which were donated to the Archives.

Small Manuscripts

We continue to be pleased with the response of those whose donations include primarily their JLS and WWII experiences. The Papers of Frank Bauman, Cal Dunbar, Marylou and Norton Williams, Howard Boorman, Donald Keene, Philip Burchill, James Otagiri, Aurthur, "Mike" Foley" have all received additions in the past two years. We have processed 30 of 125 collections received and promised. Many are not complete yet, so we have waited for them to be completed.

The Solomon Levine Collection has been processed by Cynthia Ploucher. We have also been creating a guide to all the JLS photographs, in order to find them quickly. The *Roger Pineau Collection* photographs have received the most attention. Periodically, when we find a particularly interesting photograph of one of the graduates on our mailing list, we will photocopy it and mail it to them.

Research

Since 1998, there has been what in archival terms has been a flurry of research on the JLS/OLS. Irwin and Carole Slesnick have completed their more than 6 year research and are in the editing and publishing phase on their work on all military and naval JLS efforts from 1910-1946. Roger Dingman likewise has finished research and is completing the writing of his work on the US Navy JLS. Pedro Louriero is continuing with his grant-funded JLS Oral History Project. Jessica Arntson completed her MA in East Asian Languages and Civilizations and History with a thesis "Journey to Boulder: the Japanese American Instructors of the Navy Japanese Language School, 1942-1946". Her collected research, interviews, and notes have been donated to the Archives, entitled the *JLS Instructors Collection*. There have also been several undergraduate history projects that have used the JLS/OLS collections, one at MIT.

Activities

The Archives put on the 60th Anniversary Reunion of the JLS/OLS in June 2002 (see Reunion After Action Report in *The Interpreter*). Frank Gibney and Pedro Louriero managed to convince and arrange for the US Navy to cite the JLS Instructors, the ceremony being held at Pomona College on November 2, 2002. The Archives assisted by seeking out and providing

addresses for living sensei and their families. On Veteran's Day, 2002, the Archives unveiled the JLS/OLS Plaque, dedicated during the reunion, in the Veterans Lounge in the CU University Memorial Center.

Funding

The Archives has raised \$10,365.00 in the past three years for the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project, \$518.25 of which constitutes the CU Foundation's 5% fee. \$14,182.13 was spent on the Reunion, of which \$9,625.00 was paid by reunion guests. \$4,000.00 has been moved into the Archives JLS Fund to be used to pay work-study student wages (triples the value) on JLS Project duties. \$1,289.62 remained in the CU Foundation JLS account as of May 29, 2003.

Staffing

Ever since Molly Tindle and Olivia Kaferly kicked off the third stage of the JLS project by re-locating and contacting many of the graduates and their families, we have enjoyed great fortune with student workers in the project. Olivia lives in Germany and Molly is in Florida. Lena Potyondy, who preserved the Pineau Collection photographs, graduated with highest honors in history and works for a labor union in Denver. Scott Shaver spent two years with us before graduating and entering the accounting field. Alvie Sellmer, who worked on the audio-visual end of the project, graduated this summer and is now living in New York state. Jessica Arntson received her MA after being involved with the project since 2001. Jennifer Hampsen, who assisted during the Reunion and processed the *Ben Galland Papers*, graduated with honors in history. Megan Applegate, who processed several small JLS collections, graduated with honors in English Literature and moved to Michigan. (Over)

Sarah Johnson, Megan Lillie, Cynthia Ploucher, and Ashleigh Mayer still work in the Archives, sometimes on JLS projects. Elizabeth Campbell helps edit the newsletter, answers much of the correspondence, and keeps the JLS files in order. She also works on small JLS collections. Since she is only a sophomore this fall, you will be hearing from her for a long time. Rachel Newton has taken over the A/V job. Karen Gifford, who was such a great help during the reunion, works half time on university materials.

I was a graduate of the JLS held by Major Bishop of the 8th Marine Regiment while garrisoning Tutuila, American Samoa in 1942. He took us through the first *Tokuho*n and about 500 characters. As an enlisted interpreter, I served on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. On return to the US in 1944, I was assigned to Boulder where I was commissioned and studied Japanese until 1945, when I was discharged.

deeply involved in product application and surveying local corn-grinding operators and surveying local corn-grinding operators for acquisition by Corn Products Refining Co. (Best Foods Corp.). I did not use my Japanese again until 1972 when through a business connection, the son of a CEO of the giant Japanese food company, *Aji-No-Moto* became a guest and English student in my house for 9 months.

Seldon L. Brown
USMCR

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

New JLS Website:

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

JLS Influence in East Asian History

You will note that I did not graduate from the Japanese language program. I studied as a naval agent in the program from 10 May 1942 to 15 December 1943, but I was discharged from the program because I was classified 4F in the draft and, therefore, deemed unfit for a commission in the Navy. Nevertheless, I made good friends during those months in Boulder who, like me, continued in East Asian Studies. I especially welcomed the opportunity to study Japanese at

A Samoa Marine

Boulder as I was already teaching Chinese and Japanese history at the University of Texas, and the University of Chicago, where I was studying for the Ph.D, did not offer Japanese at that time. After leaving Boulder, I moved to the Military Intelligence Service, where I served as a research analyst on the Japan Political Desk of the Political-Economic Branch of G-2.

After the War and completing the Ph.D., I was able to continue as a post-Ph.D. student in Japanese at Harvard. My six months at Boulder was thus crucial in preparing me for a career in teaching and research in East Asian and naval history.

In 1952, I spent 3 months in Tokyo during the occupation,

I was especially interested to learn of Frank Mayer-Oakes. We were graduate students at the University of Chicago before we met again at Boulder. He had one of the most finished minds of any man I have known. It was sad for the profession that he did not continue with his translation of the *Saionji-Harada Memoirs*. By chance I met him years later when I was reading in the Edwin Denby Papers at the Detroit Public Library. He told me then that he had been diverted from his translations by caring for his parents and by work in the Wayne State University administration. If he left any drafts of his translations of

the *Memoirs*, historians will find them very useful.

William R. Braisted
Professor Emeritus
University of Texas

[Ed. Note: Roger Hackett, F. Hilary Conroy, Frank Mayer-Oakes, William Braisted, Sydney D. Brown, Frank Tucker, Paul Boller, Clinton H. Gardiner and Earl Swisher are among the many names of East Asian historians or historians who wrote on East Asian topics who have attended the JLS/OLS. Taking care of elderly parents seems an admirable Mayer-Oakes family tradition.]

Contact