

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 77B

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

Status Report August 1, 2004

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

Four years after renewing the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, we have increased our contacts to over 525 to whom we have sent more than 105 issues of our project newsletter, *The Interpreter*, as well as packets with address lists articles, mission statements, and other information. The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project continues to be far more successful than anticipated. Such acquisition projects usually require years to attract major collections. 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. The *Mayer-Oakes Collection* on site was surveyed. We received the *Marion Levy Papers*, a large

collection, as well as the *Daniel Karasik Papers*, which contained a substantial photograph collection of combat photography. The *Solomon and Elizabeth Levine Collection* was completed by Cynthia Ploucher last summer. As one of her last tasks, Cynthia Ploucher also organized the *Karasik Papers* and formulated a guide. I have also reprocessed the *US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Collection*, adding many more individual files, transcripts, reunion files, and other material, almost doubling that collection. We will re-do that collection when we have all attendees "present or accounted for". The *Pineau and Hudson Collections* also received some attention.

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.

The *Frank Bauman* and the *Marylou and Norton Williams Collections* were completed. Liz Campbell is working on the *Phillip Burchill Collection*.

We have processed 30 of 125 collections received and promised. Many are, as yet, incomplete, so we have waited for all the papers to arrive before processing them.

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 years of research and are awaiting word from publishers on their work on all military and naval JLS efforts from 1910-1946. Roger Dingman likewise is completing research and is writing his work on the US Navy JLS. Pedro Loureiro 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" University of Colorado, East Asian Languages, 2003. Her collected research, interviews, and notes have been donated to the Archives, entitled the *JLS Instructors Collection*. There are also resent research efforts underway on the Russian and Chinese programs. Lastly, there continues to be undergraduate interest from both the history and East Asian languages and civilizations departments in the JLS/OLS collections.

Activities

Last summer, I went through the entire JLS/OLS correspondence file, checking for unanswered letters, unaddressed issues, and letters suitable for placing in the newsletter. It took several months to complete, but a large number of stories and much correspondence resulted, renewing contact with dozens of JLS/OLSers. The inclusion of many longer stories contributed to an 18 month backlog for appearance in the newsletter.

Since December 2003, the JLS/OLS Project has made use of several new computer databases: The *Master Biographical and Genealogical Index* and *MyFamilyPeopleFinder*. We used the former index to locate attendees and graduates from our entrants list in the various Gale Publications *Who's Who* and

other biographical titles. Then using the latter data I can locate the address and telephone listing (often because that database lists age and spouse name). This method of search has allowed us to increase the number of contacts from 450 to 525 between January and June 2004.

At the same time, Winglam Kwan has been constructing a spreadsheet for all JLS/OLS entrants. The spreadsheet will include name, date entered, home-town, vital status, whether included in the *Pineau* or *JLS/OLS Collection* individual files, on our mailing list, whether we have a collection for the person, and which language program. The spreadsheet, when completed will allow us to start contacting previously uncontacted entrants. We will not stop this effort until all are "present or accounted for".

Rachel Newton was tasked with Making William Hudson's "memoir" ready for distribution. She found as many originals of the images he had photocopied and had them laser copied, to improve the quality of the illustrations. Upon request, she copies the memoir and mails it out. She, along with Anne Getts, has also worked on making a composite guide to all JLS/OLS photographs, so that we, and researchers, can locate appropriate images more rapidly.

For those who have taken to the computer, we continue to update our website: <http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm>, adding newsletter issues, changing the status of collections acquired. Issues up to #68A are on the website.

Chinese, Russian and Malay Programs

Since January 2004, we have finally begun to attract attendees of the other OLS language programs. We had real difficulty attracting Russian, Chinese, and Malay graduates onto our mailing list during our first three years. Those we did recruit did not send stories. But we now

have begun to attract enough people from these programs to build packets related specifically to their programs, which has aided us in recruiting more.

The Interpreter

Our project newsletter is now up to #77B (B being this status report, having forgotten to place this information in the regular issue). Since approximately the 10th issue, the newsletter has become a kind of, "delayed conversation" between and among the readership. As such, the newsletter has itself become a historical primary source. We have always attempted to vary the stories by spacing particular writers, spreading out class groups, including Sensei and WAVE stories, as well as adding wife and kin stories, when available. I have also included my own asides and editor's notes to provide comic relief, further information, and addresses. Forrest "Woody" Pitts, OLS 1946, and an admitted proof-reader, has been editing most of the newsletters prior to mailing. He cheerfully admits that when they are eventually mailed out to him, he rereads them as if for the first time. We welcome his contribution.

Since we have begun printing longer multi-part letters, as well as WAVE biographies from their 1993 Boulder Reunion, we have completed issues until issue #90 (November 1, 2005) and partial issues until #98 (July 2006). Four further issues have stories placed, as well. This means that there is presently a year to 18 month delay in posting incoming stories. The good news is that the newsletter will run on into the foreseeable future. I do not know what I would have said had Mollie and Olivia asked me how long the newsletter would have lasted. I suspect I would not have said 2006. The upcoming issues include stories about WAVES, as well as the Russian, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, Amoy and Foochow), and Malay programs. There are also a scattering of Army MIS stories. I have received some grumbling from long-termers who have resented the drift away from a purely 1942-1943 Japanese language focus. However, It has

long been our aim to include all the classes and all language programs, so they are included at long last. Nevertheless, I continue to place 1942-1943 Navy and Marine JLS and JLO stories so that rarely an issue will go by without a story representing that group. On another note, we can only print what the readership writes in, so keep sending in letters. We try to do our best to make the newsletter appealing to all readers. Please send us your ideas and comments. We believe this is *your* newsletter, not ours.

Funding

As of July 1, 2004, the Archives has raised \$13,520.00 in the past four years for the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project, \$676.00 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/OLS Project duties. \$4,286.87 remained in the CU Foundation JLS account as of July 1, 2004. We are allowing the fund to build slowly before transferring funds to employ work-study students. All donors not only receive our hearty thanks, but also the gratitude of the rest of our 525 contacts. Remember, 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
Campus Box 184
Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

Donation rules have been tightened up to insure that donations are placed in the appropriate account. But to insure proper donation, donors must state their wishes. Direct donations to the CU Foundation will not go to the JLS/OLS account.

Assistance to Other Archives and Programs

At the outset of the JLS/OLS project, we were approached by William Himel, JLS 1942 and Allen H. Meyer (MIS) to insure that Army and Navy JLS/OLS archival activities were coordinated. In pursuit of this goal, we placed Mr. Meyer on the mailing list as a liaison, and have added several more MIS at Carole Slesnick's request. We referred several prospective MIS collections to the University of Michigan, as they have a number of collections relating to their Army language program. We also contacted most military and naval archives, as well as several pertinent National Archives and Smithsonian offices informing them of our project and providing them with a web-link. We have also contacted Japanese American manuscript holdings in LA and the Bay Area and have informed them about our endeavor.

While it is an unrelated project, we have assisted 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 by us. We welcome all efforts to preserve this valuable material.

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 is moving from Berlin to Paris (some people have all the luck) and Molly still is in Florida. Lena Potyondy, who preserved the Pineau Collection photographs, graduated with highest honors in history and continues to move up in the Service Employees 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 in Summer 2003 and still lives in Boulder County. I took him out to a multi-course dinner to reward him for his great work. Jessica Arntson, MA East Asian Languages and History, 2003, worked for a Freeman Grant funded office for a year and is now teaching Japanese in a Boulder County High School. Jennifer Hampson, BA History 2003, who assisted during the Reunion and processed the *Ben Galland Papers*, is employed in Southern Colorado. Megan Applegate, BA 2002, who processed several small JLS collections, moved to Michigan. Cynthia Ploucher graduated in psychology in December of 2003. Megan Lillie, graduated with Honors in history and classics last May. Lindsay Stone transferred to UCLA and Nicole Bilbro transferred to NYU. They both worked on newsletter mailings and provided back-up help.

Sarah Johnson spent a semester in Spain during the spring of 2004, and will resume work in the Archives this fall. Ashleigh Mayer, Elizabeth Campbell, Rachel Newton, and Anne Getts, all of whom have worked on JLS/OLS collections, correspondence, *Interpreter* mailings, and emails, spent the summer of 2004 working on a Save America's Treasures Grant in Yellowstone National Park. They will return in the fall, tanned, rested and ready. Anna Wagner, Winglam Kwan, Matt Muzia, and Steve Dike worked on various JLS/OLS efforts during the year. All new students in the Archives work sometimes on JLS/OLS projects. They help edit the newsletter, answers much of the correspondence, and keeps the JLS/OLS files in order. They gradually work up to small JLS collections. I will be recruiting two more students this fall. Karen Gifford, who was such a great help during the reunion, works half time on university materials.

During the school year, the Archives employs from 10 to 14 work-study students, most of whom try their hand on JLS/OLS tasks at one time or another.