

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 90B

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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Status Report August 15, 2005

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

Five years after renewing the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, we have increased our contacts to over 590 to whom we have sent more than 128 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

The papers of Charles Cross, Donald A. Corlett Roger Pineau (addition), William Hoekendorf as well as the promise of a number of other donors has led us to expect that we only had a small portion of the materials we should expect. Dozens have promised their collections. Quite a few more probably expect to

send their papers to The JLS/OLS Project but have not yet discussed the matter with us. We have lost a number of collections to other repositories because arrangements were left for others to handle. If you wish your papers to come to the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, please contact us.

Small Manuscripts

Among the small collections or additions to larger collections that have arrived since the last status report are those of Robert W. Christy, Halsey Wilbur, Val Nolan, Edward Hart, Forrest Pitts, Arthur Dornheim, Erskine Harton, Jack Craig, and Calvin Dunbar. We usually wait until we are certain we have everything from a donor prior to processing.

We continue to be pleased with the response of those whose donations include primarily their JLS and WWII experiences.

Research

We still await the books by Roger Dingman and Irwin and Carole Slesnick. This past year, in fact, Roger Dingman made a research visit to the Archives. Last summer, a Japanese film company told us of their project to create a documentary on the sensei and attendees of the US Navy JLS/OLS. I immediately sent them our website so that they could read the newsletters. I also sent them our address list so that they could contact as many sensei and attendees as possible. They visited us in March, 2005.

During the fall semester we were visited by an author who was researching for a biography of Joseph Rochefort. Working with the Rochefort family, he has access to family papers. He found considerable information in the *Pineau and Hudson Collections*. Previously Robert Davis had used our collections for a book on the death of Admiral Yamamoto.

In February, 2005, a team of high school students chose to create a poster on the JLS/OLS

for their History Day entry. History Day is a kind of history-oriented science fair style competition that takes contestants from their high school through their region to state and national competitions. Every year has a theme. This year's was "communication". The JLS/OLS seems a perfect fit to the team.

Activities

Since the fall of 2004, the JLS/OLS Project has made considerable use of Google and *MyFamilyPeopleFinder*.

Winglam Kwan finished constructing a spreadsheet for all JLS/OLS entrants in the fall of 2004. The spreadsheet included 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, allowed me to start looking for and contacting previously un-contacted entrants. In pursuit of "all present or accounted for", I checked for stories, obituaries, entries, or other such information on the web. If a website indicated that the person was alive and their general location, I would check *MyFamilyPeopleFinder* for their address. If I found the address, I would call. Finding the Boulderite or interested kin, I would send them a language program specific packet. In the past year we have found more than 110 new contacts.

While checking for names I found several entries on a NROTC website at the University of Southern California, listing the names of their WWII Marine and Navy ROTC alumni. I contacted the webmaster of the site, a retired USMC MAJ, and proposed sharing information, as many of those listed had no biographical information. She agreed and took as many biographies as I could supply from our newsletter and from mere entry roster data. She

then created a website describing the JLS/OLS Project, listing the USC alumni who were JLS/OLS and creating individual bios for them. The success of that venture led to contacts with the NROTC at the University of Michigan for exchange of information and articles.

Rachel Newton is still tasked with making William Hudson's "memoir" ready for distribution. Upon request, she copies the memoir and mails it out. Anna Peterson continues the work of Rachel Newton and Anne Getts 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://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/archives/collections/jlsp/index.htm>, adding newsletter issues, changing the status of collections acquired. Issues up to #77B are on the website. We added photographs to our webpage and Glenn Nelson turned out to be our poster boy.

I am also contacting university alumni associations to advise them of their JLS alumni, seeking to prod them into honoring them.

Chinese, Russian and Malay Programs

Since January 2004, we have finally begun to attract attendees of the other OLS language programs. In the past, we had real difficulty attracting Russian, Chinese, and Malay graduates onto our mailing. Those we did recruit did not send stories. But we now have enlisted enough people from these programs to build packets related specifically to their programs, which has aided us in recruiting more. You have probably noticed their stories in the newsletter.

The Interpreter

Our project newsletter is now up to #90B (B being this status report, now using this "B" issue

for status reports so as not to take up a regular issue on our "chest beating"). We continue the JLS/OLS "delayed conversation" between and among the readership by varying the stories, spacing particular writers, spreading out class groups, including Sensei and WAVE stories, as well as adding wife and kin stories. In order to maintain the newsletter's spirit, I still include 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, continues to edit most of the newsletters prior to mailing. 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 #105A (November 15, 2006) and partial issues until #115 (September 1, 2007). Last year's 18 month delay in posting incoming stories may have shrunk somewhat. The good news continues to be that the newsletter will run on into the foreseeable future. As the project continues I still remember Mollie and Olivia asked me how long the newsletter would last. We would not have thought it would still be running in 2008. The 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. Liz Campbell plays a big role in getting the newsletter out. 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

As of June 1, 2005, the Archives has raised \$16,990.00 in the past four years for the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project, of which constitutes the CU Foundation's 5% fee (\$849). \$14, 182.13 was spent on the Reunion, of which \$9,625.00

was paid by reunion guests. \$6,000 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. \$5,583.37 remained in the CU Foundation JLS account as of June 1, 2005. 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 590 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 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 may 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 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 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, worked for the Service Employees union in Denver and has since departed for parts unknown. 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. 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 and Japanese in December of 2003 and took an archival job with the National Park Service in North Carolina. Megan Lillie, graduated with Honors in history and Classics

last May and found work at the University of Wyoming Library. Sarah Johnson graduated in 2005 and is now a 6-Month Temporary Staff in the Archives. Ashleigh Mayer, Elizabeth Campbell, Rachel Newton, and Anne Getts, have worked on JLS/OLS collections, correspondence, *Interpreter* mailings, and emails. Winglam Kwan, Matt Muzia, Anna Peterson, and Josh Senn have all 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.

"Present or Accounted for, Sir"

I had always been interested in the creation of a spread sheet in which the status of all JLS/OLS attendees on our entrance list could be tracked. Have we reached them yet, had Pineau or Hudson created a file for them, had we found an obit or a bio on them somewhere, what was their language, what was their vital status? But until Wing said she would do it, every student asked had eyed me skeptically and said, "That's a good idea, who's going to do it?" Now that the spreadsheet has been finished one time through and I have had the opportunity to "Google" and check addresses for most of them, we have accounted for all but 571 of a total of 1650 Boulder attendees, as of February 2005. Out the 1079 accounted for, 500 attendees or their kin are on the mailing list, and 579 are in the *Pineau, Hudson, or JLS/OLS Collections'* Individual Files. That material includes *Who's Who* type entries, stories, correspondence, bibliographic information, obituaries and information off the web. I will go through the Google search again this summer to see if more folks appear.