The Japanese Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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WHY COLLECT NOW?

Editorial

Many graduates have repeatedly made the same comment: why are we collecting just now? Their bewilderment covers the spectrum from wonder that is has taken us so long to pay attention to the JLS efforts, to surprise that anyone cares at all. No matter how belated our interest may seem, archives must be aware of the archival window of opportunity. Attempting to obtain the materials too early means we’ll probably be refused. If we are too late, the materials might be already lost. As with most anything having to do with academia, interest slowly develops in particular fields. At which point, archivists start to examine just how we can best provide materials for further academic research. Many of you have wondered whether our efforts are allied or competitive with the recent conference held in Pomona, CA. They are not. However, the conference is a prime example of the scholarly increasing attention in the JLS holdings. The academic community is only beginning to understand the impact JLS graduates had on wartime and postwar America and Japan. The complete story awaits its full documentation.

Olivia Kaferly

ARCHIVE SECURITY

How secure is the facility? Norlin Library is staffed by campus police and is secured at various levels when closed. The Archives is a closed-stack facility, in which only staff and student workers are allowed access to the collections. Patrons are supervised at all times and not allowed to browse in the stacks. All entrances to the Archives are locked during our closed hours.

Do papers remain in the Archives? We do not dispose of any materials or transfer them to other locations without the donor’s permission. Collections are transferred only when the Archives changes its collections focus. Since the Japanese Language School was located here in Boulder, we do not anticipate that the Archives would determine to expunge the material. Should our policy toward deaccession change, we will contact donors or their families to ensure that the material is not discarded.

Can I place restrictions on sensitive materials? Yes. We allow restrictions on the principle that collections should be kept intact. The two most common restrictions are based on permission and time. The former requires patrons to get donors’ written permission to access the material; the more common process of time restriction closes access to the material until a certain date. If sensitive materials are part of your collection, please do not remove them. Instead, make us aware of them and we will work with you to restrict the material.

TO DIVIDE OR NOT TO DIVIDE: THAT IS THE QUESTION

The question of dividing collections falls into two parts. The first question is whether to divide materials between repositories. Many Japanese Language School grads who have previously donated their papers to such archives the as University of California, Berkeley, the University of Michigan, or Rutgers University have told us that they might have some JLS materials for us. The correct archival answer to such an offer is that collections should remain intact, rather than be divided by topic between institutions. We respect archival relationships between donors and universities, and will not interfere. We will, however, accept a resume, vita, or biographical statement. Such resumes will form a section of the Japanese Language School Collection.

The second case is one of dividing materials among family or friends. While this sort of division is common, it often leads to the depletion and ultimate loss of valuable historical documents, as well as their inaccessibility to scholars. Many grandparents feel their family’s papers should stay with their family. But archival experience has determined that this practice often leads to hoarding by a single family member, division into extremely small and unusable portions, or, in the case of a disinterested generation, its complete loss.

The Archives wishes to preserve entire collections of original documents. Where they are saved is less important than that they are saved, organized, and preserved for future scholars and researchers. We strongly advise against the division of personal papers. Our concern for the integrity of the collection combined with an intention of facilitating the researchers travel tasks, prompts us to caution against the division of a collection.

THE ARCHIVES AND FAMILIES

The Archives would like to take this opportunity to assure the families of the JLS graduates, as well as the graduates themselves, that we make every effort to provide open access and free guides to the collection deposited. By donating your original personal papers, you are enhancing their accessibility, not losing them forever. Archival relationships are longstanding. Donation can preserve documents from accidental loss, hoarding or decay.

KAFERLY AND TINDLE GO ON LOCATION AS ARCHIVAL LIAISONs

Olivia Kaferly and Molly Tindle will be leaving the Archives at the end of July to pursue archiving opportunities in Maryland and Florida, respectively. They are going to be Archives liaisons to continue the JLS Project. If you would like to arrange to meet with one of them to have them help with organizing materials, transport of materials, recording an oral history or anything else related to the Project, please contact the Archives. Their addresses and phone numbers will be available in the next issue if you would like to contact them directly.

Ms. Kaferly has been accepted to graduate school at the University of Maryland in College Park. She has enrolled in a joint library Science-History MA program, with the intent of furthering her career as an archivist. Ms. Tindle’s husband has accepted a job in Tampa; she has applied for archival jobs in the area and looks forward to meeting you. —Molly Tindle

THE FACILITY AND HOURS

Archives is located in the basement of Norlin Library at the east end of the historic quadrangle.
on the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado.

The Archives is open MWF, 1100-1700, but is staffed from 0800-1700, M-F. Out of town researchers may arrange for early and every day entry. Photocopying and both photographic and audiovisual reproduction services are available.

**To Donate**

If you wish to donate your materials, please contact the Archives to insure the proper mailing address. For large shipments, the archives will reimburse expenses. Upon receipt of materials we will send the donator a deed of gift with instructions. The donator must return to the Archives signed deeds of gift. The Archives will then provide copies of preliminary inventories and guides to donors and donor families when available. Feel free to contact us at any time.

**Contact**

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**New Collections**

The following are further collections held or recently received by the Archives:

- Paul F. Boller, Jr.
- John R. Cromie
- Duane J. Flaherty
- Fr John Baptist Hashbrouck
- Arthur R. Kruckeberg
- Guy J. Riccio
- Walter J. Rockler
- Glen Slaughter
- John D. Swanfeldt
- Stuart M. Tave