The Japanese Language School Project

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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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, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Pass the Wasabi, Please

Editorial

When I first began work on the JLS Project, I did not think I would be able to meet graduates face to face. I was wrong. On June 26th, Mr. Philip Burchill of San Jose, California, dropped by the Archives on his way back home from a trip to the east coast. He did a short oral history with us during the afternoon, recalling his experiences in the Japanese Language School. He was an Officer in the USMC from 1944-1946. He joined the Foreign Service in China in 1948, the first of such field inductions. He served in Peking and Tientsin during the fall of China between 1948 and 1951. His next assignment was Pusan and Seoul, 1951-1953, during the Korean War. He married Margaret Booth in 1953 and was assigned to Tokyo from 1953-1958. He was appointed to the East Asian Bureau, State Department in Washington, DC in 1959-62 and 1964-67. In between, he was deputy political advisor, CINCPAC, Honolulu. He was province senior advisor in Hue, South Vietnam in 1967 and 68, where he was captured by the NVA and held as POW from 1968-1973. He received the Award for Valor, State Department in 1973 and was assigned member of the Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy, State Department, 1973-74. Philip W. Manhard was appointed Ambassador to Mauritius, 1974-1976. He told his three children that a thread ran through his career – he was held prisoner by the Chinese, the Koreans, and the North Vietnamese: the last being the longest 3 year tour he ever took.

PINEAU PAPERS PRESERVED

Lena Potyondy, who has been processing small JLS collections, spent considerable time this summer processing the Captain Roger Pineau Collection for preservation. In archival terms, this means removing rusting paper clips and staples, and placing photographs individually into mylar sleeves. In some cases, labels have had to be removed from photographs, as adhesives can leach through the photo and discolor the print. Where clips or staples are necessary to maintain the integrity of documents they are replaced by archival stainless steel clips and staples. The goal of such preservation is to insure that corrosion, chemical reactions, oxidation, or deterioration is kept to a minimum. Ideally preservation and processing can be performed simultaneously. Sometimes, however, processing and preservation occur in steps determined by the availability of qualified archivists.

T. “Frank” Mayer-Oake Papers Found with Brother

Once the Archives staff exhausts the Pineau-Hudson reunion address lists, we often resort to contacting universities where the JLS graduate was a professor. “Frank” Mayer-Oakes was a longtime faculty member at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. WSU contacted his next of kin, Frank’s brother, William, who had inherited and stored his brother’s papers in Texas, then called the Archives.

A Note for BK Members

Many of you know that the Navy initially recruited Phi Beta Kappa members for the Japanese Language School. As Lady Luck with her sense of irony would have it, both Molly Tindle and Olivia Kaferly are members of the same prestigious honor society.

CALL FOR ARTICLES OR ARTICLE TOPICS

The Archives invites all readers of the Interpreter to contribute articles. The stories should be between 200-300 words, or fairly short. They may be a personal reminiscence, a fond recollection of a JLS graduate who did not make it to the Pineau or Hudson reunion lists, or a comment to set the record straight on a particular issue. In addition, please send us any article topics you would like to have addressed in future issues.

Solomon B. & Elizabeth L. Levine Donate Their Papers

Professor Solomon B. and Mrs. Elizabeth J. Levine have offered the accumulated papers from their 50 year career in academia. Solomon Levine, (A.B. Harvard, 1942; JLS 1944; M.B.A. Harvard, 1947; Ph.D., M.I.T. 1951) taught labor and industrial relations, with an emphasis on Asia at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana from 1949 to 1969. He was Director of the Center of Asian Studies from 1964-68. He then was appointed Professor of Business and Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Aside from his Business and Economics areas, he directed the National Resource Center for East Asian Language and Area Studies; was a member of, chaired and co-chaired the East Asian Studies Program; and was a member of the Council of Japanese Studies.

Mrs. Levine, née Elizabeth Billett, was a WAVE, JLS graduate, 1944 (B.S., Penn. State University, M.A., University of Illinois, 1965). She held administrative positions at Radcliffe College, and the Universities of Illinois and Wisconsin.
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 reimburase 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 promised, recently received, or held by the Archives:

- Philip G. Burchill
- Albert Kane
- Neal Jenson
- S. Paul Kramer
- Solomon & Elizabeth Levine
- Philip W. Manhard
- Val Nolan, Jr.
- Frank Tucker
- Charles Voigt
- Al & Muriel Weissberg