little of the material regarding the military language schools has been preserved, I wish now I had had the sense (or the acquisitiveness) to take the whole collection and preserve it! Laurel Rasplica Rodl Professor of Japanese

In Memoriam, Ernest Beath, USNR, JLS 1943 (1920-2001)

Ernest Ballard Beath Sr., a retired analyst with the National Security Agency who served as a translator in World War II for Adms. Thomas C. Kincaid, J.J. ‘Jocko’ Clark and John S. McCain, died February 8 of complications from diabetes at his home in Cambridge, MD. He was 80.

Mr. Beath was born Feb. 20, 1920 in Kaiying, China to missionary parents from Wisconsin. As a small boy, he loved to sail, once fabricating a tiny boat out of plywood and tar, christening it the “Tarbaby” and sailing it with a friend down the Huangpu River into Shanghai.

He graduated from the Shanghai American School in 1937 and then came to the United States for college. After briefly attending Wake Forest University in North Carolina, he transferred to the University of Southern California, where he earned a degree in international relations. Later he studied Japanese at the JLS at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

The Navy Reserve put his language skills to good use during WWII, assigning him to work as a translator on aircraft carriers in the South Pacific. As an interpreter, he worked directly for Adms. Kincaid, Clark, and McCain, translating enemy radio dispatches and interviewing prisoners of war.

“Admiral McCain said he wasn’t going to sea without Ernie Beath; he wanted him on his staff,” recalled Eleanor Poteat Beath, his wife of 55 years. “He’d listen to the reports and hear that the airplanes were coming, and tell them to get ready.”

The young lieutenant’s work later merited several mentions by Admiral Clark in his 1967 memoir, “Carrier Admiral”. Of one skirmish, the admiral wrote: “We knew from Lieutenant Beath’s Japanese intelligence that over a hundred planes had collected at Iwo and Chichi and were only waiting for more favorable weather before heading south to attack our invasion forces.” It allowed a preemptive move that blunted the Japanese attack, he wrote.

Mr. Beath’s service earned him two Bronze Stars and other medals and citations.

After the war, he joined NSA and from 1964 to 1967 headed its Taiwan Defense Command.

On retiring in 1974, he and his wife moved from Annapolis to Point Town, MD to Cambridge, where he returned his attentions to restoring a 1791 farmhouse and sailing on the Little Choptank River.

But he didn’t retire his language skills.

For several years, he volunteered with the Project Read Program through the Dorchester County (MD) Public Library, teaching English to Chinese immigrants. He belonged to the NSA’s Phoenix Society.

Mrs. Beath writes that “We received the Coloradan just before he died. He had all his ‘marbles’ ‘til the end so was very pleased to have me read the article and hear about the picture of him in it.”

Duane J. Flaherty
JLS 1945

US Army JLS Materials Tossed at The University of Michigan

During the years I was a graduate student at the University of Michigan (1969-74), I spent innumerable hours in the Freer Building where the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations was based. One day I discovered several boxes of discarded books and papers in the hall, awaiting the trash pickup. A little investigation revealed them to be textbooks and papers (even some student work with red circles and check marks) from the Army Language School, materials which had been stored somewhere in the attics but were now being discarded. An inveterate scavenger, I helped myself to a number of the texts, most of which I recently turned over to the University of Colorado Archives Japanese Language School Program. Unfortunately, I had discarded a number of them over the years, during moves from one place to another. Having learned how

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[Ed. Note: I have heard similar statements about the much higher washout rate in the later classes. It must have been far more difficult to find appropriate and qualified candidates after 1943, when a great percentage of men were already under arms or were alternatively placed in vital positions. To make up for the fall-off in numbers of graduates, I suspect the ‘recruiters’ cast their nets more broadly.]

Former Student of Helen Craig McCullough Volunteers

Ms. Lisa Spalding, former student of Professor of Oriental Languages, Helen McCullough, called to tell us that she had read the Coloradan article and told us she wished to volunteer her services as a tribute to her former professor, a JLS graduate of 1944 and WAVE officer. Ms. Spalding will be handling the
Japanese Language texts as they arrive, to sort for duplicates.

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### 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.

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### Contact

Bruce Montgomery, Curator, or David Hays, Archivist, Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Campus Box 184 Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

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