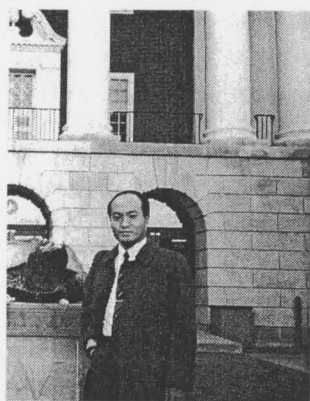


NDL's recent activity to acquire the Occupation of Japan records

by Kunio Yamada

How nice it is to inform you that the Prange magazine microfilming project has finally come to an end! To tell the truth, I thought I would never be able to finish it when I first saw the piles of yellowish ragged magazines and documents on the hundreds of lanes of shelves.



Mr. Yamada at the MacKeldin Library

It was in April 1992 that the NDL and the University of Maryland Libraries launched this cooperative project. For the NDL, it was one part of its long-term project to research and microfilm the 'Occupation of Japan' records preserved in various institutions throughout the United States. As you may know (or may have forgotten), during the Occupation period after World War II, all publications had to be censored by General MacArthur's GHQ. After censorship was discontinued in 1949, Professor Gordon W. Prange, Chief of the G-II Historical Section, GHQ/SCAP, had all the censored publications and related documents shipped to the United States and donated them to the University of Maryland. Many Japanese researchers have been attracted to this 'Prange Collection' as it is expected to reveal the reality of the GHQ censorship and as it is

thought to be the only complete collection of the Japanese publications of those days.

As a result of our four years' struggle with those dusty fragile materials, we processed 13,678 magazine titles comprising over 98,000 volumes, and microfilmed some five million pages. Within these, only 2,937 titles (21.4%) were matched with what the NDL had in its possession, and also, 1,844 titles out of what it has have one or more issues missing. You can easily understand why the NDL's magazine collection at that time was on such a poor level by the fact that the whole country was plunged in confusion after the War and that the legal acquisition system in Japan was not established before the foundation of NDL in June 1948.

However, please do not jump to the conclusion that the NDL's collection lacked nearly 80% of the magazines of the time. Around 6,000 titles (over 40%) out of the Prange magazines consist of hand-written mimeographed prints made up by such nonprofessional publishing bodies as labor unions, high-school students, literary coteries, local youth associations, and so on. These small-scale communications were, by their nature, not intended to go into library collections (and therefore their existence is one reason the Prange Collection is said to be unique). Still, it may be said that this project has filled a major gap in the NDL's collection.

After the bibliographical data of the magazines put onto our computer, we had them printed out both in 'Kana' order and in classification order to make a book-form catalogue for the NDL's official use. We are preparing to make available all the duplicated Prange magazines in microfiche form in the near future.

For the next stage, the University of Maryland is going to start microfilming newspapers in the Prange Collection. Unlike the magazine project, this is not a cooperative project with the NDL, but Mr. Masato Fujimaki, one of our young colleagues, has been staying there to help catalogue the newspapers since April 1996.

The NDL's effort to collect Occupation documents is continuing. From 1978 to



With Chinese and Japanese students who supported the project

spring 1992 we were working with the National Archives mainly on the GHQ/SCAP Records. The Prange Collection was one of our first undertakings with other institutions, and apart from this, we microfilmed Japan-related documents at two Presidential Libraries: the Harry S. Truman Library in Missouri and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Kansas. In September 1995 when we finished cataloguing the Prange magazines, we carried out a new project at the United States Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington Navy Yard. We expect to duplicate the Marine Corps documents related to the Pacific War and to the ensuing Occupation period. Further, the NDL is entering into negotiation with the National Archives, aiming to microfilm the records concerning the Occupation of the Ryukyu Islands in its possession. ■

(Kunio Yamada, Modern Japanese Political Documents Div., Special Materials Department)

Mexican books donated

Mr. Javier Treviño Cantu, Mexican Deputy Minister for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the NDL on June 13, 1996, to donate about 90 books on Mexico. His Excellency Mr. Manuel Uribe Castañeda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the United Mexican States, and some staff members of this Embassy, accompanied him.

The books donated by Mr. Treviño are essential for studies about Mexico. They include reproductions of picture books on the ancient Aztec culture, books on precolonial history and on traditional culture.

The donation will expand and enrich the Mexican collection of the NDL. ■



Mr. Treviño and Mr. Ogata, Librarian