

From "Battle of the Books" to an Internationally-known Special Collection:
Gordon W. Prange Collection, University of Maryland

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5/14/2024

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University of Maryland Libraries



End of the Pacific War (August, 1945)

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION
This edition, news, inside, clear and under tonight. Fair tomorrow. Telephone Tokyo—Mon., 8:11 A.M., 11 P.M. (S.E. 11). Tues., 1:11 P.M.

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

VOL. XCIV..No. 31,988. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1945. THREE CENTS

JAPAN SURRENDERS, END OF WAR! EMPEROR ACCEPTS ALLIED RULE; M'ARTHUR SUPREME COMMANDER; OUR MANPOWER CURBS VOIDED

August 14, 1945

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION
Fair, hot and humid today. Fair and moderate over tomorrow. Telephone Tokyo—Mon., 8:11 A.M., 11 P.M. (S.E. 11). Tues., 1:11 P.M.

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

VOL. XCIV..No. 31,988. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1945. THREE CENTS

M'ARTHUR IN JAPAN; YOKOSUKA IS TAKEN; ARMY, NAVY REPORT ON PEARL HARBOR; MARSHALL, HULL AND STARK CENSURED



August 30, 1945

Occupation of Japan (September 1945 – April 1952)

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION
Cleaning early today; rain-clear and cool tomorrow.
Temperature Today: Max. 81; Min. 72
Sunday School 9:15 to 10:30; Service 10:30 P. M.

Section 1

NEWS INDEX, PAGE 33, THIS SECTION

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

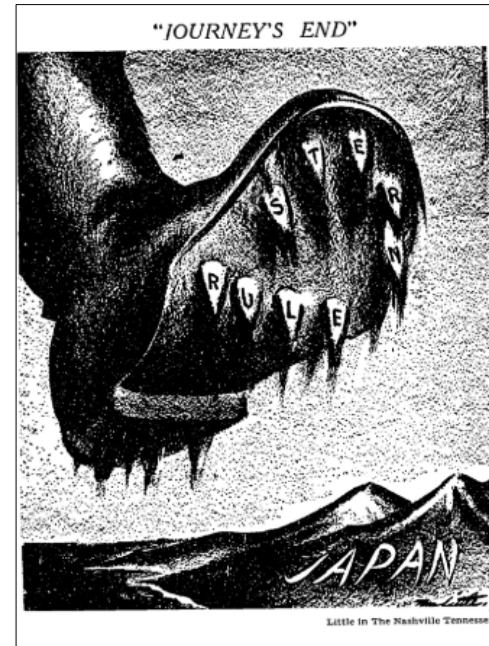
VOL. XCIV, No. 31,998. Printed at Second-Street Station, Franklin, New York, U. S. A.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1945.

Including Magazine and Book Division

THIS EDITION New York City and Suburbs and All the Districts

JAPAN SURRENDERS TO ALLIES, SIGNS RIGID TERMS ON WARSHIP; TRUMAN SETS TODAY AS V-J DAY



Stern Rule Predicted

All the signs of what has taken place so far indicate, it is believed here, that the Japanese need expect no kid-glove treatment from General MacArthur, who has hated them with good reason since Bataan. They will not be abused, since the United States does not pursue or tolerate tactics of deliberate brutality. But they will be ruled by General MacArthur, observers believe, with stern, austere justice.

It is predicted here that the Japanese are going to lose a lot of face before their occupation is over, whether they like it or not. While we probably will not interfere with many of their ancient and feudal customs, the American military rulers are not expected to coddle them in all of their peculiar notions.

Japan Wins Freedom Today;

Truman Signs Japan Treaty Giving Sovereignty April 28

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, April 15—Japan will recover full sovereignty and World War II will formally end in the Pacific area on April 28. President Truman signed the Japanese peace treaty today and

SIGNING THE JAPANESE PEACE TREATY



The New York Times
President Truman in the White House yesterday

April 28, 1952

Timeline

The Pacific War (12/7/1941~9/2/1945) = 3 years and 8 months

Occupation of Japan (9/2/1945~4/28/1952) = 6 years and 8 months

Censorship on Japanese media
(September 1945~ November 1949) = 4 years and 2 months

Censorship on Japanese Print media



The Civil Censorship Detachment (CCD) under the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers (SCAP) was responsible for monitoring and censoring the Japanese media – books, magazines, newspapers, posters, maps, movies, radio scripts, etc. The CCD hired Japanese locals as censors.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Civil Censorship Detachment

To RYOBO

21 Sept 1945

CODE FOR JAPANESE PRESS

In accordance with the Supreme Allied Commander's objective of establishing freedom of the press in Japan, a Press Code for Japan has been issued. This PRESS CODE, rather than being one of restrictions of the Press, is one which is designed to educate the press of the Japanese in the responsibilities and meaning of a free press. Emphasis is placed on the truth of news and the elimination of propaganda. This Press Code will cover, in addition, all publications printed in Japan.

This is the Press Code for Japan;

1. News must adhere strictly to the truth.
2. Nothing should be printed which might, directly or indirectly, disturb the public tranquility.
3. There shall be no false or destructive criticism of the Allied Powers.
4. There shall be no destructive criticism of the Allied Occupation and nothing which might invite mistrust or resentment of those troops.
5. There shall be no mention or discussion of Allied troops movements unless such movements have been officially released.
6. News stories must be factually written and completely devoid of editorial opinion.
7. News stories shall not be colored to conform with any propaganda line.
8. Minor details of a news story must not be over-emphasized to stress or develop any propaganda line.
9. No news story shall be distorted by the omission of pertinent facts or details.
10. In the make-up of the newspaper no news story shall be given undue prominence for the purpose of establishing or developing any propaganda line.

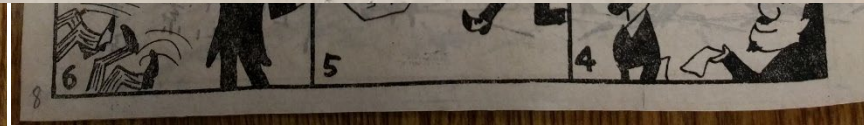
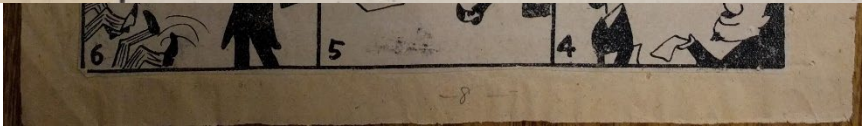
Key Log Categories, June 1946 (Civil Censorship Detachment)

1. Criticism of SCAP
 2. Criticism of Military Tribunal
 3. Criticism of SCAP Writing the Constitution
 4. References to Censorship
 5. Criticism of United States
 6. Criticism of Russia
 7. Criticism of Great Britain
 8. Criticism of Koreans
 9. Criticism of China
 10. Criticism of Other Allies
 11. General Criticism of Allies
 12. Criticism of Japanese Treatment in Manchuria
 13. Criticism of Allies' Pre-War Policies
 14. Third World War Comments
 15. Russia vs Western Powers Comments
 16. Defense of War Propaganda
 17. Divine Descent Nation Propaganda
 18. Militaristic Propaganda
 19. Nationalistic Propaganda
 20. Glorification of Feudal Ideals
 21. Greater East Asia Propaganda
 22. General Propaganda
 23. Justification or Defense of War Criminals
 24. Fraternization
 25. Black Market Activities
 26. Criticism of Occupation Forces
 27. Overplaying Starvation
 28. Incitement to Violence & Unrest
 29. Untrue Statements
 30. Inappropriate Reference to SCAP
 31. Premature Disclosure
-

Materials that received “censorship actions”

- Every subject/publisher/author was subject to censorship.
- Censorship actions are: “**Deletion** ,” “**Violation** ,” “**Disapproval** ,” “**Change** ,” and “**Suppress** .”
- Less than 3,000 titles out of 71,000 books received censorship actions (Less than 5%)

“censorship action” - DELETION



Spring Girl, Shinmanga (1946)

Dr. Prange in USA, 1930s



- Graduate (BA, MA, and Ph.D.) of University of Iowa
- Got a job at History Department at UMD, but soon took a leave of absence and joined the Navy
- Worked in the Statistic and Report Section in GHQ, and then became a chief historian in the Historical Branch.

Gordon W. Prange , 1930s

Dr. Prange in Japan, 1949



Dr. Gordon W. Prange , 1949

- The Civil Censorship Detachment was to be dismantled in November 1949
- Dr. Prange became interested in acquiring “ **a slice of the unclaimed pie** ” – these print materials collected for censorship purpose. (Sara Snyder, 2007)
- Dr. Prange worked closely with General Charles Willoughby, the head of G -2 unit within the SCAP, as well as the UMD President Byrd, to acquire these materials.

“Battle of the Books”

I am sure that you realize that I am not the only one in Japan who wishes to acquire these important G-2 materials. The Hoover War Library at Stanford University in California, for example, has a Tokyo Hoover Library Advisory Committee which has been and is functioning in Tokyo today. For your information, I am sending you the minutes of their ninth meeting which was held on 29 June 1949 and also a statement of their organization members, functions and the like. After you have read them over please return them to me for they are the only copies I have. This Hoover Committee

materials than the University of Maryland. Of course, it is my job to convince him that Maryland is the rightful place and I am hoping that you will give me some ammunition in reply to this letter which will help me to win the **Battle of the Books** out here. The Hoover War Library is, to be sure, not the only Library interested in acquiring materials. There is Michigan, Harvard, Yale, Chicago, Columbia and any number of big universities which have large alumni groups out here that are interested in procuring materials for their respective schools.

is not a temporary measure, it is a permanent one. Future generations of Maryland students and faculty members will use these materials long after you and I have had our day. They will thus remain a permanent monument to higher learning

Dr. Prange to UMD President Harry Byrd, November 28, 1949

End of the “Battle of the Books”



Arrival of wooden crates in UMD

McKeldin Library



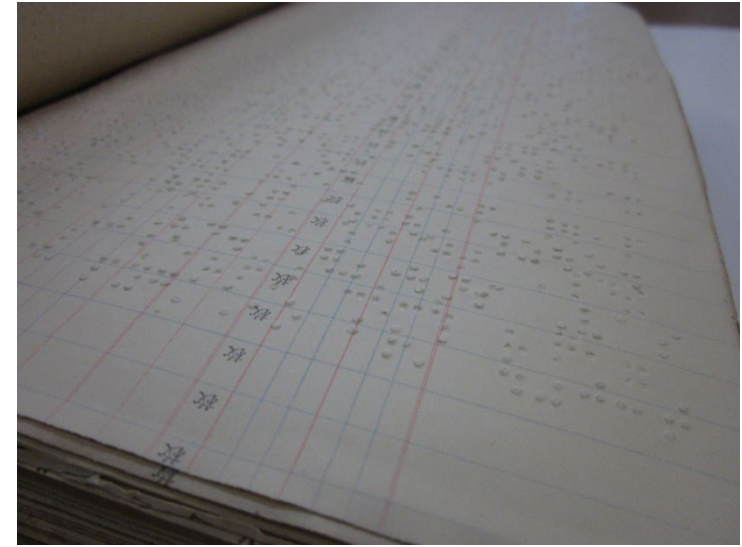
East Asian Collections and Prange Collection in the McKeldin Library

Gordon W. Prange Collection, Hornbake Library



Gordon W. Prange Collection, Hornbake Library North

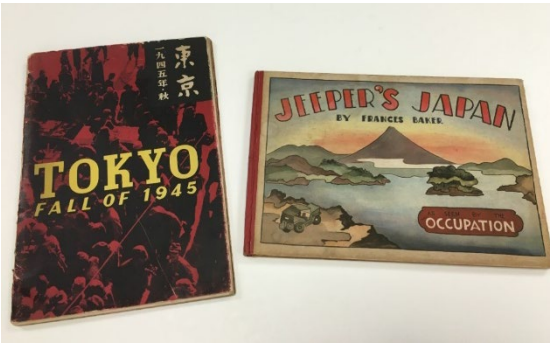
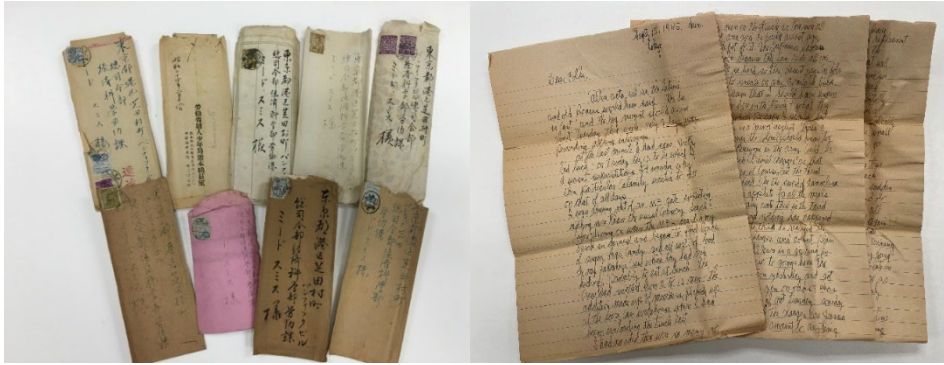
CCD file copies



- 71,000 books
- 14,000 titles of magazines
- 18,000 titles of newspapers
- 10,000 news agency photographs
- 600 maps
- 250 posters and wall newspapers



Gift Collection (Donated collections)



- Personal and official letters
- Documents
- Color slides
- Photographs
- Photo albums and scrapbooks
- English-language books published in Occupied Japan

