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## Maryland, National Diet Library of Japan to Sign New Agreement

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#### Libraries

Life News (Arts and Humanities)

#### Keywords

PRANGE COLLECTION  
MARYLAND JAPAN NATIONAL  
DIET LIBRARY MOTE KURASAWA  
TERPS

#### Contact Information

*Available for logged-in reporters only*

#### Description

Housed in McKeldin Library at the University of Maryland is a vast and rare collection of Japanese print publications dating from the early years of the Occupation of Japan, 1945-49. The materials were saved and brought to College Park in 1950.

Newswise — Housed in McKeldin Library is a vast and rare collection of Japanese print publications -- in fact, nearly 20 million pages of books, magazines, and newspapers dating from the early years of the Occupation of Japan, 1945-49. Due to the influence and insight of Gordon W. Prange, author of "Tora, Tora, Tora," history professor at Maryland, and chief of General Douglas MacArthur's Historical Section in post-war Japan, the collection was declassified and shipped to Maryland in 1950.

Long-time partners, Maryland and the National Diet Library of Japan, will team up to preserve the 71,000 books in the Gordon W. Prange Book Collection. On May 2, 2005, Mr. Takao Kurosawa, the Librarian of the National Diet Library, and President C.D. Mote Jr. will sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will officially begin the project.

"The Prange Collection at the University of Maryland is a unique, extraordinary, and invaluable documentation of a pivotal time in the 20th century, says University President C.D.Mote Jr. "This collection is our most important and our most fragile of all. We are honored to join in partnership with the National Diet Library in a special agreement to ensure this authentic documentation of post-World War II Japan will be preserved for all time."

Employing cutting edge technologies, initial efforts will focus on the digitization and microfilming of the 8,000 children's books, a graphically rich and particularly rare subcollection.

The contents of the Prange Collection once constituted the files of the Civil Censorship Detachment (CCD), an operating unit of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. (SCAP) Press, Pictorial and Broadcast Division. Between 1945 and 1949, Japanese publications were subject to strict censorship implemented by the CCD. When violations were identified by CCD examiners, censorship action was taken. The Collection contains approximately 600,000 pages of censorship documents.

The Prange Collection offers a window on a pivotal period in Japanese history, one of renewal and reformation in the aftermath of war. It sheds light on evolving cultural and social customs, the state of publishing and mass media, and the workings of censorship. For this reason, scholars from around the world visit the Collection to do research.

In collaboration, the National Diet Library and the University of Maryland have microfilmed the Prange magazine and newspaper collections, a total of 6 million pages. This new project

will preserve the final and largest component of the Prange Collection, the books.

Funding to support the critical work of preservation, cataloging, and other activities that guarantee accessibility have been made possible by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nippon Foundation, the National Diet Library, and the University of Maryland.

On the Web at :<http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/uniini/release.cfm?ArticleID=1052>

The Prange Collection on the Web :<http://www.lib.umd.edu/prange/index.jsp>

**EVENT INFORMATION:**

**WHEN:** Monday, May 2, 2005

**WHERE:** Lobby of the Main Administration Building at the University of Maryland  
(map: [http://www.inform.umd.edu/CampusInfo/Facilities/Buildings/main\\_admin/](http://www.inform.umd.edu/CampusInfo/Facilities/Buildings/main_admin/))

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.

**MEDIA:** Parking is available in the Visitors Center on Rt. 1 in College Park (take the next right past the main entrance to the University of Maryland) and is free after 4 p.m.

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