

**Subject:** Re: Request from a colleague  
**From:** Martinfurmanski@aol.com  
**Date:** Sun, 16 Apr 2006 01:29:45 EDT  
**To:** msm@wjh.harvard.edu, cchyba@Princeton.EDU

Dear Dr Chyba:

Dr Meselson sent me the email copied below regarding your interest in the Japanese BW program. I would be happy to help in any way I can. I assume the CD-ROM you refer to is the "Report of A" CD-ROM I made several years ago with Dr Sheldon Harris and gave to Dr Meselson. I apologize if it isn't reading well: it was made on a Mac several years ago and I find that even my new Macs have trouble with it, and if it's been copied through PC's various corruptions get introduced. For instance, I know I did not put in any files in the .pdf format. I find that a lot of problems come from file extensions: Macs are more forgiving than PCs that way, but my files seem to mutate between .tiffs and .jpps sometimes, and lately some of the .tiffs have become .tiffs and these are not openable unless you change the , back to a . Others have become corrupted and I can't fix them either. At any rate, I will try and get a newly burned CD-ROM to Dr Meselson next week.

As far as the documents on the CD-ROM are concerned, they have all been declassified. There indeed are some pages of the "Report of A" where the TOP SECRET has not been struck out, but there is a declassification stamp and number on the title page. The original is unique and currently is in the Library of Congress, available without restriction, and I have examined it there.

I have no problem with you sharing the CD-ROM. Please give proper acknowledgment to Dr Sheldon Harris and myself as editors of the electronic version of the documents and authors of the accompanying notes as you transmit it if it should be cited, or images used however. There is a file called "title page" with our information and a finding guide and bibliographic note that should be helpful.

As far as your undergrad with japanese language skills and an interest in Unit 731 is concerned, I will be as helpful as I can. I don't know how deep one expects a biologist to dig into the historical primary sources for a BS thesis. Probably not as deep as a history PhD candidate for a dissertation. There is not very much direct documentation of how the Japanese BW data affected the US program. Technologically, it did not contribute very much, though the whole amnesty situation contributed substantially in political ways. Both of these effects are best appreciated after you gain a feeling for the entire flow of the US programs and see what did not happen as much as what did. I could point him toward the existent documents in the US archives, but it would be having him read Dr Harris's primary sources. I have done it, but that is what I choose to do, and they are essential to understanding Unit 731 and the US dealings with the Japanese BW workers. I don't know if that is the point or not for your student. I doubt he will find something Dr Harris missed.

The impact on Japanese pharmaceutical companies may be more fertile: several of the Japanese BW workers founded post-war pharmaceutical companies. Some scandals resulted during the early days of HIV in the blood supply.

There is also the fact that some of the Japanese BW work on unwilling human subjects was published in the medical literature both during and after the war by their authors, either as work done on "volunteers" or on "monkeys." Since most of the Japanese BW workers are known by name, and since many continued in academic medicine, a search of wartime and post-war japanese medical literature might be one thought, if there is an appropriate library of such material available to your student (do the east coast med schools or Natl Lib Med carry japanese language med journals from the 1940s? Probably not from the wartime years, but maybe the Military medical libraries in DC have copies. Does he go to Japan?).

Re: Request from a colleague

Another use of your student's language skills for Unit 731 work would be to examine the Japanese language material on Unit 731 that Dr Sheldon Harris collected. There is a substantial literature regarding Unit 731 in Japanese. Dr Harris's papers are currently in the Hoover Institution archives at Stanford, and we have just gotten the first version of a catalog of the chinese and japanese language materials. I don't know exactly what is in them, but chances are the material may be previously unavailable in English, and may present some material of interest to your student. Does he ever get to the West Coast?

Let me know if I can be of any other assistance. I am best contacted by email.

Martin Furmanski MD  
Martinfuranski@aol.com

In a message dated 4/15/06 7:25:12 PM, msm@wjh.harvard.edu writes:

Dear Martin,

Here is a copy of a request to me from Chris Chyba and my response. The disc to which he refers is the one for which I had asked your permission to copy to personnel at the Harbin museum. Chyba was a member of our NAS group visiting Harbin and has recently left Standford for a position at Princeton. Starting as an astronomer, his interests have shifted toward international sceintific affairs, arms limitation, etc. You may want to answer him directly or to let me know next week how to do so.

Matthew

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sat, 15 Apr 2006 22:15:26 -0400 (EDT)  
From: Matthew S. Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>  
To: Christopher Chyba <cchyba@Princeton.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Unit 731 Dugway files

Dear Chris,

Just back from a week in Santa Fe to find your email. By great good

fortune the person who provided the disc to me, Dr. Martin Furmanski, is to be visiting with me next week and I will pass your request on to him. Furmanski knows a great deal about the matter, having examined apparent victims of Japanese glanders attacks in the Rotten Leg villages and having worked with Harris on various aspects of the Imperial Japanese BW activities.

I have had the same problem opening the disc and will mention this to Furmanski, from whom you will probably soon hear.

As ever,

Matt

---

Matthew Meselson  
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Harvard University  
7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
email: <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>  
telephone: (617) 495-2264  
telefax: (617) 496-2444

On Wed, 12 Apr 2006, Christopher Chyba wrote:

Date: Wed, 12 Apr 2006 10:42:24 -0400  
From: Christopher Chyba <cchyba@Princeton.EDU>  
To: Matt Meselson Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>  
Subject: Unit 731 Dugway files

Hi Matt,

I write regarding these files, that you copied over to my laptop during a recent trip. I have an undergraduate biology major, who also speaks Japanese, who wishes to do his senior thesis on the unit 731 program. I think that he will write an interesting thesis, though he is still at this point trying to narrow down the interesting question to ask--probably one about the extent to which the unit 731 work

influenced US or Russian BW programs, and/or the Japanese pharmaceutical industry. Of course, there may not be enough information for him to get very far with these questions, in which case we'll settle on another.

I would like to give him a copy of the files that you gave to me, but want to be sure that you are comfortable with further distribution. In that vein, I notice that some of the files still have old classification labels on them that have not been canceled; I assume that these were all declassified years if not decades ago but want explicitly to ask that (see, e.g., the second page and following of colorplates2.pdf).

Finally, many of the files you were generous enough to pass to me appear to be unopenable--I'd say that I can't open over 50% of them, though some open fine. The computer error messages suggests that there may have been copying errors; I wonder if--assuming you are comfortable with my sharing these with a student--you would be able to mail be a CD with the files recopied onto the CD?

Again, the single most important thing is that I use these files--or do NOT use them--in a way consistent with whatever distribution obligations you have accepted for them. Please just let me know.

Thanks and my best wishes to Jeanne,

Chris

---

Christopher Chyba  
Professor of Astrophysics and International Affairs  
Co-Director, Program on Science & Global Security

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs  
218 Bendheim Hall  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
phone: 609 258 5633  
fax: 609 258 5349