

---

## **Guide to the World War II San Diego State College Servicemen's Correspondence Collection**

© Copyright 2008 Special Collections & University Archives. All rights reserved.

2008-01-14

5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050

San Diego, CA, 92182-8050

URL: <http://library.sdsu.edu/scua>

Email: [askscua@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:askscua@mail.sdsu.edu)

Phone: 619-594-6791

---

## Guide to the World War II San Diego State College Servicemen's Correspondence Collection 1941/1945

Special Collections & University Archives

---

### Overview of the Collection

**Collection Title:** World War II San Diego State College Servicemen's Correspondence Collection

**Dates:** 1941-1946

**Identification:** MS-0369

**Creator:** Post, Lauren Chester, 1899-1976

**Physical Description:** 4.59 linear ft

**Language of Materials:** English

**Repository:** Special Collections & University Archives

5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050

San Diego, CA, 92182-8050

URL: <http://library.sdsu.edu/scua>

Email: [askscua@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:askscua@mail.sdsu.edu)

Phone: 619-594-6791

### Note:

Other Information:

Additional information may be found at

<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/nas/streaming/dept/scua/SPECCOLL/Collections/WWIIServicemensCorrespondence/AztecNewsletterComplete.pdf>

### Biographical Information:

A native of Rayne, Louisiana, Lauren Post was professor of geography at San Diego State from 1937-1969. He was educated at the University of California and Louisiana State University, and taught at San Francisco State and at Louisiana State before coming to San Diego State. Post is remembered for his *Aztec News Letter* in which he corresponded with Aztec servicemen and women during World War II.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor and as the War progressed, Aztec students were soon scattered all over the globe, disconnected and separated from their college, their friends, their loved ones, and their former lives. In the spring of 1942, Dr. Post, a veteran of World War I, decided to try a "news service experiment" intended to provide information about the locations of current and former Aztecs dispersed around the world. The *Aztec News Letter* thus became a crucial lifeline throughout the War for Aztec servicemen and women facing difficulty and danger wherever they were stationed. Lauded as one of the first of its kind in the nation, the *Aztec News Letter* premiered in May of 1942 and was released monthly until its 48th issue in March of 1946. By then, The *Aztec News Letter* circulated to more than 3,000 service and home front readers. The project and the letters that made it possible would forever characterize the Aztec spirit during wartime. Not only are the letters historically significant; they also offer a unique perspective about San Diego State during a global crisis.

### Access Terms

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Corporate Name:

San Diego State College--Alumni and alumnae--Correspondence

San Diego State University--Faculty--Correspondence

### Genre/Form of Material:

Personal Papers

### Personal Name:

Adams, Jane Ford--Correspondence

Adams, John R., 1900-1994--Correspondence

Post, Lauren C.--Correspondence

### Topical Term:

World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American

---

**Conditions Governing Use:**

The copyright interests in these materials have not been transferred to San Diego State University. Copyright resides with the creators of materials contained in the collection or their heirs. The nature of historical archival and manuscript collections is such that copyright status may be difficult or even impossible to determine. Requests for permission to publish must be submitted to the Head of Special Collections, San Diego State University, Library and Information Access. When granted, permission is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical item and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder(s), which must also be obtained in order to publish. Materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

This collection is open for research.

**Preferred Citation:**

Identification of item, folder title, box number, World War II San Diego State Servicemen's Correspondance Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

**Related Materials:**

John Adams Papers, 1919-1987 (Series 4: Personal)

Lauren C. Post Papers, 1917-1977

Omega Xi Newsletter, 1943-1945 (Uncataloged Periodicals, Series: University Archives)

The Aztec News Letter, 1942-1946

Information about related materials is available at

<https://ibase.sdsu.edu/view-item?key=R3siTiI6MTcslIAiOnsiaXRibV90eXBicyl6Mn19&pg=17&WINID=1429728069277#y1I6MkZYtUIAAAFM4>

**Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of ten boxes of correspondence received from servicemen, servicewomen, and their families during the Second World War. The collection contains letters sent to Lauren Post for his information in compiling the *San Diego State College Service Men's News Letter*, which later changed its name to *The Aztec News Letter*. Many of the letters contain red pencil markings, indicating that a specific line or paragraph was to be included in the newsletter. By the end of the War, *The Aztec News Letter* was circulated to over 3,000 service and homefront readers.

The collection has over 5,000 individual letters, the vast majority handwritten originals, arranged chronologically by year then alphabetically within folders according to the last name of the author. Some letters with no dates, partial or unreadable names, or that were unsigned are at the end of the collection. A full run of the *Aztec News Letter* is also part of the collection. Also of interest in the collection is a World War II servicemen's guest book. Between 1943 and 1945, the guest book was kept in the campus cafeteria so that returning servicemen could sign the guest book and write short messages about their experiences abroad and about their happiness returning to campus.

A comprehensive database of the correspondence has been prepared with searchable fields, including Last Name, First Name, Date, Location, Keywords, Notes, and Letter Content Description: [ibase.sdsu.edu](http://ibase.sdsu.edu)

---

Box 1, Folder 1	<b>1942 A</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>1942 B</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>1942 C</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>1942 D</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>1942 E</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>1942 F</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>1942 G</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>1942 H</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>1942 J</b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>1942 K</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>1942 L</b>
Box 1, Folder 12	<b>1942 M</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>1942 N</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b>1942 O</b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>1942 P</b>
Box 1, Folder 16	<b>1942 R</b>

Box 1, Folder 17	<b>1942 S</b>
Box 1, Folder 18	<b>1942 T</b>
Box 1, Folder 19	<b>1942 V</b>
Box 1, Folder 20	<b>1942 W</b>
Box 1, Folder 21	<b>1942 Y</b>
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>1943 A</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>1943 Ba-Bo</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>1943 Br-By</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>1943 C-Ca</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>1943 Ce-Ch</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>1943 Ci-Cy</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>1943 D</b>
Box 2, Folder 8	<b>1943 E</b>
Box 3, Folder 1	<b>1943 F</b>
Box 3, Folder 2	<b>1943 G</b>
Box 3, Folder 3	<b>1943 H-He</b>
Box 3, Folder 4	<b>1943 Hi-Hu</b>
Box 3, Folder 5	<b>1943 I</b>
Box 3, Folder 6	<b>1943 J</b>
Box 3, Folder 7	<b>1943 K</b>
Box 3, Folder 8	<b>1943 L</b>
Box 3, Folder 9	<b>1943 M-Mc</b>
Box 4, Folder 1	<b>1943 Me-Mu</b>
Box 4, Folder 2	<b>1943 N</b>
Box 4, Folder 3	<b>1943 O</b>
Box 4, Folder 4	<b>1943 P</b>
Box 4, Folder 5	<b>1943 Q</b>
Box 4, Folder 6	<b>1943 R</b>
Box 4, Folder 7	<b>1943 S-SI</b>
Box 4, Folder 8	<b>1943 Sm-Su</b>
Box 5, Folder 1	<b>1943 T</b>
Box 5, Folder 2	<b>1943 V</b>
Box 5, Folder 3	<b>1943 W-We</b>
Box 5, Folder 4	<b>1943 Wh-Wu</b>
Box 5, Folder 5	<b>1943 Y</b>
Box 5, Folder 6	<b>1944 A</b>
Box 5, Folder 7	<b>1944 Ba-BI</b>
Box 5, Folder 8	<b>1944 Bo-By</b>
Box 5, Folder 9	<b>1944 Ca-Ch</b>
Box 5, Folder 10	<b>1944 CI-Cu</b>
Box 6, Folder 1	<b>1944 D</b>
Box 6, Folder 2	<b>1944 E</b>
Box 6, Folder 3	<b>1944 F</b>
Box 6, Folder 4	<b>1944 G</b>
Box 6, Folder 5	<b>1944 Ha</b>
Box 6, Folder 6	<b>1944 He-Hu</b>
Box 6, Folder 7	<b>1944 I-J</b>
Box 6, Folder 8	<b>1944 K</b>
Box 6, Folder 9	<b>1944 L</b>
Box 6, Folder 10	<b>1944 M-Mc</b>
Box 7, Folder 1	<b>1944 Me-Mu</b>
Box 7, Folder 2	<b>1944 N</b>
Box 7, Folder 3	<b>1944 O</b>
Box 7, Folder 4	<b>1944 P-Q</b>
Box 7, Folder 5	<b>1944 R-Ric</b>
Box 7, Folder 6	<b>1944 Rid-Ry</b>
Box 7, Folder 7	<b>1944 S-SI</b>

---

Box 7, Folder 8	<b>1944 Sm-Sp</b>
Box 7, Folder 9	<b>1944 St-Sw</b>
Box 7, Folder 10	<b>1944 T</b>
Box 8, Folder 1	<b>1944 V-Wa</b>
Box 8, Folder 2	<b>1944 We-Z</b>
Box 8, Folder 3	<b>1945 A-B</b>
Box 8, Folder 4	<b>1945 C</b>
Box 8, Folder 5	<b>1945 D</b>
Box 8, Folder 6	<b>1945 E</b>
Box 8, Folder 7	<b>1945 F</b>
Box 8, Folder 8	<b>1945 G</b>
Box 8, Folder 9	<b>1945 H</b>
Box 8, Folder 10	<b>1945 I-J</b>
Box 8, Folder 11	<b>1945 K</b>
Box 8, Folder 12	<b>1945 L</b>
Box 8, Folder 13	<b>1945 M</b>
Box 9, Folder 1	<b>1945 N-O</b>
Box 9, Folder 2	<b>1945 P-Q</b>
Box 9, Folder 3	<b>1945 R</b>
Box 9, Folder 4	<b>1945 S</b>
Box 9, Folder 5	<b>1945 T-V</b>
Box 9, Folder 6	<b>1945 W</b>
Box 9, Folder 7	<b>1945 Y-Z</b>
Box 9, Folder 8	<b>1946 A-L</b>
Box 9, Folder 9	<b>1946 M-Z</b>
Box 10, Folder 1	<b>Partial Letters</b>
Box 10, Folder 2	<b>Unidentified / Partial Names</b>
Box 10, Folder 3	<b>No Date</b>
Box 10, Folder 4	<b>Partial Date</b>
Box 10, Folder 5	<b>Correspondence from Lauren C. Post 1944</b>
Box 10, Folder 6	<b>Correspondence from the Office of Censorship 1943-1944</b>
Box 10, Folder 7	<b>Correspondence from Veterans' Organizations 1945</b>
Box 10, Folder 8	<b>Correspondence to Mrs. Byrne of the Aztec Alumni Newsletter 1946</b>
Box 10, Folder 9	<b>Correspondence with Edward C. Graves, Librarian at Humboldt re: Humboldt's newsletter January 1944</b>
Box 10, Folder 10	<b>Correspondence from the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) January 31, 1945</b>
Box 10, Folder 11	<b>List of Potential News Letter Recipients</b>
Box 10, Folder 12	<b>News Clippings 1945</b>
Box 10, Folder 13	<b>News Letter Address Postcard</b>
Box 10, Folder 14	<b>Press Releases 1944-1945</b>
Box 10, Folder 15	<b>"Slightly Under the Weather" Poem by Don Fields</b>
Box 10, Folder 16	<b>V-Mail Envelope</b>
Box 10, Folder 17	<b>Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) Personnel Sheets c. 1944</b>
Box 10, Folder 18	<b>Aztec News Letter May 6, 1943 - November 1, 1943</b>
Box 10, Folder 19	<b>Aztec News Letter December 1943 - March 1, 1945</b>
Box 10, Folder 20	<b>Aztec News Letter April 1, 1945 - March 1, 1946</b>
Box 10, Folder 21	<b>Aztec News Letter (Bound) May 1942 - December 1944</b>
Box 10, Folder 22	<b>Aztec News Letter (Duplicates) May 1945 - March 1946</b>
Box 11, Folder 1	<b>Aztec Servicemen's Guest Book 1943-1945</b>
Box 11, Folder 2	<b>Aztec Servicemen's Guest Book 1943-1945</b>