In the 1970's and 1980's, NSA conducted a series of oral history interviews with the founders of what became NSA including Abraham Sinkov, Frank Rowlett, and Solomon Kullback (left) as well as other significant figures such as cryptologic staff at the Fleet Radio Unit – Melbourne (FRUMEL) in World War II and crew aboard the seized USS Pueblo and the torpedoed USS Liberty. These interviews, recorded on tape and spanning hours or in some cases days, documented such things as the breaking of the Japanese “Purple” diplomatic code (machine at left); all were classified, many at Top Secret. Transcribed in the 1990's, they were declassified and accessioned by the National Cryptologic Museum Library.

During the course of this project, the transcripts were scanned at 600 dpi and OCR’d, producing almost 6MB of rtext. Scripts produced word counts and line positions of words, enabling the construction of both a cross-reference for the histories as a whole and indexes for each history. Results from this project will yield a valuable reference tool for the Library in its mission of sharing cryptologic history with researchers and the general public.