

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

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Our Mission

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Julius R. Richardson (c.1922-1981) OLS 1945 (Russian)

DARLINGTON | Julius Roy Richardson, 81, died Friday, July 18, 2003.

He was born in Irmo, a son of the late Julius Perry and Julia Anna Richardson.

He graduated from Irmo High School in 1938. He graduated from Wofford College in 1942 and went to work for U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh. In 1943, he married Dorothy Segelhorst of Pittsburgh.

In 1944, he was commissioned as ensign in the Navy, whereby he was oriented at Princeton and studied the Russian language at the University of Colorado. He furthered his military training at the Intelligence School in New York. Upon completion of his training, he was posted in Petropavlovsk, Siberia, as a meteorologist, with the primary objective of monitoring the Soviet military activities in the area during World War II. After his tour of duty, he was released

to inactive duty in Washington, D.C., as a civilian in the communications center.

From there, he began work and study in metallurgical research at Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh. At the Navy's request, he returned to Washington, D.C., as a civilian in the communications center. In 1952, was transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency and the Secret Service. In 1966, he resigned from the CIA and accepted a position as a senior consultant with Scientific Methods Inc., an international managerial consulting firm headquartered in Austin, Texas. His consulting work carried him around the world with a vast and varied clientele, including, but not limited to, British Aerospace, Johnson & Johnson, Botosh, Gulf Oil, Avis Rental Car, Marriott Corp. and the Federal Aviation Agency.

In 1976, the family moved from Kensington, Md., to Darlington, where he restored the "Old Judge Dennis House." Upon his retirement from Scientific Methods in 1991, he went to work as an independent consultant working with a local/regional clientele. He also was the founder and part owner of two construction companies, a rental properties corporation and was involved in numerous other business ventures that he so enjoyed.

He was an active member in St. Matthews Episcopal Church.

Survivors include five children, Jeffrey Richardson and his wife, Patricia, of Nashotah, Wisc., John Richardson and his wife, Debbie, of Spartanburg, Thomas Richardson and his wife, Kam, of Florence, Geneva Cromer and her husband, Steve, of Myrtle Beach, and Phoebe Seals and her husband, Bill, of Marion; and grandchildren Julius Richardson II, Meg Richardson, Thalia Richardson, Clay Cromer, Carlyle Cromer, Roy Cromer, Jack Cromer, Katie Richardson, Boyd Richardson, William Seals

III. Tasha McCutcheon and Chelsea Gartman.

He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years.

The funeral was Tuesday.

Burial was in St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Irmo.

Memorials may be made to Wofford College, 429 N. Church St., Spartanburg, SC 29303-3663 or the S.C. Episcopal Home at Still Hopes, P.O. Box 2959, West Columbia, SC 29171.

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com>

July 24, 2003

From Boulder into the Romance Languages (Cont'd)

As in all schools, sociability was divided up (limited?) in many groups and splits of groups. My pals and I liked weekend hikes up the mountain, up Boulder Canyon, to a couple of the 'ghost towns' that existed then [*Close by, Nederland, and Eldora were scantily populated, Caribou and Hessie were real ghost towns or town sites*], well, even Central City at that time was semi-deserted. I still have some postcards of that bar-room, tavern, - the verses on the 'face on the bar-room floor'. It was springtime, when we went up there so much, -a wonderful spring.

I was a graduate of the University of Illinois, at Urbana, and felt the novelty of chumming around with so many of the 'Ivy-League' variety of the human species, especially those from Harvard, Yale and Princeton. It was always exciting. I still have my textbooks.

I, like most of the enrollees, lived in the "Men's Dorm". Incredible, that it's now all of 60 or more years ago! I've spent, since then, 28 of those years as a university teacher of Romance languages, particularly Spanish and French, - after an advanced degree at Univ. Nac. Aut. De

Mexico, Mexico City, where I lived several years. And oh, yes, in March of '43, Paul Elicker and I (like the rest of the training group) had a couple of weeks leave (unbelievable in the midst of a war) - we immediately bought tickets to fly from Denver to Mexico City, (we were in uniform) and every American that met us invited us around to their businesses, homes, etc. We were guests at Rancho Telva, in Taxco (Mme. Telva being the former NY opera star), we were guests at the American Embassy, - indeed, seated for lunch at the restaurant called the 'Casa de Azulejos,' we were greeted by many American tourists and residents of the city.

Fred W. Franck
JLS 1944

Ensho Ashikaga, Oriental Languages: UC Los Angeles (1910-1984)

Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Emeritus, University of California, Los Angeles.

Born in his family's Buddhist temple in Sakai, Osaka, Ensho Ashikaga died of leukemia in Los Angeles on October 21, 1984. The 24th hereditary priest in his family, he was ordained at nine years and later attended the Buddhist university in Kyoto, Otani Daigaku, for advanced and graduate studies from 1928 to 1937. He was awarded a degree similar to the M. Litt.

In 1937 he was invited to UC Berkeley to teach Japanese Buddhism, Tibetan and graduate language courses. A few years later he met and married Toshi Shimizu. The outbreak of WWII caused the U. S. Navy to start crash programs in several lesser known languages in 1942 at Boulder, Colorado, and he accepted a request to teach intensive Japanese there. He proved to be a highly successful teacher under very demanding circumstances, and quickly compiled a large number of

textbooks needed for the program. After the war, he returned to Berkeley and resumed teaching there.

UCLA had decided to open a Department of Oriental Languages in 1947 patterned after the one at Berkeley. The new chairman had known Ensho Ashikaga well for 10 years and had heard of his teaching ability from colleagues and students at the Navy Language School, so he invited Ensho to start the Japanese program. Finally, as the program expanded, he spent much of his time guiding students through advanced degrees in Japanese Buddhism and literature. He also served as department chairman, 1962-1968, and, never one to evade work, even as late 1973-1974 he was teaching eight courses. A true sensei and sempai, he was generous to a fault with his time and his office was always open to students with their problems. Among his many talents, Ensho was a superb cook and, assisted by his gracious wife, he often had friends and students to their home for sumptuous dinners. He also gave classes in calligraphy and painting at a nearby temple for Japanese in that community; some of them still gratefully practice the lessons given by a master. Such demands of his time forced him to abandon his major project, a Tibetan-English dictionary, but he did publish important articles in western journals on *ema*, *hyakkiyago*, *Bonmatsuri*, etc.

His pre-eminence as a scholar and hereditary priest of the Jodo Shinshu sect gave rise to further demands on his time. The main Los Angeles Higashi Honganji temple frequently asked him to preside over services and participate in important conferences. He also lectured on Sundays for years to the Young Buddhist Association and wrote dozens of articles in English for the temple's bilingual newsletter. As a token of the respect they accorded him, the Federation of Buddhist Churches contributed a significant sum for many years to the Oriental Library at UCLA for the purchase of Buddhist materials. Ashikaga also located important collections in Japan which were later acquired by the library.

Still nominal head priest of the Sakai temple, he spent summers and sabbaticals there. A year after his 1977 retirement, he was appointed Head of the Bureau of Rites and Ceremonies at Higashi Honganji's headquarters in Kyoto. In addition to other duties in this office, he taught novice priests the difficult art of ceremonial sutra chanting. He was also elected chairman of a group of scholars which had to edit and write commentaries on a large body of historically important manuscripts given the title of *Shinshu Kudan Gisho*. They are the teachings of Rinnyo Shonin, fifteenth century reformer of the Shinshu sect. Seven of a projected 20 volumes were completed under Ashikaga's direction and are now in press; work continues on the others.

Those who did not know him well little suspected that a ready but rather elusive wit and fondness for puns lay behind his usual serious demeanor. One well-remembered summer when a western friend was traveling with Ensho, their Japanese cargo ship stood at dusk in the roads of Osaka where they were treated to an impressive sight. Bonfires were blazing on hills and seashore, and scores of miniature boats with glowing lanterns were coming from streams and rivers and bobbing bravely in the surf. It was mid-July and the last day of Bon-matsuri, or Festival for Spirits of the Dead. After a brief visit with the living, souls of the dead were being lighted on their way back to the other world. Ensho delivered an impromptu and highly amusing--yet erudite--lecture on the history of this festival over dinner on deck to a most appreciative class of one. As many of his students could attest, his formal lectures were often delivered with equal wit and received with equal appreciation.

This gentle and dedicated scholar will always be remembered with affection by those who really knew him, and all are indebted to him for his pioneer contribution to Japanese studies in this country. The department has established an annual Ensho Ashikaga Prize in his honor for outstanding graduate students; the first award

went to a student in Japanese Buddhist studies.

After an impressive service in the main Los Angeles temple, attended by hundreds of the faithful and friends, his ashes were deposited both there and in Higashi Otani in Kyoto. He is survived by his wife Toshi, and sons Yoshi, Taka and Hisa.

Ben Befu
Kenneth Chen
Y.C. Chu
Richard Rudolph
1986

University of California:
In Memoriam

[Ed. Note: In January 2005, at the urging of H. Morris Cox, Jr., I began using "Google" to find information on the Sensei. This is one entry.]

Knecht Recollects

...Last night the WAVES had a party for the sensei. It was planned around the theme of "Hell". First there were various amusements in the basement: roulette, dice, pitching pennies, miniature golf, and the like. After that was the program upstairs, in "Hell". It was all connected somehow or other with school and classes. The outstanding part was the oral exams. A board of cap-and-gowned students called certain instructors up individually for an oral exam. Each professor was asked funny questions which were typical of the ones [we received in class] -- most of them unanswerable. One professor reacted especially well. He played the part of a nervous, stuttering, confused student. Another professor turned the joke on us by making puns in Japanese on all the questions asked.

Then two girls put on a good act: a typical bespectacled graduate of the language school questioning a Japanese prisoner. The interpreter came on stage pulling a wagonload of dictionaries. When the prisoner finally started to talk, she just came out with a jumble of sentences we've had in various lessons. When the interpreter gave her report to the commanding officer, she had a very confused story, using a few of the words the prisoner had

used but utterly changing the meaning of the whole thing. It was very cleverly done. The whole program was a riot from beginning to end, and some of the sensei remarked afterward that they had never laughed so much as they had last night.

Betty Knecht to her Mother,
Spring, 1944
JLS 1944

WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

BICs

BIJ Jerry Downs wanted to know the names and status of the BIJ Boulderites. I thought I could find such a list in the *Pineau* or *Hudson Collections*, but I didn't. So I broke out the CU transcripts in the JLS Collection (they list birthplace) and started compiling a list. But as you have probably already surmised, I thought as long as I was listing BIJs, I might as well list the BICs I found, as well. Now, you know that our transcripts may be incomplete, but here is what I found anyway. The list only lists those who were born, not just raised, in China.

BICs Listed by entry:

McClure, George Walker
Allman, William H.
Allen, Henry Wray
Freeman, Houghton
Beath, Earnest Ballard
Hoose, Harned Pettus
Turner, Frank Lucius
Woodey, Frank, Jr.
White, Robert Manson
Sheeks, Robert Bruce
Ball, Leo Raymond
Sarvis, David
Zimmerman, Herbert James
Cross, Charles Tenney
Sherman, Levering Bartine
Sheeks, George Harris
Newton, William Carey, Jr.
Nelson, Carl Jerome
Davis, Ritchie Gilruth
Reeder, David Abernethy
Leitzel, Henry Calvin
David, Euan Gamewell
Laffin, Edward John
Jernigan, Paul Roberts
Zimmerman, Walter Albert
Harnsberger, Hugh Francis
Kiehn, Helen Ruby
Baer, Jean Hitchcock
Healey, Elaine
Carney, Catherine Virginia
King, Samuel Philthorpe
Riddick, Frances Eliza
Fowler, Constance
Neville, Edwin Lowe, Jr.
Pye, Lucien
Deale, Stanley Warner
Rawlinson, John Lang
Krisel, Henry Charles
Dykstra, Andrew Harry
Bell, Austin Joseph
Carman, Donald Newton

DMH, Editor

