

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.

In Memoriam

Walter Ernest Schlaretzki OLS (Malay) 1944

Our beloved colleague, friend and former chair Ernest Schlaretzki died of Parkinson's disease at his home in Gaithersburg, Maryland on January 19, 1999. Ernest came to Maryland as assistant professor in 1953, chaired the Philosophy Department from 1962 to 1972, and retired in 1985.

Born in Dallas City, Illinois, on February 7, 1920, Ernest received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Cornell University. He served in the intelligence arm of the United States Navy during World War II, and subsequently in the Naval Reserve, retiring from military service with the rank of Captain. When Ernest became Chair, the department was divided by principle and by policy; when he left the office it had a unity of purpose and commitment. This was largely a result of his civility, evenhandedness and warmth. It is all the more remarkable when

one considers the times. Those were the years of the Vietnam war. When the department made an unpopular tenure decision, students took over its offices, and many were arrested. Resulting indignation fed into the national outrage at the bombing of Cambodia and the killings at Kent State. There were mass demonstrations; the National Guard invaded campus. Amid the rocks, tear gas and helicopters, Ernest remained unflappable, exerting a calming influence on those around him.

Ernest's philosophical interests lay in the areas of ethics, social and political philosophy, and the philosophy of law. Most of his publications were in these areas; those that seemed to lie elsewhere nearly always turned out to be focused on values.

Students deeply appreciated the care and the commitment that went into Ernest's teaching. (He routinely photographed his classes at the beginning of the term in order to learn his students' names and faces.) His course on Kant's ethics was a staple of the Department's offerings. Late in his career, inspired by a concern about the moral principles that should govern international relations, he developed a course on international morality together with Prof. Don Piper from Government and Politics.

Philosophers sometimes joke that specialists in ethics tend not to be the best exemplars of the virtues and principles they study. This is an unfair charge in general, but it would be absurd in the case of Ernest Schlaretzki.

His friends and colleagues would find it hard to think of anyone more deeply moral or more clearly a model of virtue. When the Department decided to award an annual prize for the best graduating senior, it was named the Schlaretzki Prize. The Department's intent was "to encourage students to emulate those qualities of mind and character that are associated with

Dr. Schlaretzki by those who know him." These words are an apt tribute to Ernest's memory.

Ernest is survived by his wife, Eleanor Campbell Schlaretzki. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary shortly before his death. All of us who knew him will miss his kindness, his decency and his quiet dignity.

Logo

University of Maryland

<http://brindedcow.umd.edu/logo/schlaretzkifund.html>

Navy Wife Reprise

Now for the comment, a correction of a story which is on the same page of the 1Feb05 *TI* - "A Navy Wife III". The account of our quasi-civilian involvement, until we were inducted into the Navy as Yeoman 2nd Class (Y2c) is correct and well told, except for the fact that we were each a "Navy Agent", NOT a "Special Agent". FBI had Special Agents. We were Navy Agents, as many of your records will verify. Correspondence, recruitment notifications, pay checks (from a bank in Washington DC, not the Navy), and an informal letter we were given and which we carried around and sometimes showed to questioning "civilians", all showed "Navy Agent". I do recall hearing "Naval Agent" occasionally. Your documents from JLS grads will show "Navy Agent", some "Naval Agent", but never "Special Agent". Addie Busch has done an excellent job of describing a unique period, and it is a very worthwhile contribution to the amazing JLS History you are amassing.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

"I Suggest You Give Up Football"

As a student at the US Navy Japanese Language School at Boulder in 1943, I turned out for the University of Colorado football team under "Gentleman Jim" Yeager, and made the

varsity as a blocking back. To disguise my name, I chose to play under the name 'Steve Popoff'. I was called into the office of the administrative head, Nakamura Sensei, because my grades had fallen off. I told him I would do better and as I reached the door to leave, he added, "Yoas san, I suggest you give up football." I didn't know he knew I was playing. I quit football and graduated from the language school.

After Intelligence School in New York City, I was sent to Washington, DC, where I volunteered for carrier duty in the Pacific and was accepted and assigned to the staff of Admiral Gerald F. Bogan, aboard the *USS Randolph [Essex Class CV-15]* and, later, the *USS Boxer [Essex Class CV-21]*. While with the fleet, both the *Randolph* and the *Boxer* were targets of kamikaze attacks. I wasn't aboard when the *Randolph* was hit, but I was aboard the *Boxer* when we were under attack, but missed, by enemy planes.

During the Occupation of Japan, I was assigned to the staff of Commodore Kessing. While there I met Coach Yeager again. He was in charge of the former Japanese Navy enlisted men's club at Yokosuka. It was being used for the same purpose for American enlisted men. We had a pleasant reunion. *[It's funny how the military can be such a small world. I saw a 7th Grade buddy 12 years later in West Germany at a training area. We were both 1st Lieutenants. Of course the recognition is easier with name tags.]*

I stayed in the US Naval Reserve for 23 years, finally serving on destroyer escorts out of Treasure Island. I returned to Japan in 1996 and was amazed to find that Yokohama and Tokyo showed no damage that I noticed. They had been bombed flat in sections when I drove my jeep through the areas in 1945. It was also strange to see the Japanese battle flag of the 'rising sun' on Japanese submarines in

Yokosuka Naval Base, where I stayed overnight. Peace is marvelous [*Amen*].

In my civilian work, I received my AB, MA, and EDD at the University of California, Berkeley and taught school for 35 years, the last 14 in higher education in Pennsylvania. I continued my Japanese studies at Santa Rosa Junior College in California.

Stephen E. Yoas
JLS 1944

May Old Acquaintance be Forgot

The material you sent concerning the JLS at Boulder including a set of *The Interpreter* newsletters has arrived. Thank you very much. I am sorry that my brother George is no longer with us so we could read and talk about it together. My knowledge of his experiences is limited. One story of his impressed me – As a missionary family, we lived in

Akita, Japan from 1929 to 1932. George was 10 to 12 years of age and fluent in children's Japanese. Right behind our house was a boys' orphanage.

While interrogating a Japanese POW during the War, he learned that the prisoner was from Akita. George asked him if he had ever known an American. The POW replied that there was a boy from the house behind them who used to come over and play baseball with them.

For me that would have been

old home week – "I'm the guy." But George never identified himself – something about not fraternizing with the enemy

Reverend Robert K. Nace
Brother of George Nace
LIJ and JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: This must be the "old home week issue" what with Coach Yeager and the Japanese POW and childhood acquaintance. By the way, LIJ means "lived in Japan". While we have recognized BIJs and BICs, the "lived-in" group has been neglected.]

Narrow World

[Regarding Duane Flaherty's note in Issue #91A] My son Robert taught cello at U of Missouri KC Conservatory in the 80's and quote did some projects with Raymond Stuhl of U of K Lawrence unquote. The Vietnamese expression is "Narrow world." Regards, I am currently heavily involved inputting (??) to Roger Dingman's book on what JLS graduates did to further screw up the world (joke).

Bryan Battey
OLS 1946

Momotaro Story

I couldn't help responding to Ned Coffin's request for the beginning of the Momotaro story (in *Interpreter* #93), since it played a rather important role in my life in the late 40s after my JLS stint. I was at the University of Chicago and had met Mitsuko Osaki, whose family had resettled near the campus after their release from internment. Her parents were not at all pleased that she was seeing a *hakujin*, but their attitude softened when they found that I could recite the beginning of the Momotaro tale. Before long they

became my parents-in-law and we had a warm lifetime relationship.

So here goes, all from memory after almost 60 years: after the five opening words cited by Mr. Coffin, *ojisan to obasan ga sabishiku kurashite imashita. Aru hi, ojisan* went up the mountain to gather firewood, while *obasan* went to the *kawa* to do the *sentaku*. While there, she *bikkuri shimashta* when an *oki-na momo* came floating down the stream. And so on.

I'm sure you've received several more complete versions, but I had to share my story – a

footnote to "OLS and Its Life Influence" (*Interpreter* #86A-88)

David H. Green
OLS 4-9/45

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