

The Interpreter

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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.

Roy Minkler

forward-thinking S.F. teacher, principal

Roy Minkler, [JLS 1944] a longtime San Francisco teacher and principal who was ahead of his time in bringing black history to his students, died Saturday at his Piedmont home at age 85.

Mr. Minkler was born in 1919 in Jersey City, N.J., the son of a minister- public school teacher and a homemaker. The family soon moved to San Francisco, where Mr. Minkler lived until his retirement in 1979.

He was elected senior class president of Lowell High School in 1937 and co-starred with fellow student Carol Channing in the high school production of "The Poor Nut."

Over the course of his career, Mr. Minkler served as principal at several San Francisco elementary schools, including Anza, John McLaren, Francis Scott Key, Winifred Scott, Yerba Buena and Lafayette. He also held several administrative positions with the San Francisco Unified School District and was

the district's first director of reading, charged with bringing creative new reading programs into city schools.

His career and family life were twice interrupted by stints in the armed forces.

He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1941 with a degree in education and immediately took a public relations job with the San Francisco Unified School District.

In 1942, he entered the Navy at the rank of lieutenant and served for four years in intelligence and as a Japanese-language officer.

He met his wife, Navy nurse Frances Bostick, while both were stationed in San Diego. The two dated for six weeks before Mr. Minkler was shipped overseas. They kept the romance alive by mail for 2 1/2 years, became engaged by mail and married in Seattle when Mr. Minkler returned from overseas.

The couple moved to San Francisco to begin their married life and raise children.

Mr. Minkler earned a master's degree in educational administration from Stanford University in 1950 while working as a teacher, then was called back to serve during the Korean War. He was discharged from the service in 1955 and returned to teaching in San Francisco.

Mr. Minkler is remembered as a forward-thinking educator willing to innovate and eager to work with children in low-income neighborhoods where he felt he could have the greatest impact.

He began classroom celebrations of black history long before the concept gained wide acceptance and developed the "One-to-One" program at Anza school, which taught sixth-graders how to tutor and mentor first-graders. The program was one of the first student-to-student mentoring programs and was widely copied.

His former vice principal, Mary Wilcox, recalled Mr.

Minkler's giving a dime to one child from a troubled family to keep in his shoe so that he could call at any time of the day or night if he needed help or wanted to talk.

He was also a self-taught piano player who loved Dixieland and Big Band tunes, as well as anything ever sung by Frank Sinatra.

He retired in 1979 and moved first to San Carlos and then to Piedmont.

He spent his last years as the full-time caretaker for his wife Frances, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. He also was cared for at home after he was stricken with lung cancer, preferring to die surrounded by family.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years and five children: Meredith Minkler of Kensington, Donna Mastronarde of San Leandro, Jason Minkler of Denver, Christine Pena of Sonoma and Joan Harrison of Shoreline, Wash. He is also survived by brothers Donald H. Minkler of Berkeley and Jason L. Minkler of Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sutter Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, 1900 Powell St., No. 300, Emeryville, CA 94608, or the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., No. 17, Chicago, IL 60601-7633.

Maria Alicia Gaura,
San Francisco Chronicle
Thursday, August 18, 2005
Page B-7

Otis Cary, 84;

Navy Linguist

Played Novel Role in U.S.-Japan Relations

When Otis Cary interrogated Japanese prisoners during World War II, he softened them with gifts of magazines, cigarettes and chocolates. He broke through their reserve with humor. And he spoke to them in flawless Japanese — shocking from a blond-haired American.

Cary spoke like a native because he was one — the son and grandson of New England missionaries in Japan. With missionary-like ardor, he proselytized for the Allied cause, persuading many of the prisoners to cooperate in efforts to end the war and help rebuild Japan as a democracy.

"Prolonged contact with Americans in the prison camps clearly had an impact on many prisoners, and for none more than those influenced by Otis Cary," wrote Ulrich Straus, a former diplomat whose study of Japanese prisoners of war, "The Anguish of Surrender," was published in 2003.

Cary, 84, who died of pneumonia April 14 in Oakland, played a unique role in U.S.-Japan relations during and after World War II.

He was one of the 1,100 Japanese linguists trained by the Navy to serve as interrogators, translators and interpreters after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. For more than four decades after the war, he bridged cultures as a professor of American studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto.

Cary was, in many respects, more Japanese than American. "When [Americans] asked him where he came from, he said it pained him to say he was from Massachusetts," said Donald Keene, a Columbia University expert on Japanese literature and a longtime friend, who served with Cary during the war.

"To tell a fellow officer 'I came from Japan' was to start a quarrel" in the tense period after Pearl Harbor, Keene explained. But Cary, he noted, "saw Japan as his real home."

Cary's deep understanding of the Japanese enabled him to help the POWs overcome their shame at having been captured and their fears of returning home in disgrace. He encouraged them to see themselves as patriots, who had given their all to their country and who now had a duty to support its reconstruction.

He counted among his "converts" POWs who went on to become leaders in the new Japan, including the publisher of a major newspaper and a prominent physician. He also drummed ideas of democracy into members of the imperial family, whom he met on several occasions after Japan's surrender in August 1945.

In 1947, while Japan was still under the Allied occupation, he joined the faculty of Doshisha University as a representative of Amherst College. In 1991, he helped launch Doshisha's graduate school of American studies, the first of its kind in Asia.

For 32 years, he was director of Amherst House, a dormitory where he encouraged Japanese students to dispense with customs that he considered obstacles to modernization.

One of his targets was honorific speech, which mandates different degrees of politeness depending on a person's social rank. To put students on an equal footing, Cary just gave them nicknames.

"It was a very innovative idea," said Shigeki Hijino, a former Newsweek correspondent who lived at Amherst House in the early 1960s. In Hijino's view, Cary's greatest achievement was broadening the minds of the hundreds of students who passed through Amherst House over the years. "He produced so many students who have gone beyond Japan," said Hijino, now a freelance journalist in Stockholm.

"Otis Cary played a key role — I believe an under-recognized one — in helping to ease U.S.-Japan relations, both socially and at the academic level," said Pedro Loureiro, curator of the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College, which promotes Asian studies. "Otis was a very humble person who accomplished a lot."

Cary is survived by his wife of 61 years, Dr. Alice S. Cary; three daughters: Beth Cary of Oakland, Ann Cary of Osaka, Japan, and Ellen Cary Bearn of Bethlehem, Pa.; one son, Frank of Tokyo; and five grandchildren.

He was born Oct. 20, 1921, on Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. He moved to the

United States after elementary school and attended high school at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. From there, he went on to Amherst College, which had a long history of ties with Japan through an exchange program with Doshisha University.

When America entered World War II, Cary enlisted in the Navy and breezed through its crash course in the Japanese language at UC Berkeley and the University of Colorado. Assigned to a POW camp at Pearl Harbor in early 1943, he became executive officer of the interrogation section. His first interrogation subject gave up information vital to the Allied offensive in the Aleutians after the prisoner learned that Cary was from his hometown of Otaru.

As the first officer to greet the POWs when they arrived at the Hawaii camp, Cary devised a rather elaborate ritual to set them at ease.

As recounted by Straus, Cary lined up the prisoners and called their rank, beginning with the lowest rank first. Privates first class were asked to take one step forward, the next highest rank two steps forward, and so on. Cary generally ran out of prisoners by the time he reached lieutenant or captain but continued the exercise until he reached the highest ranks. "What, no generals or admirals?" he would ask, feigning shock when no one stepped forward. "With that," wrote Straus, who interviewed former POWs and their interrogators, "Cary won his audience. The men burst out in prolonged laughter at the absurdity of thinking that persons of such august rank would ever become prisoners."

Cary spoke to the POWs in colloquial Japanese, even though he was capable of navigating the language's many levels of politesse. He did this, Straus explained, to break down the Japanese military's stiflingly strict rank system and allow natural leaders to emerge.

Cary refused to rough up prisoners and treated them as his equal. He always had larger objectives in mind.

"Otis believed in treating prisoners very well," Frank B.

Gibney, another former Navy interrogator who went on to become a prominent journalist and author of books about Japan, wrote a few years ago in an unpublished autobiography. (Gibney died April 9.)

"He saw the Japanese as a lay missionary sees them — good grist to be talked to and milled, made friends with, and, one hopes, ultimately brought to understand the virtues of American democracy, if not Christianity." (to be con't)

Elaine Woo,
Los AngelesTimes
April 23, 2006

Excerpt from the Coffin Songbook

SASEBO KAIHEIDAN DANKA

Waga ni no moto no saikai no
Kataki Mamori wo shimei nite
Hae aru rekishi sono homare
Takai was Sasebo Kaihaidan

Ned Coffin, Compiler
JLS 1944

Russian History Expert Martin Malia dies at age 80



Martin Edward Malia

BERKELEY — Martin Edward Malia, a leading specialist on Russia who taught at the University of California, Berkeley, for more than three decades, died on Friday (Nov. 19, 2004). He was 80.

Malia, an Albany resident, had recently suffered from pneumonia and a series of infections. He died at a convalescent hospital in Oakland.

The professor, who joined UC Berkeley's history faculty in

1958 and retired in 1991, continued to write during his retirement and to enjoy public recognition among scholars for his body of work.

UC Berkeley professor Nicholas V. Riasanovsky, also an historian of Russia, said Malia was an "outstanding and now very popular historian, occupying a leading position in the present international discussion of the collapse of the Soviet Union and what that collapse means historically and for the future. (He also was) a brilliant writer in Russian and European intellectual history."

Malia's major works include "Russia under Western Eyes," (1990), which The New York Times Book Review called "the most insightful book published in any language to date on Russia's place in European intellectual and political history."

His other works include "The Soviet Tragedy: A History of Socialism in Russia, 1917-1991" (1994) and "Alexander Herzen and the Birth of Russian Socialism 1812-1855" (1961), widely regarded as a masterpiece.

Yuri Slezkine, a UC Berkeley professor of history and Russia specialist, noted that in addition to his remarkable books, Malia wrote numerous insightful and highly influential articles on the changing situation in Russia. He was a contributor to the New Republic, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Review of Books and many academic journals.

Malia generated international controversy when, in 1990, he anonymously published the article "To the Stalin Mausoleum," which predicted that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could not prevent the dissolution of communism.

History would prove him right, but at the time, the article — published in a scholarly journal and excerpted in the *The New York Times* and elsewhere — generated wide attention and speculation about the authorship, as it was published under the name "Z". Some wondered if a high-ranking Bush administration official had written the article in an attempt

to influence policy. Ultimately, Malia acknowledged authorship. UC Berkeley colleagues could not say with certainty why he chose to publish the article anonymously, though some suggested it may have been done to draw wide public attention to the article or perhaps to protect sources.

Born in Springfield, Mass., on March 14, 1924, Malia served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He had attended the US Navy Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in Russian in 1944. He received a bachelor's degree in French from Yale University in 1944 and a master's degree and Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 1947 and 1951.

He was an assistant history professor at Harvard from 1954 to 1958 and while on leave from Harvard was a special assistant for Russian book acquisitions at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., before joining the UC Berkeley faculty in 1958. He earned numerous prestigious awards during his career, including Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships.

"His work and his (Catholic) religion were the most important things in his life," said Beverly Bouwsma, a close friend.

Malia was completing a book on comparative revolutions, exploring the American, Russian and French revolutions, just before he died.

Though he was considered somewhat controversial earlier in his career, Slezkine said, Malia later felt vindicated when his predictions of the Soviet Union collapse proved true. He also lived to see a new generation of Russian scholars that was truly inspired by his work.

"Things kind of came together in the end," said Slezkine, "and he was very grateful."

Malia is survived by a niece, Deborah Croarkin-Sverdlov, of Rock Hill, S.C.; and four nephews, Paul Croarkin of Ashburn, Va., Richard Croarkin of New Canaan, CT; and Thomas Croarkin of Fairfield, CT.

Janet Gilmore
Media Relations
UC Berkeley News
November 19, 2004

[Ed. Note: Although I contacted him years ago, he was not interested in participating at the time. He was another of the many distinguished scholars at Berkeley who came out of the JLS/OLS, and one of the most prominent who came out of the Russian Language Program.]

Roar Lion Roar

(Cont'd) I have pictures of [Sosin, Sanford & Harold Rogers, DiCrocco, Voelker, and I] taken during our layover in Chicago and finally walking up 17th Street to the campus that I will share with Gene when I return to Florida in October. I look forward to reintroducing myself to him after these many years.

You indicated you had little information on Bill Voelker. Let me tell something about him. We decided to be roommates during the long train ride. When we arrived at the dorm the helpful lady in charge simply instructed us to pick out any vacant room and report the number to her. We decided on a room with a magnificent view of the Flatirons. I think it was 350 Fleming. In those days each wing of the dorm had a separate name. The one adjacent to Fleming was Baker, and it housed the Navy Radio School.

Bill had a trait very important for anyone sharing close quarters with another - a great sense of humor. At Columbia, he had been on the staff of *Jester*, the college humor magazine. He had an extensive collection of Broadway show tunes on records that he played for our pleasure. I remember that he particularly enjoyed playing Cole Porter's "Love for Sale", probably because at that time it was banned from the air waves because of its suggestive lyrics. How times have changed! (to be cont'd)

Paul E. Hauck
JLS 1943

CORRECTION

I look forward each couple of weeks to receiving *The Interpreter*, reading every word even if I don't know a single person in the articles. It brings back many memories of the 61 years ago. The current issue, #109, carried a reference to Jim

Gunn's comments on FDR's death in an issue I don't think I ever saw [#88A]. I had occasion to look at the Masthead and there I read the date of this issue as "March 1, 2006". I can't believe you are that far behind so I assume your proof reader or type setter just hadn't focused on the change of year. You may hear of this from others, but I couldn't resist pointing it out.

Charles Cook
OLS 1945

Willard F. Topping Sensei, 1942-46

(Cont'd) When visiting your facility in 2003, I saw, as I entered, a picture of the faculty and families at the entrance to Chautauqua Park, which you were kind enough to later send me. If words could say what was written on those faces, perhaps it would be pride, sadness, and a bond brought about by the strains of wartime sequestration in this uniquely beautiful place.

Those were difficult years, none of the sensei had easy lives, with hostility and suspicion dogging their activities at the University and within the community. Faculty spouses were equally pressed by the intensity of the work and tense wartime atmosphere.

Yet, they all toughed it out. As a result, a stream of intelligence was produced which was critical to the success of the war effort and also produced a rich trove of expertise on things Japanese by the many accomplished students turned Asia scholars.

I was pleased upon reading several years ago of the long-overdue honoring by the U.S. Navy of the Japanese-American sensei. Since the U.S. Navy didn't honor my father in the same way, this is my effort to do so on the nation's and our family's behalf. I would greatly appreciate hearing from any students or sensei who might remember my father and his contributions to JLS and to our country, as well as to Japan.

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Japan Analyst Diplomat

Among the JLS/OLS graduates who became Foreign Service Officers and diplomats, lending their Japan expertise to the State Department, is Richard W. Petree, OLS 1946.

Mr. Petree was born in New York in 1924 and was educated at the University of Colorado (BA 1948), Harvard University (MA 1950). Mr. Petree served as an officer to Lt. J.G. in the US Naval Reserve from 1943-1946. He entered the US Navy Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in February 1945 from Des Moines, Iowa and graduated from the Stillwater OLS in 1946. He married Virginia Hunter, a "Boulder Girl". After the War he was a War Department Personnel Officer in Seoul, Korea, 1946-47. He joined the State Department as a student assistant and intern in 1949-50. He served as an intelligence analyst on the Japan Desk from 1950-1957, as a political officer in Tokyo from 1957-1960, and as principal officer in Fukuoka, Japan from 1960 to 1963. Petree served as an international relations officer in Washington, DC, from 1963-64, was promoted to supervisory international relations office in 1964, and was detailed to the National War College in 1967. Between 1968 and 1971, he was assigned as political officer in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Upon his return to the US, he was assigned as counselor political affairs.

In 1976, Richard Petree was appointed Ambassador, Deputy US Permanent Representative to the UN for Security and Political Affairs in 1976, a post he held until 1981.

Petree held the post of President of the US-Japan Foundation from 1981 to 1988.

He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

In May, 2004, Richard and Virginia Petree received the Norlin Award from the University of Colorado Alumni Association for their service to the University and for their distinguished careers.

From Who's Who in America
<http://neas.miiis.edu/resources-security.html>

LEVERING BARTINE SHERMAN, SR. JLS 1943

Bart died July 11, 2005, at Pardee Memorial Hospital in Hendersonville, N.C. He was 84.

Born in Wuchang, China, the son of missionary parents, he returned to the United States in 1929. He prepped for Princeton at Kent School in Connecticut, graduating from Princeton University in 1946.

During World War II, Bart's oriental language skills led him to become a Japanese interpreter for the Navy in the South Pacific. It was during this period that Bart found his calling, saying, "I realized that my life was not my own, but belonged rather to God." He attended Virginia Theological Seminary, and served North Carolina Ministries in Charlotte (twice), Chapel Hill, and Durham, as well as Charleston, S.C. Bart focused on Christian education in his ministry, and was a firm believer in the role of the church in advocacy causes.

Bart is survived by his wife of 63 years, the former Elizabeth Bradfield; a son, Levering B. Jr.; two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. To the entire family, we extend sincere condolences.

PAW
October 5, 2005

Proper Treatment of POWs

Enclosed is a clipping sent me by my lifelong friend in LA [The LA Times obituary of Otis Cary]. My friend was an ensign out of V-12 when he came through Guam in 11/45. I took him up to Tarague Point in North Guam one morning where we had a couple of POW proselytes

out overnight looking for their buddies hiding in the hill caves. They did not locate them but my friend had a chance to see our search-and-retrieve program in action. Anyway, I have been telling him over the years how we dealt with POWs. He has underlined the clipping where Cary had validated the proper procedure for dealing with POWs. I have been telling my friend that the polite approach was the only successful way to effect results. Japanese POWs expected tough treatment and were not cowed by harsh handling. [As Frank Gibney had pointed out in newspaper editorials, this approach has seemingly been forgotten in our current conflict].

Somehow I had missed out on Cary. I never heard of him, nor even mention of him, but then I was somewhat isolated at Guam doing intensive, localized duty trying to round up stragglers in the bush and did not mingle into higher echelons of intelligence. My contact with Navy Boulder types was confined to whoever might find his way into our compound area or intelligence work. Evidently, LT Cary did not, even though a Guam POW, Nakano, was cited in the obituary. I do not recall Nakano but we had at least a hundred IJN officers from Guam forces and an equal number transported from Rota, confined in another facility.

Cal Dunbar
USMCEL 1944

"Tad" Van Brunt 1921-1977

Dear Friend:
I ploughed through every page of the Marine Language material you sent me but do not remember anything about BIJ Boulderite, Tad Van Brunt (JLS 10/7/43) whom I knew well. Born in Kobe, he spoke like a Japanese and was so instrumental in creating order in Okinawa that the authorities there wanted him to be governor!

William Hudson
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Frederick B. "Tad" Van Brunt entered JLS July 2, 1942 from Ontario, California. He was born in Japan in 1921 of

Dutch-American and British parentage and was raised there so that his fluency in the Japanese language led to USN JLS and assignments in Guam and Okinawa as an interrogator of enemy troops. He was so popular among the native Okinawans that they asked that he be allowed to stay as governor of their island in 1945. This, of course, did not happen, and he had bit parts in three films, appearing in *Road to Rio* (1947), *Dream Girl* (1948), and *The Big Clock* (1948). He was recalled to the Marines in 1948 and participating in the Inchon, Korea landings as an intelligence officer in 1951. A career in advertising and sales preceded his death from alcoholism in 1977. See James E. Wise, Jr. and Anne Collier Rehill. Stars in the Corps: Movie Actors in the United States Marines. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1999. x + 246 pp. Bibliography, photographs, index. \$28.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-55750-949-9. I will place your question and this blurb in a future issue of *The Interpreter*. He had passed so long ago that no one sent in any stories about him. Actually, Larry Vincent mentions him in a future article about Bougainville.]

RELOCATION (1)

During the spring of 1942, the stall for "Seabiscuit" at the Tanforan Race Track in South San Francisco became the temporary home for our family. Seabiscuit, the champion and the winner of the Kentucky Derby was already a household word. The family car, a Buick, was purchased from the Howard Buick dealers on Van Ness Avenue and California Street and Mr. Howard, incidentally, was also the owner of Seabiscuit. Mr. Howard helped to dispose of the Buick when the family was forced to leave San Francisco for their temporary home in Seabiscuit's stall.

Monday morning, December 8, 1941, the entire student body at the old San Francisco State College on Buchanan Street was requested to attend an emergency convocation; we hurried into the auditorium to listen to President

Leonard. As he switched on the radio via the loud speaker, the magnetic voice of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt boomed out, declaring, "...the United States of America is now at war with Japan..."

The day before, Sunday, December 7, 1941, I had already shouldered the blame of Pearl Harbor onto myself and hardly had the courage to appear on the campus the following day. Participating with the student body in hearing the audible declaration of the justified war on Japan, my feelings of humiliation and guilt became a weightier burden. The evening before, our lifelong neighbor's father, who lived on the third flat in the house on the corner of Post and Webster Streets was picked up by the F.B.I. and whisked away to an undisclosed destination. The second flat was our home.

Curfew was immediately enforced, movements restricted, and notices issued that in order to protect us from any war hysteria, everyone of Japanese descent was to be evacuated from the west coast to an undisclosed inland destination for the duration of the war.

With these actions taking place, Father, affiliated at this time with the Stanford-Lane Hospital on Clay and Webster Streets, was appointed as the chief administrator of both the hospital and medical units at the Tanforan Race Track. Tanforan was the temporary assembly center for all of the San Franciscans of Japanese descent, for many permanent relocation camps were hastily being constructed in the deserts of Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Arkansas and elsewhere. Seabiscuit's stall was assigned to our family, for it was the highest in the hierarchy of stall assignments, and perhaps an honor bestowed on Father for accepting the position, along with the \$19 a month salary paid to him by the federal government. (to be cont'd)

By Kaya Kitagawa Sugiyama
From the Rooftop
The Newsletter of The Fromm
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