

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 136

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

June 1, 2009

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.

Frank B. Gibney, 81;

**One of the Nation's
Preeminent Experts on
Asia and
President of the Pacific
Basin Institute at Pomona
College, Has Died**

Frank Gibney, one of America's foremost experts on Asia and Asia Pacific affairs and editor of *The Pacific Century*, died on April 9, 2006 at his home in Santa Barbara, at the age of 81.

President of the Pacific Basin Institute and a professor of politics at Pomona College, in Claremont, California, Gibney spent most of his life attempting to bridge the gap between Americans and the countries and cultures of East Asia. He first visited Asia as a lieutenant in U.S. Naval Intelligence stationed in Japan during World War II and returned to Japan in 1949 as *Time-Life's* bureau chief, rising to prominence covering the Korean War. He remained in Asia where he did extensive

reporting in Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia.

Gibney later served as an editor of *Time*, a senior features editor of *Newsweek* and an editorial writer for *Life* magazine. After joining the Encyclopedia Britannica in 1966, he spent 10 years in charge of Britannica's business and editorial operations in East Asia. He founded and edited the Japanese-language Britannica (completed in 1975) and later editions of the encyclopedia in Chinese and Korean.

A prolific writer, Gibney was the author of 11 books from *Five Gentlemen of Japan* (1953) to *Korea's Quiet Revolution* (1992) and *The Battle for Okinawa* (1995). His major work, *The Pacific Century* (1992) was the capstone of the award-winning PBS television series of that name, where he served as chief editor. The program aired in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, as well as the U.S. He was also a frequent contributor to the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*, most recently writing about Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in September 2005.

Active in public service, Gibney served as a chief consultant to the House of Representatives Committee on Space and Aeronautics, a White House speechwriter for President Johnson, and a vice chairman of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

In 1976, the Japanese government awarded Gibney the Order of the Rising Sun, Third Class, for his work in cultural affairs. The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Second Class, followed a few years later.

Fluent in Japanese, Professor Gibney co-founded the Pacific Basin Institute in 1979 to further understanding, on both sides of the Pacific, of the tremendous importance of their relationship and their shared responsibilities. In 1997, the Institute moved to Pomona College, where its unique Asia/Pacific film archive,

production facilities and public events play an important role in the life and academic activities of the college and community.

"Frank Gibney was a remarkable and rare person," says Hans Palmer, vice president of the Pacific Basin Institute and professor of economics at Pomona College. "As an expert on Asia and a journalist extraordinaire, he helped define much of our thinking about the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Basin. He believed that we all share a common reality and that we all would share a common future for which we need to prepare. His humor was infectious, and his humanity was all encompassing. He will be sorely missed."

He is survived by his third wife, Hiroko Doi, of Santa Barbara, and seven children: Alex Gibney, of Summit, New Jersey; Margot Gibney, of Oakland, CA; Frank Gibney Jr. of Brooklyn, New York; James Gibney, of New York City; Thomas Gibney, of Placerville, CA; Elise Gibney, of Eagle Rock, CA and Josephine Gibney of Los Angeles; and seven grandchildren.

*Obituary provided by
Dr. Pedro Loureiro
Pomona College*

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Certainly Worthy Of a Look

My husband, S. O. "Tavie" Thorlaksson, was a member of the Japanese Language School in Boulder before leaving there for Pearl Harbor on December 13, 1943, the day our daughter was born. His brother, Neils Erik, was also at the Language School and left January 16, 1943. Both had been born and raised in Japan and spoke fluent Japanese, had a real understanding of the Japanese people, and had to learn the formal, written Japanese at the school.

Erik Thorlaksson passed away August 9, 1996. Tavie, my husband, has Alzheimer's and has been in a nursing home for about a year. I have appreciated receiving the newsletters and occasionally reading something that triggers memories of those times. My husband was a very quiet, introspective individual, even before he suffered from dementia, and would probably have had little to say, even then.

We met at the Lutheran Church, located on Broadway, had our first date on Thanksgiving and were married six weeks later on January 16, 1943. He wanted his brother to be his "Best Man" at the wedding, so we were married on the day Erik had to leave. The marriage took because we have celebrated our 63rd anniversary this past January (2006).

I have fond memories of getting to know the Japanese instructors and their wives, learning to play Mahjong, and learning about Japanese culture and food. I was born and raised in Iowa and had literally no opportunities to get to know people of other cultures. In those days people did not travel as they do today. (to be cont'd)

Freda Thorlaksson (Mrs. S. O.)

War Years in Boulder

[The Kansas City Star's] story on Boulder, Colorado, as part of a series on Big 12 cities was great (8/27/06, "That's my Boulder: Downtown booster has been in love with the city for more than 60 years"). However, for my part, an era was not reported on: the war years in Boulder.

Virginia Patterson, who was the source of a lot of the article, is my age, and she started there in 1942, so she has recollections of the US Navy presence there.

I was sent there in 1943 to attend radio school. There were about 100 of us from all parts of the country in each class, and as

soon as one class graduated, another arrived. I remember sailors from California who had never been in snow before.

We lived in the Field House next to the football stadium, and our mess hall was there too. A short distance away was what had been the men's dormitory before the war. The Navy utilized it to house the Japanese language students who would later become officers upon graduation.

I loved Boulder and went back after the war on vacations, and each time I noted the changing landscape.

Harold Hosterman
Overland Park, KS

[Ed.Note: Duane Flaherty, OLS 1945, passed this tidbit to me from the Kansas City Star. I thought you might like to know that some of your fellow students from the other Navy schools liked Boulder, as well. I called him and he was curious about our program. I told him the Archives was interested in the Radio School, too. I put him in touch with Duane, as they live about a block or two from each other and thought they would like to compare notes.

I wonder if any of you ever ran into Virginia Patterson?

We have one memoir of the Radio School, but none from the pre-radar or cook's school.]

SODEN REPRISE

Dear David:

You might recall that my late father, J. Owen Zurhellen, Jr., was a JLS graduate and served in the Marine Corps (5th Division) as a language officer. A few years ago, I sent you the JLS/WWII memorabilia I found among his belongings.

Your newsletter of October 15, 2006 contained an article concerning Brother Aloysius M. Soden. I might be able to add some biographical information regarding Brother Soden. In 1954 and 1955, as a fourth and fifth grader, I attended St. Joseph's College, an international boys' school operated by the Marianist Order in Yokohama, Japan [At 4, I was in Japan in 1956. My dad was on the USS St. Paul]. For the 1955 school year, Brother Soden came on as the Treasurer of St. Joseph's. Because I left the school after that year, I don't know if he stayed on thereafter. I

do have fairly clear memories of Brother Soden, notwithstanding that our acquaintance was over 50 years ago. I remember him as a kind, thoughtful person, with a somewhat-obscured but clearly present sense of humor. My copy of the 1955 yearbook has a photo of him, if anyone wants a copy. My father, who joined the Foreign Service after the War, was (I believe) Consul General in Yokohama at the time. He was acquainted with Brother Soden.

St. Joseph's was closed a few years ago, but its alumni have an active association with meetings every now and then in the United States. I am not an active member of the alumni association, but one of my best friends in Japan, Thomas Haar, has been quite active. I believe his e-mail is tomhaar@lava.net, and he lives in Hawaii. I if you or anyone else needs more information about Brother Soden, Tom can probably provide it of steer you in the right direction.

Very truly
yours,

J. Owen Zurhellen, III

Another Reprise on Brother Soden

I've just received and read *The Interpreter* #104A. Brother Soden and I were in the same class, though never particularly close friends. We entered October 1, 1942 and graduated in November, 1943--not in March of 1944. I knew he remained in the Navy, but after graduation I lost track of him completely.

Richard Moss
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Funny how things work. I unknowingly placed this reprise right next to another on Brother Soden.]

IN MEMORIAM

Richard C. Rudolph
Professor of East Asian
Languages and Cultures,
Emeritus, UCLA
OLS Chinese Dept. Head
(1909–2003)

Richard C. Rudolph, described recently as "the father of Chinese studies at UCLA," died April 9, 2003, just a few weeks short of his 94th birthday. While such an

age is not a remarkable thing, his life was. Born in San Francisco shortly after the great earthquake, raised by a grandmother who was herself orphaned when her parents were killed by Indians while coming to California by wagon train, of such limited means that as a young boy he had a job lighting the street lights of the small California town in which he was raised, and forced for a time to live in a water tower and later a dirt-walled basement while putting himself through 14 years of the university during the Depression, he was often asked why he went into Chinese studies. Never interested in talking about himself, he would always joke that Chinese was the only field in which he could get financial support—though he told his own children that he had been deeply attracted to Chinese culture ever since he was young, when he used to hide and read about China during a job he had at the Carnegie library in his home town. (He had, in fact, begun his college career quite successfully in pre-med, and received his B.A. from UC Berkeley in what was then called Foreign Trade.)

His professional career all but began with his first trip to China in 1948-49, just before it closed with the Communist Revolution, and more or less ended with his second trip in 1973 as a member of the first group of American scholars to enter China before the normalization of relations. This closing of China during virtually his entire professional life was a deep disappointment to him, almost a personal tragedy, and one he compensated for to some degree with a love of Japan that lasted his whole life. He was a bibliophile and a linguist at heart, being fluent in Mandarin, Manchu, Mongolian, Japanese, German, French, Italian, and Spanish—and having begun but never finished Tibetan and Russian.

Rudolph received his Ph.D. in Chinese literature from Berkeley in 1942, studying with the famous sinologists Ferdinand Lessing and Peter Boodberg. He saw very little of his father throughout his life (though his free-spending and at times wealthy father did pay enough

attention to disinherit him for going into Chinese studies), and Lessing was himself estranged from his own son when the son joined the Nazi party (he was later executed by the Nazis in the last days of the war.) Something of a father-son relationship developed between the two and Rudolph often fondly recalled the Mongolian language recordings Lessing thoughtfully made for him when he was recruited by the OSS during the Second World War for a mission to Mongolia which, instead of "Hello," began with "Call off your dogs, I come in peace." (A major motion picture was later made of this mission.) Perhaps wisely, he eventually accepted a position as head of the Chinese section of the U.S. Navy Language School at the University of Colorado, where he worked with Ensho Ashikaga and Y.C. Chu, lifelong friends who would later come to UCLA, and where he met Mary Alice Potter, his wife of 59 years.

From 1945 to 1947, he served as acting director of the School of Chinese Studies at the University of Toronto and assistant keeper of Far Eastern antiquities at the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, an experience that instilled in him a lasting love of ancient books, calligraphy, paintings, and artifacts. (His house was a heap of these things.) Offered his choice in 1947 of either a position at Berkeley or the opportunity to found a new department of Oriental Languages at UCLA, he enthusiastically chose the latter, and remained at UCLA throughout his career. (to be cont'd)

Conrad Rudolph

Certainly Worthy Of a Look

(Cont'd) we had become good friends with the Imais (Martha and Yugi). After you called, I called Martha, with whom I had lost touch over the years. It was fun talking with her again. The Imais attended the same church with us, and one Sunday, as I was talking to Martha, I threw my arms around her to tell her how happy I was because I had

just gotten a letter from my husband. As I looked over her shoulder, I saw two older women gasping and shocked that I was hugging a Japanese person. That was an epiphany for me – to realize the person, my friend, was the most important thing about Martha. I was fortunate to carry that with me from then on.

Another interesting situation helped me learn about the Japanese culture. Shortly after we were married, while walking down the street, we met three instructors. My husband introduced me. After the introduction, they all spoke in Japanese. When we were again alone, I asked my husband what had been said. He told me that the men were saying what a lovely wife he had. He had told them that I was not worthy for them to look at! My American heritage was shocked, but he explained he was just being polite (in Japanese) [*Where I got the title*]. (to be cont'd)

Freda Thorlaksson (Mrs. S. O.)

‘Where are They Now?’

Prof. Emeritus, JLS 1944

John H. Middendorf,

Sitting in his study on Riverside Drive among countless volumes of first, second, and third editions of the various works of Samuel Johnson, Professor Emeritus John Middendorf fondly recalls teaching classrooms filled with dancers, business men and women, and young people who had been backpacking through Europe and South America for a few years before deciding to attend college. “GS changed my perception for the better,” he says. “Too often, one loses sight, when becoming an academic, of the line between the intellectual/academic world and the world at large. In my case, GS gave me a sense of the importance of literature as a nourisher of life. The range of students helped me keep in perspective where literature fits, and how it can be enriching and relevant.”



Professor Middendorf's study

When Dr. John Middendorf first started teaching at GS in 1945, Professor Donald Clark warned him, “Prepare for a rocky life if you plan to stay at Columbia.” Clark was speaking of the rumored proposal to get rid of GS entirely. But Middendorf would not be swayed. Instead, he took his place in the then system of “hot desks” where, as a result of limited space and funds (GS operated an independent faculty back then), five faculty members shared a single desk. It was almost by accident that Middendorf later learned he had shared a desk with Thomas Merton. (GS is Gen. Studies)

Middendorf can recall a time when GS was merely an extension school with no faculty or dean of its own, offering its students a B.S. degree regardless of the major or field of study (the College refused to relinquish its hold on the B.A. degree). In those early days, GS had only a director and a reputation for making money for the University. But things changed. GS grew in spite of its relative obscurity on campus. It fought a sometimes bitter struggle to be given its own chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and it fought for and won the right to award its students B.A. degrees where appropriate, and it continued to attract bright young minds from all walks of life. It is just this kind of student body that Middendorf appreciates. “They’re not wet behind the ears,” he quips while searching for a copy of English writers of the Eighteenth Century, which he edited for the Columbia University Press in 1971. (to be cont'd)

Elizabeth Valeri, gs '01
The Columbia Owl Online
The Alumni Newsletter of
The School of General Studies
Fall/Winter 2002

Arapahoe Glacier Hike

Not long after I arrived in Boulder in June 1942, I saw an ad in the *Daily Camera* for an Arapahoe Glacier Trip to be sponsored, I believe, by the Chamber of Commerce. Never having been west of the Hudson River, the thought of actually climbing over a mountain glacier in the West had an instant appeal for me. I signed up, as did a half

dozen or so other language students.

On the appointed day we were picked up by bus somewhere along Broadway and driven to a wooded area at the foot of the glacier. While it was not yet fully light we were served a substantial breakfast. Then we began the not too arduous climb to the glacier itself. The glacier was our wintry playground for the next hour or so. There were snowball fights, of course. But the most popular activity was forming “seat-of-the-pants” toboggans, sitting on a slope, four or more people locked together, for the long glide down the glacier.

I suppose ecological and security concerns might have ended the Arapahoe Glacier Trip by now, but in 1942, it provided an unforgettable experience.

Paul E. Hauck
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: *The Arapahoe Glacier and the N. Boulder Creek watershed have been off-limits to the public for more than 40 years as they are part of Boulder's water supply.*]

Navy Roommates

I had hoped to find a current address for Edgar M. Cameron, who was my roommate in the basement of the Men's Dorm, but he has probably passed away--along with a lot of our now-ancient classmates. I arrived from San Francisco in charge of a draft of three active duty sailors--Ed Cameron, Art Gassaway, and Roy Minkler. They were all Yeomen 3/c from Censorship in SF, and I had been on duty for a year in the 12th Naval District Intelligence Office as a Yeoman 2/c (a real stenographer).

I had studied Japanese for about 3 months at Univ. of California, Berkeley, standing my duties in SF at night. This gave me a good head start, but it was my shorthand training that got me through Boulder. I did not socialize much but skied almost every Sunday during the winter of 1943-4. But the language stuck with me and I became quite fluent after arriving in Japan on 6 Sept. 1945. Still love to speak it, but most of the Kanji are lost.

Lawrence S. Myers

[Ed. Note: Roy Minkler and Art Gassaway have passed away. Ed Cameron may have died 4/23/04.]

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/schlaretzki.fund.html>

WAVES Circumnavigating

Margaret Dilley was born in Boardman, Ohio, a suburb of Youngstown on September 20, 1915. She received her BA from the College of Wooster, Phi Beta Kappa in 1937. From 1937 to 1941, she taught high school. In 1942 she received a Masters in Library Science from Columbia University. Ms. Dilley then worked as a reference librarian at Youngstown Public Library from June 1942 to September 1943. She entered the US Navy Japanese Language School in September 1943.

"When World War II started, I was happy with my studies and

my job in the library but felt I should get involved. My mother read in the *Key Reporter* about the opportunity to go to the language school. On my day off I went to see Commander Hindmarsh.

Boulder turned out to be one of my favorite places, not, of course, because I found the studies easy; it was just such a marvelous place to live. The beauty of the mountains; the good climate; and the weekends after the dreaded tests when we could go off hiking up Flagstaff or along Boulder Creek; and the good friends, all made it special."

From January 1945 to June 1946, Ms. Dilley was assigned to the Communications Annex in Washington, DC. In June 1946 she separated from the Navy and was hired by the Army to go to Japan. On August 15, 1946, She left Staten Island on a civilian transport vessel and sailed via the Panama Canal to Japan. On board were three other ex-WAVES: Betty Knecht [*See Knecht Recollects in multiple issues*], Blanch Belitz [*see Issue #87A*] and Avis Pick. They arrived on September 1946 at Yokohama harbor.

She spent the next two years in Tokyo with the Occupation, "Many other language officers worked in the Occupation, including some from Stillwater, Oklahoma. Most were in Tokyo."

Deciding to complete their circumnavigation, Ms. Dilley and Ms. Knecht left Japan in June 1948. They were not able to sail the whole way by boat. They flew to Shanghai, then to Hong Kong, where we got passage on a Swedish freighter. We debarked at Marseilles, then traveled mostly by train across Western Europe, where again we could not book sea passage and had to fly home [*still counts, by Jules Verne's standard*].

After a holiday, Margaret Dilley went job hunting. As the Occupations of Japan and Germany had set up libraries, she hoped to be hired for a library in Japan. Budget cuts foiled that attempt. However, the State Department had taken over the Office of War Information libraries and was setting up others. She applied and was

accepted. Under Secretary of State Dulles, the new US Information Agency was formed.

Between 1950 and 1963, she served as USIS librarian in Athens, Bombay, New Delhi, and Ankara, with a three year stint between 1955 and 1957 in the USIA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

She resigned from USIA in 1963 and married Andrew Entzi whom she met on leave from New Delhi. She was widowed in 1990, but her marriage brought her a new family: 2 stepdaughters, six grandchildren, three great grandchildren and many in-laws.

Her time in the 1990s was occupied with volunteer work with the Red Cross, the local food bank, and the local Friends of the Library. She hiked, bowled and still enjoyed traveling.

"Both in Boulder and later in Japan, it was difficult to reconcile the Japanese people we knew with the ones we read about."

Margaret Dilley Entzi
WAVE JLS 1944

WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

[Ed. Note: Our attempts to find Ms. Entzi have been unsuccessful.]

Professor W. G. Beasley: Historian Who Advanced The Study Of Japan In British Universities

William Gerald Beasley, historian: born Brackley, Northamptonshire 22 December 1919; Lecturer in Far Eastern History, School of Oriental and African Studies, London 1947-54, Professor of the History of the Far East 1954-83 (Emeritus), Head of the Japan Research Centre 1978-83; FBA 1967; CBE 1980; married 1955 Hazel Polwin (one son); died Twickenham, Middlesex 19 November 2006.

W.G. Beasley, Emeritus Professor of the History of the Far East at the School of Oriental and African Studies of London University, was a pioneer in introducing Japanese history in British universities and in communicating knowledge of Japan to a wider audience.

After completing his first degree at University College London, Beasley intended

conducting research in Dutch history. However, he served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, in the course of which he studied the Japanese language at the US Navy Language School at Boulder, Colorado, in 1943-44. In the final weeks of the war he interrogated Japanese prisoners on Pacific islands. Shortly after the surrender ceremony in September 1945, Bill Beasley landed at Yokohama and participated in the early phases of the occupation at the Yokosuka naval base and at the British Liaison Mission in Tokyo. (To be continued)

Ian Nish and Peter Lowe
The Independent
04 December 2006

Howell V. Calhoun Departed

This is to inform you that a dear friend of mine (in Boulder) passed away this past February, 2007 – Howell Vincent Calhoun. He lived with his wife Sueko in Honolulu for many years.

I spoke with him a few times from here. He was suffering a great deal from cancer of the sinus, according to his wife. I think he was in the March '44 group. I just called Bill Hudson in West Palm Beach (also a good friend of mine) and informed him of the sad news.

Sanford L. Schultheis
JLS 1944
LT USNR (ret.)

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If you wish to support the JLS/OLS Archival Project in ways other than giving papers you may contribute donations to our US Navy JLS/OLS Fund. We hire work-study students on this fund, tripling its value. If you wish to donate, make your check out to the **University of Colorado Foundation**, writing **US Navy JLS Fund** on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address.

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