

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.

Steward W. O'Rear OLS (Russian) 1945

(Engr '40) of Aiken, S.C., died Dec. 4, 2006. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. He served in World War II. Mr. O'Rear graduated from the U.S. Navy Russian Language Training School at the University of Colorado and served a lieutenant in Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C. He first worked for DuPont in central research, and later as a chemical engineer in charge of the technical information service for DuPont.

UVA Magazine,
Spring 2007

[Ed. Note: Mr. O'Rear had been on our mailing list for several years. I found this obit while scanning the web using Google®.]

The JLS Experience of T. Howell Breece

(Cont'd) Shortly after I began my duties, a young Chinese job applicant came to see Stanley

Townsend. His desk and mine were at right angles to each other and I faced a blank wall [LDM? Large Desk, Mahogany]. I was translating an article from a magazine and I did not look up when Stanley began questioning the young man. I heard his excellent English and then I heard Stanley ask him where he had learned it. He said, "I went to the Peking American School." I whirled around, looked at him and cried out, "Eddie!" He was Edward Fei, a slightly younger schoolmate of mine at PAS. I had not seen him since I graduated from high school in 1934. He got the job!

In late 1944, Stanley Townsend went back to the US on leave and I became the OIC of the Translation Center. Washington sent two more recent graduates of the JLS to join me, Willard J. Wright (see Issue #147) and Al Dunton [Dunton, Allen H. Jr, of Iowa City, Iowa., JLS 1944, January 25, 1916 to January 17, 1999, Lt US Navy WWII, buried in Muscatine Memorial Park Cemetery, Muscatine, Iowa]. I had not requested more officers for I thought that with Eddie as my very able assistant I could handle all the work myself. Eddie knew no Japanese, but he really was bilingual in Chinese and English. I am bilingual in spoken Chinese and English, but I never learned to read Chinese very well and *tsao-tze* (Chinese for what Japanese call *Sōsho*) was beyond me. I could talk easily to our staff members who knew no English, but I could not always read what they wrote. And Eddie could. There was really not enough work to keep all of us busy, but we did what was there to do until everything came to an abrupt end. One hot August night, I had driven the jeep to see a movie at the Army theater. When I left after the show, I offered a ride to some other Americans. The streets were swarming with Chinese overcome with joy. They climbed upon the hood of the

jeep, embraced us and shouted. I asked in Chinese what had happened and they told me that Japan had surrendered. They also told me why, but I did not understand them because I did not then know the Chinese for atomic bomb. (to be cont'd)

T. Howell Breece
JLS 1944

CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARINES

Dear Aubrey [Farb]:

Smitten by a memory lapse, I left out an interesting part of the story. After our TDY at JICPOA, we did indeed fly back to the Canal but it was not a routine humdrum flight. Our language group, officers and enlisted, were loaded aboard a huge PB2Y4 Coronado flying boat. The only other passenger was Col. Sydney Mashbir, an intelligence officer on MacArthur's staff.



Consolidated PB2Y - 4 Coronado
<http://www.stinsonflyer.com/sf-99.htm>

We over-nighted at Palmyra and Canton Islands. Seaplane pilots obviously have to land in daylight. Palmyra and Canton were developed by PanAm before WW2 for their transpacific flights. On the third afternoon we landed in the lagoon at Funa Futi in the Ellice Islands. As we let down into the water the boat hit a log which punched a gash in the hull. Water gushed in. We got to shore on rubber rafts. On the island were two hospitable New Zealand "leftenants", who shared some of their scotch with us. A plane came in to patch up our boat and flew it away. If the puncture had not occurred, the boat would have taken us all the way to the Canal. Another plane came in and picked up Mashbir,

leaving us shipwrecked castaways to disport ourselves in the lagoon for several days. A C47 finally picked us up and we over-nighted at Espiratu Santo before finally flying back Guadalcanal.

I checked this out with Glen Slaughter.

A sidebar on Funa Futi, this is not pertinent to the LO story but I found it interesting. In late October 1942 a B-17 bomber took off from Hawaii for Port Moresby, New Guinea. On board was Eddie Rickenbacker, who was to make an inspection tour at the invitation of MacArthur. En route they were to stop at Canton Island. The navigator apparently screwed up and they overshot Canton by 100 miles to the southwest. When they ran out of gas they were 500 miles from Canton. They ditched the plane successfully and everyone got off in two rafts. After 21 days of paddling they came ashore at Tuvalo in the Ellice Islands. Natives took them to Funa Futi, the capital. All survived: emaciated, desiccated and sunburned. I'm surprised that the New Zealanders didn't tell us about this.

Incidentally, my "kids" have become aware that I'm dredging up all this nostalgia and I'm getting "Why didn't you ever tell us about all this?" I'll try to keep them from pushing me to become even more verbose.

I think I'm now ready to go to China. If you wish, I'll write about it.

Semper Fi
Glenn Nelson
JLS 1944

Norton Ginsburg 1921-2007

Norton Sydney Ginsburg, JLS 1944, a University of Chicago professor who was a leading authority on urban and political geography as well as the economic development of East and Southeast Asia, died Monday at his home in

Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. He was 85.

Ginsburg, Professor Emeritus in Geography, was the leader of a team that produced the Atlas of Economic Development, a 1960 reference tool on ways to aid developing countries. The atlas, funded by the Ford Foundation, was reprinted three times.



Norton Ginsburg

Ginsburg was co-author of *The Pattern of Asia* (1958) and co-editor of seven multi-authored works on the economic development and urbanization of East and Southeast Asia from 1960 to 1992.

In 1990 the Chinese University Press of Hong Kong published a series of lectures he gave as "The Urban Transition: Reflections on the American and Asian Experiences." His interest in editing led to oversight of Southeast Asian volumes of the area handbooks published for the Human Relations Area Files in the 1950s, editorial consulting for the Aldine Publishing Company and the Denoyer-Geppert map company in the 1970s, and the publication of the *Ocean Yearbook* in the 1980s and 90s.

"Norton Ginsburg developed a nuanced view of the geographical complexity of Asia and integrated that into the broad sweep of the region's history," noted Michael Conzen, Chairman of the Committee on Geographical Studies at the University of Chicago. "He won the admiration of his students," Conzen continued, "for all the support he gave them."

Ginsburg received a B.A. in 1941 from the University, an M.A. in 1947 and a Ph.D. in 1949.

He served as a geographer in the U.S. Army Map Service

1941-42, and in the U.S. Naval Reserve 1942-46. He attended the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado.

After serving as a Fulbright Research Scholar at the universities of Hong Kong and Malaya from 1950 to 1951, he was named an assistant professor in geography. He was named a full professor in 1961.

Ginsburg served as Assistant Dean of the University's Division of Social Sciences from 1954 to 1956, Associate Dean of the Division from 1967 to 1969 and Associate Dean of the undergraduate division of the University from 1963 to 1966. He was Chairman of the Department of Geography from 1978 to 1985.

He also served as Director of the Association for Asian Studies from 1958 to 1961, acting editor of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* from 1961 to 1962, Secretary of the Joint Committee on Contemporary China of the American Council of Learned Societies from 1959 to 1963 and Chairman of the Committee on Social Science Personnel of the Social Science Research Council from 1967 to 1970.

Ginsburg was also elected President of the Association of American Geographers in 1970. At the invitation of former University of Chicago Chancellor Robert Maynard Hutchins, Ginsburg took a leave of absence in 1970 from the University to join The Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, where he was a Senior Fellow and served as Dean of the Academic Program from 1971 to 1974.

He also wrote articles for *Encyclopedia Britannica* and consulted on the initiative of a Chinese edition.

Following his retirement from the University in 1986, he became director of the Environment and Policy Institute of the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, for five years. He held a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1983.

Survivors include his wife, Diana; sons Jeremy and Alexander; daughter-in-law Cheryl; and a brother, Gilbert.

University of Chicago News Office
Aug. 1, 2007
& David M. Hays
Editor and Archivist

An EAA Interview with Houghton Freeman

(Cont'd) **Lynn Parisi:** *By the time your family went back in 1938, hadn't the situation become very unstable in Shanghai? How were foreigners going about life in Japanese occupied Shanghai?*

Houghton Freeman: In 1938 and 1939, the Japanese held all the territory outside the international settlement. Most of the Western men in Shanghai joined the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, and staffed the borders of the settlement. But, as a student, I remember that life went on pretty much as usual. My family lived on Hangzhou Road, which was outside the International settlement in the Japanese-held area of Shanghai. The railroad to Hangzhou was the border, and the Japanese had their headquarters and a crossing checkpoint there. I had to have a pass to attend school in the International Settlement. Evening travel required a special permit. I needed these special permits several times to go to parties on Saturday nights. I traveled at night so often, it seemed, that one night the Japanese lieutenant at the checkpoint got fed up with me and said, "You are just a pleasure seeking lad! Don't come back so often."

Of course, the Chinese were barred from going back and forth after hours. One time, our cook couldn't get back across the border to our home. It so happened it was an evening that my mother was having a dinner party, so the cook was essential. My family got in touch with me at school and gave me the charge of getting our Chinese cook through the checkpoint. I was driving a roadster then and was well known to the Japanese crossing guards, so we put the cook in the trunk and went sailing through Japanese lines. Luckily, it was a day when they chose not to check my car.

In 1939, I entered Wesleyan

University, where my father and great uncle had also gone. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, I was in my sophomore year. My good friend from China was going to Dartmouth. We decided to see if our backgrounds might qualify us for some specialized work in the service. We had an introduction to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in Washington and told them that we were born and raised in China and spoke Chinese, to which they replied that the US was not fighting the Chinese but the Japanese. However, our background made us eligible for a Japanese language course that was starting at Berkeley the next month, January 1942. We enrolled there as members of the second class of the US Navy Japanese Language School. We had such notables there as Donald Keene, Ted DeBary, David Osborn, and Marion Levy, who was later head of Asian Studies at Princeton – a lot of people who went on to be leaders in Asian Studies in the US. The Navy first looked for people who had been raised in Japan and spoke Japanese. They found several, including Otis Carey, who was also in my class. Except for me and a couple of others, it was quite a distinguished class.

It was a year-long course and we spent the first six months at Berkeley. When the federal government decided to evacuate all Japanese from the West Coast, including the Navy's Japanese language instructors, we moved to the University of Colorado in Boulder and graduated in January 1943. A few of our class went to Washington, but most went to Honolulu. A small number went to the South Pacific, and I joined Admiral Halsey's intelligence team in New Caledonia.

I was in the South Pacific for about three months, I guess, when there was a sudden request from the American Embassy in Chongqing. They wanted a language officer who could speak both Chinese and Japanese, so off I went. It took me about four months to get there from the South Pacific, but I was delighted; it was like going home. I was assigned to the American Embassy in

Chongqing as assistant naval attaché. (to be cont'd)

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Reprise on Nancy Pierce Helmhold

[Professor Nancy Pearce Helmhold's sister, Martha Leipziger-Pearce, sent another obituary from which I gleaned the following comments to add to her obituary.] She joined the WAVES on July 19, 1943 as Nancy Pearce, studied Japanese at the language school in Boulder, served in Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC, retiring as Lt. Commander in 1946, and worked in the Occupation in Tokyo, 1946-50.

During the War she was on the team that translated intercepted messages from the Japanese Armed Forces, since the US had fortunately broken their code.

In the Occupation, she translated a wide variety of documents such as Japanese Army documents (orders), medical records of British POWs and the history of the War in the Philippines.

During their four years in the Occupation, several [former] WAVES taught a group of young men English informally, welcomed them into their homes, and seven of the students kept in touch afterwards. They named the group the "Lambs Club". I think it was because the students thought the nursery rhyme was "Mary had a little 'lion'." Several of the men went on to distinguished careers in Japan.

Martha Leipziger-Pearce

Reprise on Norman Meller

I personally wanted to thank you for everything you have done for me. Legally blind, I am not able to dot my I's or cross my T's and cannot see what I am writing, so I hope this letter is legible for you to read [I responded that her writing was more legible than many of the university students I graded back in graduate school].

I assume Noreen Watanabe wrote in Norman's article [Norman Meller's obituary] you are going to soon print that he spent a year at Waseda University in the International Department (I believe 1968-9) [Noreen reads the newsletter to Terza each month]. He taught a class. Years later he was lecturing at the University of Hiroshima on several occasions. When your students come next summer [Two of our student archivists will be performing archival work at the USS Arizona Memorial for 10 weeks in summer 2008], be sure to have them let me know.

Warmest Alohas
Terza Meller
November 15, 2007

COMMENTS FROM OUR PROOFREADER

Now to talk about names mentioned in this set of newsletters [Issues #139-#149, recently (12/11/07) received back from him with corrections]. I think I studied under Grace [not then Grayce] Nakasone. John Thompson is [was] a fellow Geographer. I knew Allen Smith in connection with my Pacific Science Board studies on Okinawa (1953-1954). It was Norman Meller whom I knew for 24 years, and never tumbled to his having Japanese and Boulder experience. I knew he was a strong Pacific scholar at Manoa, and he gave me invaluable advice on handling State bureaucrats when I was about to retire. A gentle, wonderful man indeed! Martin Bronfenbrenner I knew in my one year at the University of Pittsburgh, where I had meant to stay until paradise and heaven itself were offered to me at Hawai'i. I remember one long lunch I had with Seidensticker and Judge Samuel King, Jr. at the King Street Bakery in Honolulu.

Bob Scalapino I see almost every time I attend an East Asian function in Berkeley. A few years ago someone there said that his expertise was worth at least two divisions to the Pentagon. Of course, you already know that I had frequent lunches in Berkeley with Charles Hamilton, often with a visiting

Seidensticker. Ed Neville and I were in grad school together at the University of Michigan Field Station in Okayama, Japan (August 1951-March 1952). And when in Okinawa I was part of a three-man team with Bill Lebra (Army Japanese training) and Wayne Suttles, recently deceased. I had lunch with Wayne in Seattle in 1997 during an AAAS annual meeting.

I have met Donald Keene at AAS meetings over the years. Many more mentioned in *The Interpreter* in previous issues I have met and conversed with on random occasions. A large number were Army trainees from Yamagiwa's factory in Ann Arbor. From 1947 to 1950 I was a student of Yamagiwa, and a colleague of his as it were, and my own professors, on an ad hoc water polo team called The Flounders.

Forrest R. "Woody" Pitts
OLS 3/45

[Ed. Note: I have always found it fascinating that so many JLS/OLSers knew each other without realizing their connections. Quite often, I will receive word from someone that they saw an obit or article on someone they knew quite well and had absolutely no idea of their JLS/OLS connection. Gene Sosin knew many WAVES in DC without knowing they were Boulderites, so closed mouthed were those women about their language and Boulder training. It goes to show that JLS/OLSers kept their secrets quite well.]

Reprise on Bill Himel

The obituary of Mr. Himel, which I read today reminded me of a Boulderite in my class (March 15, 1944) of one David M. Earle, who was "invited to leave" (and sent more or less as "punishment" to the Naval Station at Farragut, Idaho). All of this was because his wife was a black lady (unacceptable at that time in the Navy). By the way, she was reported to be an excellent pianist. How times have changed.

William Hudson
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Unfortunately, as most of you know, until 1948 and Truman's Executive Order 9981, the Nation's military closely reflected the American society's racial and ethnic attitudes of: separation, compartmentalization, and discrimination, or Jim Crow,

Internment, ethnic ghettos and preferential residential, job and educational opportunities. My research on CU civil rights demonstrates that some of the first blows against these attitudes and practice were made between 1935 and 1945, when racial segregation began to be successfully challenged by liberal whites and minorities. The WWII generation, who began desegregation, was in charge to finish desegregation in the 1960s.]

Press Release:

Charles T. Cross Papers

The papers of Charles T. Cross, career diplomat and former Ambassador to Singapore, are now organized, preserved, and indexed with a complete finding guide for the convenience of visitors to the Archives. The processing of the Cross collection was completed in October, 2007, by Dr. Katherine Harris with funding from a Freeman Foundation grant.

Ambassador Cross was a graduate of the World War II era US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in Boulder. During the war he served as an interpreter and intelligence officer in the Marine Corps and participated in Marine Corps invasions in the Pacific, including Saipan, where he received the Bronze Star for bravery. After the war, Cross completed his formal education and entered the Foreign Service. His career led him to many important postings, including Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Vietnam. In retirement Cross began a second career as a Distinguished Lecturer in diplomacy at the University of Washington and also taught at other institutions.

In addition to his diplomatic papers and lectures on diplomacy, the collection contains Cross's private letters written home during World War II and his letters from Vietnam. The collection also holds the journals, letters, and reminiscences of Cross's parents, who both served as missionaries to China. Cross's published autobiography, *Born a Foreigner*, is included in the collection.

The Cross Collection was acquired and organized as part of

the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project at the Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries,

<<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/archives/collections/jlsp/index.htm>>.

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Article in *DACOR Bulletin*

Katherine Harris finished the Cross Collection in the fall of 2007. We put together the above press release to publicize the collection. One place we sent the release to was the *DACOR Bulletin* (Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired). Richard McKee, the editor, was happy to receive the release, as Chuck Cross is on their Board of Governors. I had an interesting exchange of emails with him, bringing to his attention the diplomatic contribution of JLS/OLSers in the Foreign Service. I told him to feel free to mine our newsletters on the web for material for his bulletin. I also offered to write an article for his publication (tough to keep it under 600 words). I pulled it together from obits and stories in the newsletter, which all of you have already read, and sent it off to him.

I hope all who were mentioned, as well as others whose names I was unable to come up with in short order, enjoyed reading the reference to the USN JLS/OLSers in the Foreign Service in their "other" newsletter.

David M. Hays
Archivist & Editor

Why a Linguist and not a Physicist?

I was interested in your editorial comment on the letter from Robert R. Brown in *The Interpreter* Issue # 119. I didn't know Robert Brown at Boulder (I graduated about when he entered), nor as a physicist later (I retired as Professor of Physics at Dartmouth in '87). But I can tell you how I "avoided Oak

Ridge, Lawrence, Los Alamos, or Chicago"--- perhaps making Brown's decision seem not so peculiar.

When I was an undergraduate at the U. of Chicago in 1942, my best friend had a part-time job in the "Metallurgy Project" under the West Stands, piling up graphite bricks. I had no idea why (nor did he), even though I was already focused on physics. But I had also enrolled in two or three Chinese courses, when a fellow student told me about JLS. Despairing of doing anything useful in physics during wartime, as a mere youth of 20, I traveled to Ann Arbor for a ten-minute interview with Cmdr. Hindmarsh. I evidently knew enough *hanzi* (*kanji*) to pass the test. The first time I was aware of an "atomic bomb" was in August 1945 when the language officers at Pearl Harbor were awakened at 3 AM and told to be ready to leave at 8 AM.

After three weeks at sea (my only shipboard experiences), I landed at Yokosuka August 29. My next nine months assigned to the Navy Liaison Office there afforded an experience of Japan that remained alive, though dormant, until I was able to travel to Japan again after my retirement.

Sincerely yours,
Robert W. Christy
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: After I wrote that note on the Brown article in #119, I had a sneaking suspicion that I would hear about it. Periodically, I lapse into an idealistic expectation that all with certain qualifications will be used according to their academic specialty. Then I remember, even if the Pentagon knew everyone's skill, they'd still use linguists as mess officers, and assign Polish Americans who knew Russian to Chinese courses, or send fluent Japanese speakers to German language training schools. We have heard so many of those stories. Of course, how could undergraduates in physics know about the super-secret Manhattan Project? Even with all of those atomic labs, they could not have used every math and physics major in the country, I suppose. Still, I wonder if there were recruiters for the nuclear projects touring the country as Hindmarsh and Shaw were recruiting for the USN JLS/OLS. I guess such recruiting could not have been nearly as public as the JLS process. Although the USN JLS/OLS was supposed to be

secret, it was the kind of secret that could be publicized in the Phi Beta Kappa Key, Life, and Colliers, as well as in the Silver and Gold, Knots & Fathoms, and local newspapers throughout Colorado.]

Dear Dave:

Thank you for your response. The episode that it recalled for me was pivotal in my life, leading to a lifelong interest in Japan, especially in its art. And I do not mind if you send my letter and your response to Robert R. Brown.

Incidentally, your speculation in your letter about the relation between math and language elicits another memory for me. After the war when I was a graduate student in physics at the U. of Chicago, I audited all of Rudolph Carnap's courses on the philosophy of science. These involved the basic role of language in logic, mathematics, physics, and science in general. They had a profound effect on my philosophy, though not on my study of Japanese---not just because they came after Boulder. But I think your suspicion may be right.

Robert W. Christy
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: I wrote Professor Christy that while I suspect that math, especially calculus, qualifies as language (a particularly foreign language for the likes of me), and that physicists probably make great linguists, I still find it interesting that career physicists served as language officers. But I was an art major-turned-history major, with poetic and literary leanings and I became a field artillery officer, and I cannot figure that out either.]

Brown Dog

Next, I was amazed to read the long letter from Robert R. Brown [#119, January 1, 2008]. Both Elmer Stone and I have been trying for years to get in touch with Bob, known to us as "Brown Dog". I had heard that he was back at Berkeley, but was unable to get any firm information from the University. Do you have any info on an address, phone or e-mail that you are allowed to release? We would much appreciate any information you could provide [I sent them his contact information from our address list.]

He was very committed to his study of physics, and would give us long dissertations on his work with a "cloud chamber" (well beyond our understanding)! We were having

enough trouble with *Nihongo* to go into astrophysics. Bob was, at that time, one of the youngest and most junior officers in the School, I was the senior student officer and both Elmer and I had more combat experience and direct contact with "the enemy" than any in the school. This fascinated "Brown Dog".

I hope that you are able to give us a hand on our search, and we can catch up with Bob in 2008. Again, thanks for all your hard work on our behalf and BEST WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR!

Semper Fi
Harry Pratt
OLS 1945

Stories About Ira A. Watson JLS 1944?

My father, Ira A. Watson, attended the Japanese Language School at Boulder before he was sent to New York for advanced training. He was stationed at JICPOA. I believe he was at Okinawa also. He did not talk much about his experiences, but I'm interested in learning more about the School and the people who attended during the time he was there. [I sent her a big packet of newsletters, entrance list and mailing list, along with articles. I also emailed her the JLS history by Professor Slesnick.]

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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. To donate, make your check out to the **University of Colorado**, writing **US Navy JLS Fund** on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address. It will go straight to our project.

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