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 onciliation programs after World War II.

The JLS Experience of T. Howell Breece

(Cont'd) More importantly, the enterprise was silly because of the Navy's race prejudice and snobbishness. There were vast numbers of Nisei in California whose Japanese was far better than that of the hakujin who were students at Boulder. The Army took such Nisei, trained them at its language school and sent them to the Pacific and eventually to Japan. But, the Navy was not going to have men or women with yellow skins as officers wearing its uniform [of course the Army did not commission its Niseil. It was the same attitude that limited men with black skin to serving as messmen and cooks. I never felt at ease in Japanese. I never learned to understand conversation in which three or four people were participating, where as I can understand such a conversation in Chinese as easily as if it were in English. I think the Navy would have been far better served by Nisei than it was by its Boulder graduates. Still, I am thankful that the Navy's prejudice kept me out of the Army. One can be killed in the Navy just as easily as in the Army, but until that moment the Navy is usually a more comfortable place to be.

And what have I done since I was discharged from the Navy? I certainly did nothing that required any knowledge of Japanese. After a few months in an import-export firm. I taught remedial English at University of California for two years, after which I taught English, French and history in community colleges California. My employer from 1950-1982 was the College of Marin, the Community College of Marin County, whose southern Boundary is the north side of the Golden Gate.

senile Since macular degeneration makes writing difficult and reading almost impossible for me, my wife Joan has kindly written all this down from my dictation. She is not the same wife that was with me in Boulder, Washington, DC, from whom I was divorced in 1955. Joan and I have been happily married since 1956. We have two sons, now 44 and 42, and my oldest son, now 58 [as of 2002], the one who was born in Boulder, lived with us until he started university. That son is a San Francisco lawyer, our older son is a school teacher and arborist, and our younger son is a biochemical engineer. addition to thanks to my wife for writing this all down. I owe thanks to Ms. Kelly Smith, my lawyer son's secretary, for typing the manuscript.

> T. Howell Breece JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: I regret that it took so long to get this story in The Interpreter, but in 2002, we were not posting 15 page memoirs. Thanks go to Mr. Breece for recently bringing this story to our attention.]

James M. Wells

30 Years at the Newberry 56 years a Caxtonian And Enjoying Every Minute

Every few years during Wells' tenure other institutions tried to absorb the Newberry.

"The University of Chicago tried to get us to move south repeatedly," he said.

"But that would have violated the terms of the Newberry bequest. We were a northside institution, built with funds acquired by selling off land that is now Northwestern law school and Northwestern hospital."

Among the many Newberry publications with which he was involved, Wells particularly remembers two: USiana, by Wright Howes (discussed by John Blew in his January, 2007 luncheon talk) and the Bewick portfolio done with R. Hunter Middleton. "USiana was our most successful book ever," he crowed. "We actually made money on it!" The Bewick project was a labor of love on the part of Middleton.

He printed 100 Bewick blocks belonging to the Newberry (81 of which he had given to the Newberry; the remaining 19 had been acquired by Wells predecessor Ernst Detterer) in a double portfolio, including an essay by Wells.

In 1976-77, Wells was the Sandars Reader in Bibliography at Cambridge. Wells retired from the Newberry in the early '80s. He has been pleased with how his retirement turned out. His investments proved wise, and his health has held up (though with a few complaints of late). He particularly endorses charitable gift annuities, in which you make a donation to an institution (the Newberry, say, or the Art Institute) and they agree to pay you something every year in return.

Although his job required every-other year trips to Europe, in retirement Wells has traveled even more. He still visits London and Paris, as he did on business.

But he has also managed to visit Turkey, Greece, Egypt, and Spain—places not on the normal book-buying circuit. Every winter there is a warm six weeks in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. In September, there is frequently a week spent in Maine with Marian Bowman.

Wells has had time to read his books, as well. Although not a "collector," Wells saw to it that he regularly received first editions of his favorite authors. (He mentioned Anthony Powell, Willa Cather, Kingsley Amis, and Muriel Spark, but I had the sense that this was the tip of the iceberg because he says he gets some 100 books annually. In recent years, however, he has tried to divest himself of at least 300 books per year, often through the Newberry book sale.)

He has found he has time to help some private collectors, as well. He mentioned Sam and Marie-Louise Rosenthal, who also became close personal friends. And he has continued to write for such publications as *The Book Collector* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. (to be cont'd)

Robert McCamant The Caxtonian Vol. XV, No. 9 September 2007

An EAA Interview with Houghton Freeman

(Cont'd) **Lynn Parisi**: What were the circumstances of AIU's establishment of Asia operations in Japan?

Houghton Freeman: Before the war, the Japanese had not allowed AIU into the country. We rode in on the coattails of the Occupation because the US government invited AIU to provide services there. Our first mission was the provision of auto, life, and homeowners insurance to SCAP (Supreme

Command Allied Powers) and to GIs. That was all we were allowed to do until the peace treaty in 1952.

Then, we applied for a license to go into the Japanese market. We had a long struggle to establish ourselves. We studied the Japanese insurance industry to see what they were and were not doing, and where we could offer something better. We found that they had an inherently poor auto policy that made it mandatory for drivers to bear one third of the cost of any damages. This put them in a position of having to negotiate with somebody they had just run over. We found that the newly emerging car owners in Japan didn't like this any better than we would. We introduced the standard American policy, where insurance company the negotiates all claims, and this understandably became very popular. We built a client base from which we then sold other coverage, including accident and health insurance. Japan Travel Bureau adopted AIU as its travel insurer, and then everyone bought it as part of a trip package. Japan has been our largest overseas office for many vears.

Lynn Parisi: As a major corporation in Japan during the Occupation, AIU contributed to US business policy and Japan's economic reconstruction in the 1950s. What is your overall assessment of Occupation policy in Japan.

Houghton Freeman: I think the US Occupation of Japan will go down in history as very and Ι successful, think MacArthur is due much of the credit. He was stern, and on the whole, had good advisors. SCAP certainly was a bureaucracy. We know: we had to deal with them. As business people, we did not want to go to SCAP for anything. They were dictatorial, arrogant, and difficult, but I think overall, did a good job. Of course, SCAP didn't face the internal divisions and problems we see in Iraq today. Japan was a homogeneous society, and that made SCAP's work that much

Lynn Parisi: At about the time you were setting up AIU in Japan, SCAP was embarking on

what is termed the "reverse course" – returning leaders who had been purged from government and industry immediately after the war to positions of power. How did you view this Occupation policy at the time?

Houghton Freeman: We hired one of those purged leaders, Sakai Suzuki, the former head of the largest Japanese insurance company - Tokio Marine and Fire. He had been purged because he was a director of the large Mitsubishi zaibatsu. You know, a war criminal becomes a war criminal when his side loses a war. I don't feel so strongly about the issue of the prime minister's visiting Yasukuni Shrine. If we had lost the war, would Bush visiting Arlington Cemetery National controversial? It's all relative. Victors write history and name the war criminals. **SCAP** eventually became more pragmatic. Generally. letting surviving Japanese leaders come back helped the Occupation.

Lynn Parisi: While in Shanghai recently, I read that AIG was the first western company to relocate on the Bund in the 1990s. AIG's reestablishment there must have been a significant event for you personally and professionally. What was the process by which AIG was able to reestablish in China, and why was reestablishing AIG in Shanghai important?

Houghton Freeman: AIG CEO Hank Greenberg was one of the most far-sighted executives with whom I have ever worked. In the 1970s, he wanted to get back into China, and he had political clout to help make it happen. We finally received an invitation to talk about this from the People's Insurance Company -- PICC. That was 1979: it had been thirty vears since we had been forced to leave. Six of us went to Beijing to meet with the PICC to seek a dialog with them. These were still very early days and Beijing was very communist, with Mao statues, Mao quotations on billboards, everyone wearing Mao jackets, and so on. I hadn't spoken Chinese in umpteen years, and I was back in the city where I was born. I remember speaking halting Chinese with

assigned driver on the way in from the airport. That was the last we saw of that driver. They thought we were getting too friendly and transferred him. (to be cont'd)

Education About **ASIA**Vol. 12, No. 2
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Euan Gamewell Davis 1915-2007

Euan Gamwell Davis, JLS 1944, of Falmouth Foreside, Maine and Ft. Myers, Florida, passed away after a brief illness of December 14, 2007 at Shell Point Village, Ft. Myers at the age of 92.

Euan was born August 17, 1915 at Tai An, China. His father, George Lowry Davis, and mother, Irma Rardin Davis, served as Methodist missionaries in China, as did Euan's grandparents. He attended the American School in Peking. He returned Brookline. to Massachusetts at the age of 12. He graduated from Newton High School, and graduated from Bowdoin College, class of 1937, where he was on the varsity football team and a member of Zeta Psi Fraternity.

Euan went to work for City Bank of New York in Shanghai, China upon graduation and he particularly enjoyed rowing crew [see Issue #134]. During the War he attended the US Navy Japanese Language School, Class of 1944. He served with distinction in World War II as the Health Officer on the Island of Tinain in the Marianas [See Issues #112, #120, #145, #147-#151]. After the War, he was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency. He retired as Director of the National Indications Center in 1974 and received an award for Career Achievement. He published several articles in the journal, Studies in Intelligence.

During his career with the federal government he and his family lived in Herndon, Virginia and the Washington, DC Area from 1947-1974. He and his family lived in Tokyo, Japan when he was stationed at the Tachikawa Air Force base from 1963 to 1966. Upon his retirement he and his wife Harriet moved to Claremont,

Virginia, in Surry County from 1974 to 1983. He then moved to Falmouth Foreside, Maine in 1983 and wintered at Shell Point Village, Fort Myers, Florida from 1988.

Euan was a lifetime supporter of Bowdoin College where he provided scholarships for students. In Herndon, he was a member of the Rotary Club, and very involved with the Herndon Methodist Church. In Claremont. he was a Deacon of the local Episcopal Church, helped found and support the mobile library of Surry County, and instrumental in bringing the first medical clinic to the County. He served as a volunteer for several community organizations in Falmouth. He was generous with his family and he volunteered extensively in his communities.

Euan was an avid reader, a life-long student of China and of foreign affairs. His acute mind was filled with detailed historical experiences which he shared eagerly and with great enthusiasm. He was also a master punster.

Euan will be fondly remembered by his wife, Nancy Bennett Davis, of Falmouth Foreside, Maine and Ft. Myers, Florida, and her five children and fifteen grandchildren. He will be joyfully remembered and deeply missed by daughter Harriet Ann Davis of Weedsport, New York, and daughters and their spouses Catherine Gamewell Bridwell (R. Kennedy Bridwell) of Brookside, New Jersey, Leslie Lowry Davis Yamada (Tadataka Yamada) of Seattle, Washington, and Deborah Gilbert Davis Harris (Jack Dash Harris) of Geneva, New York. He will be sorely missed by his grandchildren Cory Rardin Bridwell Sells (David Jared Sells), Christpher Craighead Bridwell, Sanae Yamada, Jared Davis Harris (Hannah Delles), Takao Yamada, Emily Herrick Bridwell, Alexander Euan Harris (fiancé Sally Gasper), Caitlin Sonya Harris, and great grandson Justin Delles Harris. He will also be deeply missed by his cousin Agnes Davis Green who shared childhoods with Euan in China and careers in the CIA.

Euan was predeceased by his parents, George and Irma, sister Juliet, his wife Harriet Gilbert Davis, wife Ruth Baily Davis, his son George Scott Davis, infant son Jared Davis, brotherin-law George Gaylord Gilbert of Asheville, North Carolina, and brother-and sister-in-law Harmon Herrick Gilbert and Catherine Motion Gilbert of Northbrook, Illinois.

Provided by Nancy Bennett Davis

[Writer's Note: My husband, Euan Davis, attended the Japanese Language School during World War II Euan valued his experiences at the Language School very highly.]

[Ed. Note: We have enjoyed his lively accounts of his JLS and Shanghai experiences. Regrettably, he had yet to see some of his stories in print.]

The Story of "Tony" Komesu & Masatoshi Uehara

Roger Pineau was deeply interested in Okinawa, its history, arts and people. During one of his visits he engaged the services of a younger Okinawan to help him find his way about the island.

This was Masatoshi Uehara, who was the son of an Okinawan couple who were teachers in a Japanese school in Korea when the war ended. This was while Korea was still controlled by the Japanese. It was some time after the end of the war when the family was repatriated to Okinawa. As Uehara said, had his family been at home in Okinawa during the war they might not be alive 1945. Uehara was Roger's "Man Friday" during his successive visits to Okinawa. Uehara was also an investigative reporter, specializing in the Okinawan war. He wrote articles in news papers, magazines and also wrote a couple books. He became interested in writing an article about an American hero of the war and asked Roger for a suggestion. Roger said he personally knew one, a decorated Marine officer with whom he had studied Japanese in the US Navy's Japanese Language School, Glen Slaughter. When told of this, Slaughter said he was no hero, and only did his duty. For a real war hero, Slaughter said Uehara should

find Komesu Seiichi, a civilian who had helped Slaughter and his fellow Marine Language Officer, Glenn Nelson, save many Okinawan lives by getting them out of the caves and holes where they were hiding. The people inside could understand the Americans' pleas that they come out, but detected the foreigners' accent and hesitated. recognized Slaughter problem and recruited Komesu from a civilian internment camp to come out and help us. When Komesu spoke into caves in authentic Japanese, identifying himself and familiar locations, many came out. If there were Japanese troops in the cave they would usually not allow anyone to go out and would blow everyone up. Komesu stayed with us all the way down to the end of the island and the war. Since he was dark and swarthy we nicknamed him "Tony". We fitted him out in a Marine uniform with a black INTERPRETER armband but told him always to stay near Glen or me since he did not speak English and might be mistaken for an infiltrator by some suspicious Marine. Uehara made an intensive search but Komesu is a common name in Okinawa so he was unable to find the right one. Asked for any further clues, Glen said he remembered that Tony had told us that he was a baseball player in his youth and had been called the "Babe Ruth Okinawa". When Uehara mentioned this to a sports writer, the sports writer said that he remembered Komesu as having been a great player, Uehara was then able to find Tony, who told him that he had indeed worked with Slaughter and Nelson all the way to the end of the island and the war. Uehara found that Tony was living in rather straitened circumstances, alienated from his who, Uehara learned, had opposed his leaving his family to work for the Americans. Over time, Uehara was able to reconcile him with one of his sons and they found more comfortable quarters for him. [Glenn is gone, too]

Glenn Nelson JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Komesu "Tony" Seiichi is mentioned in issues #45, \$49, #58, #70 and #154. We were notified that "Tony" Komesu passed away on June 18, 2003 by Glen Slaughter.]

S. Paul Kramer 93; Writer, Secret Agent, Businessman

S. Paul Kramer, 93, who died April 6 at Sibley Memorial Hospital of congestive heart failure, was a secret agent during wartime, a businessman in postwar Latin America and a bon vivant in Georgetown. He also was a writer and raconteur with a cache of stories so rich they bordered on the unbelievable.

Family members and old friends among the Georgetown elite grew accustomed to hearing accounts that featured such real-life characters as Nelson Rockefeller, three American presidents, a would-be Nazi assassin, a Panamanian revolutionary, the last emperor of China and, of course, a suave young secret agent from Cincinnati. He provided details in a lively and engaging memoir called "Memories of a Secret Agent," self-published at age 91.

Mr. Kramer began his career in what he called "hugger-muggery" -clandestine service -- in 1940, at the completion of his studies at Trinity College at Cambridge University. A professor who was aware of his fluency in Spanish and his dissertation on Latin America recommended him for a mysterious job involving Rockefeller, the FBI and British intelligence. professor believed the young man's experience with Cambridge Footlights also would come in handy. Insinuated onto the Rockefeller payroll, he was assigned to keep an eye on U.S. companies doing business in Latin America that were suspected of having Axis leanings. Officially, he was part of the press operation of the newly created Office for Coordination of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics. headed by Rockefeller; clandestine task was ferreting out German, Russian and Japanese informants in the press office. Later he was assigned to shadow the Duke of Windsor when the former king came to Washington to confer about importing fresh tomatoes. He was to note any pro-Axis or suspicious conduct when the duke, known for his fascist inclinations, ventured outside the British Embassy. He detected none.

Mr. Kramer also moved into the downtown YMCA to befriend a young German who called himself Kurt Schmidt. The FBI believed the Nazis had dispatched the Milwaukeeborn German citizen to Washington

to assassinate President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After a few weeks' acquaintance, Mr. Kramer handed him over to an FBI agent but never learned his fate. His work, he wrote decades later, "contributed to the imprisonment, execution, murder, defection, disappearance and suicide of more people than I care to remember."

Simon Paul Kramer was born to wealth in Cincinnati. His father was one of the first neurosurgeons in the United States and an expert on psittacosis, also known as parrot fever. His mother was an heiress of the Halle department store fortune in Cleveland. The only thing she ever bequeathed her son, other than a trust fund that made him financially independent, was a \$5 tie.

"I felt no genuine affection for either of them," he wrote of his parents.

He graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 1935, received a master's degree from Trinity College in modern European history and embarked on his career in espionage. Becoming a Navy officer in 1942, he learned Japanese at the Navy's language school at the University of Colorado in Boulder and spent the war years in the South Pacific and then Japan.

In September 1945, he single-handedly occupied the Japanese city of Kokura. As Mr. Kramer told the story, the 126th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army was supposed take control of the northern industrial city, but because of an orders mix-up, only Mr. Kramer showed up.

Fortunately, he was fluent in Japanese and possessed a sense of humor. So did the Kokura mayor, who was a retired general and former member of the Imperial Household. The two men got on famously until the occupying army arrived five days later.

Mr. Kramer also acquainted with Prince Chichibu, the Japanese emperor's younger brother, who told him about Henry Pu Yi, the last emperor of China. Years later, Mr. Kramer acquired Pu Yi's edited autobiography, the voluminous work and had it published under the title "The Last Manchu." When Bernardo Bertolucci made his 1987 film, "The Last Emperor," based on the book, the paperback version became a bestseller.

Mr. Kramer joined the CIA after his discharge from the Navy in 1947 and worked primarily in Latin America. He left the agency in 1951. He ran several Latin American corporations but continued to frequent the shadows as an "illegal," a spy who operates outside established channels.

In 1959, he was living in Panama as head of the Panama Fisheries Corp.

when the Arias family launched a coup to oust the dictator Ernesto de la Guardia. Perhaps it was coincidental, perhaps not, that Mr. Kramer was a close friend of the coup leader, Robert "Tito" Arias, and his wife, Dame Margot Fonteyn, a famed ballerina. She was briefly detained and then expelled from Panama for her role in the affair. Her husband managed to avoid arrest by fleeing in a shrimp boat provided by a source whose name Mr. Kramer declined to divulge.

A partner in Auerbach, Pollak and Richardson in New York and a consultant to the National Academy of Sciences, Mr. Kramer retired from work and espionage in the early 1960s. His inheritance and investments allowed him to spend the next four decades reading, writing, traveling and holding court in the salons of Georgetown.

His marriage to Mary Louise Belden Kramer ended in divorce.

Survivors include a daughter, Theresa Kramer of the District.

> Joe Holly Washington Post April 15, 2008; Page B07

[Ed. Note: As you all know, Paul Kramer was a frequent contributor and an enthusiastic supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project and the newsletter. Unfortunately, as is frequently the case, several of these stories will appear posthumously. We will miss him.]

Noel Leathers & Tom Smith On Iwo Jima & Saipan

(Cont'd) [On Saipan, see Issue #157] I have to admit the successes [of our attempts to convince Japanese soldiers and civilians to come out of their caves] were limited to a small number. The Japanese had so indoctrinated them into believing they would be tortured and killed by the Americans they were terrified. Consequently, after some time had elapsed and the front lines were moving forward the orders were given to close the entrances. Some apparently survived and emerged for several months after the island had been secured. But many needlessly.

The events at Marpi Point again emphasized how effective was the enemy indoctrination about how terribly the soldiers and civilians would be treated by the Americans. More than a thousand civilians holding their children in their arms leapt to

their deaths on the rocky shore 1500 feet below, rather than risk capture. We found the Fire Chief of Garapan, placed him in plain view with a bull horn on a small boat close to shore to try and show the people that it was okay and that they would be treated with kindness: all with very limited success.

Our unit had set up a perimeter defense near the northern end of the island that evening and one of the prisoners taken turned out to be a Manchurian physician who had graduated from the University of Mukden and was assigned to Saipan. We had an American doctor named Stewart who said he wanted to talk with the Manchurian doctor. When he found out that he was a chest surgeon, Stewart was quite interested in comparing notes as to the kind of training and techniques used in Manchuria. I had the humbling experience of trying to act as interpreter for at least an hour or two that night. Fortunately, the doctors were able to understand most of the content and through signs grasped the ideas they were exchanging. (to be cont'd)

> Noel L. Leathers OLS 5/14/45

Thoughts on S. Paul Kramer

S. Paul Kramer was at the Japanese Language School at Boulder the same time I was.

We first met because we have the same initials-SPK-and our laundry got mixed up. It turned out that his brother, Victor Kramer, was an instructor at Yale Law School when I was there. Paul and I became best friends at the Boulder school and remained such thereafter. He was a rare individual.

Samuel P. King JLS 1944

JLOs & Field Training

I found Grant Goodman's America's Japan to be interesting reading and I particularly enjoyed the insights it gave me to the Michigan JAL program. Michigan apparently provided a surprising amount of

military field training to its students whereas many of us from Boulder went on to more intelligence training with little or no field training before participating in the Okinawa campaign – as it turned out, we could have used some field training [absolutely no doubt about that].

John McCubbin JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: I agree with Mr. McCubbin, the Interpreter stories about non and ill-field trained Navy and Marine JLOs raise the hair on the back of this former Field Artillery officer's neck: little or no marksmanship or weapons training; little or no tactical training; no leadership training. The Navy and Marines may have known they wanted to place their JLOs in HQ with little need for tactical, unit, or weapons training. They may also have known that the JLOs needed to spend all their training time on learning the Japanese language. However, with Marine JLOs and Navy JLO volunteers sent to Marine divisions, regiments and battalions on island campaigns, one Marine Lieutenant or Navy JG looks like another and the expectation would be that they all would know Marine weapons and tactics. Too late at that point to say you don't, I would guess.]

CATCHING UP
with John Dowling
Retired Dean
Immersed in History
within a
House of Books



John C. Dowling, JLS 1944, USNR

In October 2002, Dean Emeritus John Clarkson Dowling and his wife, Constance, left Athens following Dowling's academic career that spanned 45 years.

Their move was complicated by 100 cartons including ancient texts-the rare and finely bound books the bibliophiles lovingly collected and curated over a lifetime. The collection mirrored Dowling's exceptional life as a Romance languages scholar. The books powerfully showcased his love of Spanish literature, especially drama and poetry. The physical presence of these carefully chosen books exemplified one of his favorite lines from the Spanish poet Bécquer, "por una mirada, un mundo..." By a glance, a world.

The Dowlings' oldest book, a Historia d'Italia by Guicciardini, is dated 1623. According to Constance Dowling, a former librarian, it once belonged to Canovas de Castillo, a 19th-century Spanish statesman. The moving cartons contained books spanning from the 15th century until 1835. This was the cut-off date, Constance explained, as "1835 is when Spanish book publishing was modernized."

Today, the pair of book lovers is resettled in Williamsburg, Virginia and their books occupy an extraordinary and compact living library. The Dowlings' tidy and lightfilled home features 14 7-foot bookcases, and two dozen smaller ones. One tall case holds rare books from the 17th through the 19th century. (to be cont'd)

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