

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

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Our Mission

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

An EAA Interview with Houghton Freeman

(Cont'd) **Lynn Parisi:** *What do you see as the future for US-China economic collaboration?*

Houghton Freeman:

Economically, China is the country to watch. China has 1.3 billion people – the foundation for a huge market that we all see coming. The more you see, the more you realize that we had better watch our Ps and Qs, or they may have us for lunch. They are doing most of what we do. Now they are able to build and shoot down their own satellites. That's a wake up call. They still have lots and lots of problems, but their form of government may be better than ours for problem solving.

Lynn Parisi: *Moving to your philanthropic work, what was the impetus for creating a foundation with a strong emphasis on education about Asia? What pivotal experience molded or informed the direction the foundation would take?*

Houghton Freeman: My father's lifelong work and interest in Asia was the impetus. And, of course, I was born in China and took Doreen there in 1948. We also spent twenty years in Japan, so our lives have been in Asia. My children, too, were born and raised in Asia.

Dad and I had spoken generally about the direction the Foundation would take. Dad felt that Americans didn't understand Asia, and that there was some misunderstanding of the US on the Asian side, as well. That was before Asian students came to the US in great numbers. Now I think they understand us pretty well, but we still don't understand them. When you think that before Iraq, our three major wars were all in Asia with a different Asian country each time, it's easy to see there's a disconnect. So the main purpose of the Foundation now is to teach Americans more about Asia, and, to a lesser extent, the reverse.

The Foundation began after my father's death. He died in 1992, and I retired from AIG in 1993. The timing worked so that I moved directly from AIG to starting a new foundation. Doreen, three others and I had the founding meeting at our house in Stowe.

Lynn Parisi: *EAA readers may be most familiar with the Freeman Foundation's work in developing Asian studies programs and educational opportunities at the college and K-12 levels. The Freeman Foundation is also engaged in several heritage site restoration projects in China and Japan, among them, the Stilwell Museum. Can you tell us something about the restoration projects and why they are important to you and the Foundation?*

Houghton Freeman: About six years ago, we realized we had never been down the Yangzi and that we had better do that before it was dammed up. So we joined a Museum of Natural History tour. In Chongqing, we were the

only two people who took the option of visiting the Stilwell Museum. Stilwell is far better known in Chongqing than he is in the United States, and they credit him with keeping the Japanese out of Chongqing. The museum was at his old house, which I remembered well from World War II days, but it was a mess – dirty, selling Flying Tiger t-shirts, some photos, only half open. We went to see the person in charge at the municipal office. He knew the museum wasn't being run well, but they had little money. I felt that Chongqing and Stilwell had been so much a part of my life that I wanted the Foundation to aid in renovating the museum, so we offered a fifty percent match.

The Municipal Government exceeded their fifty percent, building a big parking lot, a museum extension, and a monument. They found an old desk and cot they say were Stilwell's – but who knows? It's now a very nice municipal museum. Both Western and Chinese tours now include it. For the opening ceremony, we invited Stilwell's grandson, a retired US Army colonel, and his family, to attend as our guests.

We have a project similar to the Stilwell Museum in Japan – we are restoring these little Buddhist convents that the Imperial Family and other leading families originated and then had to give up when State Shintō was established. They are gorgeous little places. I think there are fourteen of them. This is one of our son Graeme's special interests. One little nunnery has a ginkgo tree that was planted in 1492. The US is so young, we don't appreciate or even realize the long histories of other countries – it's a wonderful connection to make with students. (to be cont'd)

Education About **ASIA**

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CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARINES

Dear Aubrey [Farb]:

While we were enjoying our Christmas Cruise in the Gulf of Chihli, the troops back in Tsingtao were served turkey dinners. When we got ashore several of us went to one of our favorite local restaurants. The head man there was a giant fat Chinese in a black gown and skull cap, looking like he just stepped out of a "Terry and the Pirates" strip. He and his staff could whip up anything, Chinese or American. My special was steak and eggs. The steak was always good, but I never asked where it came from [*good idea*].

One evening at the O Club, I sat next to a Navy Lt. at the bar. He said that he was a pilot from a carrier in the harbor and was ashore in China for the first time. He said he was desperate for some sort of war souvenir to show the folks back home and asked if I had any suggestions. I said I had a couple Nambu pistols and would perhaps part with one.



He practically jumped off his stool and asked what I wanted for one.



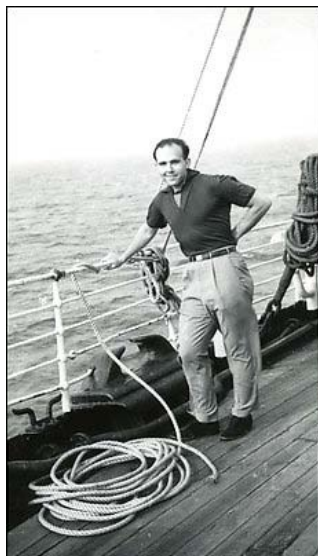
B-3 Willis & Geiger Flight Jacket

While I thought about it he said that rather than money maybe I'd like a flight jacket - the big leather sheepskin-lined jacket.

The deal was closed with two happy swappers. North China was frigid and the jacket was less cumbersome than the parkas. Not sure if I'd be considered out of uniform I checked with my chief, G2 Col. Williams. He said that he didn't know of any reg prohibiting this, even though I wasn't a pilot. I eventually took the jacket home and wore it there when the Washington DC area got cold enough.

*Semper Fi
Glenn Nelson
JLS 1944*

Wartime Work Forged Love of Japanese Culture



Bryan M. Battey shown aboard a ship in the 1940s. (Family Photos)

[See obituary of Bryan Battey in Issue #161] Barely two years out of Sidwell Friends School, Bryan M. Battey was sent to Colorado to learn to speak and read Japanese. He was one of a select group of college students asked to undertake an intensive program during World War II to learn the languages of the nation's enemies.

Mr. Battey had been valedictorian of the class of 1942 at Sidwell Friends and seemed to do everything well. He was class president four years in a row, editor of the school literary magazine, and he could play half a dozen musical instruments at a

near-professional level. While in high school, he was invited to go on the road as a guitarist with trumpeter Harry James.

Instead, Mr. Battey went to Dartmouth College, where after two years he was admitted to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society -- which is how he found himself sitting in the mess hall of a Navy Officer Candidate School in New York in October 1944.

With the outcome of the war still in doubt, top students were recruited to study Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Indonesian and Malay at the Navy language school at the University of Colorado. For reasons he never knew, Mr. Battey was chosen for the intensive 14-month program in Japanese. Because the Navy's requirements were so rigorous, Dartmouth awarded Mr. Battey a degree, even though he never returned to campus. His training kept him off the front lines.

"We were tested regularly," he wrote in a private memoir. "Motivation was high. Failure meant Okinawa, or Iwo Jima."

Mr. Battey's early studies led to a lifelong passion for the Japanese language and culture, which he retained long after his career in the Foreign Service ended. By the time he died May 6, 2008 in Asheville, N.C., of congestive heart failure at age 84, Mr. Battey had taught the Japanese language to thousands of U.S. residents, from preschoolers to working professionals.

"He really fell in love with the culture," said his son Robert Battey. "He enjoyed *kanji*, or written Japanese, and took joy in explaining the language."

In 1946, Mr. Battey's newly acquired linguistic skills brought him back to Washington, where he spent a year translating industrial documents. He then wrote advertising copy and moonlighted as a jazz musician until his former Navy commander invited him to join a new federal agency called the Central Intelligence Group. In 1947, it was renamed the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Battey never fully described his work at the CIA, but his family recalls that he learned Russian and Georgian and translated Joseph Stalin's intercepted phone calls. By 1952,

Mr. Battey had moved on to the U.S. Information Agency, and for five years during the 1950s he directed the American Cultural Center in Tokyo.

With his fluency in Japanese, his interest in the arts and his outgoing manner, he flourished as something of a U.S. cultural impresario. He brought American artists and scholars to Japan a mere decade after the end of World War II, bridging what had once seemed an insuperable gap between the countries.

"His unique, multi-layered personality endeared him to all, and he made countless friends for his country," retired ambassador William Sherman, a onetime colleague of Mr. Battey's, wrote in an e-mail.

While he was in Washington from 1958 to 1967, Mr. Battey worked for Edward R. Murrow, who was director of the U.S. Information Agency from 1961 to 1964. Mr. Battey had later postings to Saigon and Tokyo before retiring in 1974.

In 1973, Mr. Battey settled in Arlington County, where he began to concentrate on his other early passion: music. Entirely self-taught, he mastered the piano, guitar, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, viola and accordion and had an encyclopedic memory for songs. He often performed at Washington area hotels, restaurants and weddings.

"He could not walk by a piano, whether in our house or in somebody else's or in a hotel, without playing it," said his son Robert, a cellist and contributor of music reviews to The Washington Post. "If there was a keyboard visible, he would sit down and start playing."

Mr. Battey and his first wife, dance critic Jean Battey Lewis, divorced in the late 1960s but remained "the model of post-divorce cordiality and cooperation," in their son's words. She is the mother of his four children.

After a brief second marriage, Mr. Battey and his third wife, singer Torrey Baker, ran a vocal studio in Arlington -- he provided the piano accompaniment -- until her death in 1982. He then lived in Florida and Pennsylvania before settling

in Asheville about 15 years ago with his fourth wife, Jean Horton Battey.

Until the end of his life, Mr. Battey continued to play jazz, write poetry and teach Japanese, never giving up hope that music and language could bring the world closer.

"He could relate to people of any age," his son Robert said. "He was all about communication, and the way it happened, whether it was *kanji* or language or music."

*Matt Schudel
Washington Post
Sunday, July 13, 2008; C08*



Willard H. Elsbree

Willard H. Elsbree of Grosvenor Street, Athens, Ohio, died Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at his home among family and friends. Known by his family nickname of Wid, he was 87 years old; he died after a 9-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Professor Elsbree had been a professor in the Ohio University Government Department from 1952 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1990. He served as chair of the department, later renamed the Political Science Department, from 1963 to 1968, and again from 1975 to 1976. During this time he brought a lasting spirit of congeniality to the department.

Born in the upstate New York hamlet of Preston Hollow on Dec. 25, 1920, he attended grade school in a one-room schoolhouse and was valedictorian of his class at Greenville Free Academy. He attended Dartmouth College and then Harvard University, working on his father's farm

during the summers, and receiving his bachelor's degree magna cum laude in 1941.

Professor Elsbree joined the U.S. Navy in 1942 and was sent to its Japanese Language School at Boulder, CO. In early 1944 he went to Pearl Harbor where he was in the translation section of the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area (JICPOA) with the 5th Marine Division. He served as an interpreter in the Pacific, including day 3 of the Battle of Iwo Jima. After the war he was flown to Yokosuka, Japan with the 4th Marine Regiment and ended his military service in the spring of 1946.

Professor Elsbree returned to Harvard where he earned his Ph.D. in government in 1952. Harvard University Press published his doctoral dissertation in 1953. Entitled *Japan's Role in Southeast Asian Nationalist Movements, 1940 – 1945*, the book was considered the first major work on the Japanese wartime occupation of Southeast Asia and was republished in 1965 and 1970, and was cited by many authors on Southeast Asia as a basic reference. He was also the co-author of *Representative Government in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970, 1955.

In later years prestigious grants and fellowships enabled him to conduct research in Japan, the Philippines and India. Ohio University President John C. Baker chose Professor Elsbree to accompany him and serve as an expert consultant at UNESCO conferences in Geneva, Switzerland in 1953 and 1955.

Although his scholarly specialty was governments and politics of Asia, he also taught a wide variety of other courses in comparative government and international relations. At all levels - university, college, and department - Dr. Elsbree served on committees, panels, and task forces too numerous to mention, often as chairperson. He was also actively engaged as member and officer in Faculty Senate affairs and in many distinguished professional organizations.

Not only because of his acknowledged professional competence but also due to his personality, integrity, and

balanced judgment, Professor Elsbree was for many decades an influential and highly valued member of his department and of the university community at large. His unique ability to command respect and trust from both students and fellow-faculty of different ages, ranks, fields of study, and political persuasions was legendary and much appreciated. Willard H. Elsbree will be greatly missed and long remembered.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bayard and Lyra Hubbard Elsbree of Preston Hollow, NY; his brother, Hugh of Chevy Chase, MD; his sister Marjorie Elsbree Pacey of Preston Hollow; and a niece, Jane Pacey (William) Chaleff of East Hampton, NY.

He is survived by nephews and nieces, including David (Patricia) Elsbree of Greenville, NY; John (Anne) Elsbree, of N. Bethesda, MD; Susan (Anthony) Torre of Sun City Center, FL; Hugh (Nancy) Pacey of Cincinnati; Mary Pacey (Steven Shultz), of Carmel, CA; over 30 great nephews and nieces, great-great nephews and nieces and cousins; and godsons Chris Jennings of Washington, D.C.; Eric Jennings of Athens, OH; and Tom Jennings of New York, NY. He is also survived by many loving friends in Athens, Preston Hollow and Sanibel, FL.

www.jagersfuneralhome.com
& David M. Hays
Editor & Archivist

[Ed. Note: Professor Elsbree was a long-time supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project and a scholar of East Asian political science. He will be missed.]

Reprise on David Osborne

I read the short biography of David Osborne with a great sense of disappointment. I am sure that every fact given is accurate, but the article did not in the least suggest what this extraordinary man was like [The data came from a biographical sketch for a manuscript collection at another institution. So yes, there was not much character flesh on the factual bones.].

First of all, despite his birth in Indiana, he was very much an Arkansan. He grew up in a small town where his father was a preacher. The father was seldom given money; instead, he received vegetables, pigs, anything that his parishioners could afford. This meant that there was no money for books. David heard that the Braille Society in Chicago would send books free to blind children, so he learned Braille and educated himself through this medium.

[At the USN JLS] he did not remain in at the Bastille for his whole stay in Boulder [None of them did. The Navy got wind of how much unauthorized fun they were having and removed them to the Men's Dorm.]. I remember a friend saying he had knocked on Dave's door in the Men's Dormitory. He opened the door on a dark room. He asked what Dave was doing. "Reading a book," was the answer. He had not forgotten his Braille.

Another anecdote. After the end of the war, there were surrender ceremonies on many islands. One island (I forget where) refused to surrender. Dave had a bright idea. He would go to the island and persuade the commander that the war had ended and it was appropriate to surrender. He accordingly went in a small boat fairly close to the island, then swam the rest of the way. He must have been quite a sight when he emerged from the water. He stood 6 foot 6 inches and was wearing only trunks. The Japanese did not fire on him, and he was able to meet the commander, who asked for some time [to consider], before responding. In the mean time he was offered refreshments. When the officer came back he said he could not surrender the island without the emperor's permission, but there would be no objection if the Americans wished to use the island for rest and recreation. When Dave swam back to the boat, the Japanese all waved goodbye.

Many more stories could be written about him. He deserves a full-length biography.

Donald L. Keene
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: We always appreciate any stories about JLS/OLsers, and would welcome any additions to these David Osborne stories.]

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

(Cont'd) Throughout the couple's sunroom, living room, studies and corridors, even spilling into bedrooms, the elegant volumes are carefully categorized within each case. Bullfighting posters from the Dowlings' trips to Spain, *objets d'art*,

Spanish-influenced furnishings and African batiks and mementos within the house hint of the Dowlings' frequent treks abroad.

Yet it is the Dowlings' books that beguile; the spines and bindings of their books are works of art in easy reach of eager fingertips. The texts are bound in every hue of leather from carmine red to the palest, creamiest gray. Each survived their intercontinental journeys in fine mettle.

The stupefying numbers of Spanish books represented on the shelves pertain to John Dowlings's field of study, Romance languages with an emphasis on Spanish literature. Many of the finest books within their collection were selected with the help of Spanish scholars in Madrid, where Dowling spent a year as a Guggenheim scholar and frequently returned to lecture and work.

One Version of Paradise: Bibliomania

The Dowlings' mutual obsession with books began early. John Dowling still owns the encyclopedia set he was given as a child. He once rescued an abandoned book from the gutter when he was a student at the University of Colorado. "It was a 'crib' volume of Caesar—an illegal possession in any Latin class," his wife wrote later in an article titled "Bibliomania". She added, "Alarmed, he took it back to his room and hid it—we still have it." She was delighted by the serendipitous way their

collecting evolved. They were people who amassed books rather than collecting them.

Constance Dowling began a library career in Gloversville, New York as a young girl working at the local Carnegie library for 30 cents an hour. Later, she earned graduate degrees in art history and library science. "When an academic becomes absorbed in a subject, he accumulates as much information as possible about it," she wrote. She took charge of their private collection and maintained catalogued notes.

John Dowling's fascination with the writings of Cervantes and José Zorilla is evidenced by the large number of books dealing with them both.

Yet there are notable exceptions among the stacks filling their two-story home. And it is this, the unexpected, which delights. While serving in Shanghai during World War II as a translator and interpreter, young Lt. John Dowling [USNR] found a pirated copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. He already owned an autographed copy of *Not I But the Wind*, originally given to his father in Taos, New Mexico by none other than the author Frieda Lawrence, widow of D. H. Lawrence. Naturally, "around these two books, a little collection of Lawrenciana is growing," Constance Dowling observed in "Bibliomania". She added, "as far as we are concerned, all books are desirable." Today, she locates a 1930 edition of *Mother Goose* given to her as a childhood Christmas present and opens it with a smile. It is still in admirable condition. "It might be valuable," she muses. The pair was destined to become collectors—or, as Constance Dowling corrects—amassers. (to be cont'd)

University of Georgia
Graduate School Magazine
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Pp. 20-23

A Great Christmas Wish

Dear James Jefferson, Esq.:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Enclosed is my book about your great exploit during

Okinawa War. Thanks to you and Glenn Nelson, Glen Slaughter and Roger Pineau, the book won this year's Book of the Year Award in Okinawa. I hope this news makes you happy. It proves that you accomplished one of the rarest task during war – to save the innumerable lives of the island people. For sake of them, I hereby express my sincere gratitude toward you.

May you stay forever young.

Masatoshi Uehara

[Ed. Note: Uehara, Masatoshi, 1943- 上原正稔, 1943-, Title *Okinawa-sen toppu shikuretto* = *Okinawa war confidential* / Uehara Masatoshi 沖縄戦トップシークレット: *Okinawa war confidential* / 上原正稔 Publisher Info Naha-shi: *Okinawa Taimususha*, 1995, 那覇市: 沖縄タイムス社, 1995.

This book, published in 1995, probably received the award in 1996. So this letter, copied from the James Jefferson Collection, likely dates to 1996, prior to Mr. Jefferson's death.. I thought his letter to be especially poignant.]

Reprise on Kitagawa Sensei's Family

I haven't bothered you for several years, largely because of time- and energy-consuming matters at home.

I note in *The Interpreter*, No. 130, in the section "Relocation (1)" some memories from Kaya Kitagawa Sugiyama, whose father was Kitagawa sensei. In this piece Kaya mentions two of the people who greeted her on arriving in Denver after her release from a relocation center in the early 1940s.

It happens that I was part of the social circle of Kaya and "Dottie" (Dorothy Boetter Smith) and her sister "Muggie" (Marjorie Boetter) during my stay in Boulder in 1945. I have been in touch with Dottie and Muggie over the years, but have had no contact with Kaya since OLS days. I am hoping that you have an email address for her, or that you could forward this message to her to facilitate our reestablishing contact [I sent him Ms. Sugiyama's address and phone number].

I also hope you are continuing to find your work in the

JLS/OLS Archival Project
gratifying [Still do, absolutely].

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Philip Dur Foreign Service Officer, Professor, JLS 1944

Dr. Philip Dur, 91, a retired FSO and professor emeritus of political science at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, died October 5, 2005 at his home in Lafayette, La., of congestive heart failure.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., Dr. Dur earned his bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) and his doctorate in history from Harvard University. He was commissioned as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy and, after Japanese language training, participated in the interception, decryption and translation of Japanese naval communications during World War II.

Dr. Dur entered the Foreign Service in 1947, and served in diplomatic and consular posts in France, Germany, Panama, Japan and at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. In addition to Japanese, Dr. Dur was fluent in French, German and Spanish.

He retired from the Foreign Service in 1965, and accepted an appointment at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as the Jefferson Caffery Honor Professor of Political Science. He is best remembered by former students for his offerings in diplomatic history and the conduct of diplomacy. During his tenure at ULL and following his retirement, Dr. Dur published many articles in learned journals on the distinguished career of Ambassador Caffery, whom he met and befriended in 1948 while both were posted to France.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a Rotarian and a member of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

Dr. Dur's wife, Maria Elena Delgado of Camaguey, Cuba, preceded him in death in 1993.

Survivors include his children, Elena (Mrs. Philip A. Morris) of Henniker, N.H.; retired Rear Admiral Philip A. Dur, USN, of Pascagoula, Miss.; Stansbury S. Dur of Houston, Texas; Carmen (Mrs. Norman B. Conley Jr.) of Lancaster, Ohio; Jacqueline Dur Sheppard, also of Lancaster; and John J. Dur of Henniker, N.H. He is also survived by 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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p. 78

Comment on Willard Elsbree

In your Issue #132, which I picked up today, you mention Willard Elsbree. I have wondered for years whether he is still alive, and, if so, where he lives. If he is alive, could you e-mail me his address or e-mail address or whatever? Thank you in advance for your assistance. [I emailed the above obituary. And he answered.]

Thank you very much for the Elsbree obituary. I had not realized that he was a few years older than I. He was a very kind and warm friend in our earlier academic years, and then we seem to have lost touch as so often happens.

Grant K. Goodman
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Recent Losses: