

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 175

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

September 1, 2012

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.

CIVILIAN WORK DURING THE OCCUPATION

In the past I've never gotten into what I did in the Company - though we old Company codgers agree that half of the secrets we knew probably aren't secret any more and the other half we've forgotten.

When I came back to Japan as a civilian, after leaving the Marine Corps, I was assigned to the Office of the U.S. Political Adviser (USPOLAD) which was the State Department's representation in Occupied Japan. There was no American Embassy at this time. SCAP MacArthur occupied the old Embassy buildings. USPOLAD was located on the upper floors of the Mitsui Main Bank building in Nihonbashi. William Sebald headed the Office and there was a number of young Boulder JLOs on the staff: Dave Osborne, Ed Seidensticker, Tom Murfin, Tom Ainsworth and Dick Finn. A more senior man, Glen Bruner, was also a linguist but had not been a JLO. Gen.

MacArthur didn't brook advice from anyone, and called USPOLAD his Diplomatic Section, and so it was listed in the phone book.

Before my wife could join me in Japan, I had to arrange quarters for us. The Army had commandeered many Japanese houses and assigned them to American families. Many apartments were also taken. In addition the Army built new housing developments in many places, several in Tokyo and its environs. The closest was called Washington Heights, built on the Renpeijo, former Japanese military parade grounds, adjoining the Meiji Shrine. There, they built small and medium one story houses and duplexes. With one dependent and my pregnant wife about to produce another, I qualified for a two bedroom cottage with a small servant's room. One servant was provided with the house for a charge of \$6.00 per month.

During the waiting period I had been assigned quarters in the Yaesu BOQ, near the main JNR Station. Coincidentally, down the street a few blocks was a section of buildings belonging to the Soviet Embassy. They would later be of interest to us. The Yaesu was a bank's building, in which apartments of various sizes were created. The one which was assigned to me was large and had two other occupants. One was a hard-nose New York City detective whose job was to seek out sites where shot-down American aircrewmembers had been killed or mistreated. He travelled with an armed team. After each of his expeditions he told us with relish of getting some payback from the suspects he roused.

Each apartment in the Yaesu was assigned a roomboy, who cleaned the place daily, took linens and clothing for cleaning, and picked up the litter from a lot of BYOB partying. I learned later that the room boys poured the leftover dregs of beer, wine and spirits into big sake bottles.

The boys would get together in their off time, drink this concoction and have their own spinoff party. Our roomboy, SHINDO Chotaro, was a pleasant kid of high school age. In our apartment I had a table and chair and kept some of my dictionaries there for the study of new words and constructions I had encountered. I would ask Shindo for assistance and he lingered long beyond his ordinary quitting time. He, like all the younger Japanese, was eager to learn English and we ended up cross-teaching. The most difficult thing I remember was helping him to pronounce the L and TH sounds.

Back to the Washington Heights cottage - my wife Phyllis' departure was delayed, since the Army didn't want to cope with attending the birth of a baby on a transport. The Company pulled some strings and she got under the wire. Our first son was born on August 1st 1948 at the Army's 49th General Hospital, formerly (and now again) called the St. Luke's International Hospital. With the baby aboard we decided it would be helpful to have a house boy. I immediately thought of Shindo, who said he would be happy to escape the Yaesu, and joined us. (to be cont'd)

*Semper Fi
Glenn Nelson [RIP Glenn]
JLS 1944*

Professor William Gerald Beasley 1919-2006

[I have already posted an obituary for Professor Beasley. But this was such an expansive treatment, I had to include it.]

Bill Beasley, who has just died at the age of 86, will have been known to all British specialists on Japan as a pioneer in the development of Japanese studies in this country and to many others throughout the world as an outstanding historian of modern Japan. At SOAS itself he was universally liked and highly

respected, and he was more than once referred to as the best Director SOAS never had. His scholarly standing was recognised by his election to membership of the British Academy, which he later served both as Treasurer and Vice-Chairman, and to honorary membership of the Japan Academy (in which capacity he met Emperor Hirohito), as well as by the award of a CBE in 1980 and the Order of the Rising Sun in 1983. In his retirement he was honoured by being invited to give the University of London's prestigious Creighton Lecture in 1984, and he was a recipient in 2001 of the Japan Foundation award for distinguished foreign scholars.

In addition to his career as a historian and despite health problems in his later years, he took on many onerous duties, among them the chairmanship of the Board of Studies in History and the Board of Examiners in History at London University, wardenship of a University hall of residence, and membership of the Hong Kong University Grants Committee. To mention but a few of the others, his expertise was sought by the Higher Education Funding Committee, when it conducted its first Research Assessment Exercise, and he played an important part in organizing the conference which was held in conjunction with the major Royal Academy exhibition on Edo-period art in 1981.

At SOAS, where he taught from 1947 to 1983, and where he became a very young Professor of the History of the Far East in 1954, he served not only as head of the Department of History but also, for a time, as head of the Far East Department. He was the obvious choice to be the chairman of SOAS's Centre of Far Eastern Studies when it was created in 1967, and when that was replaced by the Japanese Research Centre in 1979, he became its first head. His clarity of thought and penetrating

intellect enabled him to get to the heart of issues and together with his fair-mindedness, good sense and immense capacity for hard work made him a valued member of committees. Despite the heavy demands imposed by these administrative and organizational duties, however, he never sought to lighten his teaching load; indeed, he regarded this responsibility as seriously as his research, preparing for his classes with care and always finding time to see his students individually.

Bill Beasley came to the study of Japanese history in large part by accident. The son of an actor, he had not had any connection with the country until he learned Japanese (in America, not SOAS) as a naval officer in World War II after previously seeing action in convoys in northern waters. At the end of the war he was stationed in Japan for a time and after demobilization he was encouraged to enter what was then virtually a new field by Professor Renier, the specialist in Dutch history at University College London, where Bill had earlier taken his BA in English and European History and where he decided to embark on a PhD. He was soon offered a lectureship at SOAS, becoming one of only two East Asian historians there and as a result finding himself involved in teaching not only Japanese but also Chinese history. He would later recall that he and other colleagues who were similarly working in new areas at that time used the phrase 'earn while you learn', a task made possible by the fact that the relevant scholarly literature was far less voluminous than it has since become and the number of students far smaller. For many years he conducted a research seminar on East Asian history which attracted PhD students from various countries. Not a few of these went on to take up academic positions and would readily bear witness to his breadth of knowledge, to his wise guidance, and to his considerateness.

Ultimately it was his published work on which Bill Beasley's reputation rested and will continue to rest. His first

book, *Great Britain and the Opening of Japan, 1834-1858*, which was based on his 1950 PhD thesis, examined Britain's leading role in ending Japan's sakoku policy, and its thoroughness led Professor Renier to predict that the topic would never need to be covered again. With SOAS support he then published, in 1955, *Select Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy, 1853-1868*. Not only did this make available his translations of many key Japanese documents, most of them written in a peculiarly difficult style, but its masterly analysis of the complexities of Japanese politics and foreign policy decision-making marked a new level in Western studies of modern Japanese history. The book also provided a basis for his Special Subject on the opening of China and Japan to the West which, with several changes of name and content, would be taken by history students from SOAS and other London University colleges for nearly two decades.

Other books followed. In 1958 he co-edited and contributed chapters to *Historians of China and Japan*, one of the volumes on Asian and African historiography which came out of a major series of conferences at SOAS and which remains one of the few serious attempts to survey Japanese historical writing. Then, in 1963, he produced what was to be the most widely read of all his books. Originally entitled *The Modern History of Japan*, it went through several editions before reappearing in an extensively revised form as *The Rise of Modern Japan*. It owed its enduring popularity not to colourful prose – indeed Bill was fond of the axiom that if one felt a 'purple passage' coming on, one should write it but then consign it to the waste-paper basket – but to the qualities which its author consistently displayed in his teaching: balance, accuracy, clarity perceptiveness and succinctness.

The same qualities were also evident in what he regarded as his magnum opus, *The Meiji Restoration*. This was an enormously ambitious undertaking, not least because of

the sheer volume of existing writings by Japanese historians, the abundance of primary sources, and the number of power centres and political actors involved. He worked on it for well over a decade, taking account of the various Marxist interpretations which dominated Japanese writing in the post-war years and looking especially closely at the political situations in Satsuma and Tosa, two of the three han which played key roles in the overthrow of the Tokugawa shogunate. Although Marius Jansen and Albert Craig had produced important studies of the Meiji Restoration from particular angles ten years earlier, no Western scholar had attempted to tackle this hugely complex subject on such a scale before, and none has done so since; and Bill took justifiable pride in the fact that it was recognised by the award of the John K. Fairbank prize as the outstanding work in the field of East Asian history in 1972.

Like other senior academics Bill Beasley accepted early retirement to help SOAS cope with the severe financial pressures which faced it following the advent of the Thatcher government in 1979. Although this allowed him time to pursue his other interests, which ranged from rugby and cricket to poetry and Japanese prints, he remained active as a historian, producing, in 1987, a highly regarded survey of *Japanese Imperialism, 1894-1945*, and contributing two chapters to the nineteenth-century volume of *The Cambridge History of Japan*, which was published in 1989. Then, in *Japan Encounters The Barbarian* (1994), he examined the ways in which Japanese statesmen, officials and students responded to what they discovered when they visited the West in the 1860s and 1870s. And in 1999, as he approached his eighties, he summed up his understanding of Japanese history in *The Japanese Experience*, overcoming his reluctance to treat the one aspect of Japan for which he had no natural sympathy – religion. Despite his physical inability in his later years to visit the SOAS library he still managed to edit a

multi-volume series of mid-nineteenth century writings by Westerners on Japan in 2002. That he continued to be active as a scholar for so long, owed much to his wife Hazel, whose unstinting devotion was an even more vital support after he was partially paralyzed in 2003. To the end he retained an exceptional memory and he took pleasure in recalling ex-colleagues and students. Those who knew him will remember him as a pillar of SOAS and as a model of what a scholar and teacher should be.

Richard Simms
JRC News
Newsletter of the
Japan Research Centre
January 2007, No. 55
p. 4-5

Memoirs Of Ari Inouye

(Cont'd) [At Berkeley] My particular interest was international relations. Dr. Chitoshi Yanaga, who later became Professor of Political Science at Yale, was my mentor. And he thought that I should have at least two years of study in Japan, specializing in the study of the language and the history and culture of Japan. For this purpose, I did not attend Waseda or Meiji University, but instead, had two private tutors. One was a retired normal school teacher, who lived next door to my apartment, and the other one was a graduate student at Waseda.

For study material we used current magazines like *Bungei Shunju* or *Chuokoron*, the equivalent of *Time* and *Newsweek*. The newspaper, *Asahi News*, was also a source of study material. Japanese calligraphy and conversation pertaining to the Japanese culture were included in my study program, as well. This enabled me to study the history, culture and current political, economic and social events of the time, simultaneously with the study of the language. I was indeed fortunate to have teachers so close at hand to help me.

During the two years I was in Japan, I became very much interested in Japanese gardens and traveled to many of the

famous gardens. I had always been interested in the world of art and decided to continue with my language study but also enroll in a landscape design school located in Gotenba in the outskirts of Tokyo. I also took a course in *Bonkei* (tray landscapes) and was later awarded a certificate to teach this art form.

It was through these experiences that I decided to return to California and enroll once again at the University of California, Berkeley, and complete the major in landscape architecture. Not having most of the prerequisites required for the course, it took me three years to finish. I completed the major in Landscape architecture in June 1941. However, as I look back on this experience, it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have found great satisfaction and fulfillment in my work as a landscape architect. It has been by God's grace and guidance I have been able to come this far in my life.

On December 7, 1941, the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor changed the course of my life as it did for millions of others. Little did I realize that my two years in Japan studying the language and its culture, could be put to good use in the war effort. My peace-time job as secretary at the Japanese Pavilion on Treasure Island in San Francisco during the 1939 International Exposition suddenly came to an end. I was given a deferment from military service because of my Japanese background and was recommended for a government job inspecting outgoing mail to Hawaii that was written in Japanese. This took place at the Lincoln Annex in San Francisco. In my work there, nothing of importance to the government was discovered.

The job that followed was with the Office of War Information. The assignment given to me was to research the Japanese fishing activities in the Aleutians to see how many of the cannery vessels could be converted into troop ships. This involved much translation and dictionary work. It was at this time that I was offered a position as instructor in the Navy School

of Oriental Languages. The school was established in Berkeley in March 1942. The original group was composed of eleven instructors. The school in Berkeley turned out to be a temporary location.

In 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry had to be evacuated from the West Coast. As a result, in June 1942, the school was moved to the University of Colorado in Boulder. These were indeed hectic and stressful times.

On May 2, 1942, Ida and I were married in our home on 62nd Street, Oakland. My parents were incarcerated at the Tanforan Race Tracks, an Assembly Center in San Mateo, located just south of San Francisco. Today, the Tanforan Race Tracks no longer exist. Later, my parents were relocated to the Topaz internment camp located in the Sevier Desert near Provo, Utah. Until the night before the Bay Area evacuation took place, Ida was scheduled to go to the Tanforan Assembly Center with my parents.

Then fortunately, Ida received a pass from the Army Commanding Officer, General DeWitt in San Francisco, allowing her to stay with me. I had already received a pass from the Navy to remain in the area until the school was transferred. This allowed some time for us to bring some supplies my parents needed to help them to be more comfortable under these miserable conditions. The Navy later shipped our furniture and belongings to Boulder. We traveled to Colorado by train with the train blinds drawn, together with the other instructors and their families.

During this period in my life, I felt I was a man without a country. When in Japan, I was followed by police and questioned about my whereabouts. Upon my return to California, the FBI must have thought I was disobeying orders because I was not with the others at the Tanforan Assembly Center. However, in spite of these unfortunate experiences, my loyalty never wavered. Whenever I hear the National Anthem or "God Bless America," I am deeply moved with tears of thanksgiving and

gratitude that I am an American in spite of it all.

During my growing up days, I experienced my share of racial discrimination, such as not being admitted to a public swimming pool, being refused by a barber to cut my hair, or not being waited on to make a purchase until all the white customers were served first. I must have experienced more discrimination than some of my Japanese friends since we always lived in a predominately white community. Fortunately one develops a stoical attitude toward such treatment. Hopefully one is able to become more understanding and not bitter. (to be cont'd)

*Ari Inouye
USN JLS Sensei
1942-1946*

Some Brushes with History: Handling the Japanese Language during WWII

(Cont'd) On August 10, the day after Nagasaki, the Japanese government expressed readiness to accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, "with the understanding that said declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a sovereign ruler." The United States then quite sensibly, in my opinion, backed off from the unconditional surrender demand to which FDR had committed us in 1943 and expressed a willingness to negotiate with the Japanese without insisting on the abdication of the Emperor. On August 14, Japan accepted Allied terms and President Truman announced an armistice that night. I was standing watch in front of the Advance Intelligence Center building [on Guam] the night the Japanese surrendered and I knew that the big news was likely to break any moment during my watch. Our building was dark and empty, but across the street, in Admiral Nimitz's headquarters and in the news correspondents' building, nearby, all the lights were on and from the sounds drifting over to where I stood I got the impression that the place was filled with people as tense and

hopeful and expectant as I was. Suddenly I heard a tremendous explosion of shouts and cheers in both buildings. "This must be it!" I cried. I was tempted to desert my post, or ask the Marine guard who was with me to desert his post and run across the street to learn the news. Fortunately I did nothing so rash; and within minutes Frank Huggins came rushing up in a jeep to tell me that Japan had just surrendered and he almost "busted out crying" when he heard the news. "But I told my brother to go to hell!" He added angrily. "I just phoned him and he said he wouldn't have minded if the war had gone on, because he liked Navy life. The little bastard!" (the chapter continues 19 more pages)

*From Paul F. Boller, Jr.,
Memoirs of an Obscure Professor
& Other Essays,
(Fort Worth, TX: TCU Press, 1992)
51-52.*

Also on Guam for the Surrender

I was a Japanese Language Officer. I arrived on Guam in late July or early August. Was with the 3rd Marines for a while and then at Island Command for a few weeks. My biggest thrill was to hear the Japanese surrender broadcast in Japanese and going down to the Officers' Club and making the announcement. No one would believe me. In September 1945 I went to Sasebo, Japan and came home on Xmas day 1945. Would love to hear from any one I knew back then.

*Aubrey M. Farb
JLS 1944*

**Excerpt from:
Henry F. May
PROFESSOR OF
AMERICAN
INTELLECTUAL HISTORY,
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY, 1952-1980**

(Cont'd) Occupation

Lage: Were you still writing daily letters?

May: Yes. On the way up there, every now and then somebody was sent home. There was a point system for how long they'd

been there, whether you'd been in combat, and that sort of thing. But the language men were outside of it.

Lage: Yes, they needed you.

May: Well, they thought they did. It turned out not. But on the way to Japan we had these shipside ceremonies where a little band would play "Sentimental Journey" and "It's Been a Long, Long Time" and people would be very envious of the guy that was going, but one of the officers would say, "Well, it's not so bad! Look at Henry—excuse me, Henry you'll probably be patrolling the streets of Tokyo for ten years!"

Lage: Oh, [laughter] you must have been getting a little discouraged.

May: Yes. However, fortunately, General MacArthur decided that he didn't want the Navy Caucasian language men, he wanted to rely on Nisei sergeants, and so gradually people were being sent home.

Lage: Do you know what he was thinking there? He thought it would be better relations?

May: Probably better Japanese. And he was probably right! [laughter] And though not necessarily better written Japanese, certainly much better spoken. Needless to say, some know the language wonderfully well and others not. *[End of Excerpt]*

*an oral history conducted in 1998
by Ann Lage,
Regional Oral History Office
The Bancroft Library,
University of California,
Berkeley, 1999, 61-63.*

MIT professor Lucian W. Pye leading China scholar, dies at 86

Retired MIT political science professor Lucian W. Pye, one of America's leading China scholars, died Sept. 5 in Boston after a long illness. He was 86.

Pye, Ford Professor of Political Science Emeritus at MIT, was a leader in studying the politics of modernization in the Third World. He was author or editor of more than 25 books including "Asian Power and Politics: The Cultural

Dimensions of Authority," "China: An Introduction" and "Mao-Tse Tung."



He served as a mentor to several generations of influential political scientists and as an active public intellectual and policy adviser to presidential candidates, including John F. Kennedy. In addition to serving as president of the American Political Science Association from 1988-89, Pye participated in a variety of private organizations where scholars, government experts and lay leaders met to discuss Asia-related research and policy. These included the Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S.-China Relations Committee and the Asian Foundation.

"Lucian was a giant in the intellectual world that went well beyond our field of political science," said Charles Stewart, head of MIT's Department of Political Science. "For anyone ever called 'hero' or 'scholar' by Lucian, we must now live up to those titles he so cheerfully bestowed upon us."

His dominant intellectual concern was to explore the cultural differences that help explain why the game of politics differs so greatly from one nation to another. Widely regarded as one of the foremost contemporary practitioners and proponents of the concept of political culture, Pye attempted to penetrate beneath the surface of political life to the deeper layers of attitude, value and sentiment that motivate political behavior.

The unique understanding that he brought to his studies of China, in particular, came in part out of his experience of growing up as a child of Congregational

missionaries in Shansi Province, in northwest China. Born in 1921, he lived primarily in China until he went to Minnesota to attend Carleton College. There, Pye met fellow student Mary Toombs Waddill of Greenville, S.C., whom he married in 1945. She would become his partner in both life and work for the next 63 years, often traveling with him throughout Asia and helping edit his books.

After graduating from Carleton, Pye attended the US Navy Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado, where he took the course in Chinese. He returned to China at the end of World War II to serve as an intelligence officer in the 5th Marine Corps, achieving the rank of Second Lieutenant. He returned to the U.S. to attend graduate school on the GI Bill at Yale University. During these crucial years of Pye's intellectual formation, he was a part of a significant contingent of political scientists including Harold Lasswell, Nathan Leites and Gabriel Almond. Together, the group explored the psychological, sociological and anthropological elements of international affairs -- a departure from the standard "realism" of the day. Almond, his mentor at Yale, recalled his student Pye as "generally leaving me a little breathless; he had so much energy and enthusiasm."

Pye himself became an important mentor and teacher to scores of political scientists since his arrival at MIT in 1956, where he helped found the Department of Political Science. With his encouragement and oversight, many of his students have gone on to prominent positions in both academia and government.

His studies of the politics of modernization in the Third World made theoretical and empirical contributions to our understanding of the development process and his participation in many social science and advising organizations were broadly influential. As one of a handful of scholars who studied Asian politics from a comparative standpoint, he was listened to in the policy world as well as the classroom.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, of Lexington, Mass., and his three children, Lyndy and Chris, both of Northampton, Mass., and Virginia, of Richmond, Va., as well as three grandchildren, Anna Swann-Pye and Eva and Daniel Ravenal.

MIT News
September 8, 2008

[Ed. Note. A version of this article appeared in MIT Tech Talk on September 17, 2008. Added notes on Professor Pye's OLS service are by DMH.]

The Reminiscences of Donald Sigurdson Willis

[Donald S. Willis passed in 2009. This is an excerpt of a longer memoir.]

The Seattle Chapter (3) 1938-42

.... Academic year [at the University of Washington] 1939-40 saw me continuing along the same path as before [*"General Studies"* for possible work in the *Foreign Service*], and I decided not to continue ROTC (Coast Artillery Branch) after my second year. I remember that one particular day we had the subjunctive mood in French, Spanish, and German (*Wenn ich mehr geld hätte, würde ich zur Stadt gehen*). I was a frequent visitor at the office of Professor Guthrie, my beginning psychology professor (and later, Dean of the Graduate School). My academic advisor was Professor Macy M. Skinner, who once had been in the consular service.

I stayed in Seattle during the summer of 1940, but for the life of me, cannot remember how I earned money -- All I remember is borrowing records (among others, Beethoven's 9th). That spring, many of my classmates were called to service, and I requested and received deferment from the Army Reserve to continue my studies. Ray got a berth on an Army transport ship, went to Guam, the Philippines, went through the Panama Canal, and left the ship in New York. He then bought a big motorcycle (having sold the old one) -- a Harley "74" -- and rode it across country to the West Coast. He had found the occupation that would occupy him until the war was over, seafaring. (to be cont'd)

