

The Interpreter

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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.

Meet**William R. Braisted
Professor Emeritus**

Historian William R. Braisted
http://www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/shelflife/files/braisted_william.jpg&imgrefurl

At 91 years of age [in 2009] Professor William Reynolds Braisted is our oldest faculty member, and we honor his years of service to our department [UT Austin History Department] He was born into a naval family in 1918. As a child, he lived for two years in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Chefoo, China, as he and his mother followed his father and the US Navy's Asiatic Fleet. As a teenager, he lived for two years in Shanghai and attended the

Shanghai American School. A course in Chinese history at this school introduced him to scholarship that strengthened his growing fascination with Chinese culture. He speaks and reads Japanese, and he studied French at the Shanghai School with a White Russian refugee who claimed the French spoken at the Tsar's court was superior to the French spoken in Paris. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in Far Eastern and European history; and, in 1942, he came to the University of Texas at Austin. During his 46 years at UT, he taught Chinese and Japanese history and culture, American naval history, and the American history survey course. He published three books and rose to the rank of Professor before he retired in 1988. In that same year, Japan's ambassador to the United States presented him with the medallion for the Order of the Sacred Treasure, awarded to him by Emperor Hirohito.

Professor Braisted's first year at UT included a daunting teaching load of four courses each semester. His draft board had classified him as 4F, but the service of scholars was needed in the war effort. He studied Japanese at the US Navy Japanese Language Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder and joined the Japanese Empire Branch of Military Intelligence at the Pentagon. At the Japan Desk, he analyzed Japanese radio broadcasts looking for clues about how close Japan was to surrender. He and his colleagues at the Pentagon correctly interpreted the political disintegration that was occurring in Japan in the last years of the war. Braisted returned to the University in 1947. He resumed his study of Japanese and Japanese culture in the 1950s: he studied advanced Japanese at Harvard University and lived in Japan as a Fulbright Fellow.

Braisted's work in East Asian history encouraged the

University to expand its resources for East Asian scholarship. As a member of the Department of History Library Committee, he persuaded the department to spend a greater portion of its library budget on Japanese history and Japanese language materials. He also donated his personal Japanese-language collection of books to the Library. Professor Braisted chaired most of the search committees for faculty positions in East Asian, South Asian, Near Eastern and African history. Hiring new faculty in these fields added considerable breadth to the Department of History and helped clear the way for a Center and, later in 1994, the creation of the Department of Asian Studies.

In an autobiographical essay, "This I Can Remember" in *Burnt Orange Britannia*, Pp. 16-35, Professor Braisted wrote that his professional life had "always been a tug-of-war between my competing desires to become an East Asian scholar and to publish in naval history" (p.34). Many would say that he achieved both even as he experienced the tug. He published three highly regarded monographs in naval history: *The United States Navy in the Pacific, 1897-1909* (University of Texas Press, 1958; reprint by the Naval Institute Press, 2008); *The United States Navy in the Pacific, 1909-1922*, (University of Texas Press, 1971; reprint by the Naval Institute Press, 2008); and *Diplomats in Blue, US Naval Officers in China, 1922-1933*, (University of Florida Press, 2009). As the title suggests, Braisted's latest publication recounts and interprets the work of Naval officers to "keep China intact, independent, and free from occupation," to preserve the United States' "Open Door" policy regarding China, and to protect American lives.

While completing his first two books, he became interested in the Japanese Enlightenment. With the help of two Japanese research assistants, he published

a "beautifully rendered" translation of all forty-three issues of *Meiroku Zasshi* – the influential late-nineteenth century Japanese magazine that featured the writings of major Japanese intellectuals and cosmopolitans.

Professor Braisted says that *Diplomats in Blue* will be his last book. He is not, however, idle. He continues to attend weekly British studies seminars; he plays bridge at the Campus Center, he regularly visits the Harry Ransom Research Center and other local museums; and he cares for his beautiful dog, Derling. Derling is named for a lady-in-waiting to the nineteenth century Empress Dowager Ci Xi of China.

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 p.3

[Ed. Note: The photo used in this article was of a suitably respectable Professor Braisted in his suit wearing a medal. But I could not find that shot on the web and had to use this one of him looking more relaxed. I had not known until I posted this article that Professor Braisted was a Shanghai American School attendee and was raised in China (RIC).

Conversation with **James E. Gunn** Writer & English Professor

[August 2009] I've been impressed with the distinguished careers documented in the JLS newsletter. The Navy's selection process seems to have identified very capable people. My own selection was something of a mystery. The midshipmen at Notre Dame took a lengthy exam toward the end of the three months, and I remember being informed that I was being ordered to Boulder for the Japanese Language program. I don't think I applied for it, but I remember hoping it would be the Russian program, which was only six months long and not the Chinese program that was 22

months, so the Japanese program, which fell in the middle, seemed like a kind of compromise.

As for my own post-war career, I returned to the University of Kansas to finish up my senior year in journalism but also wrote my first play, which got produced and set me off toward further playwriting at Northwestern. But I left there after two quarters, with an idea for a series of radio plays that got no interest and I wrote my first science-fiction story, "Paradox," which got bought and published in *Thrilling Wonder Stories*. Ten stories later I returned to the University of Kansas for a master's degree in English, worked for a year and a half as an editor, and went back to full-time writing, resulting in the publication of a couple dozen stories and my first two novels.

My career at the University of Kansas started in 1955 teaching a couple of freshman composition classes, then editing the alumni publications, and becoming the founding head of University Relations, a position I left after a dozen years to return to full-time teaching until I retired in 1993 as emeritus professor of English. My writing career produced more than 100 published stories and 41 books, a dozen or so novels, a half dozen collections, several academic books (including *Alternate Worlds: An Illustrated History of Science Fiction* and *Isaac Asimov: The Foundations of Science Fiction*), and edited another dozen books (the best known: the six-volume *The Road to Science Fiction*). The best-known of my novels may be *The Immortals*, which was filmed as *The Immortal* in 1969 and became a TV-series in 1970-71), but I'm also particularly proud of *The Joy Makers*, *The Listeners*, *Kampus* (which dealt with the world the student rebels of the 1960s might have made if they'd been successful), *The Dreamers*, and *The Millennium Blues*.

My involvement with science fiction was marked by service as president of both the Science Fiction Research Association and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and the receipt of the Pilgrim Award

from SFRA and the Grand Master Award from SFWA, as well as a Hugo from the World Science Fiction Convention, as well as a number of others.

I can't say I owe it all to JLS, but I do honor the Navy's good judgment in singling out young people who went on to distinguish themselves in later life as well as serve during the War. My service came early in my young life: I was 19 when I signed up for the Navy Air Corps in the summer of 1942, not yet 20 when I got called up in 1943, not yet 21 in 1944 when the Navy decided I wasn't cut out to be a pilot, and not yet 22 when I



Photo #: 80-G-43935
Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Violet Falkum turns over the Pratt & Whitney R-1340 radial engine of a SNJ-4 training plane, at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, 30 November 1943. This photograph was used in a World War II recruiting poster. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.*

got to Boulder in 1945, a newly minted ensign, to begin the study of Japanese. The war in Europe ended and President Roosevelt died while I was there, and the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima while I was in advanced line-officer's training in Miami. As a long-time science-fiction reader of stories about atom bombs, I knew what it meant. But it also meant that the war was over and my war-time experience was being shipped around the country from one college to another in three-month increments. And only then did I get sent over to Guam and then down to Truk to serve as adjutant to the commanding general and get released in June of 1946.

James E. Gunn
OLS 3/20/45



The Beach, Tumon Bay, Guam Oct 1945, Pineau, 02_06_01_06, AUCBL.

Dear Mr. Gunn:

I suppose being shipped from school to school beat being shipped from a version of Army ROTC and/or Air Corps as an infantry private to the front in France, when they needed replacements in the fall of 1944, in what Paul Fussell called the "Boys' War". Those replacements fell like scythed wheat. Having been in ROTC during the last three years of the Vietnam War, I can certainly agree by saying the University of Idaho beat being an Army replacement on the DMZ, the Delta, or the Central Highlands. As one vet of the 1st Cav (in Vietnam in 1971) recently retorted when I told him I had served in West Germany and saw no combat, "You didn't miss much."

David M. Hays
Archivist & Editor

Dave:

I've never regretted not having heard a shot fired in anger (although one of my group died in an aircraft training accident) *[More than 70% of the fallen in WWII from the University of Colorado were in the Army, Marine, or Naval Air Corps, most of whom died in training or non-combat crashes. After reading a memoir of a Navy flier, and reading of the training carnage, I finally found out why.]*, and I must have learned something at each stop along the way. What really made a difference, though, was realizing what I was capable of. Like many veterans I returned to find college much easier, from a B+ student to a straight-A (my only B was in a writers' workshop!). Everything was much easier. I have recommended that students would be better taking a year or two out after high school. The best students are those who come

to college for a reason, and often they are the older students who now know what they need to know

James E. Gunn
OLS 3/20/45

Bill Hudson's Exam on Boulderite "Adventures"

[In 2000, Bill Hudson sent a multi-page "examination" of adventures by JLS/OLSers, a few of which I might be able to get away with printing. These were Bill Hudson's word-of-mouth, may he rest in peace, and not mine.]

9. Injections – Gold:

Boulderite/JICPOAn got a medical discharge because he needed (and got) "gold" injections (probably for arthritis). He was then nicknamed "Gold Leaf" because his name was John P. Leaf.

13. Japanese Kamikaze Pilots – "Friendly":

While being attacked off Okinawa in 1945, this Boulderite, then assigned to a carrier, remarked (within hearing of our pilots) that the Japanese were "fundamentally friendly" (thus incurring their wrath and almost being torn apart by them). His name was Alfred Richard Oxenfeld.

18. Foul-Ups – Administrative:

This Boulderite was denied a commission at Boulder for physical reasons. Went back to civilian life, was drafted into the Navy and went to boot camp at Newport, RI, where after passing the physical, wrote Hindmarsh and asked if he were able, physically, to be a seaman, why not a Japanese Language Officer? He was transferred back to Boulder, and much to the annoyance of the original doctor who rejected him in the first place, was passed and became a commissioned Marine officer. His name was Clifford H. Ramsdell.

22. Metalurgy – Buttons – Uniform - Complaints About:

Subject Boulderite, a member of the class of March 15, 1944 complained that the buttons on his new Ensign's jacket were

only brass plated instead of gold plated. His name was Herbert L. Sultan.

23. Wrath – Incurrence of – Results:

Yale graduate and Boulder JICPOAn used his spare time in Pearl Harbor to announce baseball games over a local radio station, and incurred the wrath of Commander Steele who told him, "Today is Tuesday, Saturday you will be on duty on Ulithi (a real outpost!)." His name was Gordon Barton McLendon.

27. Watches – Comments On:

Subject Boulderite, with a prewar commercial experience in Kobe, Japan, could, and did comment on anything, including complaints of all kinds. His comments on watches were classic. I once asked him WHY, after the war was over, he would pay as much as \$350 for a wristwatch? His answer was, "Because I can't tell time with a dollar bill!" His name was Lewis I. Steinman.

*Examination sent
Courtesy of H. Morris Cox, Jr.
OLS 1945*

[Ed. Note: As anyone can tell by the missing exam questions, most of these 'questions' were for 'internal use' only. No one can say that JLS/OLSers were tame or unimaginative. I don't suppose there has ever been a junior officer who escaped nicknames, refrained from grossly ill-timed philosophical comment, avoided SNAFUs, never made foolish statements about a military they had little more than a nodding acquaintance with, or somehow avoided incurring the ire of his/her superiors.]

CPT Forrest R. Biard USN (Ret)

Biard, USN (Ret), Capt. Forrest R. Died November 2, 2009, at age 96. He was the last surviving pre-war trained Japanese cryptolinguist member of the U.S. Naval codebreaking organization during World War II. Capt. Biard served in all three Navy codebreaking units during the war. Biard was born December 21, 1912, in Bonham, Texas. A graduate of North Dallas High School, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1934. He was

attached to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to study Japanese language, history, and culture from September 1939 to September 1941.



Tex Biard, Rufus Taylor, Bob Hudson, and Tony Wong, 1939, Pineau, 24_07_00_22, AUCBL.

He was attached to and worked with the "Station Hypo" codebreaking unit at Pearl Harbor from September 1941 to August 1943. He was called to the Washington, D.C. "Station Negat" codebreaking unit from August through October 1943, and was attached to "Station Cast" codebreaking unit at Melbourne, Australia from November 1943 to April 1945. He was assigned to USS *Wasatch* at New Guinea and the Philippines from September 19 to November 2, 1944 (and decorated with the Bronze Star for capturing and interrogating prisoners from ships sunk during the Battle of Leyte Gulf during this period). He retired from the Navy in 1955. He resided in Dallas, Texas.

In September 1941, as a Navy language student in Japan, then-Lt. Cdr. Biard secured passage out of Japan for ten expert Navy linguists weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. These individuals went on to make major contributions to U.S. military intelligence operations during the war in codebreaking, radio intelligence, interrogation, and other critical capacities. In the Fall of 1941, Biard was stationed at Pearl Harbor, where he served as a language officer in the Station Hypo codebreaking unit that worked to break JN-25, the key strategic code used by the Japanese Navy. Regarding the accomplishments of the Station Hypo group, Adm. Nimitz "enthusiastically endorsed" the following statement issued by then - Capt.

Jasper Holmes in a postwar assessment report: "The fate of the nation quite literally depended upon about a dozen men who had devoted their lives and their careers, in peace and war, to radio intelligence." (Layton, Rear Admiral Edwin T., U.S.N. (Ret.), with Captain Roger Pineau, U.S.N.R. (Ret.) and John Costello, *And I Was There - Pearl Harbor and Midway - Breaking the Secrets*, William Morrow and Company Inc., New York (1985) at 470). From February 15 to May 27, 1942, Biard was temporarily assigned to the carrier USS *Yorktown* as the radio intelligence officer. Biard rallied the troops on the *Yorktown* on the eve of the final engagement of the Battle of the Coral Sea. His talk culminated in a key instruction session by the Squadron Gunnery Officer on effective dive-bombing techniques, ensuring that neither of two Japanese carriers present at the Coral Sea was able to participate in the pivotal Battle of Midway one month later.

In February 1944, Biard and Lt. Cdr. Tom Mackie were dispatched to Gen. Douglas MacArthur's intelligence center in Brisbane to decrypt messages encoded in Japanese Army code books found in New Guinea. Biard and Mackie decrypted communications identifying the detailed immediate Japanese defensive plans in the New Guinea area, a key strategic Japanese stronghold. The information developed at Brisbane enabled Gen. MacArthur to anticipate the enemy's movements, and thereby to execute his successful island-hopping strategy to reclaim New Guinea in just a few weeks, which consequently accelerated the end of the war in the Pacific by several months, with minimal casualties.

After World War II, Biard attended post-graduate school in Annapolis, Maryland, where he studied nuclear engineering, nuclear physics, and radiation hazards. He pursued a master's degree in physics at The Ohio State University (OSU). While working on his master's program, Biard served as the operations officer for the first hydrogen bomb test. He received his

master's degree in 1953. After retiring from the Navy, Biard taught physics at Long Beach City College until his retirement in the 1980s. Biard was preceded in death by his wife, Winifred, his parents Robert Jackson and Forest Lynn Elkin Biard, and siblings Dorothy Allen, Margaret Sansom, Mattie Elkin Biard Trigg, and Jack Biard. He is survived by nephews and nieces Ted Sansom, Steve Sansom, Lynn Allen, Judy Spalding, Beverly Allen, Nancy Wendler, David Biard, Betsy Clark, Patti Foster, John Biard, Bob Biard, and Cyndi Poe; and many great-nieces and nephews.

Dallas Morning News
11/8/2009

Obituary Provided by
Roger L. Eaton
Researcher

AJA WWII Memorial Alliance/JALL

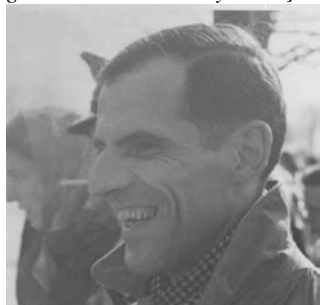
[Ed. Note: Obviously not a Boulderite, still he was one of the most distinguished Tokyo-trained Japanese Language Officers during World War II. I was able to find a photograph of him in the Pineau Collection in which he wasn't hauling baggage in a cart. I was certain that you would want to know of his career.]

Reprise on Neil Rawlinson

I read in a recent issue of *The Interpreter* an account of Neil Rawlinson [in Issue #141, November 1, 2009] in which it was stated that it was difficult to obtain information about him.

Neil was a member of the class of February 1942, graduating in the following January. He was older than most of the others in his class and tended to associate with students who were about the same age as himself, especially Donald Allen. Neil spoke with a British accent, or at least I thought so. Although your article says he came from Whittier, California, I can hardly believe he came from there originally [Merely the location from whence he entered the school. Many listed Boulder, Colorado, but were not from Colorado, at all.] The article stated that he entered the language school in June, but although some people were dropped from the school in mid-term I doubt that anyone joined

once classes started [Our Entrance List is for those who entered the USN JLS/OLS at the University of Colorado only. Professor Keene and Neil Rawlinson were part of a bridge class that began their studies at the Navy JLS in February 1942 at the University of California at Berkeley, transferred with the school in June of 1942 (when he was entered in our rolls) and graduated in February 1943.]



Neil Rawlinson, Pineau, 29_03_01_28, AUCBL

He had studied Japanese at Harvard before attending the Navy Language School, but as was then the practice in teaching Japanese at American Universities, he had not yet learned to speak the language at Harvard and he had trouble with Japanese pronunciation. (I heard a rumor that the teachers of Japanese at Harvard had been disgruntled when they learned that one of their graduates had been placed in a class with beginners. I don't know whether or not this is true [There were irritations between Lt.Cdr. Hindmarsh and American academics in Japanese (who had no faith that the Navy could educate students in Japanese in 14 months - of course not, the Navy was training them, not educating them). The Navy had problems with the Harvard JLS program (1941-1942), as well. The Harvard JLS faculty were not enthused by, and did not want to use the Navy curriculum, I believe, thereby making the choice between Harvard and Berkeley an easy one for Hindmarsh to make.]

Neil was an extremely gentlemanly man, who spoke softly but clearly. I was not a close friend of his, but I remember him very well and often wondered what might have become of him. Perhaps, if you really want to know, Harvard

might be able to provide information.

Donald Keene
JLS 1943

CLIFF GRAHAM COMMENT BY A FRIEND

When will I learn to be prompt – and brief?

The photo of Cliff Graham was not where I expected; took weeks to turn it up.

[Clelan Holmes “Cliff” Graham, entered USN JLS/OLS on July 2, 1942, from Flint, Michigan. There was a welcoming picnic at the University of Colorado in July 1942, and a detail of a photograph of that picnic (in the Pineau Collection) shows Cliff Graham, shirtless in saddle shoes, eating watermelon, seated near none other than Neil Rawlinson. No kidding, the letters from Donald Keene and Tom Flournoy arrived on the same day, discussed two JLS/OLSers from different entry classes and I found a photo with both of them in it. I don't make this stuff up.]



Welcome Picnic, July 1942. Identified is Cliff Graham and Neil Rawlinson (detail), Pineau, 10_12_00_17.

It's from a shot in *Leatherneck* article on the humanitarian aspects of our Japanese Language initiative as witnessed on Saipan, where our interpreters managed to pull a number of

civilians from the clutches of the remnants of the Japanese military who were trying to persuade them – with all sorts of atrocious tales – to jump from the cliffs to their deaths, rather than fall into our hands.

Here Cliff is, handing a drink of water to a tiny girl, weeping behind the barbed wire of the holding compound. Looking on, facing the camera, is Miguel Tenorio, a young Saipan Chamorro who had been with us in Hawaii and on board ship en route to our invasion. He had been pretty much in Cliff's charge the whole time....[The shot he sent is blurrier than the one we have. It also cut the little girl out. So I am substituting another shot from the Pineau Collection.]

Cliff was almost the first language officer I met after flying in to join the Fifth 'Phib Corps G-2 before the Marianas ruckus. Later, on Maui, between operations, it was Cliff more than anyone who kept us in touch with a couple of wonderful local families of Japanese lineage who helped us keep our

memories but the one they mentioned who had faithfully kept in touch was Cliff.



Cliff Graham at work w/ a POW, Kwajalein 1944 w/ 7th Army Div. Pineau, 31_01_00_10, AUCBL.

He was one of the most fun-loving people I ever knew, and losing touch with him was my loss.

Tom Flournoy
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Clelan Holmes Graham, Cliff to his fellow JLS/OLSers, according to information found on the web and in the Pineau Collection, was born on 16 May 1920 in Farwell, Michigan. He attended the University of Michigan, playing French Horn in the Concert Band, according to the 1941 yearbook.

language skills in shape, and with whom we shared many hours of pleasant liberty time in their homes and on those great beaches.

It took me 25 years after the war to find my way back to Maui. Everything looked so miniature then, but some of the folks were still there with their

We have located his son on the web and perhaps we will get a full biography from him. “I am proud to say that my father, Cpt. Cliff Graham, USMC, who was a Japanese language specialist during the war (he translated intercepts, interviewed prisoners, etc) worked hard after the War to help returning internees regain their property.”]