

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.

**2006 Reischauer
International Education
Award
Lennox Tierney**

Professor Lennox Tierney was born in Weston, West Virginia in 1912. He had an anti-Victorian mother who was instrumental in moving her family from Weston to Los Angeles, into a Greene and Greene home. As a junior high school student, he was hired at the Nicholson Chinese Garden in Pasadena to water its beautiful plants. From that point on, Professor Tierney's interest in and love for art education blossomed.

Professor Tierney became a potter and in 1936 he graduated from UCLA with a degree in Japanese Art History. His desire to research the great museums in the eastern United States led him to Columbia University where he received a master's degree in Art History in 1939. In the early 1940's, the government took control of his education. He spent 14 months learning Japanese at the USN

Japanese/Oriental Language School and was then assigned to General MacArthur's staff as the Arts and Monuments Commissioner. At the end of the US Occupation, Professor Tierney received his discharge in 1952, but stayed in Japan to study Japanese Arts. He was fortunate to have the great potters as his teachers – Soji Himada, Kanjiro Kawai, and Bernard Leach, as well as the important philosopher Soetsu Yanagi, all fathers of the Mingei Movement. Professor Tierney is an internationally renowned Japanologist and returns to his beloved Japan annually.

Professor Tierney currently resides in Utah where he is Professor Emeritus of Japanese Art History at the University of Utah and Curator of Japanese Art for the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. He was founding director of the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena and Curator of Asian Art at SDMA from 1971-1981. He comes to San Diego often to fulfill his responsibilities as Curator and a Board Member of the Japanese Friendship Garden. He can be found walking in the garden at the end of each month, touring garden visitors and regaling them with facts, anecdotes, and tales of the garden history and its beautiful grounds.

The Japanese Friendship Garden will be a legacy to future generations. It will continue to provide a source of understanding between the peoples of two different cultures and a haven of serenity and contemplation needed in a hectic world. Professor Lennox Tierney's presence, leadership, and commitment will forever strengthen the purpose of those who come to "Walk with Us as We Grow."

[I have long wanted to write you and send a resume – and at long last am getting around to it (June 8, 2009)!]

Enclosed is a brief resume which was used in connection with the awarding of the Reischauer Award in 2006. Since that time, the Emperor of Japan has awarded me (November 6,

2007) the Order of the Rising Sun – Kunsho in Japanese.

So that about brings us up to date. I doubt that the Navy Language School ever realized at the time that they were enabling the Universities in the US in establishing Japanese study programs in most States.

*Sincerely Yours,
Lennox Tierney
Tani Seizan
in Japan]*

**Harold Rogers
DoDDS Teacher
in Japan**



Harold Rogers, 88, died in Tokyo, Japan, on July 12, 2009. He was born in New York City in 1920, son of Abraham Radetzky, a manufacturer of medical supplies. He received his BA from Columbia University in 1941 and an MA from Columbia Teachers College in 1942. In college, he developed a lifelong tendency to "test" friends and associates. Mr. Rogers entered the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado on July 7, 1942. He was a student there with other Columbia graduates, James Di Crocco, Paul Hauck, Sanford Rogers, Gene Sosin, Bill Voelker, and Owen Zurhellen II, graduating in the summer of 1943 with graduate school credit. While at JLS, he participated in the comical musical revue "But Thinking Makes It So," with Di Crocco, Hauck, Harry Muheim,

and Larry Vincent.

Mr. Rogers was not commissioned after JLS due to mobility problems in his left arm from a childhood accident. So, after finishing JLS and being honorably discharged from the Navy, he went to California to teach French and Spanish to Japanese-American internees at Manzanar High School. There, he had a trucker's license because the Japanese-Americans at the internment camp who got jobs in the East needed to have someone to escort them over the California state line. He would drive them over to Reno periodically.

During the Occupation, Mr. Rogers became a teacher in Japan, residing there from 1946 to 2009. Immediately after he arrived in Japan, he was sent to Sendai to teach illiterate American soldiers to read and write English; next he worked in Fukuoka and then in Tokyo. There, he taught French, Spanish, and occasionally Latin at various Department of Defense Dependents' Schools (DoDDS): Meguro High School (which later became the American School in Japan; this had been private but then was taken over by the US Government for a number of years after the war); Narimasu High School (in Grant Heights) until the school closed in 1971; Yamato HS (on Tachikawa AFB, 1971-73); and finally Yokota HS (on Yokota AFB), when Yamato HS closed in 1973. Joyce Imazeki Yamamoto was a student in his Spanish classes in 1952-54 at Narimasu High School. Her father, Howard Imazeki, had been a Sensei at USN JLS/OLS and was now a civilian with the Department of the Army (G2, ATIS, MISG) in Tokyo. Mr. Rogers had been one of his students in Boulder, and he would often ask Joyce Imazeki to give his regards to Sensei. Ms. Yamamoto stated that Mr. Rogers was highly respected professionally, judging from the comments of former

students and fellow teachers.

After retiring in 1990, Mr. Rogers worked part-time as a native English-speaking advisor in Tokyo Metropolitan Suginami High School and Musashi High School. In 1991, he was able to concurrently attend his daughter's graduation and his own 50th anniversary class reunion at Columbia University, feeling he was "perhaps the first alumnus to have that thrill." His friends and relatives remember his storytelling, poetry recitals, sarcasm, and jokes.

He survived by his wife Sophie Fumie; brother George; daughter Paula; and son-in-law William.

Paula Radetzky
Daughter
& David M. Hays
Editor/Archivist

Reprise on Harold Rogers and James DiCrocco

Dec. 28, 2008

Dear Mrs. Rogers:

...Harold and I both attended Columbia University, although in different classes. Early in 1942 we were among several students selected to attend the Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado. Six of us elected to travel from New York to Boulder, Colorado, by train. Harold was good company as he delighted in telling humorous stories.



Paul Hauck & James DiCrocco, Detail, *Dornheim*, 01_03_00_10, Archives, UCB Libraries

When we reached the University after 2 1/2 days of travel we were assigned rooms at the then vacant Men's Dormitory. Harold's roommate was James V. DiCrocco, who,

unfortunately, passed away earlier this year in Thailand.

James DiCrocco and Harold were alike in many ways. Both loved good music and I think both had natural gifts for language. When I visited their room I often found them listening to an opera or other serious music in a foreign language. I remember that Harold liked to challenge me to identify the language. Frequently I failed his test, much to his merriment.

As our year in Boulder ended, I know Harold was disappointed not to be commissioned as a Navy Ensign. He had been assured by his recruiting officer that he would receive a waiver for his arm, but the Navy Medical Corps had the final say. I did not see him again after we left Colorado.

Years later, I remember reading about his daughter's graduation from Columbia in the alumni magazine. Reference was made to her father being in Japan.

It has been 65 years since I last saw your husband. I shall always remember him as a bright, keen-witted young man.

Paul E. Hauck
JLS 1943]

Pearl Harbor Review-Linguists

(Cont'd) In 1933, teamed with Kullback, Hurt began to work on actual Japanese messages. The traffic was old, not intended for current use, but Hurt spent several years working with different cryptanalysts on old Japanese message texts. This exercise gave him a good grasp of diplomatic-style grammar and vocabulary.

The first current Japanese message translated by Hurt and forwarded to the military for use was in 1935. It dealt with a proposal for a joint Japanese-Mexican fishing operation that might have been a cover for espionage.

Hurt, and later other Japanese linguists, would dictate their translations to a series of stenographers.

While some other SIS personnel dabbled in the Japanese language, John Hurt

remained the only full-time translator until mid-1937. As the crisis deepened between the U.S. and Japan, Hurt began to feel extreme pressure in keeping up with the translations, and a second civilian translator was hired. (After World War II, Hurt, who had had bouts of ill health, was placed on indefinite sick leave, which lasted over two years).

One of the unfortunate continuities of Communications Intelligence work has been the woeful lack of qualified linguists. In most crises, including the world war, there were not enough of them at the outset and many did not have the training or experience to be effective COMINT producers.

Nevertheless, just as they acquired brilliant cryptanalysts, the U.S. COMINT organizations hired or trained excellent Japanese linguists in the prewar period, and, as their numbers increased after Pearl Harbor, trained them for wartime service.

SOURCES:

Captain J. S. Holtwick, Jr., USN (Ret), Naval Security Group History to World War II, June 1971, SHR-355, CCH Files.

John Hurt, Some notes on our work from 1930 to 1945, SRH-252, CCH Files.

Rear Admiral Edwin Layton, with Captain Roger Pineau and John Costello, "And I was There": *Pearl Harbor and Midway -- Breaking the Secrets* (New York: William Morrow and Company).

James McIntire & R. D. Howell, Sr., "U.S. Marine Corps in COMINT," NCVA (Paducah, Ky.: Turner Publishing Company, 1996), pp. 46-50.

Larry Myers, "Language Training for War with Japan," NCVA (Paducah, Ky.: Turner Publishing Company, 1996), pp. 35-39.

NOTE: After war began, SIS began training personnel in Japanese; one of the instructors at Arlington Hall Station was Edwin Reischauer, the son of missionaries, and future ambassador to Japan.

http://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic_heritage/center_crypt_history/pearl_harbor_review/linguist.shtml

National Security Agency
Center for Cryptologic Heritage

[Ed. Note: Nice piece. I wish they had a follow-on piece for WWII. I emailed them on the recent books.]

Edward Seidensticker, 1921-2007



Ed Seidensticker, Pineau,
10_06a_03_04, AUCBL.

Edward Seidensticker, who died at 86 on Sunday (2007) in Tokyo, was one of the greatest translators of Japanese literature. He had been in a coma for months following a head injury. Among his books were *The Tale of Genji*, *Snow Country* and *Thousand Cranes* by Yasunari Kawabata, who won the 1968 Nobel Prize for Literature; *The Makioka Sisters* and *Some Prefer Nettles* by Junichiro Tanizaki and *The Decay of the Angel* by Yukio Mishima.

He first studied Japanese at the Navy's Japanese Language School. After serving in the Pacific during WW2, he traveled to Japan. Later he taught at Sophia University in Tokyo and at Stanford, Columbia, and the University of Michigan. Recently he wrote a two-volume history of Tokyo (Edo).

Seidensticker was said to have been reading Jane Austen during his *Genji* translation (which took more than a decade to complete), which helped to color his rendering. It's instructive to compare (as Margalit Fox did in the *NYT*) the opening of Seidensticker's *Genji* with that of the earlier translation by Arthur Waley.

First Waley:

At the Court of an Emperor (he lived it matters not when) there was among the many gentlewomen of the Wardrobe and Chamber one, who though she was not of very high rank was favored beyond all the rest.

And Seidensticker:

In a certain reign there was a lady not of the first rank whom the emperor loved more than any of the others.

It is wonderful that Seidensticker manages the sentences without in internal punctuation. For comparison, here is the opening of the 2002 Royall Tyler translation:

In a certain reign (whose can it have been?) someone of no very great rank, among all his Majesty's Consorts and Intimates, enjoyed exceptional favor.

I don't read Japanese, and it may be that Murasaki wrote with a herky jerky quality that broke up sentences into sequences of short almost disconnected fragments. But even in that case we might ask whether the translator should translate at the surface level or the deep level. In any event, I know that it is Seidensticker's *Genji* I would choose to read.

Tom Christensen
<http://www.rightreading.com/blog/2007/08/31/edward-seidensticker-1921-2007/>

"Tony" Komesu & Masatoshi Uehara Revisited

Komesu's house in Naha had been destroyed in the bombing and fighting. When we were driving around the island; where ever we stopped we attracted onlookers. Very often someone would say to Glen or me that they remembered us, since they had talked to us during or just after the war. We remembered none of these people, but didn't disabuse them of their memories. There were many other Japanese-speaking Americans and some Japanese used to say that all *hakujin* (white) foreigners looked alike.

Uehara later escorted Komesu to the U.S. to visit Pineau, Slaughter and Nelson., and to attend a big league American baseball game, a long cherished ambition. Pineau arranged to take him to Baltimore to see the Orioles play. When Roger told them of Komesu's background and his being "The Babe Ruth of Japan" the stadium arranged to put

Komesu's name and title on the big scoreboard. They put on a spotlight and the crowd gave him a standing ovation. Komesu said to Pineau, "Now I can die happy!" Later he amended this to "But maybe not yet", Baltimore and Washington newspapers reported the event and interviewed Pineau, Slaughter and Nelson. Some time after his return to Okinawa, Komesu moved into a facility for senior citizens. Uehara often visited him there. He was one of the few males there and was always attended by a coterie of attentive ladies. As Uehara said, "Whatta guy!"

I regret to add a sad note about the redoubtable Uehara. For many years I was in frequent touch with him, by email, snailmail and telephone. He usually initiated our contacts and was always voluble and chatty. About three years ago I was suddenly unable to get any response to my messages, I contacted the authorities in the city where he last lived but they have not been helpful nor have they appeared interested. What I need is a good Okinawan P.I. [As mentioned, Komesu passed in 2003. A check of the web did not reveal an obituary for Masatoshi Uehara. It is possible that he had to move to a nursing home. RIP Glenn.]

Glenn Nelson
JLS 1944

CLIFF GRAHAM 1920-1980

My father, Clelan "Cliff" Graham was born in Farwell, MI, 5/16/20 to John A. and Ellen L. (Davison) Graham. He passed away 1/6/80 of a heart attack brought on by years of diabetes.

He acquired the name "Cliff" because a college Filipino friend of his couldn't pronounce Clelan. He got the name Clelan because his parents wanted a girl (they already had his older brother Meryl) and were all set to name it Clela. He went to the University of Michigan on a scholarship (his parents were pretty poor -- his father worked at the Buick plant in Flint, his mother was a teacher), and played trumpet in the U of M band (I guess Harry James was a senior when my father was a

freshman?). Anyway, he graduated in the class of '42. He always said that the Japanese Language Program selected leading students from the major university music programs, as they had discovered a correlation between musical skill and language ability. He went to the school at Boulder -- the names I remember him mentioning are Dave Parkes, Roger Pineau, [1942 UM JLS/OLSers also included Larry Vincent, John Allen, LeRoy Perry, Benjamin Price, Robert Shedd, John Wolaver and James Wolf] and a professor [no, Lt. Cdr.] named Hindmarsh (?), though I'm sure there were other I've forgotten now.

His first overseas duty station was, I believe, Kwajalein, but he was also involved in Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima. There was a widely published picture of him giving candy to a Chamorro boy behind barbed wire on Saipan -- appeared on the front page of most major dailies, as it corresponded (and contrasted) with then-recent revelations about prisoner abuse by the Japanese. He also wrote an article for Coronet Magazine entitled "48 Hours on Tinian". I have a trunk full of Japanese artifacts, though I haven't opened it in years. He won the Bronze Star on, I believe, Saipan for exploits unknown to me. In 1991 I caught my Korean painter using the garrison flag from Tinian as a drop cloth -- turned out his mother had been a "comfort woman", and Mr Lee missed no opportunity to "dis" the Japanese.

He was discharged in late 1945 and, in January, 1946 he married my mother, Ruth E. Stanley, from the same small Michigan town. There's about 12 months where the facts are murky, but in early 1947 they found themselves in Mexico pursuing some scheme the details of which I am ignorant. That didn't work out, and they called one Hazel Littlefield Smith (from a prominent Michigan family and who had grown up across the street from my mother), who offered to let my parents "house-sit" while they travelled. The Smiths had been medical missionaries in

China (Nanking, of all places) until 1937 and barely escaped the Imperial Army on a freighter out of Shanghai (could have been a Humphrey Bogart movie), and came to a place called Palos Verdes, southwest of Los Angeles on the ocean. My mother was pregnant with me at the time, so they accepted, and I was born in the rather palatial house at 3405 Via Palomino, Palos Verdes Estates, 11/1/47.

My father was a very talented artist and illustrator and he went into that field, working for the Parrott Co. and eventually becoming President of Elgin Davis, Inc, the largest ad agency on the West Coast, with clients such as TRW, John Deere tractors, US Motors, American Potash, Robertshaw Controls, and others I've forgotten now. Robertshaw is still around, and you see their thermostats in homes and office buildings -- that logo is my father's handwriting. Story goes that he was doodling during a meeting with them, doodled "Robertshaw", they shot it and it's been their logo ever since. Attached is a picture of one I recently found in a house. Around 1977 he founded Graham & Sparkman Advertising, which he ran until his death. He was also one of the founders of the Palos Verdes School District and was very active in the Neighborhood Church in PVE.

In the late '40's and early '50's, he was also involved in helping displaced Japanese-Americans recover their property -- such local families as the Ishibashi's, Yoshioka's, and Yoshimura's.

He lived in Palos Verdes from 1946 until his death in 1980. My mother (and I) still live there -- she now being 92.

Dana Graham
Prudential California Realty
Palos Verdes

Harold Rogers & Imazeki Sensei Reprise

Thank you so much for your reply concerning Mr Rogers. I appreciate being mentioned in the obituary written by you and

his daughter. I did not know that he had been a teacher and otherwise helped internees at Manzanar internment camp! I wish I had known this fact before as it puts him in another light in my eyes.

I had written to him in 1993, when I learned he was still living in Tokyo, and while my father was also still alive, but was disappointed to not hear back from him. Of course, I later learned he had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for many years.



Boulder Reunion, USNR JLOs, Tokyo, 1946: Jean B. Mayer, Imazeki Sensei, and Leona Moore, far side; Evelyn E. Knecht and Sarah M. Dilley, near side. Pineau, 06_08_00_03, AUCBL.

As for my father, did I mention this before?: He [*Imazeki Sensei at the USN JLS*] died in 1994 at age 87, after a long career in Japanese American journalism, including as the English section editor and president of the *Hokubei Mainichi*, a Japanese-English bilingual newspaper in San Francisco, as well continuing to teach Japanese classes, including at the University of California extension in San Francisco.

*Thank you.
Joyce Imazeki Yamamoto*

[Ed. Note: She asked for permission to post Mr. Roger's obituary on the *Narimasu High School e-list* serve. Since these newsletters go up on the web and can be, and are, used by numerous publications and researchers, both in print and on the web, I said go ahead.]

The Naval Civil Affairs Unit on Saipan

My father was old enough to be my grandfather. He was born in 1875 and ended up in Japan by chance, by way of China. He was a fairly devout Christian youth – he was a Methodist, but he was not a minister. He left China

during Boxer Rebellion and was on his way back to the United States by ship when it pulled into Nagasaki. A launch came out to the ship and he heard an American voice calling up from the launch, "Is there anyone who can stay here for a year and teach English?" That was his introduction to Japan, and he stayed two years. This was from 1900 to 1902. He decided in 1913 or 1914 that he wanted to go back out to Japan to teach. He married my mother and went out in 1914. My brother and two sisters were born in Japan. My father was a professor of English at Aoyama Gakuin (Aoyama University[Academy]). It was a Methodist college.

He was dropped from the university staff at the time of the Great Depression and we moved to Kobe. He stayed in Japan, which was the smartest thing he ever did. He was in his fifties and he could not have found a job in the States at his age during the Depression. He had a family of four children and I was the youngest. And like I said. It was the depth of the Depression, so we stayed and he taught English in Japanese schools. I did not go to a Japanese school in Japan. I learned Japanese, but not well. What I learned was children's Japanese.

In 1940 I came back to the United States and went to college: first to Sacramento Junior College because we had relatives in Sacramento. Then my folks came back to the States. They were evacuated on the advice of the United States government before the war started. By that time my father had been reinstated in the mission and had been assigned to work at a Japanese church in Tacoma, Washington. In Tacoma, I went to the College of Puget Sound, now the University of Puget Sound. I was in Tacoma for about 15 months before I enlisted in the US Navy.

When the War broke out between the United States and Japan, the Army and Navy began to pick up people who were born in Japan – young men and women too – to see if they would be useful to the war effort. The Navy got to me first. Or I should say I enlisted. I didn't know enough Japanese to help them

but they knew I had a background and they sent me to the Navy Language School which was then at Boulder, Colorado. After I was already in the Pacific, they moved it to Stillwater, Oklahoma. There were several hundred people in the school at the time I was there. These were people who had some background in Japanese, or had lived in Japan. Those of us who had lived in Japan were called the "B.I.J.s" – Born in Japan people. And there were other people who had shown an aptitude for languages. We had a concentration of brilliant people there. B.I.J.s were not necessarily brilliant, but others were. Many of them became leading scholars in Japanese studies after the war. There were no Nisei in the Navy program at the time. The Army, however, did take Nisei. Most of them at first did not become officers, but some were commissioned through the ranks so by the end of the war there were a handful of Nisei officers. I don't really know why the Army took Nisei and the Navy didn't. Perhaps it was distrust, or snobbery – I don't know.

Like I said, I didn't know Japanese very well when I went to the language school, but I had an ear for it, which helped me a lot. Of the four Japanese-speaking men in my Military Government Unit in Saipan, I was the most facile of the four, simply because I had this background that they didn't have. They managed to get along, but they couldn't converse

in Japanese as easily as I could.

I was at the language school for fourteen months from 1 December 1942 until March 1944. I first went overseas in April 1944. I was sent out to Pearl Harbor to Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area (JICPOA), which was under CINCPAC, and was translating documents with a whole bunch of other language experts. Then as the Marianas operation developed four of us were picked out and put with a Military Government Unit. There were others from the language school who received their commissions with the Marine Corps and they were assigned to Marine Corps field units.

It was probably the middle of May 1944 that I learned I would be going to Saipan. At the time I was assigned to what was called the "Navy Civil Affairs Unit." The Navy used the term "Navy Civil Affairs Unit." On Saipan, after the battle when the Fifth Amphibious Corps left the island, we came under Army administration and they used the term "Military Government Unit."

Before we left Hawaii, however, we were taught a little bit about civil affairs, but not much. I was given the task of teaching the enlisted men in the unit some words in Japanese in preparation for this. (to be cont'd)

From Harris "Jish" Martin, "Navy Civil Affairs Unit" [JLS 1944] in Bruce M. Petty, Saipan: Oral Histories of the Pacific War, Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2002, p. 156-157



Fall (Dec) 1943 group. Russ Stevens, Rich Woodard, Hoekje, Jack Fischer (all Marines), Jish Martin, Ken LaMotte, etc.

Hudson, 19_01_00_26, AUCBL

Recent Losses: