

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.

Edward S. Goldman OLS 2/1/45 -

Edward Sumnor Goldman, Harvard 1946, died March 5, 2012, in Denver, Colorado. He served in World War II as a Japanese Language Officer at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He entered the USN JLS/OLS in February of 1945 from Lowell, Massachusetts. Later, he and his wife settled in Denver, where he led Central Electric Supply Company for many years. At age 40, he discovered a talent and passion for painting. He leaves his wife, Elaine (Beck), a daughter, Carol, and a son, Stephen.

Harvard Magazine
July – August, 2012
Page 640

LYNN GLEASON OLS 1/10/45 -

ASHEVILLE - Lynn Edward Gleason, 90, of The Deerfield Episcopal Community, passed away Tuesday, March 1, 2011. A native of Des Moines Iowa, he

was the son of the late Jesse Orvall and Lucille Whitmer Gleason. He is also preceded in death by his wife of 64 years Genevieve Weeks. He entered the Russian Program at the US Navy Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in January 1945 from Evanston, Illinois. He proudly served our country in WW II and the Korean War as a US Navy Veteran. He was also a graduate of Iowa State University, employed by ALCOA for many years, and a member of the Presbyterian church. Surviving are his loving son, Jeffrey Lynn Gleason and his wife, Kathy, of Santa Barbara, Calif., and loving companion, Rita Sullivan.

Asheville Citizen-Times
March 3, 2011

REPRISE ON “GOCHO” HARRIS USMC

I really enjoyed talking to you on the phone that day!

I thought I would give you some history about my dad, “Doyle (Gocho) Harris”.

He was born in Dubois County, Indiana on January 11, 1921. He went to French Lick High School, graduating in 1939.



(Detail) Seated as instructor with the USMC Enlisted Japanese Language School senior graduating class, Camp Pendleton, July 1944; Staff Sergeant Doyle W. (“Gocho”) Harris, b&w, 8x10, Pineau31_06_00_15j

[CPL Harris served as a USMC Enlisted Japanese Language School instructor at Camp Elliot in late 1943 and 1944 and was well known to Cal Dunbar, Thomas Carey, and I think Irwin Slesnick, as well as many other USMCELS. He went on, as an officer, to attend the USN JLS/OLS in Boulder and Stillwater, but may have arrived too late to complete the course by war's end. See Issue #83]

He remained in the Marines for the entire war. By the end, he had reached the rank of captain. After the war, he returned to Indiana, moving to Muncie, Indiana.

He went to work at Owens Illinois Glass Company until 1950, when he got a job with Prudential Insurance Company: first as an agent, but later as “staff manager”.

In 1961 he had a “nervous breakdown” and retired on disability. Many believe the war was the root of his breakdown. I do know he had a lot of trouble sleeping at times, and he would often mention he would wake up dreaming about things that had happened during the war.

I was talking to his older brother “Paul” who is still alive, 94 years old, and living in Indianapolis. He thought a lot of his trouble might have developed from my dad’s contraction of malaria, and while he was in the hospital, his entire unit was killed at Tarawa. He never got over that.

After the war, he married my mother (Donna Irene Hutson) from Muncie. We moved to Marion, Indiana, after he went work at Prudential. He lived there for the remainder of his life. He had four sons: Doyle Edward, David, me and Peter, in that order. He died on January 17, 1971 after falling during an ice storm in front of our house, striking his head.

It seems kind of ironic that he survived Guadalcanal and the war and dies, mailing a letter, falling on ice.

He wanted to get back in the Marines during the Korean Conflict, but he had high blood pressure, two children, and my mother was expecting me, so the doctor would not clear him to go back in: telling him, “You have enough responsibility here at home”. Both my older brother “Ed” (1960-66) and I (1970-74) served in the US Navy.

My father really loved the Marine Corps, and was proud of his service. His service did affect him a lot and not always in a positive way. But I am sure it affected pretty much all of those who fought for the freedom we have today. I hope this is something that would be of interest to someone.

Thanks for all you do,
Mike Harris

Sensei and Sensibility

After 73 years, Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS leaves Columbia for Japan

Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS arrived on Morningside by subway as a shy 16-year-old from Brooklyn. He leaves the Columbia faculty 73 years later as a globally renowned scholar and translator of Japanese literature, and a beloved figure in Japan, where he has now chosen to live as a citizen.

In the wake of the Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster last March, it came to light that the eminent Columbia University professor Donald Keene '42, '49 GSAS had chosen to retire to Japan.

His decision became a major news story there, cheering a nation that appreciated the gesture of solidarity from a revered sensei — teacher — at a time when many foreigners were leaving Japan.

Ever faithful to truth, however, Keene notes that he had actually formed his intention many weeks earlier, as he lay in a Tokyo hospital bed. On December 31, Keene had been stricken with an unusually severe case of gout, which eluded initial diagnosis. "It was serious enough to be life-threatening," Keene says. "When I came back to myself, I thought about how I was going to live the rest of my life, and I decided that it would have to be in Japan. I also decided I would take Japanese citizenship." His choice was deeply personal, born of an attachment that goes back to his student days at Columbia more than 70 years ago. But after the earthquake he felt even more committed, and when letters of gratitude poured in from Japanese admirers, he says, "I was, of course, pleased."

A modest, soft-spoken scholar and teacher, the 89-year-old Keene is virtually unknown to the broad American public. In the realm of Japanese letters, however, his reputation could hardly be more stellar. As a teacher, essayist, literary and cultural historian, critic, anthologist, memoirist, editor and translator — with some 25 books in English and another 30 in Japanese — he is perhaps the quintessential figure in his field.

Keene, who began teaching at Columbia in 1955, was named the Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature in 1981 and attained the institution's highest academic rank, University Professor, in 1989. The University's prestigious Donald Keene Center for Japanese Culture, named in his honor at its founding in 1986, sponsors instruction, research, exhibits, prizes and other public programs. Somehow the major College alumni awards have eluded Keene, however. Perhaps he feels as Duke Ellington did in 1965 when the Pulitzer Prize board denied him the award its music jurors had recommended: "Fate is being kind to me," Ellington dryly remarked. "Fate doesn't want me to be famous too young."

Keene certainly has not lacked for recognition on the western side of the Pacific. He has received a number of Japan's most distinguished prizes, most

recently the Order of Culture (Bunka-Kunsho), which the Japanese government awards for significant contributions to the nation's culture; he was the first foreign national to be so honored.

"He's almost the most famous man in Japan," says Carol Gluck '77 GSAS, Columbia's George Sansom Professor of History, herself a well-known scholar and commentator there. "You can't go anywhere in Japan and utter the words 'Donald Keene' and not have everybody know him, whether you're in the middle of the paddy fields or the mountains in the north," she says. "Intellectuals and scholars are media celebrities in Japan and always on television. Even I'm always on television."

Fred Katayama '82, '83J is a news anchor for Thomson Reuters television in New York and a former student and longtime friend of Keene's. Katayama remembers switching on NHK — the BBC of Japan — and watching in awe as his teacher interviewed then-Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone one-on-one. Keene so engages the Japanese public, Katayama observes, that his memoirs were serialized in *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the nation's (and the world's) leading daily newspaper, with a paid circulation of more than 14 million. "I think they feel that he knows and understands Japan more than perhaps any foreigner," Katayama says.

A third-generation Japanese-American from Los Angeles, Katayama spent a number of years in Tokyo as a correspondent for *Fortune*, the Associated Press and the program *Japan Business Today*, seen on CNBC in the United States; he sits on the board of the Japan Society and the U.S.-Japan Council, in Washington, D.C. Yet it was Keene who inspired him to embrace his own cultural ancestry.

"Japan didn't have the greatest image when I was growing up," Katayama says. "It was mocked — 'Made in Japan' and all that stuff. I didn't want anything to do with the country." But as a student in the College, Katayama recalls, he happened to read Keene's *Landscapes and Portraits: Appreciations of*

Japanese Culture, and a spark was ignited. "He talks about Japanese aesthetics in daily life — the beauty of irregularity. The misshapen tea bowl is more interesting and something to behold than a perfectly symmetrical piece of porcelain."

Katayama followed his curiosity and signed up for Japanese classes, gradually committing to a major in East Asian languages and cultures. Eventually he landed in Keene's famed course, "Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature."

"The amazing thing about Professor Keene is that he does not use notes," Katayama says. "His lectures are all in his head, and he's extremely passionate. You can feel it in the tenor of his voice, his mannerisms, the way he holds himself. There's a Japanese sensibility to him — modest, quiet, extremely diligent, but never patronizing or condescending. He always came in a suit; he was old-fashioned in that sense. You're not going to see him in a polo shirt. And he ended perfectly on time — he would be out the door."

Katayama feels deeply indebted to Keene. "I was a Japanese-American who had an identity crisis at a Jesuit prep school and swore he would never go to Japan," he says. "And I wind up spending a good chunk of my career tied to Japan. What if I hadn't read *Landscapes and Portraits*?"

Keene's approach to teaching and writing bears the imprint of his freshman Humanities instructor, Mark Van Doren '21 GSAS. "He was a scholar and poet and above all someone who understood literature and could make us understand it with him," Keene writes in *Chronicles of My Life: An American in the Heart of Japan*. "Van Doren had little use for commentaries or specialized literary criticism. Rather, the essential thing, he taught us, was to read the texts, think about them, and discover for ourselves why they were ranked as classics."

The experience of taking the College's general education courses was "incredible," Keene says, and he fondly remembers the great teachers he encountered as an undergraduate. Among them were the "learned and

gentle" classicist, Moses Hadas '30 GSAS; Lionel Trilling '25, '38 GSAS and Jacques Barzun '27, '32 GSAS, who led Keene's Senior Colloquium; and Pierre Clamens, a French instructor "who was very stern, but gave everything to his students," Keene says.

His chief mentor, however, was cultural historian Ryusaku Tsunoda, a pioneer of Japanese studies at Columbia whom Keene often refers to, simply, as Sensei. "He was a man I admired completely," Keene says, "a man who had more influence on me than anyone else I can think of."

As a senior, Keene enrolled in Tsunoda's course in the history of Japanese thought. Fifty years later, in a CCT interview (Winter 1991) with David Lehman '70, '78 GSAS, Keene remembered: "The first class, it turned out I was the only student — in 1941 there was not much pro-Japanese feeling. I said, 'Wouldn't it be a waste of your time to give a class for one student?' He said, 'One is enough.'"

Born in 1922, Keene speaks with some sadness of his boyhood in Brooklyn's Flatbush section. In 1934, he lost his sister, which left him an only child. Keene's father, who sold radio parts and later real estate, left his mother "under very unpleasant conditions" when he was 15, Keene says. "And then he disappeared from my life altogether for a period. I didn't even know where he was." Keene himself has never married.

Lonely and, by his own reckoning, exceptionally unathletic, Keene found solace in stamp collecting, which opened his eyes to a wider world of nations and languages, and in movies, which opened his eyes even wider. Years later, as a professor, Keene escorted Greta Garbo, a friend of a friend, to the Broadway production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. "After emerging from the theater, we waited briefly for a taxi, and the drivers of passing cars halted their vehicles for a better look at the famous face," he later recalled.

In 1938, Keene attended his first performance of the Metropolitan Opera; it was *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The following year,

as a birthday gift, his mother gave him a subscription to 16 successive Friday nights at the Met. The teenaged Keene sat in the last row of the uppermost tier, where tickets cost \$1, and was hooked for life. One of Keene's chief regrets in leaving New York is giving up his Met Opera subscription. (to be cont'd next issue)

By Jamie Katz '72
Columbia College Today
Winter 2011
<http://www.college.columbia.edu/cct/winter11/features/>

Royce Beckett OLS 3/20/45-

ROYCE BECKETT Royce Beckett, 89, of Davenport, Iowa, died Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at Trinity Bettendorf. Services were held Thursday, July 12th in Davenport. The family is also planning a celebration of life at a later date at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Auburn, Alabama, where he was member for over 30 years. In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, memorials may be made to the National Park Foundation (www.nationalparks.org) or to Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org). Royce Beckett was born May 31, 1923, the eldest of six, in Hinch, Missouri. He graduated from high school in Bourbon, Missouri in 1940 and was the first in his family to attend college. Royce was accepted into the Navy's V-12 Officer in Training program and graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1944. He went to Midshipman School at Columbia University in New York City. After receiving his commission, he was sent to US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School in Boulder, Colorado. He was posted to Guam at the end of World War II. He earned an MS in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1950 from the University of Illinois and his doctoral degree in engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. In 1953 he joined the University of Iowa as an assistant professor. From 1960-67 he served as Professor and Director of Solid Mechanics in the Mechanics and Hydraulics

Department. While at Iowa, Royce met and married Shirley Needham in 1954. In 1967, Royce began a 10-year assignment with the Rock Island Arsenal serving as the Director of the Rodman Laboratory and Technical Advisor to the Commander. In 1977, Royce returned to academics as the Chair of Mechanical Engineering at Auburn University. Royce retired from Auburn University in 1993 at the age of 70. He had a long and distinguished career. He took a personal interest in his students and cared deeply about their success. Throughout his career, Royce and Shirley provided his international students a home away from home. Recently, former students have established scholarships in his name at both the University of Iowa and Auburn University. Royce loved photography and enjoyed taking movies and slides of family vacations and holidays. Several of his pictures won local awards. He loved to travel. Favorite destinations were national parks where he could combine his love of the outdoors and photography. He was an avid rose gardener, tending nearly 100 bushes in his Auburn garden. Royce was active in his church and community. He coached 6 years of Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, served as President of the Bettendorf School Board, and was the informal event photographer for every organization he belonged to. Royce and Shirley taught several courses for the Auburn University lifelong learning program and helped found the Auburn Food Bank. Survivors include his wife, Shirley; daughters, Susan (Laurie Haag) of Iowa City, IA and Barb (Doyle) Harris of Davenport; son, Scott (Kim) Beckett of Jacksonville, AL; grandchildren, Trasi (Mark) Crowley, Kim (Shawn) Parr, Bryan Harris and Clay Beckett; seven great-grandchildren; sisters, Norma (Clarence) Brouk of St. Louis, MO and Bonnie Pennock of Bourbon, MO; brothers, Lindy Beckett of Lathrop, MO and Dale Beckett of Bourbon, MO. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Vera Halsey. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

The Opelika-Auburn News
July 17, 2012

REMEMBERING HARRY FOOTE

(Cont'd from Previous Issue)

Sanphy said he admired Foote's fearlessness when it came to breaking stories, especially those that made local political figures uncomfortable.

"He always ran with it, and did a good job reporting it, sometimes to the chagrin of some politicians," Sanphy said.

Pete Profenno owns Profenno's Bar and Grill in Westbrook, where Foote was a regular customer. "Nicest guy in the world," Profenno said Tuesday. "We'll miss him in town."

Profenno said he was a regular advertiser and Foote would run an ad even if Profenno hadn't ordered one. He said he last saw Foote and his wife, Anne, and their son Ray in the restaurant three or four months ago. Profenno pointed to a booth where the Foote family always sat.

Hews said it was in Profenno's where she worked out the deal to purchase the American Journal from the Foote family.

"During the negotiations and eventual sale of the paper, I spent many hours with Harry, learning about the business he had built and coming to understand that the 'deal' we were putting together was never the issue for Harry," Hews recalled. "Harry needed to be sure that the people who relied upon the American Journal as readers would continue to get what they needed, and that the employees would be treated fairly."

In 1990, Foote received the Maine Press Association's Journalist of the Year award, and in 1999, he was inducted into the association's Hall of Fame. Baker said he personally nominated Foote for the induction.

"I admired him enormously," he said. "He was a very good newspaperman."

In particular, Baker recalled a 1992 story of allegations that Ken Allen, executive assistant to

then-Maine House Speaker John Martin, had broken into the recount room of the secretary of state's office to stuff ballot boxes in favor of Deborah Rice, who at the time was neck-and-neck with Joseph Taylor for the Maine House District 38 seat.

That story, which led to Allen and one other aide pleading guilty in Maine Superior Court to burglary and ballot-tampering charges, made national news, but Foote broke it first in the American Journal, Baker said, after a key source tried to tell the story to the Portland Press Herald, which declined to run it.

"He had a great nose for news," Baker said of Foote.

Many journalists recalled starting their careers working under Harry Foote. Christopher "Crash" Barry, 44, began working as a part-time reporter in 1994 at the American Journal. He only worked there about a year and a half while he attended journalism classes at the University of Southern Maine, but the impression that Foote made on his skills as a journalist has lasted his entire career.

"(Working at) the American Journal was like going to journalism school," he said.

Barry said Foote forced him to be relentless in his pursuit of every little detail, and Barry lost count of how many meetings Foote made sure he attended. The experience was worth it.

"Now, I can go into any city hall, police station, or government building and be comfortable that I know what's available to me for public information," he said.

Foote, Barry said, was very old-school, typing up stories on a typewriter even into the computer age. In fact, Barry said, one of his most enduring memories is of what Foote used to do with old press releases which, in the days before email, were mailed in to the office.

"He would flip them over, tape them together, and type stories on the back of them," Barry recalled.

Matt DeRienzo, group editor of Journal Register Co.'s publications in Connecticut, is a former American Journal reporter and managing editor. He started his career at the American Journal at age 18.

"He took a chance on me," DeRienzo said of Foote.

DeRienzo said Foote never took statements at face value, always pushing harder to get to the truth underneath.

"He would scare the hell out of public officials," DeRienzo said, "He brought public officials to their knees."

DeRienzo said Foote also forced his reporters to do the same, often asking reporters, "How do you know he's not lying?"

Kate Irish Collins, a reporter for the Sun Chronicle and the Weekly Reporter, worked for Foote for two years as a reporter for the American Journal. She said she had no formal journalism training, and learned much from Foote. In particular, Collins recalled Foote's passion for detail.

"If you were doing a feature story on someone, Foote always wanted to know things like what that person liked to eat for breakfast or what they were wearing – anything and everything that could help the reader connect with that person and see something of themselves too," Collins said.

Chuck Anschutz covered Windham and Gorham, and wrote sports stories under Foote from the late 1990s until Foote sold the paper. Like other former colleagues, Anschutz recalled Foote's dedication to making sure public officials took responsibility for their actions.

"Harry took his responsibility of holding government accountable very seriously," he said. "He encouraged this ethic in his reporters, and the local community was better off for it."

Raymond Foote, himself a former assistant editor and publisher of the American Journal, said his father worked hard every day at the paper up until age 86, when he sold it.

"He loved the towns and the people," he said, "(and) they loved him back."

They loved him, most agreed, because along with his strong political views, his relentless pursuit of public officials, and his tireless interest in the smallest details, at the heart of Harry Foote was a deep commitment to helping the public.

"I think we had better government because of Harry Foote," DeRienzo said.

Foote also showed a dedication to the people who worked for him, Collins said.

"While Foote was a tough editor, he cared about his staff and always wanted to know how we were doing," she said.

DeRienzo agreed, saying on a personal level, "Harry was a father figure to me."

Hews said she is proud to continue the work that Foote started with the American Journal.

"I have always had it in the back of my mind that I was simply a steward of Harry's work," Hews said. "I am so honored that he allowed us to take over and continue to do his work for the people in these communities."

Foote is survived by his wife, daughter Susan and son Raymond, all of Portland; son Thomas and daughter-in-law Anne Harwood, Bowdoinham; son Daniel and daughter-in-law Mikiyo, Tokyo, Japan and Seattle, Wash.; and grandsons Jeffrey Perry of Arlington, Va., and Kevin Perry of Charlotte, N.C.

Also surviving are his wife's sister Sally and her husband Richard Vaughan of Buxton, and sisters-in-law Charlotte Foote of Northport, Mich., and Jannette Foote of Bay Village, Ohio, and many nieces and nephews.

A visiting hour and brief memorial will be held from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Jones, Rich and Hutchins Funeral Parlor, 199 Woodford St., Portland.

Contributions may be made in his memory to Bowdoin College, 1400 College Station, Brunswick, ME 04011.

By Sean Murphy
smurphy@keepmecurrent.com

Robert Lowell
rlowell@keepmecurrent.com /
Posted: Wednesday, August 15, 2012
5:37 pm

Recent Losses:

Irwin L. Slesnick USMCEL 1945 Biologist & JLS Historian



"I had the privilege of editing two books he wrote for us...."
- Andrew Cooke

Irwin Leonard Slesnick, beloved teacher, father, husband, died September 5, 2012 at St. Joseph Hospital.

Dr. Slesnick was a professor of Biology and Science Education at Western Washington University from 1963 until retirement in 1996. He worked as Science Education Advisor in India from 1965 - 1970.

Irwin Slesnick was born in Canton, Ohio August 5, 1926. He joined the Marine Corps in March 1944 and served as a Japanese Language Interpreter during the Battle for Okinawa. At the end of WWII he was sent to China and was discharged in May, 1946.

Following his service, Slesnick received his B.S. and A.B. in Biology and Physical Science from Bowling Green State University, his M.S. in Zoology from University of Michigan, and his Ph.D. in Science Education from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Slesnick was an active member of Washington Science Teachers Association and National Science Teachers Association, receiving their highest award in 1998, the Robert H. Carleton Award for his leadership in Science Education. He wrote many articles for NSTA publications The Science Teacher and Science & Children.

Slesnick published numerous articles and books on Science Education. His company, Creative Dimensions, produced and developed science activity kits for children. He wrote a comprehensive book on WWII Japanese Language Schools initially motivated by his own experience.

Irwin Slesnick is survived by his wife Carole, his brother Bruce, and by his five children from a previous marriage, Trina, Twila, Dan, Tanya, and Natasha.

Appreciation goes out to Home Attendant Care, Mt. Baker Care Center, and Irwin's doctors and the staff at St. Joseph Hospital for their constant care and comfort.

Bellingham Herald
September 7 to 9, 2012

[Ed. Note: It was Professor Slesnick's enjoiners when he arrived to perform research between 1999 and 2000 that induced the Archives to intensively reinitiate the acquisition of USN JLS/OLS archival materials from hundreds of former JLS/OLS sensei and instructors, attendees, graduates, and their kin. He told me, "They have a lot of papers that they might want to contribute." Those collected papers assisted Sles and Carole in writing Kanji & Codes, as well as they aided Professor Roger Dingman in his research for Deciphering the Rising Sun. In the many research trips he made to CU, partially because he enjoyed Boulder and staying at the Faculty Club (no longer an option, I am afraid), he was always a welcome visitor). He had previously spent much time at CU for the High School Biology Curriculum Study. So it was with relish, as well as generosity, that he would front me dinners at the Flagstaff or at Sushi restaurants. He very much enjoyed the 2002 USN JLS/OLS 60th Anniversary Reunion at the University of Colorado. I shall miss him.]

\$Donations Accepted

You may contribute donations to our US Navy JLS/OLS Fund. We hire work-study students on this fund, tripling its value. Make your check out to the **University of Colorado**, writing **US Navy JLS Fund** on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address. It will go straight to our project.

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