

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.

F. A. OLAFSON

Frederick Arlan Olafson, (JLS 1944), beloved father and a former professor of philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, passed away after a long illness on August 14, 2012, in Carlsbad, CA. He was 87 years old.

Frederick was born on September 1, 1924, in Winnipeg, Canada, raised in Seattle, WA, and educated at Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1951. He studied many languages, was recruited to the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School in May 1943 and was a Japanese language interpreter in the Navy during World War II.

Frederick was a Fulbright scholar at Oxford University, where he met his wife, Allie Lewis, formerly of New York City, also a Fulbright scholar. They were married in June 1952. Frederick was a distinguished professor of philosophy and a renowned scholar of the works of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger. He taught at Vassar College, Princeton

University, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard and the University of California San Diego, where he taught from 1971 to 1991, when he retired. He was the chairman of UCSD's philosophy department from 1973 to 1976 and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at UCSD during the 1980s. He continued to teach and write after his retirement.

During the course of his career, Frederick wrote several books, including *Principles and Persons*, *Ethics and Twentieth Century Thought*, *The Dialectic of Action*, *Heidegger and the Philosophy of Mind*, *What is a Human Being and Naturalism and the Human Condition*. He also edited the anthologies *Society, Law and Morality* and *Justice and Social Policy*.

Frederick's wife passed away in 1990. Frederick is survived by his three sons: Peter Olafson (Evelyn Nieves) of La Jolla, CA, Christopher Olafson of La Jolla, CA, and Thomas Olafson (Sylvia Olafson) of El Centro, CA. He is also survived by four step-grandchildren: Angelica Silva, Joe Aguilar, Arthur Aguilar and Jennifer Tapia, all of El Centro, CA. He is also survived by six step-great-grandchildren.

Frederick is also survived by his nephew James MacDonald of Seattle, WA, his nephew David MacDonald of Bellingham, WA, and his niece Katherine Almy of Seattle, WA, and their families. He is also survived by his cousin Rick Olafson of Tucson, AZ, and his family. Frederick is also survived by his wife's nieces and nephews: Nicholas Lewis of Montclair, NJ, Sally Lewis of Denver, CO, Claudia Lehr of Woodside, CA, and Norah Lewis of Arlington, MA, and their families. Frederick is also survived by many other nieces, nephews and cousins.

Frederick Olafson was a loving husband, a great father and a fine scholar. He will be greatly missed.

San Diego Union-Tribune
September 12, 2012

**CONVERSATION WITH
PATRICK LENNOX
TIERNEY
OLS 1945**

Cambridge Who's Who: On what topic(s) do you consider yourself an expert?

Patrick Lennox Tierney: I am a "Japanologist," meaning that I am a specialist in all things Japanese.

CWW: What characteristics help to separate you from your competitors?

PLT: The fact that I became bilingual in Japanese and English (courtesy of the US Navy) and was sent to work in General MacArthur's Office. I am probably the last living member of his staff. I was his arts and monuments commissioner and had charge for the occupation of every temple, collection, and museum in the entire empire. In that position, I was able to work with the artists and philosophers at the highest levels and able to produce some – I hope – miraculous things between Japan and America. As one example of this, during a roundtable discussion in General MacArthur's office concerning the preservation of the Imperial Institution, the General turned to me and said, "Tierney, what is your take on this matter?" I agreed with the General, but he persisted, "I will be asked many questions about this. What is your rationale for preserving the institution?" I then reminded him that Japan was in danger of becoming a communist nation at the conclusion of the occupation and that communists on the mainland were organizing to take over China and wanted to include Japan in their sweep of Asia. I told him that communist governments destroy the cultures of the nations they take over – using the arts only for furthering party propaganda. So to preserve Japanese culture, including the paintings, poetry, theater and folks crafts, I would preserve the Imperial system at all costs.

CWW: What motivates you?

PLT: I am motivated primarily

by the fact that I am an artist and an art historian; my special field is Japanese art history. I have dedicated my life to repairing the damage done by World War II between Japan and the United States. I realize that the arts are a very convenient venue of doing that because Japan is such an art-centered society, and this is different from the United States because we are not an art-centered society.

CWW: What short-term and long-term goals are you currently pursuing?

PLT: Representing Japan in the United States. I want to keep bringing tours of specialists to Japan – it's an ongoing goal.

CWW: What is the most difficult obstacle or challenge you have faced in pursuit of your goals?

PLT: Politics, because artists are not considered a top level of our society. I have always had to battle with that.

CWW: What is the most significant issue facing your profession today?

PLT: The economic imbalance between the economies of the world and ourselves, specifically the economic relationship between Japan and the United States. We are in a difficult situation because the dollar isn't worth much and the yen is very valuable.

CWW: How did you end up in your current field?

PLT: Opportunities [presented] in the field, and [I had] teachers who were interested in helping me with my career.

CWW: What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your profession?

PLT: The opportunity to meet and work with people in fields related to mine.

CWW: What is your favorite or least favorite work-related task to do and why?

PLT: Teaching and lecturing in my field are my favorite tasks, and my least favorite task is any kind of routine or repetitive office work.

CWW: What advice can you offer fellow members or others aspiring to work in your field?

PLT: I advise persons aspiring to the fields of art history, and particularly the field of Japanology, to learn the language connected to their chosen major field.

CWW: Who have been your mentors or people who have greatly influenced you?

PLT: Dr. Soetsu Yanagi, Professor Isamu Tokoro, the Potters, Shoji Hamada and Kanjiro Kawai, the teacher – painter Sadami Yamada, Professor Mayumi Otsubo, and many others.

CWW: What changes have you observed in your field since you started?

PLT: The revolution in photographic technology involved in the change from film to reflex cameras.

CWW: How do you see these changes affecting the future of your industry?

PLT: It is easier to capture photographic images and project them in lectures.

Top 101 Executive Spotlight
Japanese Art Instruction
Pp. 41-42

REMEMBERING ROBERT SCHWANTES



January 10, 2013 — Robert Schwantes, a former Executive Vice President of The Asia Foundation, passed away on October 25 at the age of 90. Dr. Schwantes worked for the Foundation in many roles from 1954 to 1988 in both Japan and the U.S. After graduating from Harvard in 1943 with a Bachelor's of Arts in History, he

attended the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School and served in the Pacific Theater. He returned to Harvard and received his Ph.D. in 1950. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Schwantes was a Research Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, which led to the publication of his study, *Japanese and Americans: A Century of Cultural Relations*. "In Bob's passing The Asia Foundation has lost one of its pioneers," said Ambassador Haydn Williams, who served as The Asia Foundation's president from 1963-1989.

Bulletin:
News from the Asia Foundation
Winter 2013

Edward Divine White, Jr., FAIA

(born 2 February 1925) is an architect based in Denver, Colorado, whose forty-year practice (from 1955 through 1995) focused on contemporary architecture and historic preservation.

Born and raised in Denver, White attended Denver Public Schools (Montclair Elementary School, Smiley Junior High School, and East High School (Denver)). East High School guidance counselor, Justin W. Brierly, was influential in the acceptance of a number of East High graduates, including White, to Columbia University of New York City. White was awarded a National Honor Scholarship by Columbia University in 1942 and enrolled that fall.

His studies were interrupted by World War II, and White enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943. He completed Midshipmen's School (a year studying at Cornell and 3 months at Northwestern) in 1944, and then was selected to attend the Naval Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado which he completed in 1945. White then served in the Far Eastern Section of Naval Intelligence, evaluating classified Japanese documents. After the war, White returned to Columbia University to complete his studies in the fall of 1946, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1948.

In 1949, White was awarded a University of Denver Social Science Foundation Grant for study in France; he enrolled at the Université Paris Sorbonne, where he took literature courses and focused on his interest in architecture. After completing his certificate in France, he returned to Columbia University and enrolled in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, from which he graduated in 1955 with a B. Architecture and a Master of Architecture, and was the 1955 Recipient of Columbia's Hirsch Memorial Prize.

Fisher, Fisher and Davis

Between 1955-1958, White worked as a draftsman and construction supervisor for Fisher, Fisher & Davis Architects in Denver, Colorado. He obtained his architectural license in October 1958.

Hornbein & White

In 1960, Ed White formed a partnership with Victor Hornbein, Victor Hornbein & Edward D. White, Jr. Architects. As a partner in Hornbein & White, a progressive architectural firm in the 1960s, White nurtured his contemporary architecture practice while spending time on national, state and local preservation societies, committees and organizations.

One of their early projects, the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory and Mitchell Hall at the Denver Botanic Gardens, was named a Denver Landmark by the City and County of Denver in 1973.

White laid the groundwork for and made many contributions to the early years of historic preservation in Colorado. White's grassroots work in preservation had a major impact on the existence and future of the original heart of the city of Denver as well as historic mountain mining communities throughout Colorado. In 2001, September 14 was declared Edward D. White, Jr. Day by Mayor Wellington Webb.

White, in consultation with the Urban Subcommittee of the Denver Planning Board, was among a small group of Denver architects whose efforts led to the establishment of the Denver

Landmark Preservation Commission. White was appointed to the Commission in 1969 by Denver Mayor William McNichols at the recommendation of the Denver Chapter of the AIA. He was re-appointed by two subsequent Mayors and served ten terms on the Commission (1969-1990), four of those terms (six years) as its Chairman.

In 1970, one of Denver's landmarks, the Molly Brown House, was threatened with demolition. White headed the efforts to preserve the mansion. This movement led to the formation of Historic Denver, Inc., of which he was a founding board member. He served as advisor and mentor, and dedicated many years of service to committees, boards and commissions to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archeological resources.

White made major contributions while serving on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Historical Foundation, Historic Denver, Inc., Four Mile Historic Park, Little Kingdom Foundation (preservation planners for Colorado's oldest, best preserved mining district), Central City Opera Association (owner of Central City's most important landmark structures), and other prominent civic groups.

On May 18, 2010, Edward D. White, Jr. was honored with the Dana Crawford Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation by Colorado Preservation, Inc.

During his undergraduate studies at Columbia University, White established a lifelong friendship with Jack Kerouac. White and Kerouac traveled together extensively throughout the U.S and abroad, and each had a major impact on the other's future, as evidenced by volumes of vivid correspondence, reminiscences, notes, and photographs. Ed White appears in Kerouac's *On the Road* as the character Tim Gray; in *Visions of Cody* as Ed Gray; and in *Book of Dreams* as Al Green and Guy Green. White is credited with suggesting that Kerouac try, "sketching with words rather than writing conventionally," in 1951.

White was also a longtime friend of Columbia University classmate Allan Temko, a Pulitzer Prize winning architecture critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle* who died in 2006, and Columbia University classmate Allen Ginsberg.

White was widely published and authored a significant number of books and articles.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_D._White,_Jr

Ida Inouye Receives her University of the Pacific Diploma

Dear Bob and BaoMei, Dan and Jan, Jessica and David:

Last fall, my son, Stan received a call from the University of the Pacific asking if they knew a person by the name of Ida Takagishi Inouye. Janie, his wife answered the phone and told them it was her mother-in-law. It seemed they were looking for those who could not graduate because of the war and, of course, evacuation.

I just received an official invitation a few weeks ago to participate in the [May 2013] graduation ceremony. All of this came as a complete surprise which I had never even dreamed. I had at one point sent for my transcript but decided it was too large a undertaking for me and had completely dismissed it from my mind. I am the only member of the entire family who had not received a college degree. So on May 4, 2013, Saturday. I will receive my B.A. degree from the University of the Pacific. Now mom, grandmother and great grandmother will be getting her degree at 91 years of age. Needless to say, the family is all excited and thrilled for me and I know Ari is happy for me as well

Since all of you were so much of Ari and my life at the time (Bob and Dan were one of Ari's first students) and at the 60th Reunion in Boulder, that we were able to connect with each other, I just wanted to share this with you..... Thank you for being such wonderful and everlasting friends.

With much love and gratitude, Ida

Dear Ida,

Thank you for the excellent news of action by the University of the Pacific to grant you a degree at the forthcoming Commencement Ceremony. I am especially delighted, as I have long felt that you together with Ari deserve recognition and honor by universities for your wonderful contributions during and after WWII. Naturally, I had in mind both University of California and University of Colorado, but it is much to the credit of UOP that it has taken the lead.

I wish I could be in Stockton on Saturday, May 4, 2013 to stand among the many who will be enthusiastically applauding our admired Ida Takagishi Inouye. On that happy occasion I shall, however, be very much with you and family in spirit. I am honored to be your friend.

*Bob Sheeks
JLS 1943*

Dear Ida,

With all members of the extended Inouye family, and among your and Ari's so many, many friends, Jan and I add our gratitude and delight to your celebration of receiving your University of the Pacific B.A. Degree at the Saturday, May 4, 2013 graduation ceremonies in Stockton. Though about 72 years late, and one of so many unfortunate consequences of the WW2 "resettlement" of West Coast "AJAs" (Americans of Japanese Ancestry, finally Ida Takagishi Inouye is receiving her diploma. Hooray! Jan and I will not be attending, but will be cheering from here.

At Boulder's scenic and sparkling U of CO campus, arguably the best possible environment for USN JLS students to become "Japanized," it was the unique personal friendship and encouragement of the sensei for each individual student which made it happen. Small classes, informality, and Boulder sensei Japanese family home visits were so pleasant and helpful that few students realized that other AJAs, close friends and relatives of "our senseis," were then being forced to experience extreme daily discomforts of internment behind barbed wire stockades, with loss

of freedom. Internee newspapers in both English and Japanese, from Tule Lake and other camps, received by our sensei hosts Inouyes and Yumotos, seen by me at your homes, were informative and shocking, as some senseis had been in camp confinement before moving to Boulder.

So, Ida, you and Ari and other sensei families, based on your experiences, gave our 1943-1944 JLS classes at Boulder a particular understanding of the process of learning spoken and written Japanese with personal lifelong results for each student. Our lifelong friendship can be expected. At a senior community here, it is said that birthdays before 90 are to be observed but not counted. After 90, count them. Your comment on receiving a diploma at 91 is appropriate.

Congratulations to you, and Ari, for your so many accomplishments. Thank you both for your special, Boulder-style friendship.

*Dan & Jan Williams
JLS 1943*

[Ed. Note: This was my note: Dear Ida: Please accept my heartfelt congratulations for your degree. Working at a university, I can well appreciate the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that can come from finally receiving the recognition of a degree. Such credit, like well-deserved, but only recently awarded military medals, is long overdue. Like the cases of many others, you always had a right to that acknowledgement; it just took the powers that be a long time to reach that conclusion for themselves. I regret that it took so long, but I agree, Ari is probably pleased as punch.

I just wanted to let you know that we received the Joseph and Miye Sano, Robert Schwantes, and George Nace Collections, and will receive a correspondence collection from George Mendenhall (longtime professor at Michigan). We are working on a Freeman Foundation Grant to staff the processing of these collections.

Please accept my very best wishes. Will you be throwing your mortar board in the air? She later told me no, but her grandson told her that she would have to start looking for a job.]

Contributions:

Keene Adopts Shamisen Player as Son

KYODO

Donald Keene, a prominent scholar of Japanese literature who last year became a Japanese citizen, has adopted the shamisen player Seiki Uehara as his son, Keene revealed on Monday in a talk he gave in Niigata.

According to Seiki, 62, the talk of possible adoption surfaced around spring 2011 when the U.S.-born Keene, 90, expressed his intention to switch to Japanese citizenship.

The musician took Keene's surname in March last year.

Their exchanges began in November 2006 when Seiki, who performs "joruri," or traditional Japanese narrative music, visited the scholar to ask him about "kojoruri," an ancient form of it.

He also sought Keene's advice when he performed "Kochi Hoin Godenki," a work in the puppet joruri theater, in 2009 for the first time in about 300 years based on a script discovered at the British Museum.

Seiki played the traditional instrument for many years under the stage name Tsurusawa Asazo V.

In 1997, he returned to his hometown of Niigata, where he taught and performed shamisen while helping with his family's brewery business.

Living in Tokyo with Keene, Seiki cooks meals for and manages the schedule of the scholar.

"I want to support the busy teacher and see to it that he stays healthy," the musician said.

*Japan Times
May 1, 2013*

*Keene adopts shamisen player as son
- The Japan Times
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/05/01/national/keene-a...>*

Japanese Language Story

My dad [SSG James A. Ward, USA] was in Japan shortly after the war ended as part of the Occupation. He told me a story about himself and a buddy who were trying to find their way

around in Tokyo. They were lost so they decided to ask a [Japanese] traffic cop for directions. The cop bowed politely and said in broken English. "Where from please?" Dad's buddy was from Ohio, so when he told that to the cop, the cop bowed once again asking, "Ohaiyo. Where from please?" The soldier again said Ohio and the cop bowed again, saying "Ohaiyo. Where from please?" By now my dad caught on to the Abbot and Costello nature of what was happening, so he blurted out "Oklahoma!" That ended the cycle and they got their directions.

They were going to a recital of Chopin piano works. They filed into a large auditorium along with Japanese who were dressed in tuxedos and kimonos. Soon the curtain rose and a man came on stage with a small table and a phonograph. He put on a record and left the stage. The record was the recital. Dad said the audience was as enthralled with the music as if an actual person were on stage playing a real piano.

James A. Ward, Jr.
LTC USA (ret.)

[Ed. Note: I had sent information to LTC Ward regarding our USN JLS/OLS Archival Project, and he sent this story back that I had to include.]

REPRISE ON DICK GREENWOOD

I am in the process of compiling all the information I have about Dad [Dick Greenwood] into a book format for the family, and hope to finish transcribing the letters by end of August.

Most of the letters are undated and locations are not disclosed. Mom didn't keep the envelopes so I am using clues in the letters to help put them into chronological order, and using other sources to pinpoint where the 1st Marine Division was. There is a commendation letter that puts him at "Cape Gloucester." According to one source, *The Green Inferno*, the 1st Marine Division was at Cape G. from December 25 until they departed in two echelons on April 6 and May 4.

I am pretty sure when he talks



Cape Gloucester, 1944

<http://www.scherr-usa.us/mc.htm>

about [Roger] Hackett they are at Cape Gloucester and I think it was still early in the campaign, mid-Jan 44. As far as I know Dad was assigned at the time to the H&S Company with the First Marine Division. In Dad's version of the Chesty Puller story, "he" was ordered by Chesty to take a Korean out and shoot him, but he refused a direct order and let someone else do it. Gerry (in issue #105) doesn't name the Lt. who shot the Korean.

There are some inconsistencies between Gerry's account of when Dad "joined" the 1st (issue #104A), and what I can determine from letters, photos, orders, etc. Gerry says they "acquired" their first Language Officer (Dick Greenwood) after securing Gloucester and before going to Pavuvu. I have a property claim Dad made in 1947, in which he says he joined the 1st Marine Division on Goodenough Island on Dec. 4th. I have pictures that say he is at a "Convening of various branches of military on New Britain 1943." In a letter dated Jan 12th (1944), he is in the jungle where bats have a 2 foot wing span and there are alligators [actually crocodiles]. Then they move to a new beach location where he is sharing a shack with Hackett. Then there is an ADC (Assistant Division Commander) circular letter signed by General Lemuel Shepherd dated Feb 5, disbanding the ADC Group at the successful conclusion of

Operations at the Borgen Bay area, Cape Gloucester, New Britain, and commending the officers and the men of the Intelligence section. Sounds like Dad may have been with a special task force at least in January, which might explain why Gerry didn't run into him until later. Plus New Britain was a big island with a number of different operations going on.

There were some insignificant errors in the information that my cousin provided, no need to correct. According to an Affidavit of Birth dated June 30, 1932, Dad was actually born in Holton, Kansas, although every other record, including his passport says Circleville KS as Chris stated. I suspect he was delivered at home by his father, and maybe they were staying out at his mother's family farm in Circleville Ks., but his father's practice and where they lived was in nearby Holton, Ks. He started at the UW in 1937 (not 1938). He studied German for the first 2 years. Then he studied Chinese every quarter until he left for JLS in Spring of 1942, but also took Spanish (Au 40), Russian (Au 41), and Japanese (Win 41/Sp 42). (He was home on his first leave Nov 29 1945-Jan 23 46.) He was discharged from Active Duty Mar 2, 1946. His first son Kirby was born in Oct. 1946 (not 1947). I was born 1948 (not 1949). He completed his degree at the UW in June of 1949. 1950-53 Chris left out that son Stacey was born (1953). Daughter Janet was born in 1958 (not 1957).

Katherine Greenwood

[Ed. Note: We are always pleased to include errata found in previous issues. I found the photo on the web. The Marine in the foreground looks to be carrying an M1917 water-cooled machinegun. His ammo carrier follows behind.]

Russian Program Reprise

I enjoy *The Interpreter* but I notice it deals almost exclusively with the Japanese program. There were other offerings, including Malay, Chinese, and Russian.

I was in the Russian Program and graduated third in my class (largely attributable to the fact that I had already had some Russian courses at Berkeley).

Upon graduation I was sent to Washington to serve as a translator. One handwritten document was given to me to translate. It said that if a rocket were sent high up enough, with a payload released at the right altitude, the payload would go into orbit. The writer called it a "sputnik." I took it to my superior and opined that the writer was a "nut case." Imagine my surprise when, several years later, the real sputnik appeared.

I was subsequently sent to Cold Bay, Alaska, where several thousand Russian sailors and officers were waiting to receive military ships under the Lend Lease program. I served as interpreter and was assigned to a new ship every ten days. I interpreted in the galley between the cooks, in the engine room between the engineers and topside during firing practice. In the engine room (I knew nothing about engines) a Russian seaman pointed to something and asked what it was. I had seen the picture of it in my high school physics text and told him it was Wheatstone bridge (*mostik viston*). That was my best day in the engine room.

There was a large hall where Hollywood films were shown to a mixed audience of Russian and American sailors. Russians in my proximity would ask what was going on. My explanation went through the entire hall in a matter of seconds.

All in all, it was a rewarding experience.

Lloyd A. Kramer
OLS 1945 (Russian)