

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 211

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

September 1, 2015

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.

Reprise on William Bevan OLS (Chinese)

Dottie and Bill were about good friends at Boulder in the Oriental Language School (Cantonese). We remained in touch over the years in our educational work. Thought this might be added to the Archives. Hallie and I still have the wedding gift that Bill and [Dottie Bevan] gave us 68 years ago for our little apartment just off campus on 15th Street.

Melvin Dieter
OLS 1946 (Chinese)

[He provided us with the following "2004 Christmas newsletter" excerpt:]

"I have saved our most exciting news to the last!! Bill was just informed this past week of a resolution passed by the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of DUKE UNIVERSITY that the renovated Coca-Cola Building that houses the Talent Identification Program (TIP) will be named the WILLIAM BEVAN BUILDING. Bill initiated this program in 1980

when he was Provost of Duke to 'challenge, nurture, and inspire' thousands of the nation's intellectually gifted youngsters. It has been tremendously successful and Bill has been involved in it for many years. To me it is a climax to his remarkable career despite his devastating stroke in 1988"

Dottie & Bill Bevan
OLS (Chinese) 1946

Fr. William McKeon 1923 - 1999

Fr. William McKeon, a former assistant pastor at St. Joseph Church in St. Johns, died last week at the age of 75. Fr. McKeon served here from 1962-64, a golden age of building and renewal under the administration of Bishop Joseph Green. His first love was working with the local Hispanic migrant workers, but his quick wit and erudition earned him many friends throughout the community.

Before he became a priest in 1957, Fr. McKeon had been a commissioned officer in the US Navy and served as a Japanese translator during World War II. After the war he graduated from the University of Wisconsin and studied law at Georgetown University before entering the Catholic seminary.

Just before coming to St. Johns, Fr. McKeon had undergone a life-changing experience when he served on the staff of Papal Volunteers in Curunavaca, Mexico. It was there that he learned to love the Hispanic people. It was rumored around St. Johns that Fr. Bill would spend time in Mexico or Puerto Rico, give away all of his money, and then have to return to the Diocese of Lansing to pay off his debts.

In the late '60s and early '70s Fr. McKeon became the founding pastor of Lansing's Cristo Rey Community. He later served parishes in Hillsdale, Grand Blanc, and the Irish Hills.

When he was about 60, at a time when some people are

thinking of slowing down, Fr. McKeon embarked upon a new adventure. One day he asked his bishop for a leave of absence so that he could enter Guest House, a treatment program for alcoholic priests and religious laity. His personal recovery led him to become an untiring advocate for others. He first went to Chicago and then returned to serve on the Diocesan Council on Alcoholism for 7 years.

At the time of his death Fr. McKeon, who had moved north to retire, was serving as the pastor of two small parishes in East Jordan and Antrim County. He is survived by his brothers, Donovan of Flint and Fr. Robert McKeon of Byron and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Leo, in 1998. He is buried in St. Joseph Calvary Cemetery in East Jordan.

<http://www.sjindy.com/archives/obits/mckeon.shtml>

JAMES ERNEST TRUEX JLS 1944

James Ernest Truex, 85, a resident of Sea Cliff for nearly 40 years, died on Jan. 12, 1999. He had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for several years. Born in Great Neck on Aug. 30, 1913, he was educated at the Leighton Park School in Reading, England, and the Mohonk School, a Quaker preparatory school. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Haverford College. He was a Naval officer during WWII. Fluent in Japanese, he questioned Japanese prisoners and was the interpreter at surrender negotiations.

Mr. Truex began his career as a part of the acting Truex family, appearing with his father, John, the renowned character actor Ernest Truex, and his brothers Philip and Barry. He continued to

appear, often as a juvenile, in many Broadway plays. In 1946 he played Freddy to Gertrude Lawrence's Eliza Doolittle in George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*. He later wrote highly acclaimed historical dramas for early television shows including *Hallmark Hall of Fame* and *You Are There*. In addition to his television portraits of such figures as St. Patrick, Ben Franklin, Patrick Henry, Theodore Roosevelt and Sam Houston, he wrote scripts for Cecil B. DeMille's *Lux Radio Theatre* and the *Kate Smith Show*.

In 1955 Mr. Truex was appointed by Gov. Averell Harriman as public relations director of the NYS Dept. of Public Works. With hundreds of post-war construction projects completed during this era, he accompanied Gov. Harriman throughout the state for ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Following the Harriman administration, he formed the Truex & Lipsky public relations firm. He later became director of public relations at the New School for Social Research.

At the urging of John Stillman, the Orange County Democratic Chairman, Mr. Truex ran for Congress in 1960 against the longtime Republican incumbent Katherine St. George. An avid outdoorsman, he fulfilled his campaign pledge to walk from one end of the Congressional District to the other. Although he lost the election, his 500-mile campaign hike attracted wide attention.

Mr. Truex returned to LI in 1961 when he was hired by John F. English, the NC Democratic Chairman who

became New York's Democratic National Committeeman, to handle campaign publicity for the Democratic candidate for county executive. He moved with his family to Sea Cliff and helped elect the first Democratic county executive in Nassau history, Eugene H. Nickerson. Mr. Truex served during the nine years of the Nickerson Administration as press secretary and then as deputy county executive.

Mr. Truex later became vice president of Friends World College, the Quaker institution dedicated to world-wide learning. He also actively pursued his interest in archaeology helping to explore LI's past. His discoveries led to a re-evaluation of the dates of Native American settlements on LI pushing back the known establishment of life by several centuries.

Mr. Truex's wife, Victory (Abbot) who was an actress and later proprietor of the Wicker Basket Gift Shop in Sea Cliff, died in 1998. He is survived by his daughter, Penelope Truex; two grandchildren, Jeremy and Ariel, all of Sea Cliff; and his brothers, Philip of Carlsbad, CA, and Barry of Los Angeles.

Record-Pilot

<http://www.antonnews.com/glencoverecordpilot/1999/01/22/obituaries/>

[Ed. Note: I placed a very short version of his obit, but found this longer version, recently.]

REVIEW:

DIPLOMATS IN BLUE BY WILLIAM BRAISTED

What does a navy do when it is not at war? From 1922 to 1933, the U.S. Navy kept the peace in the volatile western Pacific.

In *Diplomats in Blue: U.S. Naval Officers in China, 1922-1933* (University Press of Florida, 2009), Professor Emeritus of History William R. Braisted depicts a bygone world in which admirals played almost

as important a role as ambassadors in representing American interests abroad. During peace-time, high-ranking naval officers worked first to protect American citizens and American business interests. And several of them labored, sometimes in conflict with State Department officials, to foster a stronger, more unified China that might be a better ally of the United States.

Historian William R. Braisted will turn 91 in March [2009]. He previously published two well-received accounts of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific covering the years 1897 to 1922. In *Diplomats in Blue* Braisted diverges from these books in that he was actually present for parts of the story. As he relates in a sprightly preface, the navy was a family affair back then.

Like many navy wives, Braisted's mother followed her husband's ship—to the Philippines, then to Hong Kong, Shanghai and Chefoo, China—with four to six-year-old Braisted in tow. Ten years later, when the family returned to China and spent two years in Shanghai, Braisted attended the Shanghai American School and confirmed his fascination with all things Chinese. He would later introduce the study of Chinese and Japanese history into the UT curriculum.

Diplomats in Blue will prove useful to students of U.S. diplomacy and naval history, but also to those interested in the development of modern China. The book is well illustrated with clear and well-placed photographs and excellent maps, and Braisted has a straightforward and engaging narrative style that doesn't diminish a wealth of detail and attention to nuance.

Reviewed by
Marian J. Barber,
doctoral candidate in the
Department of History at
The University of Texas at Austin
ShelfLife@Texas
February 16, 2009

<http://www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/shelflife/2009/02/16/review-diplomats-in-blue-by-historian-william-braisted/>

Memorial Minute for James Holderbaum

I suspect that few of you in the room today knew Professor James Holderbaum, who retired in 1986 and died this spring at the age of 91 [2011]. That is a pity, for the internationally distinguished art historian was a fabulously colorful and witty character. The consummate aesthete, passionately committed to encouraging appreciation of the arts, visual and performing, James was as au courant with avant-garde manifestations as with traditional ones. Haunting auctions and flea markets, he amassed innumerable art objects that ranged in origin across the centuries and continents.

James had seen more operas than Milton J. Cross, as many ballets as Lincoln Kirstein, yet cherished popular music and had a legendary collection of LPs by such 60s and 70s performers as the Bee Gees, Aretha Franklin, and the Beach Boys. He also was an informed ornithologist and horticulturist and was as enthusiastic about birds and plants as he was about music, dance, painting and sculpture. His enthusiasm was infectious and together with his serious scholarship, enhanced his calling as pedagogue. He was a tireless traveler, so that his little Victorian house on Vernon Street, stuffed with *objets d'art*, was often vacant because he spent so much time abroad. James's interest in music was informed by his talent. As a young boy during the depression, he sang on a radio station in his natal city, Buffalo, and was known as "the boy with the pearl in his voice."

After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard in 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to decode dispatches from the Japanese, a language he had mastered in his undergraduate work in Oriental Studies [JLS 1943].

On his separation from the service as a Lieutenant, he founded with like-minded friends a company that would record obscure classical music but, realizing that his business acumen did not equal his penchant for the analysis and

interpretation of art, he returned to Harvard for graduate work in art history. As he explained, he sought to "convert devotion to art into active and creative service," a calling best fulfilled in the academic world.

He commenced his teaching career at Princeton and came to Smith in 1960. A devoted teacher, in 1993 he won the College Art Association's distinguished teaching award. James had experience as the director of Smith's Junior Year in Italy and offered demanding but beloved summer courses for Smith students in Florence.

James was generous not only with his time but also with his art collection. He gave the SCMA a number of sculptures, and lent them incomparable pictures by Jasper Johns, Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein and Morris Louis. At a time when the museum was lacking examples of contemporary art, his loans made it possible for our students to see at first hand stellar examples of the latest gallery sensations. His lectures in the fabled and still lamented survey course known as Art 100 were often brilliant and always memorable - once a student had heard James discourse on Giotto or Duccio or Donatello -- and the special intonations he gave each name -- she'd not forget those artists.

A recipient of Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships, James's publications were modest in number if profound in impact, for he was quite scornful of those who wrote chiefly to pad their C.V.'s. He was an expert on the sixteenth century sculptor, Giambologna, about whom he made major discoveries. He was frequently invited to contribute to volumes on nineteenth-century sculpture as well and to lecture at the Louvre and other museums on their holdings in that field.

After his retirement from Smith in 1986, he divided his time between his homes on the Costa di San Giorgio in Florence and in St. Germain en Laye outside Paris, and continued his research on Italian artists, rescuing from obscurity figures like the sculptor Pierino da Vinci, nephew of Leonardo, and Taddeo Landini, a Tuscan architect and sculptor. A few

years ago he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and died in May in a nursing home in Massachusetts.

Read by Helen Searing, Faculty
Meeting October 2011
<http://www.smith.edu/deanoffaculty/memorialminutes/memorial/Holdebaum,%20James%202011.10.26.pdf>

Utah Professor was a Real-Life 'Monuments Man'

Japanese art » Like the characters in upcoming film, Lennox Tierney found, preserved thousands of artworks after World War II.



Lennox Tierney, who was on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff during the Japanese occupation. From "MacArthur aide: U.S. must learn from errors," By Matthew D. LaPlante, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, December 7, 2006

Built in 1612, the Nagoya Castle was a layer cake of curling roofs topped with golden dolphins surrounded by one of the largest cities in Japan.

By the time Lennox Tierney got there, it was a pile of rubble. "Nagoya took the worst destruction, almost, of any city in the world. More than Hiroshima," said Tierney. "Our bombers were given instructions they were not to take back any live bombs."

While those weren't atomic bombs, they had wreaked havoc on the city.

"It was total destruction. There was no way of knowing what street I was on, what part of the city, anything. I was literally steering by the North Star," he said. "I finally found myself next to a massive stone ... it was the base of what had been the castle."

Tierney went to Japan in 1947, serving as Arts and Monuments Commissioner in the U.S. Navy under Gen. Douglas

MacArthur as part of the occupation government of Japan. He was tasked with tracking down, cataloging and saving what he could of the artistic and cultural history of Japan shattered by World War II.

Tierney, who celebrated his 100th birthday last week, lived something similar to the forthcoming movie "Monuments Men," though much of his art-hunting happened half a world away from the European theater in the film.

His interest in Asia started at a young age, when his pharmacist father was sent to the Philippines by the military to look for medicinal plants after the Spanish-American War. The Japanese influence in craftsman design magazines his mother loved sealed the deal, and when he entered college at UCLA he self-created a major in Asian art.

After graduation, Tierney started teaching a military technical-training course in Beverly Hills until the day when an admiral asked him to leave on a mission in 48 hours.

"I said, 'Of course not. I couldn't possibly do that,'" Tierney said. He said, 'Well, it happens to be important.'" After some negotiating, he shipped out for training within two weeks.

"My family all came to see me off and no one knew where I was going," he said. He ended up flying to Salt Lake City and was driven to Boulder, Colo., when he started "22 [?] months of hell. Physical, mental, the whole works."

In a recent interview, he remembered Japanese language teachers placing a foot between their students' feet to nudge them awake when they dropped off. Tierney was 24 when his training ended [OLS 1945].

On a visit home before he was shipped off, he went to a going-away party for a woman named Catherine Peha, who was also headed to Japan.

"It was love at first sight," Tierney said. Her Jewish family had been driven from Spain in the 17th century to an island in the Mediterranean Sea before they ended up in California.

"I made a mental note once I got to Japan to look her up," he said, but he didn't initially have

much luck. "She was busy all the time!"

He was also working hard in Japan, with duties that ranged from supervising a team charged with purging propaganda from children's textbooks to advising the unschooled MacArthur on Japanese culture. He found an eager reception from the Japanese.

"They were just hoping for a friendly voice in the occupation government," he said, someone who would speak up to preserve Japan's history and heritage.

And that didn't only mean paintings or sculpture. Gardens are a distinct and historic art form in Japan, one that Tierney explored and cataloged during his time there. As he visited gardens, he started seeing a mysterious, ghostly figure wearing a black overcoat seemingly dogging his steps.



It turned out to be Issuu Noguchi, "the greatest Japanese-American sculptor," he said. He teamed up with the artist and they started traveling the country together.

Tierney was able to save some important works, such as a sculpture of a monk with a bronze wire coming out of his mouth mounted with tiny Buddhas.

By Lindsay Whitehurst
The Salt Lake Tribune
February 2, 2014

John S. Potter, Jr.

01 Sep. 1924 — 04 Jan. 2014
"An Adventurous 89 Years!"
OLS (Chinese) 7/1/44-

John S. Potter, Jr., most familiar to us as author of *The Treasure Diver's Guide* and *The Treasure Divers of Vigo Bay*, passed over the bar at his home port of Martha's Vineyard in the early hours of Saturday, January 4, 2014. At 89 years of age, John

had had a full and interesting life, and his unusual career had taken him to almost every corner of the globe. Born in California in 1924 to John S. Potter, Sr., and Edna Lee Booker (an authoress in her own right), and raised both there and in Shanghai, China, he was educated at St. George's School and at Harvard. Mr. Potter traveled extensively with the Navy and learned skin-diving while on vacation in Majorca. He had been an enthusiast ever since. Even at his advanced age, he still dived upon occasion, but he was most lately engaged in the financing and management of various salvage operations.

A skilled writer, John recently published a sometimes salty account of his life's experiences entitled *My First Nine Lives*, which was published in 2012. The second part of this trilogy, *My Second Nine Lives*, is being printed as we assemble here today, to be released in a month or two. Unfortunately for us, part three, although in roughed-out form now, will most likely not get into print.

Released in 1958, John's second most popular book, *The Treasure Divers of Vigo Bay*, is the exciting account of John Potter's personal experiences while hunting for a Spanish armada which was sunk in a tremendous sea battle off the coast of Spain in 1702 with a cargo of millions of dollars' worth of gold and silver. The flyleaf from this book continues, "The adventures of his irrepressible team of young frogmen were sometimes dangerous, sometimes hilarious, often frustrating—and they make the story as zestful as it is gripping."

His 1960 work, *The Treasure Diver's Guide*, is considered the "bible" by most shipwreck divers and salvagers ... and by most researchers on this same subject today. As children, we were all thrilled by Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, and other such fiction, but as adults it was the "GUIDE" which thrilled and motivated us even more, leading to the modern recoveries of sunken treasures of headline news proportion from the 1940s to the present.

John Potter was a staunch

supporter of the Bob and Margaret Weller "Follow Your Dream" salvage diving seminars, and he spoke at some of these as late as June 2013. Those of you who attended these particular seminars, and met Potter, were witness to the aura and the reality of this bigger than life legend.

In July of 2013, my wife Ellie and I were privileged to have visited John, his wife Joanie, and his son John III at the elder Potters' home on the bluff overlooking Vineyard Harbor and the East Chop Lighthouse.

John and Joanie recently sold off some of their properties in Oak Bluff, and it was during this moving of their belongings that John injured his back and wound up in the hospital, where he finally "threw in the towel", sailed his frail craft over the sand bar in the harbor, and went home to be with the other "eagles" of our industry.

—ER 09 Jan 2014

<http://www.ccgfuneralhome.com/obit/john-s-potter-jr>

F. HILARY CONROY (1919 -) PAPERS, 1945 - 1989 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER & AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Francis Hilary Conroy was born in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1919. He received his B.S. from the Northwestern University in 1941, his A.M. in 1942 and Ph.D. in 1949 both from the University of California. He began his career as a Lecturer of Far Eastern history at the University of California for two years before he was appointed to the history faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 1951. He was promoted to full Professor in 1965. His publications include *The Japanese frontier in Hawaii, 1868-1898* (1953), *The Japanese seizure of Korea, 1868-1910: a study of realism and idealism in international relations* (1960), *China and Japan: search for balance since World War I* (co-edited with Alvin D. Coox, 1978), and *America views*

China: American images of China then and now (co-edited with Jonathan Goldstein and Jerry Israel, 1991). Conroy retired in 1990 and was elected Professor Emeritus of Penn.

Two cubic feet of his papers, dating between 1945 and 1989 are housed in the Archival Collections of the University Archives and Records Center.

Francis Hilary Conroy also donated .85 linear feet of papers 1972-1988 to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The papers of F. Hilary Conroy consist of sundry material from his teaching and research files, including but not limited to correspondence (1972-1985), newspaper clippings (1972-1988), and various publications from Asian American associations, such as the Asian American Council of Greater Philadelphia, the Association for Asian Studies, the Interagency Task Force on Indochina Refugees, and the Center for Migration Studies.

There are also numerous essays written by students of Conroy while he was a Professor at Penn. His correspondence reveals that these essays were of particular interest to Conroy and were filed for his future reference. The essays are written on various topics in Asian History, such as Chinese Influence in Indonesia, 1964-1965, *The Asian-American Quandary: Combating Discrimination, Curbing Organized Crime, and Citizen Participation in New York's Chinatown With a Focus on the Housing and Healthcare Issues*. Drafts of essays written by Conroy can be found in the second box of the collection and include book reviews and papers pertaining to the Asian American experience. There is also roll of microfilm containing records in the collections of the Archives of Hawaii concerning Japanese immigration in the late nineteenth century.

He graduated from the USN OLS in 1945 in Japanese. Articles by and about him can be found in *The Interpreter*, Issues: #17, #27, #53, #68a, #81a, #108, #111, #124, #135, #148, #188, #192, #193, #200.

Prepared by Kaiyi Chen

UP, UA & RC, 1998;
Patrick Shea, HSP, 2002;
& David M. Hays
Editor and Archivist

Hugh McLean Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages

Hugh McLean, Jr., OLS 1945 (Russian) is an emeritus professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Cultures at the University of California at Berkeley. His research topics are the prose fiction of the 19th century (Gogol, Tolstoy, Kuschchevskij, Leskov, Chekhov), Zoshchenko, and poetry (Majakovskij).

Hugh McLean's recent research interests include prose fiction of the 19th century. For some years he has focused mainly on Tolstoy.

His books include: *Nikolai Leskov: The Man and His Art*. Harvard University Press, 1977; *In the Shade of the Giant: Essays on Tolstoy*. [A volume of essays on Tolstoy edited by Hugh McLean, with contributions from his students and colleagues. McLean's contribution is entitled, "Truth in Dying."] California Slavic Studies 13. University of California Press, 1989. Professor McLean's scholarly articles include: "Gogol's Retreat From Love: Toward an Interpretation of Mirgorod." *American Contributions to the Fourth International Congress of Slavists*, Moscow, 1958. Mouton and Co., 1958; "Walls and Wire: Notes on the Prison Theme in Russian Literature." *International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics*, 25-26 (1983); "A Linguist Among the Poets." In *International Journal of Slavic Linguistics and Poetics*, 27 (1983). [Supplement entitled Roman Jakobson: What He Taught Us. Edited by Morris Halle.]; "Majakovskij's 'How to Make Verses' and Jakobson's Theory of Verse." *Language, Poetry, and Poetics: The Generation of the 1890s: Jakobson, Trubetzkoy, Majakovskij*. Edited by Krystyna Pomorska et. al., 1987 & others.

<http://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/faculty/hugh-mclean>

CARL N. JONES (Age 96) JLS 1944

Passed away peacefully on June 3, 2011, of heart failure, in Bethesda, Maryland.

Carl Jones was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, and attended the University of Oregon, earning a B.A. degree in 1937. He initially worked in a bank in Portland, and then joined the Navy after the entry of the United States into World War II, becoming an officer. He was assigned to learn Japanese at the U.S. Navy Language School on the campus of the University of Colorado, in Boulder. While there he met his wife Sally, then a University of Colorado student. He served as a Japanese language intelligence officer for the remainder of the war, and was stationed in Tokyo for a few months after the war's end.

In 1946, he joined the Treaty Affairs section of the State Department. During the 1950's he worked in the international office of the Atomic Energy Commission. In 1960, Carl Jones joined NASA where he became director of operations support in the international office of NASA, dealing with foreign governments regarding establishment of satellite tracking stations in their countries.

In retirement, he enjoyed traveling, playing tennis doubles, and serving as a docent at the Air and Space Museum. He is survived by Sally, wife of 67 years; son, Bruce (Victoria) Jones of Falls Church, Virginia; daughter Susan Jones of Charlottesville, Virginia; brother Tillard Jones of Rockville, Maryland; and grandchildren, Karen, Stephanie, and Christopher.

Military interment was private.

The Washington Post
June 9, 2011
- See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=151686988#sthash.6tr6QJiG.dpuf>

[Ed. Note: Mr. Jones was one of those on Roger Pineau's list of JLS graduates and was a supporter of our project from the start.]