

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 239

★ 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.

E. Roald Carlson 1925-2015

If you were a member of Concordia in December of 1980 through June of 1990, I know you were saddened to learn of the death of our former pastor, E. Roald Carlson, on March 13, 2015. He was respected and loved by all. He was truly called to be a pastor and him and Marge became involved members almost immediately. Pastor had so many things going on for all ages. He liked to inform the congregation about important people involved in the Lutheran faith. One such speaker came and spoke about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who later became a Christian martyr in World War II. The talk encouraged many of us to read more about Bonhoeffer. Pastor Carlson always “dug in” and helped when we gave dinners. He also gave great sermons. He was even asked to have some printed in “The Concordian” so members who were absent could read the sermon. Pastor and Marge worked together on the

“Search” Bible study. With the help of others working in smaller groups, it became a great success and people came from other parts of the city to take part in it and it was greatly received.

Marge also became involved in the library. She helped to update and organize it. Pastor Carlson also organized a “balloon ministry” for the Sunday school children. The students wrote notes perhaps including a passage from the Bible, attached them to the balloons, and lifted them up and away in the sky. Some people who found the balloons returned notes to the students and wanted to know when they were sent. One balloon landed in North Dakota and others in various parts of Minnesota. Those students who received answers were Amy Fennessey, Katie Hinz, Rachel Warner, Brent Lippitt, Jennifer Siegel, and a boy named Nick.

When Pastor Carlson retired, he and Marge lived across the street from Luther Seminary. Later our Heritage Committee attended Archive Conferences at the seminary and were lucky to run into them there. They invited us over to visit. One of the things pastor wanted us to see was his new shower, finally built for someone his height. Marge like showing us a rug that Bill Downs, Jr. had made for them.

I read some interesting facts about Pastor Carlson written by his daughter, Janet. Einar Roald Carlson was born on March 9, 1925, to missionaries, Olaf and Ragna Carlson in Madagascar. His father died in 1940. It took two years to find a boat to get home. This was then a dangerous time to travel across the different waters they had to cross, but they finally made it home. Carlson was an honor student and did one year at St. Olaf College.

He then enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Upon his discharge from the Navy {USN OLS 3/20/45-}, he went back to St. Olaf College and received a degree in philosophy. Blessed with 48

months of the GI Bill, he went to Luther Seminary and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity in 1951. During that time he met Marjorie Mueller and they were married in 1951. They headed to Biblical Seminary in Manhattan, where he studied the English Bible and completed a Master's Degree in Sacred Theology. Later he attended Princeton Theological Seminary to study Greek New Testament and received a Master of Theology degree. He was also serving as a pastor at this time. Now you can see why he was considered a biblical scholar in the church.

Pastor Carlson is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marjorie; his daughters, Reverend Kristine Carlson, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Mpls.; Dr. Paula Carlson, president of Luther College; Rev. Janet Carlson, now a real estate agent; and Carolyn Carlson, who is an Executive Editor of Viking Penguin Publishing in New York. All daughters are married. He is also survived by many grandchildren and his siblings, Rev. Oliver Carlson, Rev. Arne Carlson, and Laila Carlson Rodgers.

We at Concordia are thankful for the great service and friendship given to us by Pastor Carlson.

The Concordian
A Newsletter of the Concordia
Lutheran Church – ELCA
Superior, WI
May 2015
p. 5

Allen H. Meyer USAJLS 1945

For over a year I have spoken of my WWII service on a number of panels of veterans, resulting from my having been a member of a unit which was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2010. The medal is awarded to persons “who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as

a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement.”

Yesterday [December 6, 2014] I enjoyed my 89th birthday. As I had just turned 16 the day before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, I had two years in which to decide my role, if any, in the war effort. The following June I graduated from Senn High School, having behind me seven semesters of Latin, two semesters of Spanish, and membership in the Greek Club, all preceded by an Orthodox cheder education in Hebrew and a light exposure to Yiddish. My dad's graduation gift to me was a German Grammar/Dictionary and a book of German short stories. I spent the summer of 1942 studying them.

That fall I entered Harvard College, qualifying for Intermediate German, in a class full of boys expecting to serve in Europe in some capacity. Then one day the following spring my life was changed. Our instructor interrupted the class to introduce a colleague who told us, in effect, “I know why you are studying German, but there is an even greater need for other languages, in particular, Japanese.” He urged us to consider the change. The man was the scholar Edwin O. Reischauer, later to serve as United States Ambassador to Japan. That summer, back in Chicago, I attended DePaul, studying Physics and Chemistry. Two or three nights a week I traveled down to the University of Chicago to study Japanese with a young lady recently released from the internment camps. As I progressed, she suggested that I enroll in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor for full-time language study until I turn 18, because that was the location of the Army's Intensive Japanese Language School. I took her advice, and with another 17-year-old, Burke Peterson, studied language alongside those already in the service until we joined the Army

in early 1944. Naturally, the Army sent us to the Infantry! The head of the Language program found where Burke and I had been sent and pulled us back to Ann Arbor. We entered late, into a class of over 120, which ultimately graduated and commissioned only 70. After intensive months in Ann Arbor and more Infantry training in Alabama, we were sent to Fort Snelling, in Minnesota. As the war was winding down, we were being trained in the areas of counter-insurgency and, hopefully, a peaceful Occupation. One of our challenges there was at the radio shack, listening to wire reels of uncoded Japanese Naval messages so scrambled and scratchy that linguists in Washington and Hawaii were unable to make sense of them. On a few occasions, some of my classmates, sons of missionaries, with a knowledge of both street slang and polite phrasing, were successful where others had failed.

A sidebar on anti-Semitism in the Army: certainly we Jews were called vile names during Infantry training, where our cadre tended to be battle-hardened Southern backwoodsmen, but we accepted that as part of our training, to harden our psyches. But in Alabama, by which time we were already ranked as Corporals, when the Nisei feared repercussions by violating the local *morés*—were they “White” or “Colored”?—we Jews had them join us in our Enlisted Men’s facilities, whether on-base or in Anniston (a Klan stronghold at the time). Earlier, in Ann Arbor, we Jews had no problems, because we constituted a portion of the student body well above our three-percent of the US population at the time, and we happened to become some of the top Students in the program.

Our group arrived in Japan in early 1946. The Surrender had taken place in September, but we were still in the early stages of the Occupation. Even on the Home Islands there were incidents of unrest and disbelief that their leaders had surrendered in a conflict they had been led to believe they were winning. A

few dozen of us came over on a troopship along with a like number of Nisei, and we all settled into the NYK building, facing the Palace, four short blocks from MacArthur’s headquarters in the Dai-Ichi Building. Our building was exclusively for linguists assigned to ATIS (Allied Translator and Interpreter Service), where we lived, worked, and ate our meals. It was truly “Allied.” British, Dutch, Chinese, and Australians were among our roommates.

My first few months’ assignment was to translate periodicals. My team consisted of six or seven Japanese university students, almost fluent in English. Each morning, at 8:00 a.m., our round table was handed a fresh load of newspapers flown in overnight from all over Japan. We were concerned with political, economic, social, and editorial features. If any of us spotted anything unusual, we would all discuss the article, analyze the nuances, and I would bring it to the officer in charge of our floor (consisting of about 25 similar tables). He would alert the interpreters on the 2nd floor, who would summarize our findings. By early afternoon, articles with significant problems would be carried over to GHQ for further analysis. Yes, it was a form of censorship. Our table was dealing with the same daily newspapers, and occasionally, a few days after our report, we would find a retraction or an editorial review of what we had highlighted.

After about three months of this, I was moved up to the 2nd floor to work on summaries of the daily output. Quite a job for a 20-year-old who barely understood those issues in his own country. An incident with a Jewish aspect is worth mentioning. Pre-Surrender, one of Japan’s most nationalistic organs was Toa Renmei (All the world under one roof), a propaganda source for booting the white colonizers out of the Far East. While in training we were exposed to some of their publications. During the week or so between the Emperor’s request to surrender and the actual Surrender on the Missouri, groups like this destroyed their

records, closed their offices, and disbanded. However, Toa Renmei issued a final newsletter, stating that “Japan made a fatal mistake by siding with Hitler, when we should have emulated the Jews, who had a history of 3,000 years of survival.” GHQ must have known of this, but for some reason, didn’t suppress it. We surmised that the head of Intelligence (G-2), General Charles Willoughby, had bigger fish to fry. Born in Prussia, but a member of MacArthur’s innermost circle, Willoughby was later known to be an anti-Semite. However, in January, a reporter for the Christian Science Monitor published the article in the States. It was then picked up by the Japanese media and came to the desks of a few of us in different newspapers. At this point, it could no longer be suppressed. We all reported on it, it made the summaries, and the bigger Japanese papers began to show an interest in the subject—Jews. Some of the Japanese at my table had never heard of Jews and explored the subject with me at length, even though I was by no means an expert. My team brought our discussions home to their families and friends and came back with more questions than I could adequately answer. We could not oblige their desire to meet one of those people known as Jews, because Willoughby was adamant that his non-Japanese Americans not fraternize with the Japanese.

Alan H. Meyer
USAJLS 1945

Chicago Jewish History
Vol.39, No. 1, Winter 2015, Pp. 7-8

[Ed. Note: Alan H. Meyer USAJLS 1945, though an Army linguist was long on Roger Pineau’s mailing list. He was among the first on our mailing list in 2000, as a sort of US Army JLS/MIS Liaison, as have Straus, Eckel, Richardson, Buffington and a few others. I thought his lengthy description of duties in Occupied Japan would seem to be of interest.]

T. Howell Breece JLS 1944 1916 – 2015

Born Thomas Howell Breece in Boston on December 6, 1916,

the only child of Ruth and Tom, Howell finished his life at home in his own bed in Sausalito on July 26, 2015. Howell loved us all so much— a family man who welcomed and accepted all he met. He was a friend, teacher, animal lover, humanitarian, pacifist, linguist, and scholar. At age 2 Howell moved with his English professor parents to Peking, China where he lived until graduating as valedictorian of Peking American School. He left China proficient in Mandarin, English, French and Latin to attend UC Berkeley where he lived at I-House and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1938. He took a Masters in English, though he preferred studying Ancient Greek, married his first wife, Eileen Lynch, and moved to attend Japanese Language School as a naval lieutenant in Boulder, CO where his first son was born. Stationed in China during WWII, he was flown “over the hump” to Chunking where he translated Japanese radio transmissions and played in high stakes poker games. After the war, he returned to California to teach English at Napa Community College, San Quentin Prison, and College of Marin putting three sons through college on a teacher’s salary. Divorced from his first wife, he met and married Joan Bernardi and had two more sons. With his family, he travelled extensively in Mexico, Europe, and camped along the west coast of the U.S. and Canada. After retiring from COM in 1983, he and Joan continued to travel and make lifelong friends everywhere as they attended Dixieland Jazz festivals and tent camped on Hornby Island until he was 96! He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joan; sister-in-law, Gene Bernardi; sons and spouses, Conrad (Joan), Teddy (Alyse), Timothy (Susan); grandchildren, Kirsten (Jason), Katie, Nina, Thor; great granddaughter Maddie; and many friends. Thank you to Hospice by the Bay, all his care givers, and especially May Vang who took such tender care of him in his last year. Howell was a true renaissance man who could hot wire a car, recite Chaucer in Middle English, speak/read 6+

languages, build a house, fix a pipe, and answer ANY historical or grammatical question. Dashing and brilliant, he appreciated beautiful women, good wine, and single malt scotch. He enjoyed reading, sailing, teaching, telling dirty jokes and singing sea chanties. Always resistant to change, he influenced and changed so many while himself changing so little. Sail on dear Dad; sail on.

San Francisco Chronicle
Aug. 9 to Aug. 25, 2015

[Ed. Note: Mr. Breece was an enthusiastic reader of the Interpreter. A very complete description of his WWII activities was sent to us by Mr. Breece and published in the newsletter issues: #147, #149, #150, #151, #153, #154, #155, #156, #157, #158, #159, and #160.]

Thomas H. Barton OLS (Russian)* 10/26/45 -

Thomas Heisler Barton is a prominent American management consultant. He was also a Trustee St. Vincent's Hospital, New York City, 1973-2000 and was a member of American Association for the Advancement of Science, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Union Club City New York, and Tau Beta Pi.

Thomas Heisler Barton was born on April 12, 1924 in Chicago. Son of Jay and Agnes Heisler Barton. He received a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University, 1945; Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Northwestern University, 1946 and received postgraduate training at the US Navy Russian Language School, Boulder, Colorado, 1945-1946. He received a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University, 1948.

He began his professional career as assistant to president of the Automatic Electric Company, Chicago, and 1948-1949. He then moved to be district sales manager Beckman Instruments, Incorporated at Fullerton, California, 1949-1952. He worked as government marketing staff at Black Gold Corporation, New York City, 1952-1953, moving to be

assistant to the president of Nickel Cadmium Battery Company, 1953-1955. Between 1955 and 1965, he was vice president of Barrington & Company, Incorporated. Then he became an officer of the American Express Company, New York City from 1965 to 1971. He was finance consultant for A.T. Kearney, Incorporated, from 1971 to 1973. In 1973, he became president of Thomas H. Barton & Company, Incorporated, a post he held for decades.

He is the author of *Japanese Technology for the Graphic Arts*, 1986; as well as a contributor of articles to professional journals. During World War II, he was a Lieutenant junior grade in the United States Naval Reserve. 1942-1946.

He is Roman Catholic.

He maintains an abiding interest in travel and languages.

He married Jo Jeanne Millon on April 5, 1952.

<http://prabook.org/web/person-view.html?profileId=405351>

[Ed. Note: *Interestingly, two entries, this one and one for Who's Who, list Barton as a Russian Program graduate, when our records, from transcripts, list him in the Chinese Program. One would suspect that Mr. Barton ought to have known which program he was in, and clerical errors have been known to happen..]

JOSEPH J. BURGESS JR. OLS (Chinese) 1946 1924 - 2014

Joseph James Burgess Jr., died peacefully at home in Santa Fe with his family on November 1st. He was born in Albany, New York, the son of Marie and Joseph James Burgess. Fluent in Chinese, German, French, and English, he was an intelligence officer for the Navy during World War II from 1943-1946. He received his undergraduate degree from Hamilton College in French and English literature in 1947, his MA from Yale in Chinese and Oriental History in 1948 and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1954. Burgess trained under the tutelage of modern art greats from the 40's and 50's at Cranbrook Academy of Art and Pratt Institute. Burgess was the

recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship.



He was director of the DeWaters Art Center in Flint, Michigan, and was the Chair of the Art Department at the Mott Community College, where he was the recipient of the Ballenger Chair. He also taught at Arizona State University and was Head of the Fine Arts Department at St. Lawrence University. His paintings have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, the California Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum, the Pasadena Museum of California Art, the Morris Art Gallery, and the Detroit Institute of Arts, among others. His artworks also reside in private collections throughout the United States. Furthermore, he published poetry and historical articles in the Christian Science Monitor among others. He and his wife Anna opened Origins, a gallery for contemporary and ethnographic art in Carmel Valley, California, prior to moving to Santa Fe in 1974. Up until his death, he continued to paint. Joseph James Burgess, Jr. is survived by his wife of 55 years, artist Anna Kang Burgess and their two sons- product designer Ian Tai Kyung Burgess and renowned modern dance choreographer Dana Tai Soon Burgess.

Santa Fe New Mexican
November 9, 2014

[Ed. Note: Mr. Burgess was a supporter of the USN JLS/OLS. His long letter was featured in Issues #82a, #83a, #84, and #85.]

Thomas Searle Deering OLS (Russian) 1945 1920-2015

GREENSBORO THOMAS SEARLE DEERING, AGE 95, DIED IN Greensboro, NC on March 28th, 2015. Born in San Francisco, CA, he was a long time resident of Hopewell, NJ, where he served on the Borough Council, the Board of Education, the Juvenile Conference Committee, and as a volunteer at the Hopewell Elementary School.

Upon graduating from UNC Chapel Hill in Classics in 1942, he volunteered for the Navy and served in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters in WWII. [He attended the USN OLS (Russian) Program from 1944-1945].

Following this he entered a career in Marine Insurance in NYC. His love of languages carried into his 90s and he continued to translate Greek poems into English and write love poems to his wife. He mastered carving and jewelry making as well as calligraphy in his retirement. His love of animals was legendary and he was never without a dog biscuit for his canine friends.

Preceding him in death was his beloved wife of 67 years, Barbara Epps Deering. His survivors include daughters Carol W. Morgan of Hayward, CA, and Claudia Hilko of Los Alamos, NM, and son Thomas S. Deering of Albany, CA, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Preston H. and Miriam L. Epps Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Arts and Sciences Foundation, 134 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; or to the Hopewell Public Library, 13 E. Broad St., Hopewell NJ 08525.

Greensboro News Record
April 28th, 2015

Ralph Prescott Eames JLS 1945, 1915-2006

BRATTLEBORO -- Ralph Prescott Eames, 90, of 73 Walnut St., and more recently Hilltop House, died Saturday,

Nov. 18, 2006, at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Brattleboro on Dec. 15, 1915, son of Scott Perly Eames and Nellie Dickinson Eames.

He was raised and educated in Brattleboro and graduated from Brattleboro High School in 1933 where he was awarded an Austine Prize.

His father was for many years sole custodian at the old high school building, now the Brattleboro Municipal Center.

The Eames home on Walnut Street was near the school, and Mr. Eames remembered how he and his brother, Ernest, helped with the cleaning and especially shoveling snow.

Mr. Eames won an academic scholarship to attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., where in 1937 he received his Bachelor of Arts degree with high distinction in English. In 1938, he received a master's degree in English.

He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and belonged to Sigma Chi social fraternity.

From 1939 to 1944, as part of the war effort, Mr. Eames worked for Jones & Lamson Co., the machine tool manufacturer in Springfield. In 1944, he entered the Navy and attended the Japanese Language School at Boulder, Colo., where he was commissioned as an ensign. He was then stationed in Japan for two years during the occupation as an interpreter with the Office of Naval Intelligence.

In later years, Mr. Eames still used Japanese characters on tags or labels to identify objects in his art collection, including paintings and an extensive collection of glass paperweights. He also raised bonsai plants in his Walnut Street home.

After World War II, Mr. Eames went to work in New York City and later in New Jersey with A.M. Best Company, the insurance rating service and publisher of industrial safety book and periodicals. He was editor of Best's Safety Directory and served as head of the Safety Publications division until retirement in 1975.

At that time Mr. Eames returned to Brattleboro to live in his boyhood home on Walnut Street. This house was later

conveyed to his neighbors and close friends, the Jerry and Lorraine Gembarowski family. Mr. Eames spent his last years in the small house next door overlooking the Connecticut River which he had inherited from his uncle and aunt, Dorr and Clara Allen.

Mr. Eames was never married and is not survived by any close relatives. His only brother, Ernest Dickinson Eames, an accomplished singer and actor, died in 1965 in Cambridge, Mass., was also never married.

He is survived by his godson, Paul C. Kiener of New Boston, N.H., and by the Gembarowski family who had helped care for his mother and father in their old age and since his retirement for Mr. Eames himself.

Mr. Eames and his family were members for many years of the All Souls Unitarian Church on Main Street in Brattleboro.

Mr. Eames has provided that his estate will go to Brattleboro Union High School to establish a fund for scholarships to graduates to continue study in the arts, such as music, painting, sculpture, drama, dance, architecture, or writing. The scholarship is being given in the memory of his parents and his brother as well as himself, and will be known as "The Eames Award For Further Study In The Arts."

Brattleboro Reformer
November 22, 2006

Aloysius Soden Reprise

Dear Ms. Strong,
Attached please find the Brother Aloysius' obituary; it is from either the Philadelphia Inquirer or Philadelphia Bulletin of early January 1967. There is also a copy of the Holy Card from his funeral. The obituary does not mention his interment by the Japanese at the start of the war and his subsequent repatriation via Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique) aboard the S.S. *Gripsholm*. Family lore has it that he was treated badly by the Japanese whilst in captivity but I am not sure that is true.

Thank you for your interest in my great-Uncle. By all accounts, he was a humble and holy man. I

have often thought of the stories he could tell having lived in Japan for the entire decade of the 1930s.

FYI, My wife and I planned to visit his grave in Beacon, NY (not too far north of our place just outside NYC) but when I called the Marianists, I learned that they had sold the Beacon property in 1968 and had disinterred and moved all the graves to a Catholic cemetery in Baltimore. Funny, because we had been stationed in Baltimore and I had driven past it many times.

In any event, in June 2004, my wife and I went to the cemetery. The Marianists were all buried in a very remote section of the cemetery, all by itself at the top of a big hill, and I think the only people who went up to that section were the groundskeepers. There amidst the 30 or so tombstones was Brother Aloysius' tombstone ... he was the only one with his military rank inscribed on his tombstone [Lt. Aloysius Soden, USNR]. I think he was very proud of his service. We left a big bouquet in light blue, the colors of the Blessed Virgin Mary to whom Brother Aloysius was devoted. Atop that quiet and lonely hill, it was a poignant moment as we thought about him and the life that he had led and all that he had seen and experienced. We took pictures but they are on a flash drive in our apartment in Amman; I will send them to you after we return to Jordan in September.

Kevin M. Kennedy
Assistant Secretary-General
United Nations
Regional Humanitarian Coordinator
for the Crisis in Syria
Amman, Jordan

[Ed. Note: Lt. Soden was one of many Sensei and JLS graduates who entered orders or became or continued as missionaries after their service: Brother John Hasbrouck, Father Robert Deiters, SJ, Reverend James McAlpine, Reverend E. Roald Carlson, Reverend Robert Bruns, Reverend Telfer Mook, Reverend Hallam Shorrock, Reverend James Hand, Fr. William McKeon, Reverend Paul P. Anspach Jr., Reverend John H. Brady, Reverend Robert W. Nave, Reverend Willard F. Topping, Ensho Ashikaga, Yamasaki sensei, Fr. John Catt, Samuel M

Hilburn, Reverend Sadao Masuko, among others.]

BEN LONG SUMMERFORD, JR. (Age 91), OLS (Malay) 1945



A painter and retired professor of fine arts, died peacefully Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at his home in Hagerstown, MD.

He was born on February 3, 1924 in Montgomery, AL to Ben Long and Ollie Jo Summerford.

During World War II, he attended the Naval Oriental Language School in Boulder, CO and served in the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC.

In 1949 he won a Fulbright Fellowship to study painting at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France where he met his wife, Christene Morris. They were married in 1951 after his return to the US where he took a teaching position at American University. He remained at the university until 1986, serving as chairman of the Department of Art from 1957 to 1986.

He is survived by his children, Rebecca Gilliam and James Summerford, and his grandchildren, Carolyn Summerford, Andrew Summerford, Matthew Gilliam, and Katharine Gilliam. He was predeceased by his wife, Christene Morris Summerford, and his son, Jeffrey Scott Summerford.

The Washington Post
April 19, 2015

[Ed. Note: I received word on his passing a few days before Issue #212, carrying a Washington Post story about his art, was mailed out to the JLS/OLS mailing list.]