

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 161

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

March 1, 2003

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.

Sensei Story

David --

At Boulder and later in Stillwater (Oklahoma), we had a wonderful teacher named Kikuye Okamura. It was she who taught me to "Ume nimo haru" [Roly-poly warrior, and Plum Blossoms in Spring].

She told us of having a fifteen-year-old Mexican boy who was living in her California home [Arizona?] at the time the west coast Issei and Nisei were taken to camp. Neither said a word to the authorities, and for some time [someone else might fill in the details here] they lived as a family in the relocation camp where she was sent. She told this story straight, with a chuckle, and let us draw our own conclusions about the stupidity of the military at that time.

F. R. Pitts
JLS 1946

[Ed. Note: Please keep the sensei stories coming and we will print them.]

Response to Daily Camera Article on Reunion

In the June 7, 2002, issue of the *Daily Camera* there appeared an article about the reunion of the alumni of the Naval Japanese Language School. In this article, the reporter wrote, "The Navy had two requirements for admission into the secret school: students either had to have been born in Japan, or they had to be members of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society." I do not know, of course, the reporter's source for this statement but it is partly silly and completely erroneous and I cannot let it go uncorrected.

The students at JLS were all (or mostly all) hand picked by Commander A.E. Hindmarsh after a personal interview. I do not know all of Hindmarsh's criteria but they were certainly not limited to these two.

Obviously almost anyone not of Japanese ancestry who had any knowledge of or prior experience with Japanese would have been welcomed with open arms but just being born in a country is meaningless – even the Japanese have to learn their language as we have to learn English. Being a member of Phi Beta Kappa was strong evidence of academic achievement but was not in and by itself evidence of an applicant's ability to learn this or any other foreign language. Commander Hindmarsh must have had foremost among his criteria an aptitude for languages which one might well have without being a member of Phi Beta Kappa and one which a member of Phi Beta Kappa might well not have. As much as anything else was Commander Hindmarsh's personal appraisal of the applicant. If he thought you had the ability to learn Japanese and the stamina to withstand the grueling study that learning this exotic language would require he took you; if he did not think so, he didn't.

Of the 1300 or so students at JLS only the tiniest handful had ever been in Japan or had studied any Japanese prior to coming to Boulder. There were indeed a great many members of Phi Beta Kappa but there were also a great many students who were not.

As for myself, I was not born in Japan nor was I a member of Phi Beta Kappa but I was most certainly there.

Ross H. Ingersoll, Ph.D.
JLS Class of May 1944
(1914-2002)

[Ed. Note: I regret that we were unable to publish letter while he was alive. Funny how one can miss the most obvious mistakes. I must have inadvertently read "initially" into that sentence. According to Hindmarsh's July, 1944 report, of 300 original individuals reviewed in 1941, fifty-six were selected, all of whom were native-born US citizens (then they could be born overseas), white and male, "most had lived in Japan or China and had university degrees." Those who been raised in Japan or China were called BIJ or BIC, placing false importance on place of birth, rather than prior knowledge of the language. When the program expanded at CU in Boulder in December 1942, the minimum criteria, according to Hindmarsh, had changed to: college degree and either previous knowledge of Japanese or Phi Beta Kappa standing. PBK ran ads in their publication, The Key, for the US Navy JLS program. Hindmarsh failed to report on the nature and importance of his interview. By June 1944, 17% of JLS graduates had been born or lived in the Far East, 78% had either BA, MA, or Ph.D., and 32% were Phi Beta Kappa. Hindmarsh had a decided eastern bias, as 44% were Easterners, 33% were from the far West, 16% were Midwesterners, 5% were from the South and only 2% came from the Southwest. So while Hindmarsh seemed not particularly impressed by university faculty in general, he appeared to have been impressed by what the eastern ivied academic establishment produced, for fully 1/3rd of the graduates up to the Summer of 1944 were high achieving, East Coast college graduates.]

Fr. John

Baptist Hasbrouck Remembered

The Interpreter carried a letter last year from John Hasbrouck, with his address, making possible a reminder to John of some hullabaloo on Peleliu, memorable because there was plenty to hear but he was up watching it too, and reporting what he was seeing, in vivid detail. He was known for quiet faith in God, and it seemed at the time that he felt God's protection. The reminder got no place; he replied that he had no memory of the incident. But with it came a statement of his faith that is more moving when you know that a lingering illness would take his life this year (as reported in the *Interpreter*.)

Harry T. Foote
JLS 1943

Our [Trappist] Abbey is in Lafayette, Oregon, 45 minutes southwest of Portland. The monastery in Valley Falls, RI is where my military story ended and the monastic story started. I have not at all resolved to write the monastic story till I get to Heaven, and then it will all be visible on my face.

Maybe we shall be able to see each other's hearts to the very bottom, and not be ashamed. The sins will be wiped out, and the damage repaired, and gratitude for God's forgiveness will make our praise the richer. No envy will be possible in the divine presence, because of genuine charity. When there is no reason to be ashamed, there is no need for privacy. But the publicity will have no boastfulness, no competition, or hidden ambition souring it. It is nice to think of such perfect human relations awaiting us, together with absolute Truth and absolute, infinite Goodness. May we continue our friendship there!

Fr. John Baptist Hasbrouck
JLS 1943, USMCR

(See Over) 1921-2002

[Ed. Note: In Harry Foote's letter is an apology, "John's words are

probably too religious and too little related to the language school to interest your readers unless they knew John.... John and I were lieutenants in the 1st Marine Division." It is unlikely that this editor would ever delete, or rearrange, the kindly words of Fr. John Baptist. It seems that, in combat, many of you may have been given the opportunity to 'see each other's hearts to the very bottom', which may explain such close, lifelong relationships. I can only say that on the same day in 2000 I heard the quiet courage of a JLS grad dying of a tumor on the telephone and read our first letter of faith from Fr. John Baptist – a memorable day]

The following are further collections held or recently received by the Archives:

- W.F. Ebling

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Janice Abe
- Frank Bauman
- Daniel Stempel
- Frank Tucker
- James Wells

Readers should be aware that the newsletter has stories for two more issues. We have not been receiving letters, stories, or remembrances in the same amounts as before the Reunion. In fact, JLS mail has slowed to a trickle.

Please, if you want *the Interpreter* to continue, please send us your stories, anecdotes, jokes, observations and memories. We do not want to halt this publication, but we need your help.

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New JLS Website:

<http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm>

Ross H. Ingersoll, JLS 1944

We would like to bring to the attention of his friends in the JLS, Evergreen and Boulder Communities that Ross Ingersoll, 88, former instructor at the University of Colorado and long time Evergreen resident, passed away on December 20, 2002 in San Diego California.

Professor Ingersoll was born October 16, 1914 in Eureka, Utah to Leonard Ross Ingersoll and Myrtle Homer Ingersoll. He graduated from American Fork high school in May 1931. In 1931-1932 he studied chemistry

New Collections

at Brigham Young University in Utah, completing his BA in French at the University of Colorado in 1937. He was granted a fellowship in Henry Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, getting a Masters in French in 1938. He continued graduate school while teaching a Spanish class at Northwestern, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in 1941. Following graduation he was appointed to teach Spanish at the University of Colorado. In the summer of 1942 the US Navy brought their Japanese Language School to CU. In 1943, Dr. Ingersoll entered the JLS program and in 1944, he was commissioned an

Articles Needed!

Ensign in the US Naval Reserve. His first assignment was to report to the Naval Intelligence School at the Hudson Hotel in New York City. Ingersoll was then assigned to Washington D.C. where he spent the rest of the War performing intelligence work. In 1946, he was transferred to Joint Task Force One, the group put together to test the effects of an atomic bomb on naval vessels at sea. After his discharge in 1946 he worked for the CIA in Washington, DC. He stayed with the US State Department for six more years, resigning in 1952. Subsequently, he began his career in higher education at

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Woodbury College, teaching Spanish and later French, Literary, and History classes. He served for many years as Woodbury College's Head of the General Education Division, Chairman of the Faculty Association, a member of the Graduate Committee, and as a member of the Task Force to reorganize the school when it became a University. After 31 years on the faculty, Professor Ingersoll retired from Woodbury University in 1983, relocating to Evergreen, Colorado. In 1995, he moved to San Diego for medical reasons.

David M. Hays
Archivist