

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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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.

Knecht Recollects

.... An important happening was getting our shots. Tuesday morning we all reported to Sick Bay and formed a line. One by one we passed through the routine of getting a Tetanus shot in the left arm at the same time another corps boy was giving us a Typhoid shot in the right. Then we stepped ahead and got a Small Pox vaccination in the left arm. It was all over in a minute and we gaily went back to our studies. But along about 1030 that morning, while I was back in the library, I felt my right arm getting sore. Back in the dorm, I found everyone else complaining. By noon none of us could move our arms without wincing with pain. We couldn't cut our meat at lunch and dinner; we had to bend our mouths down to meet the fork and spoon; and it was a painful sight to watch us putting on and taking off our coats. Of course, we couldn't take dictation at the blackboard, but we did manage to write at the

table. Some of the girls were even worse off ---both their arms were sore and some of them were ill. I combed Daphne's hair for her. By Thursday, we were pretty much back to normal, but on Tuesday we must again get the Typhoid and Tetanus shots, and each Tuesday thereafter until we have had four shots.

*Betty Knecht to her Mother,
July-August, 1943.*

WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

The Great Circle Route: China/Boulder/China

I appreciate very much your sending me the materials relating to the Navy Language Training Program. I should let you know that my professional papers are now with the MIT archives. I placed them there at the time of my retirement.

I will try to be of help in finding more Chinese language graduates. I should let you know that there is an error in my identification. I was not W(T) --I did not withdraw to transfer to Stillwater—I was told I knew enough Chinese so I was ordered to Pearl Harbor to work on planning for a China operation which never took place [*Correction made*]. I was then sent to Okinawa to join the 5th Marines. I went into Peking when the Japanese surrendered -- it was like going home since I had graduated from the North China American School, which was just outside of Peking, in 1940. I served as an intelligence officer for the Peking area, and I had many adventures watching the buildup to the Chinese civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists. If I ever get around to writing up my experiences I will be certain to deposit copies with your Archives.

*Lucien Pye
OLS 1945*

[Ed. Note: We look for more Chinese program stories as I contact more graduates in those fields.]

Russian in Boulder

We, the students of Russian, started in early November, 1944. The war against Japan was very active and we were expecting to be assigned to liaison duty on Russian ships attacking Japan. As far as I know there was no such duty, but at least one of our class members was sent to a Russian weather station in far eastern Siberia for a term of less than a year. That was J. Roy Richardson, a man who, unfortunately, died within the past year.

Americans were making progress in the war at the time although the "Battle of the Bulge" in Europe began about a month after we started and there were still major events in the Pacific going on. The Philippine Islands were still to be liberated and many other islands in the Pacific were held by tenacious Japanese soldiers. We had little indication of how our growing knowledge of Russian would be used in the war. War news dominated everything else and kept our attention.

Nevertheless we gained some knowledge other than the Russian language. We were treated to Russian movies more than once and I remember a well heralded speech by Alexander Kerensky, then aged 64. Kerensky headed the Russian provisional government of 1917 for a time but escaped to France when the Bolsheviks overthrew the government in October of that year. I don't remember what he said but I do recall that he was very angry. He had moved to this country in 1940.

In the spring of 1945, while we studied Russian, the war was progressing and the first steps in forming the United Nations were started. President Roosevelt had met in February with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin to plan for the war's end and then, two months later FDR died. A month after that the European war was over and we were still studying Russian. By early June

we were pronounced fluent and sent to New York City for a short course in Naval Intelligence provided at the Henry Hudson Hotel. [*How else could fluency be determined but as pronunciation?*]

Presumably properly educated in intelligence matters, we were sent off to Washington, D.C. where we joined up with other, earlier Boulder graduates, who were in the process of building a Russian-English dictionary. That operation was in the Stewart Building at Fifth and K streets, I think Northeast, though that may be wrong. The building, a new car dealership, was across the street from a large public market. New cars were virtually non-existent at that time because of the war and I suspect that the dealer was very happy to have the government as a tenant. From the Fifth and K location I was sent with a German-speaking chief petty officer to the main Navy Department building to create extracts of documents the Navy had acquired when it captured the German submarine, U234, filled with military papers sent by the failing government of Germany supposedly en-route to Japan. The sub had surfaced and was flying a white flag somewhere in the Atlantic. As I recall, the operation continued for several months and was still going on when I was discharged from the Navy in March 1946.

*Charles Brink
OLS 1945*

[Ed. Note: Mr. Brink gave us a list of Russian faculty as well as a list of those Russian graduates with whom he had kept in contact.]

William (Bill) A. Heintz (1924-1997)

William (Bill) A. Heintz was born May 31, 1924, in Chicago, IL, the son of Peter F. and Lucille (Russell) Heintz. He graduated from Carleton College, interrupting his

education to serve as an interpreter in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He went on to receive his law degree from Northwestern University. After working for McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and traveling internationally for the Richard D. Irwin Publishing Co., Bill resided in New Hampton, IA. There he served as Chickasaw County Attorney. He was later employed by the Department of Labor until his retirement. Heintz died July 24, 1997.

was invited to join the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity in 1948 and admitted to the Iowa bar in 1951. Luther College awarded him, along with his mother Lu Heintz, the Pioneer Memorial Award in 1996. This award recognizes individuals whose vision has moved them to provide for Luther's long-range needs through planned gifts. The William A. Heintz Scholarship at Luther College was established on March 28, 1996.

regularly attended cultural events on campus. Upon his death, his extensive collections representing his many interests were bequeathed to Luther College. Numerous objects were accessioned into the five College collections (Fine Arts, Ethnographic/Archeological, Natural History, Archives and Geology). The Fine Arts Collection in particular benefited from his generosity with the acquisition of 64 art works

His meticulous documentation of these works greatly assisted in cataloging and providing context for them. Over 600 books, records, and CD's were added to the Luther College Library from his estate. These works form a virtual collection which can be searched with the keywords "Heintz Collection" in Magnus, the online catalog.

*William A. Heintz Personal Papers
Luther College Archives, RG 15*

So You Want to Study Japanese...?

Thanks to being found by your diligent staff I have been receiving *The Interpreter* for the better part of a year. It has been fun reading about all the people who have been written about or who have written, describing the long reach of the school and its students.

After the interview with CDR Hindmarsh prior to being commissioned at the Midshipmen's School at Notre Dame, in the Spring of 1945, I found myself headed for Boulder

Heintz received several honors during his lifetime. He

and the challenge of the School of Oriental Languages. The opening line of the interview had been: "So you want to study Japanese?" My short response was, "But, sir...." I don't even remember whether I told him my aim was to study Russian. My unspoken purpose was that that would have taken me back to the East Coast where my wife-to-be was studying at the Julliard School of Music in New York City. I quickly realized that Russian was a non-starter and it would have to be Japanese or nothing.

Walking around the beautiful campus at Boulder some days or

Heintz was an enthusiastic supporter of Luther College and

weeks later I ran into a group of naval officers complaining that they had wanted to Study Japanese but had been assigned to the Russian program instead. That was the way it was, and probably always has been [*always will be, too, the truth be known*].

Our section was assigned housing in a small fraternity house behind which the fields went directly to the lower reaches of the Flatirons. After climbing them as high up as we dared, we returned to the house and began the search for the ticks that carried Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Most of us including paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and fiber art.

smoked in those days, and the glowing tip was a preferred method for ridding our bodies of the ticks—except from the most delicate places [*I guess*].

(To be cont'd)

*Charles D. Cook
OLS 1945*

New Recruits

James A. Hand, 1945 OLS 1946
Simon Tucker, JLS 1944
James Falk, OLS Malay 1945
James DiCrocco, JLS 1943
Lawrence Jensen, kin
Bueford Herbert, OLS
John Quine, OLS 1945
W. Morganroth, OLS Malay 1945
