Philip Yampolsky
Zen Translator and Scholar

Philip Yampolsky, a leading translator and scholar of Zen Buddhism and former head of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University, died Sunday (July 28, 1996) in St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. He was 75 and a Manhattan resident.

He died of complications from pneumonia, said his wife, Yuiko. A scholar of Chinese and Japanese religions and a specialist in Zen studies, he was known for his analytical translations of Zen classics now used as texts in both graduate and undergraduate Asian studies courses in American universities. They include Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch (1967) and The Zen Master Hakuin: Selected Writings (1971), both published by Columbia University Press.

"His many books and articles made the mysterious traditions of Zen approachable to Western audiences," Professor Ryuichi Abe, a colleague at Columbia, said today.

Dr. Yampolsky's most recent books, Selected Writings of Nichiren and Letters of Nichiren, translated and explained the works of the 13th century Buddhist thinker and reformer whose ideas inspired religious and political movements still active in Japan. They were published by Columbia University Press in 1990 and 1996, respectively.

He taught at Columbia for 32 years, from 1962 to 1994, most recently as a special lecturer after retiring in 1990 as a full professor of Japanese.

From 1968 to 1981, Dr. Yampolsky was the librarian of Columbia's East Asian Library, now the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, one of the major such collections in the United States with more than 600,000 volumes. He conducted research in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and other languages.

Philip Boas Yampolsky was born in New York City October 20, 1920, the grandson of the famed anthropologist Franz Boas, who founded Columbia's Department of Anthropology. He attended the Horace Mann School and was graduated from Columbia College in 1942. He enlisted in the Navy that year and learned Japanese when he was trained as a translator in an elite group at the US Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado. He served as a Lieutenant, j. g., in World War II and fought in the battle of Iwo Jima. Assigned to the Navy's Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area, he was awarded the Bronze Star "for meritorious service as a translator."

In 1954 he received a Fulbright scholarship to study Buddhism in Kyoto, Japan, where he spent the next eight years. He was an active member of a group of Beat generation scholars and writers studying Zen. With poet Gary Snyder, scholar Burton Watson and Japanese scholars Yoshitaka Iriya and Seizan Yamagida, he helped translate such influential publications as Zen Dust and The Record of Lin-Chi, which helped popularize Zen outside of Japan. He returned to the United States in 1962 for further study at Columbia. He joined the staff of the East Asian Library, received his Ph.D. in 1965, became head of the library in 1968 and was named a full professor of Japanese in 1981. He retired in 1990 but continued as a special lecturer until two years ago. At his retirement he received the Buddhist Studies Senior Scholar Award, created in his honor with gifts, primarily from Japan, through the Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies to recognize his lifetime of research and teaching.

Besides his wife, Yuiko, he is survived by three children: Susan Niland of Saddle Brook, N.J., a daughter from a previous marriage; a daughter, Ruri Yampolsky of Seattle, and a son, Robert Yampolsky of New York City. He is also survived by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Fred Knobel, Director of Public Information 
Office of Public Information and Communications 
Columbia University New York, N.Y. 10027 
(212) 854-5573 July 30, 1996

Boulder to Bombay, To Burma & Back

(Cont’d) [Nicobar Islands, off Burma, 1945] After about three weeks there, a little landing craft came in. It was Christmas Eve, so Larry, the commander of the craft, took me on a tour of the island that night in a truck. But the driver was a little bit drunk, and I didn’t want to be a casualty, so on our way, we just passed near a camp. I didn’t know what was going on, a bunch of nurses were caring for British Service people. They had some guards. But I didn’t know that. So as we were driving by the camp, I just said, “Let me out.” So I got out of the drunk driver’s truck and started walking back to the camp when all of a sudden, shooting started and I hit the ditch [Out of the frying pan and into the fire. Seems the guards thought he was an intruder]. Larry had seen me get out and came back to where I was. The guards were shooting and I couldn’t speak their language, I think it was Senegalese. Larry spoke to them in their language and they stopped shooting. I was lucky to get out of that alive. (to be continued)

William Morganroth 
OLS (Malay) 1945

[Ed. Note: Wow! And the adventures continue.]

HAROLD STEVENSON
Professor Emeritus Of Psychology And Fellow Center For Human Growth And Development

[Cont’d] After enlisting in the Navy, Harold was chosen to interview for the prestigious Navy Foreign Language Program. At the time, the Navy was training enlisted persons to interpret Japanese, Chinese, Malay, and Russian. To his own surprise, after the interview, Harold was selected for the Navy’s Japanese Language School which was being held nearby at the University of Colorado. (Coincidentally, the Army’s Japanese Language School was here at the University of Michigan.) He says that Japanese was fascinating to him, but he would have been happy studying any of the languages offered. Luckily for the field of Japanese studies, it was Japanese he was chosen to study for an intensive 14 months. Since the purpose of the language school was to train military personnel to help in intelligence capacities, as his studies were nearing completion, he was told that he would be going to Japan to help the U.S. in the war effort. Equipped with a Navy uniform, Harold was ready for the challenge, but as fate
would have it, just as he was graduating from the language program, Japan surrendered and the war ended.

The Navy no longer needed the services of language experts, so Harold returned to Boulder to continue his studies at the University of Colorado. He was given credits for studying with the Navy, which enabled him to return as a senior. A year later, he graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Math. Interested in continuing his studies in psychology, Harold went on to graduate school at Stanford University. His Japanese studies became dormant for a while because he found it difficult to link Japanese and psychology. [to be cont’d]

Center for Japanese Studies University of Michigan Winter 2002 Newsletter

[Ed. Note: I was notified by Nancy Stevenson that Harold K. Stevenson passed away on July 8, 2005. I have sent our condolences. He was on the mailing list from the beginning.]

Flaherty’s Class of 1945

Thank you for the informational letter of March 15, 2006, appropriately dated as it turned out, since all five classmates had passed away [A reference to the Ides of March, I think].

Of the two that I knew had died, Marty Mulholland was sitting in Cdr. Hindmarsh’s living room at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco along with a dozen other fellows I never saw again, waiting to be interviewed. Marty gave me a valuable piece of advice when I arrived. He said that if you want to make things easier, find the time to read one or two lessons ahead, so that when the class comes to them, they won’t be unknown territory.

My wife and I were friendly with Harold Willens and his wife. On the one vacation we had, we went to Colorado Springs together. Each couple had one child. When dinner time came one night, the children wanted to have room service, and ordered an Eggs Benedict. We went to the dining room. Some years later, my daughter unlocked the secret that when they saw what they had ordered, they flushed them down the john.

The list you sent of the entry class of May 2, 1944 numbers 30. My recollection is that 39 started. Could there have been 9 missed? [9 may have slight differences in date. I’ll check]

From your list Judah (a librarian from Pacific College), Perry (a lawyer from Nebraska), and Wiles (from St. John, Kansas – he ran for governor of Kansas in 1966, but lost to Avery) were commissioned in August 1944, but did not graduate by June 9, 1944 (I write ‘by’ instead of ‘on’ because just graduated earlier), Wiles became a line officer about October 1944, Judah and Perry became ill in early 1945. Judah graduated later. I don’t know what happened to Perry [the did graduate], (to be cont’d)

Duane J. Flaherty

Excerpts from the Coffin Songbook

Keibajo

Everybody’s doing the Keibajo
Now that we’re finished with the Kokabo
Ichii ni san shi here we go
With a Jinsei no keibajo

Ned Coffin, Compiler

Dr. Martin Bronfenbrenner: Scholar, Critic, Cynic, and Comrade-in-Arms 1944-1997

Moss on Bronfenbrenner’s career

Shortly before his death on June 2, 1997, Martin Bronfenbrenner learned of his election as a “Distinguished Fellow” of the American Economic Association. This award is made most selectively to the best scholars in the economics profession. Martin fit into this category and another as well; he belonged to the “fast-disappearing class” of generalists in economics. The citation that accompanied this award went on to quote Martin’s own assessment of his life’s work as follows “Doubtless I shall end, if I live long enough, ‘knowing nothing about everything,’ as against the specialist’s ‘knowing everything about nothing’” (see American Economic Association, 1998)

The list of subjects about which Martin knew “nothing” was vast and ranged from income distribution theory, labor economics, Marxist economics, Japanese economics, and comparative economic systems, to radical economics, monetary theory, and the history of economic thought. Martin served as vice-president of the American Economic Association (1976-1977), president of the Southern Economic Association (1979-1980), and president of the History of Economics Society (1982-1983). While Martin was learning nothing about so many things, he practiced his science in interesting and unexpected ways.

Martin served on several faculties, starting with the University of Chicago in 1937 where he received his Ph.D. in 1939. After a stint as a government economist, first at the U.S. Treasury from 1940-1941 and immediately after at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and registered for their Japanese language training program. Martin was to help translate captured documents and perhaps interrogate Japanese prisoners of war (American Economic Association Citation, 1998). After the surrender of Japan in 1945, Martin served under Major General William Marquat as part of the Economic and Scientific Section (ESS) presiding over the dissolution of the huge zaibatsu holding companies that facilitated the prosecution of the Japanese war effort in the Pacific (Dower, 1999, pp. 545, 210). More than a set of skills, Martin developed a deep interest and love for Japanese learning and culture. According to Craulfurd D. Goodwin, Martin made “frequent trips back after he left the [Navy], and he was a member of the Shoup Commission on the Japanese Tax System in 1949. He regularly taught courses on the Japanese economy and was a pioneer of Japanese studies in the United States . . . Martin remained deeply ambivalent about Japanese ‘progress’ since World War II” (Goodwin, 1998, p 1779). Martin remarked much later in life: “No more than anyone else did I anticipate the ‘miracle’ of Japanese growth and recovery, and most of the time I wish it hadn’t happened” (Bronfenbrenner, 1987, p. 3).

Martin returned to civilian life in 1946. He resumed his career as a financial economist for the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank, but this job quickly gave rise to his lifelong calling to work as a university professor. Subsequently, he served on the faculty of the University of
Wisconsin (1947-1957), Michigan State University (1957-1958), the University of Minnesota (1958-1962), Carnegie Tech (1962-1971), and eventually Duke University where he held the Kenen Chair from 1971 until 1984. In 1984, Martin moved to Japan as a professor of international economics at the Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan, and in 1991 he returned to Duke University where he taught until his death in 1997.

My earliest personal experience with Martin occurred in my first year as secretary-treasurer of the History of Economics Society. The executive committee wanted Martin to stand for the office of president-elect and it was my job to phone him and convince him to serve. On the telephone Martin insisted there must be some sort of mistake because he explained most modestly that he was not a historian of economics and that I should scout around to find the "other" Martin Bronfenbrenner who, perhaps, better fit this description. I assured him that I did indeed have the correct Martin Bronfenbrenner and with some persuasion on my part, he finally agreed to serve as the Society's president-elect during the academic year 1981-1982 and Society president the next year.

I met Martin again, and for me quite unexpectedly, when I delivered an invited lecture at Waseda University in Tokyo in early January of 1987. Martin was sitting in the audience having crossed the city during the busiest rush hours from his office at Aoyama Gakuin University to come to Waseda and hear my lecture. Once I finished my presentation on the Austrian School critique of the neoclassical approach and how one approach could join forces with the other in the common cause of scientific explanation, all heads turned to Martin to offer criticism. Martin was the most senior and (therefore) one of the most distinguished professors present. Martin underscored my call for "methodological tolerance" in the profession - a view that he himself had expressed quite consistently twenty years earlier and held to all of his life (Bronfenbrenner, 1966, p. 22). (Part I) (to be continued)


[Ed. Note: I found this article on the web. I only printed the parts containing information regarding JLS/OLS and Japan.]

Patricia O"Sullivan Way

I was born January 6, 1924 in Vancouver, B.C. Lived and went to school in Seattle, Washington. I began the study of Japanese at the University of Washington in 1943. Afer two weeks of "study" was interviewed by Commander Hindmarsh and Glen Shaw, who were in Seattle interviewing prospective language school students. A few weeks later I was en route to the language school in Boulder to enter with the first group of WAVES. I left Boulder in August 1944 and spent the remainder of the war at the 5th & K in Washington, D.C.

In 1946 I was married to Griffith Way, who entered Boulder in September of 1942 and served as a JICPOA Navy language officer in Pearl Harbor, Saipan, Tinian and during the early part of the occupation, Japan. We returned to Seattle in 1946, where Griff went to law school and I finished school with a B.A. in Far Eastern studies. I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

We have four children and have spent a large part of our married life in Japan, where Griff has made a career of law and his knowledge in Japan. Our hobby has been hiking trips (including Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, and Europe), although the NorthWest will always rate as #1. We have acquired a notable collection of Mei-Ji-Taisho paintings on which we are still working and also have a fairly sizable collection of modern Japanese prints. In a word, Japan has been and still is a large part of our life.

Patricia O'Sullivan Way

WAVE JLS 1944

Vernon R. Alden

Throughout his professional career, Vernon Alden's interests and activities have included the academic world, business, the arts, and international affairs.

Former Chairman of The Boston Company, President of Ohio University and Associate Dean of the Harvard Business School, Alden is currently Chairman of The Japan Society of Boston and Honorary Consul General for the Kingdom of Thailand in the New England area. The Emperor of Japan conferred upon him the order of the Rising Sun, Star Class, and the King of Thailand has decorated Alden twice - with the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant.

He is in a Trustee Emeritus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and a Life Trustee of the Boston Museum of Science. For fifteen years Alden was a member of the Board of Fellows of Brown University.

Vernon Alden served for at least twenty years as a director on each of five business corporations; Colgate-Palmolive Company, Digital Equipment Corporation, McGraw-Hill, The Mead Corporation, and the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company. He continues to serve as a Director of Sonesta International Hotels and as an independent General Partner of three Merrill Lynch-Leche Acquisition Funds, L.P. and a Trustee of the Tax-Free Funds of Hawaii, Oregon and Rhode Island.


Between 1978 and 1983 he served under two Governors as chairman of the Massachusetts Business Development Council and the Foreign Business Council, both of which were created to assist in the improvement of the business climate in Massachusetts and to encourage location of business in the Commonwealth. Alden led trade missions of Massachusetts business leaders to Japan, China, and Europe.

Upon his retirement from the presidency of Ohio University, the trustees named the new library "The Vernon Roger Alden Library" and conferred upon him "The Founder's Citation," awarded to only two other individuals in Ohio University's 165-year history.

Alden was appointed in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson as Chairman of the Task Force Committee planning the United states Job Corps and assisted Sargent Shriver at a part-time basis for six months. Under his leadership, Ohio University spearheaded the economic revitalization of Southeastern Ohio.

He encouraged new programs for highway and airport development, flood control, and regional medical facilities. Alden served as Chairman of the Education Advisory Committee of the Appalachian Commission.

Vernon Alden was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1923. He received his Bachelor's degree in 1945 from Brown University, where he did honors work in English literature and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. In 1950 he received the M.B.A. degree from Harvard University. He has been awarded thirteen Honorary Doctor's degrees.

During World War II, Alden served as an officer in the United States Navy aboard patrol ships in the North Pacific and on the aircraft carrier, USS Saratoga. He attended the Navy Language School in Boulder, Colorado, where he was trained as a Japanese interpreter.

As Associate Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, he taught and directed Advanced Management Programs in Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. He helped to establish Japan's first Graduate School of Business Administration at Keio University and taught for two summers in Japan in the Harvard-Keio Executive Development Program for Japanese business leaders. While at Harvard, he established the Institute for College and University Administrators,
Richard King Beardsley 1918-1978

Richard King Beardsley was brought up in San Francisco California, even though he was born in Cripple Creek, Colorado, in December of 1918. After his graduation from the University of California in Berkeley in 1939 where he graduated summa cum laude, then he went into the United States Navy. During Beardsley’s four years in the Navy he was a Japanese language officer. After his four years in the Navy he returned back to the University of California where he earned his PhD in anthropology.

Soon after Beardsley finished his schooling at the University of California he accepted a job at the University of Michigan in 1947, as an anthropologist. Beardsley continued his interest with the Japanese during his time at the University of Michigan. As the Director of the Center of Japanese Studies he also served as a member of the senate assembly and an active Chairman of the Department of Anthropology.

While continuing on with his Japanese studies he made his first trip to Japan in 1950 with other Michigan scholars. During this trip he intensively studied a small village in Okayama prefecture (Edna Nkwenti, 1). In 1958, Beardsley joined the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. This foundation provides fellowships for advanced professionals in all fields except the performing arts (www.gf.org.158fellow.html). In order to be a part of this group you must either live in the United States, Canada, Latin America, or the Caribbean. A year later the University of Chicago Press published his book Village Japan, which mostly consisted of case studies about villages in Japan and Japan’s rural conditions. Later Beardsley started to write and act in a series of television programs about Asia, done for the University of Michigan television center. (www.publicanthropology.org)

In 1978 Richard King Beardsley died at the age of 60.

Carisa Thran, 2003

Richard King Beardsley, 2002

HAROLD STEVENSON
Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Fellow Center for Human Growth and Development

(Cont’d) Upon graduating from Stanford with a Ph.D. in Psychology, Harold stayed in academia and became a professor. During his career, he taught at Pomona College, the University of Texas, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Michigan.

Since 1986, Harold and his team from the U-M have been working closely with psychologists at the University of Tokyo, Sendai University, and Hokkaido University. Together, the American and Japanese researchers conducted a study focusing on the upper 2% of performers in American and Japanese schools.

Many defenders of the American education system claim that while Japan and other countries can, on average, score higher on standardized tests in math and other subjects than American children, the top 2% of American children can fare better than the top 2% of children in other countries. Their study found that, contrary to popular belief, the top 2% of the Japanese children scored higher than the top 2% of American children.

Through his studies, Harold also developed a keen interest in China and even began studying the Chinese language. In 1986, he became one of the first academics to travel to China, which had opened its gates to foreign researchers only very recently. At the time, the National Academy of Sciences was seeking new forms of cooperation between academics in China and the United States, and Harold’s research group on early childhood was chosen to be the first of its scientific exchanges. [to be cont’d]

Center for Japanese Studies University of Michigan Winter 2002 Newsletter

Flaherty’s Class of 1945

(Cont’d) When I first went to Boulder, I didn’t bring my family (I waited until I was commissioned). I had Room 18 in the Men’s Dorm, and had a roommate. He only lasted a short time. I didn’t recognize his name on the list, that may be my memory.

But there was another fellow in the group named Curtis Prendergast who was a Time correspondent in Paris and had a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne. He left on another assignment. An article in The Interpreter [mentioned in #76A, submitted on article in #77, yours from 9/1A, and Robert R. Brown’s in #119] not long ago spoke of him, and I gather that he returned to Boulder in another group [10/19/44]. His name was not on the list [of classmate].

During our first oral exam, while waiting outside the room to be called in, and the tension was at a high pitch, there was a fellow standing behind me who asked for all to hear, “I wonder if, when I go in, I throw up on the floor, will they pass me?” I thought his name was Steinbrenner or close enough to it that I would recognize it. The name was not on the list I/Sparrer, Charles Henry, 4/19/44; Evansville, IN. We do not know if the “old up-chuck ploy” worked, as he is not listed among the graduates.

I am going to finish this meandering (I hear a sigh of relief) with a vignette of the hybrid uniform. While in Washington in July 1945, I was attached to the 5th Army that was to attack and invade Japan in November 1945, and that army needed more interpreters. I was issued an Army uniform from long johns to Eisenhower Jacket and was ordered to wear it from that time on, but I continued to wear the Navy cap and all-weather coat. There must have been many other hybrid uniform wearers, but I am sure only that Norm Juster was one. [Hybrid uniforms? I am certain that was a crowd-pleaser].

Duane J. Flaherty OLS 1945

[Ed. Note: Other possible members of this class may be those who entered in late April or mid May. So here goes: Catt, John, 5/11/44 Cox, H. M., 5/16/44 Gilman, Howard L., 5/22/44 Jacobs, Warren C., 5/16/44 Kerr, Thomas W., 5/16/44 Merrill, Walter M., 5/16/44 Quine, John, 5/15/44 Reeves, Clair B., 5/16/44 Ritter, William M., 5/16/44 Robinson, Jethro C., 5/16/44 H. Morris Cox wrote an article on his class of 1945, that had a number of the same names; see Issues #70 and #71. Most of the April entries started in the early days of the month and there were so many that they probably constituted a class of their own.]