The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter

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The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

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.

An EAA Interview with Houghton Freeman

(Cont’d) Lynn Parisi: We talked mostly about China and Japan, the two Asian countries where you spent much of your life, but I know those countries are not the only focus of your interest or the Foundation’s work. Can you share with readers a little about the Foundation’s work in other parts of Asia?

Houghton Freeman: We also have had and still have some humanitarian projects. We have provided help for flood victims in Vietnam and the earthquake in Taiwan. We contributed to the tsunami recovery efforts in Thailand and Indonesia. Here we worked through our “Freeman Scholars” – Asian undergraduates at Wesleyan – so that the aid went directly to people who needed it. We also have an ongoing cataract surgery project in China and Nepal, and a mine clearing project in Vietnam. Of course, we also have conservation projects centered in Vermont, which is our home.

Lynn Parisi: Mr. Freeman, we have only scratched the surface of your experiences and observations related to Asia. I’d like to close with a final question that touches of your decades of work in Asia and the Freeman family’s work through the Foundation. What is your goal for where Asian studies education should be in 2025, when our youngest students will begin to take on leadership roles?

Houghton Freeman: Well I certainly hope that Asian Studies education has expanded and that the Freeman Foundation has had some impact on making that happen. We’d like to see Asian Studies become more established in elementary and secondary schools. Do we feel like it’s working? Yes. But it’s a long road and changes come slowly. We have learned to be patient. We have just finished a large program with eighty-four universities to expand their Asian studies. Sustainability is all we talk about, but again, we have to wait and see. Similarly, in our Wesleyan program, we now have eighty-eight Asian Studies students on campus – twenty-two per year. One of the conditions is that they must return to their own countries and use their educations on projects there. But many of these students go on for their PhDs, telling me they can do more in their home countries with a PhD than they can with a BA, so we don’t know clearly yet what these students will ultimately do. So we’re patient.

We are looking more at programs where communities must also provide support. Sometimes it’s as basic as hiring a teacher so that Chinese can be part of the curriculum. We see that interest is growing, and we would like to think that the Foundation is partly responsible. We would also like to see other groups to step up to the plate and share in supporting this goal, and slowly some of them are. The emergence of Asian countries, perhaps particularly China, has helped focus American interest in that part of the world.

It is a bit of a puzzle to us why Americans are not more committed to learning about Asia. I think that Americans are very inward looking and too absorbed with domestic politics. As a nation, we don’t seem to focus on having positive relations with other nations. We don’t seem to be able to constructively engage the countries of Asia let alone the rest of the world. I think we are making headway in getting Asia taught to school kids, and hopefully that will eventually will filter up.

Lynn Parisi: Mr. Freeman, Thank you for your time today and for your exceptional commitment to strengthening US-Asian understanding.

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[Ed.Note: Ted Nace sent this article in and I was able to get EAA’s permission to reprint. I had not seen such a good and detailed recounting of Houghton Freeman’s career (JLS 1943) and the development of the Freeman Foundation. Both Mr. Freeman and the Foundation have been generous supporters of our project].

CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARINES

Dear Aubrey [Farb]:

In a suburb of Tsingtao there was a Japanese Navy Hospital, now controlled by the Japanese Army. Its large adjoining walled compound was used as a storage area for the collection of surrendered Japanese Army weapons of all types. These would eventually be turned over to the Chinese. In addition to standard military weapons there were some oddments - some valuable to a collector - turned in by civilians. On an inspection trip there, a Japanese Major Katada was in charge. He didn’t speak English but had with him a Lt. Nomura who did. Katada was an affable fellow, with whom I stayed in touch. Some time later Katada contacted me and said he wanted to report a theft from the Navy compound. He said that the previous evening a jeep load of Marines had driven to the compound gate, which was guarded by a single Japanese soldier, who spoke little English. The Marines waved around an official-looking document which they said authorized them to pick up some weapons. The guard was finally overwhelmed by their vociferous argumentation and admitted the jeep. The Marines carried off a load of their selections. The major showed me the document. It was typed on official stationery and said the usual authoritative things. I don’t remember the signed name at the bottom, but it was something creative like "Col. Jefferson Davis". I reported this to the Provost Marshal's office, and they had a good chuckle. No serious effort was made to find the ingenious Marines.

Col. Thomas Williams’ papers in the Archives mentions a “White Russian gangster”. This was a guy named Hirschorn. The Chinese disliked him and said he was a spy working for the Communists. We surrounded his house in the dead of night and rousted him. We found a lot of stolen goods, including U.S. stuff and a few guns. We found no radios or espionage-type gear. We confiscated all the contraband. Hirschorn, shivering in his skiivies on a chilly night, was meek and mild.

We took two jeeps up to the Lao Shan hills monastery where there were several Caucasian and other nuns. They served us tea and we left with them a batch of U.S. foodstuffs which they welcomed.

There were many Koreans in Tsingtao, brought in by the Japanese as laborers. When the war ended these Koreans
proclaimed themselves "visitors", on a par with the Americans. They refused to obey the Japanese authorities and went on a campaign of thievery, extortion, the seizure of Chinese and Japanese property. We were told by the Chinese that the Japanese had used Koreans to maltreat and torture jailed Chinese prisoners. They identified one big bruiser of this sort. He had gotten possession of a large open touring car and drove about the city with some of his henchmen. We mouse-trapped him in his car one day and put him in the brig for a while. One of our L0s was William Linton. Bill had studied Japanese at Boulder, but had lived in Korea as a missionary kid and spoke fluent Korean. He persuaded the Koreans to give up their sizable arsenal, from which I still have some interesting specimens. The command decided to solve the "Korea Problem" by shipping them back to Korea. Bill accompanied the Koreans, who were allowed to take their legitimate possessions.

Semper Fi
Glenn Nelson
JLS 1944

Marshall Green Dies at 82; Longtime Diplomat in Asia

Marshall Green, [JLS 1943] who was the State Department's leading expert on East Asia and served as Ambassador to Indonesia during the violent uprising in the 1960's that brought President Sukarno to power, died on Saturday. He was 82 and lived in Washington.

His family said he suffered a heart attack while playing golf with one of his sons.

At the side of a succession of Presidents and Secretaries of State, Mr. Green helped steer foreign policy in East Asia as the United States deepened its involvement there in the decades after World War II.

He was a witness to history from the earliest days of his career, which began with his appointment in 1939 as the private secretary to the United States Ambassador to Tokyo. He left the Embassy only a few months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

In 1961 he was the senior American diplomat in South Korea during a coup that toppled a democratically elected Government. Four years later he was Ambassador to Indonesia during the overthrow of President Sukarno and his replacement by President Suharto. In 1969 he was named a member of the United States delegation to talks in Paris to end the Vietnam War.

In the 1970's he was a key aide to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and accompanied President Richard M. Nixon on his historic 1972 visit to China. After the China trip, Nixon sent Mr. Green to several Asian nations to calm their fears about the new relationship with Beijing.

"History is likely to regard the period from 1940 to about 1970 as the golden age of the American Foreign Service," said William P. Bundy, who preceded Mr. Green as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and later edited Foreign Affairs magazine. "No career officer exemplifies that period and its ethos better than Marshall Green."

Mr. Green was born in Holyoke, Mass., on Jan. 27, 1916, and graduated from Yale in 1939. His introduction to Asia came later that year, with his appointment as secretary to Ambassador Joseph Clark Grew in Japan.

Shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Green returned to the United States to prepare to take the examination for the Foreign Service. With the start of the war in the Pacific, he joined the Navy as a Japanese-language translator. He had learned to speak Japanese during his years in Tokyo.

After his discharge from the Navy in 1945, he joined the Foreign Service and received his first assignment -- third secretary in Wellington, New Zealand, for two years.

Mr. Green was admired by his State Department colleagues for his persuasive speaking style, his almost preternatural calm and his quick wit.

He endeared himself to many diplomats -- although not to Mr. Kissinger -- when he let slip in a speech that the former Secretary of State was a "self-made man who worshiped his creator."

His cool head served him well as he managed the American response to diplomatic and military crises in East Asia, beginning in 1958 with the Chinese Communists shelling of Quemoy and Matsu, two offshore islands held by the Nationalists on Taiwan. The clash brought the United States and China to the brink of war.

Mr. Bundy later said that Mr. Green, who was the State Department's chief working-level officer on the issue, "argued at the moment of greatest apparent crisis that China was in fact easing off, and that a policy of quiet firmness would win out and bring the threat to an end without outright war. He was right."

In 1961 Mr. Green was the senior American diplomat in Seoul, South Korea, when Gen. Park Chung Hee seized power in a military coup that ousted an elected Government. As soon as he learned of the coup, Mr. Green announced on local radio that the United States continued to back the ousted civilian Government, a decision that did not endear him to the Korean military.

He was named Ambassador to Indonesia in July 1965, only weeks ahead of an anti-Communist purge there that would see Sukarno replaced with Mr. Suharto and would lead to the deaths of an estimated 500,000 Indonesians.

To make clear the tensions between Indonesia and the United States at the time of Mr. Green's appointment -- the Indonesians were opposed to American military involvement in Vietnam -- Mr. Sukarno organized a "Go Home, Green" protest by thousands of demonstrators outside of the Ambassador's residence, only hours after Mr. Green presented his credentials to the Indonesian leader.

Ambassador Green, who was widely praised within the State Department for his bravery during the months of bloodshed that followed, practiced what he described as a "low-profile concept" of diplomacy during his years in Indonesia.

From 1969 to 1973, at the height of the Vietnam War, Mr. Green served in Washington as the Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, a post in which he helped oversee foreign policy in all of the Far East. His office did much of the background work in preparation for Mr. Nixon's visit to China, and he was one of the 13 senior American officials who accompanied the President to Beijing.

From 1973 to 1975, Mr. Green was Ambassador to Australia. He returned from Australia to become the State Department's coordinator of population affairs.

He retired in 1979 and went on to write three books, all of them touching on his experiences in Asia.

Legend had it that upon his arrival in the Tokyo Embassy in 1939 as the secretary to the Ambassador, Mr. Green saw the portrait of a young woman named Lispenard Seabury Crocker on the mantelpiece of the home of her father, a senior diplomat in the Embassy, and announced that he would marry her.

In 1942, he did. The couple had three children, two of whom survive -- Mark Green and Edward Green, both of Washington. Mrs. Green died in 1986. Their other son, Brampton, died in 1988.

Philip Shenon
New York Times
June 11, 1998

Sherwood R. Moran
1917-2008

Sherwood (Sherry) Reeves Moran died on Wednesday, 16 April 2008, in Madison, Wisconsin, of probable cardiac arrest, at the age of 90. He had suffered with declining memory for many years, most likely Alzheimer’s disease.

He was born in 1917 in Tokyo, Japan, son of Congregational missionaries, and grew up speaking Japanese without an accent. Educated through high school in the Canadian Academy in Kobe, he received in 1939 his bachelor’s degree from Oberlin College.
The next year, he married classmate Frances Harvey.

Sherwood Moran served four years in World War II as a US Navy Lieutenant. He attended the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado and was later assigned to Pearl Harbor, where he used his knowledge of the Japanese language to translate and help break coded messages for US Navy Intelligence. He contributed to several important tactical developments and victories in the Pacific theater. For their work, his group received the Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, Sherwood returned to Japan to conduct post-bombing assessments, and also worked briefly for Newsweek magazine. Letters he and other post-war observers wrote home depicting what they saw and experienced were collected by other former US Navy Japanese Language Officers, Otis Cary and Donald Keene, into a volume entitled War-Wasted Asia (Sherwood remained a polished author his entire life).

Following this work, he rejoined Frances and their two young children to settle in Springfield, Ohio, and work for Crowell-Collier (publishers of Collier’s, American Magazine, and Women’s Home Companion), rising to the post of training director for management candidates and foremen. During this time, the couple added two more children to their family. When Crowell-Collier ceased publishing in 1956, Sherwood and a group of colleagues formed Springfield Gravure, a successful photoengraving corporation, of which he was treasurer. They sold the firm in 1970.

For some years Sherwood Moran served on the board of the Springfield Child Guidance Center, was instrumental in merging it into the newly created Clark County mental-health program, and in 1972 was named the new Center’s administrative officer. With his wife, Sherwood contributed to the civic life of Springfield in many other ways. He worked on behalf of civil rights, chairing a fair-housing initiative and helping to get its bond levy passed. He was also a leader in building the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Throughout his adult life, Sherwood maintained an informed interest in music, especially the classical and jazz repertoires. He played piano, had become a serious collector of jazz recordings during the war, and was an early audiophile with a tinkerer’s interest in complicated sound equipment.

After his retirement in 1983, Sherwood, a longtime student of the stock market, became an SEC registered investment advisor and established his own service – Sherwood Moran Investment Timing – with a monthly trend-analysis and market-timing newsletter. He continued this endeavor after he and Frances moved to their first retirement home, two years later.

In Florida, the couple joined the First Unitarian Church of Orlando, with Sherry serving on its endowment board as president. He also was active in its residential development as coordinator of the sheriff’s department neighborhood crime-watch program. He perfected his love of the art of bonsai plant growing and gardening.

Sherwood and Frances returned to the Midwest in 1995 to be near their daughter, Susan Harvey, in Madison, Wisconsin. They settled at the Oakwood Village Retirement Community. In Sherwood’s years there he resumed his lifelong interest in art to become an accomplished amateur painter of natural scenes. He and Frances became members of the First Unitarian Society, joining their daughter there.

Predeceased last November by Frances, his wife of 68 years, Sherwood Moran is survived by his sister, Barbara Brickett of Greenwood, MA; his children; Susan, of Madison, WI; Ted of Bethesda, MD; David, of Lincoln, MA; and Tom, of San Clemente, CA; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren with one more on the way.

The Moran Family & David M. Hays, Archivist & Editor

Remembering Telfer Mook JLS 1943

Global Ministries honors the life and contribution of Henry Telfer Mook, former Southern Asia Executive and former board member.

Telfer Mook died in California on May 23 aged 91. He had had a long and varied career, first as a lawyer, then as a minister in the United Church of Christ, then as a manager of church-supported development activities in India and Sri Lanka, and finally as an environmentalist and community organizer in northern Michigan.

Telfer was educated at Dartmouth College, Cambridge University in England, Yale Law School, and the Chicago Theological Seminary. During World War II he learned Japanese and served in US naval intelligence in the Pacific. After the war, he started a law practice in Des Moines (Iowa), became actively involved in local politics, and was one of the early US advocates of the city manager form of government. In 1950, he entered the Christian ministry and moved to Oak Park (Illinois), where he became a pastor in a local church.

In 1958, after a short assignment in a church in Concord (New Hampshire), he became the India/Sri Lanka Secretary for the United Church Board for World Ministries in New York City. During his 25 years in this position, he was actively involved in the founding of the Churches of South India and North India, as well as in liaison activities between the Tamil and Sinhalese communities in Sri Lanka.

In 1983, he and his wife "retired" to Benzie County (Michigan). One of his first projects there was the building of the Michigan Shores cooperative retirement community in Frankfort. The Michigan Shores model quickly became recognized nationally, and Telfer soon received numerous requests to build similar facilities in locations as diverse as Alaska and New Mexico.

But he was committed to Benzie County. In 1994, he therefore became heavily involved in the founding of the Citizens for Positive Planning, a grass-roots coalition committed to drawing up and implementing an economic, social, and environmental master plan. He also served as interim minister of the First Congregational Church in Benzonia and was recognized as Benzie Country "Citizen of the Year."

In 1940, Telfer married Jane Day Parker of Des Moines. She died in 2007, soon after their 67th wedding anniversary. They had four children.

Global Ministries
June 5, 2008

[Ed. Note: We will miss him. For more comments on Reverend Telfer Mook, see the website: http://www.globalministries.org/news/losses/remembering-telfer-mook.html]

CATCHING UP with John Dowling
Retired Dean
Immersed in History
within a House of Books

(Cont’d)

Life Among The Stacks

When the Dowlings left Athens five years ago, they chose a familiar place. John Dowling frequented Williamsburg as an officer in the Naval Reserves, and they selected the area for its proximity to historical sites and to their only child, Robert Dowling, now retired from the Army and living in Virginia.

Married on December 26, 1949, the Dowlings celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary this year. Long before they left Athens, they marked their golden anniversary with many of their
closest friends and UGA colleagues. Today, they are the same elegant pair shown in their anniversary photographs. John Dowling, silver haired and trim, smiles as his wife interjects two facts about her husband.

As an academic, her husband never took sick leave and never took the elevator at the Boyd Graduate Research building, says Constance Dowling with obvious pride.

Dean of UGA’s Graduate School from 1979-1989, Dowling previously served as the head of the department of Romance languages. During his deanship, Dowling cooperated with the graduate faculty to initiate new masters and doctoral programs, including mass communications, musical arts, social work, historic preservation, agricultural economics and artificial intelligence. He also worked with the Graduate Council to revise the by-laws under which the council and the Graduate School operated.

“He (Dean John Dowling) was well-traveled and had a global view of the world,” says Mary Ann Keller, former director of graduate admissions at UGA. “He was committed to the internationalization of the campus.”

In 1988, the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools gave Dowling the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education in the Southern Region. Fluent in Spanish, French, Japanese and Latin, Dowling returned to the department as interim department head for a while after his retirement from the Graduate School in 1992.

“One day he retired, and the next day he went back to work,” his wife adds as he grins and shrugs.

Despite John Dowling’s fluency in Japanese, acquired during World War II while translating and interpreting for the Navy, he remained with Spanish, his first love, though other offers had surfaced during his career.

Dowling did accept post retirement opportunities. He became a visiting professor at the University of Iowa and an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina, Beaufort. Dowling also was interim dean of the Schmidt College of Arts and Humanities at Boca Raton, Florida.


In the introduction, Dowling spoke to his love of Cervantes, of the great Spanish poets, and of the artist Goya. He discussed the significance of coming of age in Taos, New Mexico, where Dowling was a minority native speaker of English. Taos High School had an excellent Spanish program and he was fluent by age 16. Jacob Bernal introduced Dowling to the classics of Spanish Romantic literature. In Bernal’s class he read about Spain and dreamed of visiting. He scrawled a note about that dream in the margins of a textbook.

“I still have my book in which I wrote the date 1936,” he noted. “That was the year the Spanish Civil War began, so it was a long time before I got to Spain.”

His first book, published in 1957, won Dowling a cash prize from the Academia de Alfonso X el Sabio of Murcia, Spain. Two years later, at age 39, Dowling arrived in Madrid, Spain as a Guggenheim Fellow. He became a corresponding member of the Hispanic Society of America. Dowling observed that spending 1959-60 in Madrid was like doing a second PhD.

That Christmas, the Dowlings celebrated their 10th anniversary in Madrid by throwing a big party for their friends. He wrote that the lights went out “as they often did in Madrid, and late-comers had to climb seven flights or wait for the electricity to come back on.”

John Dowling never abandoned his childhood dreams of Spain nor the language he loved. “Spanish was in my blood,” he wrote. He has lived to experience the fullest expressions of his childhood dreams. (to be cont’d)

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Reprise on Topping Sensei

Sincerely yours,

Ari and Ida Inouye
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