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.

Meet William R. Braisted
Professor Emeritus

Historian William R. Braisted
http://www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/shelflife/files/braisted_william.png

At 91 years of age [in 2009] Professor William Reynolds Braisted is our oldest faculty member, and we honor his years of service to our department [UT Austin History Department] He was born into a naval family in 1918. As a child, he lived for two years in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Chefoo, China, as he and his mother followed his father and the US Navy’s Asiatic Fleet. As a teenager, he lived for two years in Shanghai and attended the Shanghai American School. A course in Chinese history at this school introduced him to scholarship that strengthened his growing fascination with Chinese culture. He speaks and reads Japanese, and he studied French at the Shanghai School with a White Russian refugee who claimed the French spoken at the Tsar’s court was superior to the French spoken in Paris. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in Far Eastern and European history; and, in 1942, he came to the University of Texas at Austin. During his 46 years at UT, he taught Chinese and Japanese history and culture, American naval history, and the American history survey course. He published three books and rose to the rank of Professor before he retired in 1988. In that same year, Japan’s ambassador to the United States presented him with the medallion for the Order of the Sacred Treasure, awarded to him by Emperor Hirohito.

Professor Braisted’s first year at UT included a daunting teaching load of four courses each semester. His draft board had classified him as 4F, but the service of scholars was needed in the war effort. He studied Japanese at the US Navy Japanese Language Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder and joined the Japanese Empire Branch of Military Intelligence at the Pentagon. At the Japan Desk, he analyzed Japanese radio broadcasts looking for clues about how close Japan was to surrender. He and his colleagues at the Pentagon correctly interpreted the political disintegration that was occurring in Japan in the last years of the war. Braisted returned to the University in 1947. He resumed his study of Japanese and Japanese culture in the 1950s; he studied advanced Japanese at Harvard University and lived in Japan as a Fulbright Fellow.

Braisted’s work in East Asian history encouraged the University to expand its resources for East Asian scholarship. As a member of the Department of History Library Committee, he persuaded the department to spend a greater portion of its library budget on Japanese history and Japanese language materials. He also donated his personal Japanese-language collection of books to the Library. Professor Braisted chaired most of the search committees for faculty positions in East Asian, South Asian, Near Eastern and African history. Hiring new faculty in these fields added considerable breadth to the Department of History and helped clear the way for a Center and, later in 1994, the creation of the Department of Asian Studies.

In an autobiographical essay, “This I Can Remember” in Burnt Orange Britannia, Pp. 16-35, Professor Braisted wrote that his professional life had “always been a tug-of-war between my competing desires to become an East Asian scholar and to publish in naval history” (p.34). Many would say that he achieved both even as he experienced the tug. He published three highly regarded monographs in naval history: The United States Navy in the Pacific, 1897-1909 (University of Texas Press, 1958; reprint by the Naval Institute Press, 2008); The United States Navy in the Pacific, 1909-1922, (University of Texas Press, 1971; reprint by the Naval Institute Press, 2008); and Diplomats in Blue, US Naval Officers in China, 1922-1933, (University of Florida Press, 2009). As the title suggests, Braisted’s latest publication recounts and interprets the work of Naval officers to “keep China intact, independent, and free from occupation;” to preserve the United States’ “Open Door” policy regarding China, and to protect American lives.

While completing his first two books, he became interested in the Japanese Enlightenment. With the help of two Japanese research assistants, he published a “beautifully rendered” translation of all forty-three issues of Meiroku Zasshi – the influential late-nineteenth century Japanese magazine that featured the writings of major Japanese intellectuals and cosmopolitans.

Professor Braisted says that Diplomats in Blue will be his last book. He is not, however, idle. He continues to attend weekly British studies seminars; he plays bridge at the Campus Center, he regularly visits the Harry Ransom Research Center and other local museums; and he cares for his beautiful dog, Deling. Deling is named for a lady-in-waiting to the nineteenth century Empress Dowager Ci Xi of China.

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[Ed. Note: The photo used in this article was of a suitably respectable Professor Braisted in his suit wearing a medal. But I could not find that shot on the web and had to use this one of him looking more relaxed. I had not known until I posted this article that Professor Braisted was a Shanghai American School attendee and was raised in China (RIC).]

Conversation with James E. Gunn
Writer & English Professor

[August 2009] I’ve been impressed with the distinguished careers documented in the JLS newsletter. The Navy’s selection process seems to have identified very capable people. My own selection was something of a mystery. The midshipmen at Notre Dame took a lengthy exam toward the end of the three months, and I remember being informed that I was being ordered to Boulder for the Japanese Language program. I don't think I applied for it, but I remember hoping it would be the Russian program, which was only six months long and not the Chinese program that was 22
from SFRA and the Grand Master Award from SFWA, as well as a Hugo from the World Science Fiction Convention, as well as a number of others.

I can't say I owe it all to JLS, but I do honor the Navy's good judgment in singling out young people who went on to distinguish themselves in later life as well as serve during the War. My service came early in my young life: I was 19 when I signed up for the Navy Air Corps in the summer of 1942, not yet 20 when I got called up in 1943, not yet 21 in 1944 when the Navy decided I wasn't cut out to be a pilot, and not yet 22 when I

**Photo #: 80-G-43935**

Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Violet Falkum turns over the Pratt & Whitney R-1340 radial engine of a SNJ-4 training plane, at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, 30 November 1943. This photograph was used in a World War II recruiting poster. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

got to Boulder in 1945, a newly minted ensign, to begin the study of Japanese. The war in Europe ended and President Roosevelt died while I was there, and the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima while I was in advanced line-officer's training in Miami. As a long-time science-fiction reader of stories about atom bombs, I knew what it meant. But it also meant that the war was over and my wartime experience was being shipped around the country from one college to another in three-month increments. And only then did I get sent over to Guam and then down to Truk to serve as adjutant to the commanding general and get released in June of 1946.

**The Beach, Tumon Bay, Guam Oct 1945, Pineau, 02_06_01_06, AUCBL**

Dear Mr. Gunn:

I suppose being shipped from school to school beat being shipped from a version of Army ROTC and/or Air Corps as an infantry private to the front in France, when they needed replacements in the fall of 1944, in what Paul Fussell called the "Boys' War". Those replacements fell like scythed wheat. Having been in ROTC during the last three years of the Vietnam War, I can certainly agree by saying the University of Idaho beat being an Army replacement on the DMZ, the Delta, or the Central Highlands. As one vet of the 1st Cav (in Vietnam in 1971) recently retorted when I told him I had served in West Germany and saw no combat, "You didn't miss much."

David M. Hays
Archivist & Editor

Dave:

I've never regretted not having heard a shot fired in anger (although one of my group died in an aircraft training accident) [More then 70% of the fallen in WWII from the University of Colorado were in the Army, Marine, or Naval Air Corps, most of whom died in training or non-combat crashes. After reading a memoir of a Navy flier, and reading of the training carnage, I finally found out why], and I must have learned something at each stop along the way. What really made a difference, though, was realizing what I was capable of. Like many veterans I returned to find what I was capable of. Like many veterans I returned to find something at each stop along the way. What really made a difference, though, was realizing what I was capable of. Like many veterans I returned to find what I was capable of.

James E. Gunn
OLS 3/20/45

**Bill Hudson’s Exam on Boulderite “Adventures”**

[In 2000, Bill Hudson sent a multi-page “examination” of adventures by JLS/OLSers, a few of which I might be able to get away with printing. These were Bill Hudson’s word-of-mouth, may he rest in peace, and not mine.]

9. **Injections – Gold:**

Boulderite/JICPOAn got a medical discharge because he needed (and got) “gold” injections (probably for arthritis). He was then nicknamed “Gold Leaf” because his name was John P. Leaf.


While being attacked off Okinawa in 1945, this Boulderite, then assigned to a carrier, remarked (within hearing of our pilots) that the Japanese were “fundamentally friendly” (thus incurring their wrath and almost being torn apart by them).

His name was Alfred Richard Oxenfeld.

18. **Foul-Ups – Administrative:**

This Boulderite was denied a commission at Boulder for physical reasons. Went back to civilian life, was drafted into the Navy and went to boot camp at Newport, RI, where after passing the physical, wrote Hindmarsh and asked if he were able, physically, to be a seaman, why not a Japanese Language Officer? He was transferred back to Boulder, and much to the annoyance of the original doctor who rejected him in the first place, was passed and became a commissioned Marine officer. His name was Clifford H. Ramsdell.

22. **Metalurgy – Buttons – Uniform - Complaints About:**

Subject Boulderite, a member of the class of March 15, 1944 complained that the buttons on his new Ensign’s jacket were...
only brass plated instead of gold plated. His name was Herbert L. Sultan.

23. Wrath – Incurrence of – Results:  
Yale graduate and Boulder JICPOAn used his spare time in Pearl Harbor to announce baseball games over a local radio station, and incurred the wrath of Commander Steele who told him, “Today is Tuesday, Saturday you will be on duty on Ulithi (a real outpost!).” His name was Gordon Barton McLendon.

27. Watches – Comments On:  
Subject Boulderite, with a prewar commercial experience in Kobe, Japan, could, and did comment on anything, including complaints of all kinds. His comments on watches were classic. I once asked him WHY, after the war was over, he would pay as much as $350 for a wristwatch? His answer was, “Because I can’t tell time with a dollar bill!” His name was Lewis I. Steinman.

Examination sent  
Courtesy of H. Morris Cox, Jr.  
OLS 1945

[Ed. Note: As anyone can tell by the missing exam questions, most of these ‘questions’ were for ‘internal use’ only. No one can say that JLS/OLSers were tame or unimaginative. I don’t suppose there has ever been a junior officer who escaped nicknames, refrained from grossly ill-timed philosophical comment, avoided SNAFU’s, never made foolish statements about a military they had little more than a nodding acquaintance with, or somehow avoided incurring the ire of his/her superiors.]

CPT Forrest R. Biard  
USN (Ret)

Biard, USN (Ret), Capt. Forrest R. Died November 2, 2009, at age 96. He was the last surviving pre-war trained Japanese cryptologist member of the U.S. Naval codebreaking organization during World War II. Capt. Biard served in all three Navy codebreaking units during the war. Biard was born December 21, 1912, in Bonham, Texas. A graduate of North Dallas High School, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1934. He was attached to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to study Japanese language, history, and culture from September 1939 to September 1941.

Jasper Holmes in a postwar assessment report: "The fate of the nation quite literally depended upon about a dozen men who had devoted their lives and their careers, in peace and war, to radio intelligence." (Layton, Rear Admiral Edwin T., U.S.N. (Ret.), with Captain Roger Pineau, U.S.N.R. (Ret.), and John Costello, And I Was There - Pearl Harbor and Midway - Breaking the Secrets, William Morrow and Company Inc., New York (1985) at 470). From February 15 to May 27, 1942, Biard was temporarily assigned to the carrier USS Yorktown as the radio intelligence officer. Biard rallied the troops on the Yorktown on the eve of the final engagement of the Battle of the Coral Sea. His talk culminated in a key instruction session by the Squadron Gunnery Officer on effective dive-bombing techniques, ensuring that neither of two Japanese carriers present at the Coral Sea was able to participate in the pivotal Battle of Midway one month later.

In February 1944, Biard and Lt. Cdr. Tom Mackie were dispatched to Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s intelligence center in Brisbane to decrypt messages encoded in Japanese Army code books found in New Guinea. Biard and Mackie decrypted communications identifying the detailed immediate Japanese defensive plans in the New Guinea area, a key strategic Japanese stronghold. The information developed at Brisbane enabled Gen. MacArthur to anticipate the enemy’s movements, and thereby to execute his successful island-hopping strategy to reclaim New Guinea in just a few weeks, which consequently accelerated the end of the war in the Pacific by several months, with minimal casualties.

After World War II, Biard attended post-graduate school in Annapolis, Maryland, where he studied nuclear engineering, nuclear physics, and radiation hazards. He pursued a master's degree in physics at The Ohio State University (OSU). While working on his master's program, Biard served as the operations officer for the first hydrogen bomb test. He received his master's degree in 1953. After retiring from the Navy, Biard taught physics at Long Beach City College until his retirement in the 1980s. Biard was preceded in death by his wife, Winifred, his parents Robert Jackson and Forest Lynn Elkin Biard, and siblings Dorothy Allen, Margaret Sansom, Mattie Elkin Biard Trigg, and Jack Biard. He is survived by nephews and nieces Ted Sansom, Steve Sansom, Lynn Allen, Judy Spalding, Beverly Allen, Nancy Wendler, David Biard, Betsy Clark, Patti Foster, John Biard, Bob Biard, and Cyndi Poe; and many great-nieces and nephews.

Dallas Morning News  
11/8/2009

Obituary Provided by  
Roger L. Eaton  
Researcher  
AJA WWII Memorial Alliance/JALL

[Ed. Note: Obviously not a Boulderite, still he was one of the most distinguished Tokyo-trained Japanese Language Officers during World War II. I was able to find a photograph of him in the Pineau Collection in which he wasn’t hauling luggage in a cart. I was certain that you would want to know of his career.]

Reprise on Neil Rawlinson

I read in a recent issue of The Interpreter an account of Neil Rawlinson [in Issue #141, November 1, 2009] in which it was stated that it was difficult to obtain information about him. Neil was a member of the class of February 1942, graduating in the following January. He was older than most of the others in his class and tended to associate with students who were about the same age as himself, especially Donald Allen. Neil spoke with a British accent, or at least I thought so. Although your article says he came from Whittier, California, I can hardly believe he came from there originally [Merely the location from whence he entered the school. Many listed Boulder, Colorado, but were not from Colorado, at all.] The article stated that he entered the language school in June, but although some people were dropped from the school in mid-term I doubt that anyone joined
once classes started [Our Entrance List is for those who entered the USN JLS/OLS at the University of Colorado only. Professor Keene and Neil Rawlinson were part of a bridge class that began their studies at the Navy JLS in February 1942 at the University of California at Berkeley, transferred with the school in June of 1942 (when he was entered in our rolls) and graduated in February 1943.]