The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter
Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Our Mission
In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempted 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 instructor 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.

Edwin Bock, Engineer & Activist, 80, OLS 7/16/45 (Chinese)

Edwin Bock, a retired engineer with the U.S. Postal Service who helped establish the Organization of Chinese Americans in 1973, died February 8, 2005, at his home in Rockville, Maryland, of ischemic cardiomyopathy and coronary artery disease, at the age of 80.

Mr. Bock, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland, was the son of a Chinese laundryman who became the unofficial mayor of Baltimore's Chinatown.

He graduated in 1942 from Baltimore's Polytechnic Institute, and a month later entered the Navy as an officer candidate in the V-12 program. He received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Tufts University in Massachusetts and was commissioned as a Navy ensign, one of the first Americans of Chinese descent to attain that designation.

He was assigned to naval intelligence language school JLS 7/16/45 (Chinese) and translated documents.

In 1946, he was appointed to the teaching faculty of Purdue University in Indiana, where he received a master's degree in mechanical engineering three years later. He also attended Johns Hopkins University.

From 1950 to 1962, he worked with several Baltimore architectural engineering firms, where he designed and supervised the construction of mechanical-electrical systems for institutions.

He was a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers; the Washington, D.C., Society of Professional Engineers; the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers; the Washington Operations Research Council; and the P.O.O. Benjamin Franklin Toastmasters Club. He also belonged to the Tennis Group and a Chinese couples club in Washington.

Mr. Bock volunteered with the Alzheimer's help group at the Friends Club of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda.

Mr. Bock's first wife, Patricia Yee, whom he married in 1957, died in 1970.

His marriages to Gloria Bock and Bonnie Bock ended in divorce.

Survivors include a son from the first marriage, Gregory Bock of Columbus, Ohio, and a son from the second marriage, Justin Bock of Raleigh, North Carolina; two brothers; a sister; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Washington Post
March 10, 2005

An Archivist's Response
Before I entered the archival profession, I understood that one of the main tasks I would be responsible for was to continue to gather and preserve information for future generations. As I worked on my Archival Fellowship at the Archives, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries, Mr. Hays asked me to survey a number of unprocessed USN JLS/OLS collections.

I was excited to work on additional collections that were part of a major Freeman Foundation funded archival project. At first I did not realize the importance of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project. Then I read a letter from Captain Roger Pineau in which he stated that there were no Naval files about the WWII Japanese Language Programs; that the school's office files had not been saved. In addition the classified nature of the school insured that little had been published on the school and its graduates prior to 2000.

While I worked on surveys for the Gerald Braley, Howard Boorman, Theodore Chester, F. Hilary Conroy, H. Morris Cox, Daniel Date, John F. Magee, Theodore Adelson, Jack Bronston, Henry Allen, and Michael Rogers Collections, I learned about the men's experience in the JLS, during World War II, and what happened after the war. After each collection I surveyed, I realized that an archivist's job of preserving information is not merely a task, but a principle that has to be followed.

From all the USN JLS/OLS collections I have worked on, I believe that all the JLS graduates and Senseis; deserve to have their story saved for future generations: to make it possible for them learn about the USN JLS/OLS and the expectations placed on the JLS/OLS attendees and graduates.

I will always remember the JLS collections I have worked on, because during the process I got to know the names of men who chose to become translators, interrogators, and JLS/OLS teachers. These men became more than just members of a military unit to me. To all the Sensei and JLS graduates, thank you for serving during WWII.

Justin M. Easterday
Archival Fellow

[Ed. Note: Here, here! I have long felt that way myself.]

ROBERT L. BROWN
JLS 1944, 1917-1995


Born in 1917 in Evanston, Ill., he received his undergraduate education at the universities of Virginia; Lingnan, in Canton, China; and Columbia. As a U.S. Marine Corps officer, he fought for his country in World War II, serving as a Japanese interpreter in the First Marine Division during the great battles of Peleliu and Okinawa.

Following the war, he continued his education with graduate work at the universities of Colorado and Columbia. With the outbreak of the Cold War, he elected to serve his country for an additional 22 years as an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, accepting posts in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Munich, and during the Vietnam War, Saigon.

In 1970, he retired to Matthews, where he contributed to the local community by
Howard Imazeki
Sensei

Journalist, longtime editor of the Hokubei Mainichi newspaper after World War II. A pioneering "Nisei" journalist, Imazeki was actually born in Japan in 1907 and migrated to the U.S in 1918 to join his father. He attended American schools and graduated from Sacramento Junior College, working subsequently for the Hokubei Asahi newspaper. He decided to pursue a degree in journalism and attended the University of Missouri, graduating in 1934. In the interim, the Hokubei Asahi had merged with another newspaper, the Shin Sekai, to form the Shin Sekai Asahi, and Imazeki became the editor of the English section of the new paper upon his return, sharing the position for a time with the James Omura, the former Shin Sekai editor whose views were often at odds with Imazeki.

After marrying and starting a family, Imazeki left journalism seeking better wages and was working in the poultry business at the outbreak of World War II. Like all other Japanese Americans on the West Coast, Imazeki and his family were forcibly removed and incarcerated, in his case at Tule Lake. He edited the camp newspaper, the Tulean Dispatch before leaving camp in February 1943 to teach at the Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado. He later worked for the Office of War Information and went to Japan after the war to work as a civilian interpreter and translator, remaining there until 1954. Upon his return to San Francisco, he assumed the English section editor position for the Hokubei Mainichi, one of the two Japanese American dailies in that city, a post that he would remain in for the rest of his career stretching into the 1980s.

Authored by Brian Niya, Densho

For More Information

Robinson, Greg. After Camp: Portraits in Midcentury Japanese American Life and Politics. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. [Includes a discussion of Imazeki's 1963 column urging "Negro community leaders" to "do a little soul searching" that was widely reprinted and vigorously discussed inside and outside the ethnic community.]

Stroup, Dorothy Anne. "The Role of the Japanese-American Press in its Community." Thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1960. [Profiles Imazeki and his counterpart at the Nichibei Times, Yasuo Abiko, and compares the content of the two San Francisco papers' English sections.]


In Memoriam:
Houghton "Buck" Freeman, 1921-2010 [JJS 1943]

Freeman had a distinguished business career and was a visionary philanthropist. The Freeman Foundation has funded the USC US-China Institute's teacher training program since its founding.

Doreen and Houghton Freeman, photo by Paul Rogers, Stowe, Vermont

Houghton “Buck” Freeman passed away on December 1. He was 89 years old. Few people have done as much as Freeman to promote increased understanding of Asia among Americans.

Under Houghton's leadership, the Freeman Foundation has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to support a wide range of East Asia-centered teacher training programs, undergraduate programs, student exchange initiatives, curriculum development and education publications, museum programs, and public broadcasting news coverage of Asia. This fall more than six million American secondary students are studying with teachers trained through Freeman Foundation-funded seminars and workshops. Thousands of university students have gone to Asia to study or work through Freeman-funded programs. Hundreds of Asian students and scholars have come to the United States to study or teach.

Everyday millions of people hear or watch news reports from Asia made possible by grants the Foundation has provided. Freeman oversaw all these efforts as well as a host of cultural site restoration efforts in Asia and environmental preservation projects in the United States.

The Freeman Foundation was launched with funds from the estate of Mansfield Freeman, Houghton’s father. Doreen, Houghton’s wife of 62 years, serves as a trustee. Graeme, their son, is the Foundation’s executive director. The family’s commitment to promoting Asian studies and facilitating exchanges with Asia stems from its own deep experience in the region and a concern that Americans simply don’t know enough about Asia to understand it well.

Houghton Freeman was born in Beijing in 1921 to Mary Houghton and Mansfield Freeman. His parents were there because Mansfield was teaching at Tsinghua University. Mansfield developed a strong interest in Chinese philosophy and eventually published a host of important texts. By chance he mentored a group of students who won a summer life insurance-selling contest. This resulted in C.V. Starr recruiting him to his young Shanghai-based firm: American International Underwriters. AIU would grow into American International Group (AIG), the world’s largest insurance company. Mansfield and, later, his son Houghton would help build the firm that until this year was the largest American company born outside the United States.

The Freemans were joined in Shanghai by Houghton’s grandparents. His grandfather Luther joined with others to create the Shanghai Community Church, which still houses the city’s largest Protestant congregation.

Houghton attended Shanghai International School and Wesleyan University, where he was a star soccer player. His studies were interrupted by World War II. Already fluent in Chinese, Freeman graduated from the Navy’s Japanese language school and served mainly in China, first in the wartime capital of Chongqing and then running an intelligence operation out of Fuzhou. When the war ended, he completed his degree at Wesleyan and began working for AIU, at first in London where he met his wife, Doreen.

The newlyweds then went to China where their daughter Linda was born and where the Communists would soon seize power. In 1997, Freeman told BusinessWeek, "We thought we could do business with the..."
Communists. We were wrong.” The young family moved to Tokyo in late 1949. Their son, Graeme, was born there. Freeman became president of AIU Japan in 1956 and the family remained in Japan until the 1970s when he moved to AIG headquarters in New York. He served as AIG’s president and chief operating officer from 1983 until his 1993 retirement. Among his achievements during this period was helping get AIG reestablished in China, a project that took thirteen years. After retiring, Freeman devoted the bulk of his energies to leading the newly established Foundation.

Here at USC, we are grateful for Freeman’s steadfast support of the USC U.S.-China Institute’s teacher training program (part of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia), the Career Center’s Asia internship program, and the East Asian Studies Center’s global East Asia program. Through these ongoing Foundation-backed initiatives teachers and students have gained expertise on Asia, often through direct experience in Asia. The teacher training program, for example, includes 40-hour seminars, one-day workshops, summer residential programs, summer study tours, online instruction and curriculum resources, as well as a web discussion forum and monthly newsletter.

Freeman funds have done much to reduce America’s “knowledge deficit” on Asia, but Freeman support has always meant much more than just financial resources. Houghton Freeman and his family have been key mentors and energetic promoters. Their advice and encouragement has been invaluable.

The Freeman Foundation has also been a key supporter of efforts to restore and preserve Asia’s cultural heritage. Prominent projects include Junaqzhai 個勤齋 (Studio of Exhaustion From Diligent Service), a remarkable 18th century structure the Qianlong emperor had built as part of his retirement residence within the Forbidden City and the Chongqing residence/headquarters of American General Joseph Stilwell. In Japan, the Foundation funded the restoration of Nara’s Chuguji, an imperial Buddhist nunnery.

The Foundation has been equally committed to environmental protection. In Vermont, their support has permitted the Vermont Land Trust to purchase and preserve 300,000 acres. When tragedy struck in New York and in Southeast Asia, the Foundation was there. It offered support for restaurant workers and janitors who lost jobs when the World Trade Center was attacked and helped schools destroyed by the 2004 tsunami. It has undertaken work to remove land mines in Vietnam.

Buck Freeman touched and improved lives worldwide. We join many others in expressing our appreciation for his generosity and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Doreen, and the other members of his family. He will be missed.

A version of this tribute appeared in USC’s Talking Points on December 19, 2010. USC US-China Institute Release Date: 12/20/2010

[Ed. Note: This memorial article to Houghton Freeman covers different ground from other Freeman memorial articles we reprinted earlier. The Freeman Foundation has funded the archival processing of the Charles Cross, Harrison Parker, Marion Levy, Edward Seidensticker, George Nace, Robert Schwantes, Nicholas Vardac and Mary Lou and D. Norton Williams Papers, as well as the survey and inventory of dozens of smaller JLS/OLS Collections.]

Arrival in Boulder

Writing “Boulder” in your address reminds me of the day in June ’42 that Bill Voelker and I trudged up 17th Street, I believe, to begin an association with the language school. Being among the first to arrive, we were told to pick any room we wanted in the Men’s Dorm [now Baker Hall]. Bill and I chose 350, which afforded a perfect view of the Flratons. We were doubly lucky in that Art Dornheim arrived not long after and chose the room directly across the hall—beginning a friendship of 50 years or more until his death in Bethesda, Maryland.

Paul B. Hauck
JLS 1943

Former Dean and Criminal Law Giant Sanford Kadish Dies at 92, JLS 1944

Former Berkeley Law Dean and Professor Emeritus Sanford Kadish, one of the world’s foremost criminal law scholars, died Friday, Sept. 5, in Berkeley of kidney failure. He was 92.

“Without a doubt, Sandy was the leading criminal law scholar nationally of his time,” said longtime Berkeley Law Professor Jesse Choper, who succeeded Kadish as dean. “He was among a small handful of the most distinguished faculty members we’ve ever had.”

Nearly 50 years after it first appeared, Kadish’s Criminal Law and Its Processes remains the most widely used casebook in criminal law, one that set a high intellectual standard for the field. His books, articles, and teaching inspired generations of scholars to take an expansive view of criminology—and to examine it through the lenses of sociology and philosophy.

New York University Law Professor Stephen Schulhofer partnered with Kadish on the casebook for more than 35 years. Though seldom in the same city, they worked closely together “ruminating, arguing, drafting and editing, and a good many times passionately disagreeing,” Schulhofer said. “Through it all, Sandy was unflaggingly warm, good humored, and profoundly generous with his friendship and support. I know that many colleagues throughout the academic world feel—even if they had never even met Sandy—that their work was touched and shaped by his probing intellect and his vision of justice.”

Berkeley Law Professor Christopher Kutz noted that “virtually every other criminal law casebook remains indebted” to Kadish, and “virtually every influential criminal law scholar has been taught or mentored by Sandy.” Kadish’s article “Methodology and Criteria in Due Process Adjudication” remains one of the 100 most cited law review articles of all time, Kutz said.

Kadish joined the Berkeley Law faculty in 1964 and served as dean from 1975 to 1982. He was the driving force behind the school’s pioneering Jurisprudence and Social Policy (JSP) Program, a unique Ph.D. initiative that teaches students to analyze legal ideas and institutions within the framework of disciplines such as economics, history, and sociology.

When UC Berkeley’s School of Criminology dissolved in 1975, Kadish and fellow law professor Philip Selznick drafted plans for the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program—as well as an undergraduate program in legal studies.

“These enterprises were not only the first programs of their kind, but also became and remain the leaders in their respective fields,” said Calvin Morrill, associate dean of the JSP Program. “Aside from a distinguished career as a legal scholar, Sanford Kadish was a university leader of profound vision and unusual verve.”

Kadish also played a key role in helping Selznick establish the school's Center for the Study of Law & Society (CSLS) as the world's premier research hub for socio-legal studies. The center, which works closely with the JSP Program, draws heralded scholars from around the world.

In November 2012, Kadish was honored at a ceremony dedicating the JSP/CSLS library in his name. Kadish called the library dedication “massively gratifying,” adding that he “invested a good deal of my life at the law school, and it’s heartwarming to be recognized this way.” The library houses books and journals that focus on the intersection of law, social sciences, and humanities—including many authored by scholars Kadish mentored.

Launched in 1978 and geared to students interested in pursuing legal scholarship, policy analysis, and teaching, the JSP Program remained the first and only law school Ph.D. program until the last decade. Over the years, it has significantly expanded its capacity to train...
students in cutting-edge empirical methodologies.

At the library dedication, Kadish acknowledged that his authority and influence as Berkeley Law’s dean “played a significant role” in securing the program’s placement at the law school. He believed it “would provide a tremendous shot of academic red blood corpuscles into our institution. The essential premise of this new endeavor was that it would place an emphasis on viewing the law from the outside rather than just from the inside.”

Born on Sept. 7, 1921, in New York City, Kadish grew up in the Bronx and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from City College of New York. That made him eligible to attend Japanese language school in Colorado. As a Navy officer during World War II, Kadish worked on a destroyer in the Pacific, translating Japanese military documents.

After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1948, he practiced law for three years in New York before a friend from language school enlisted him to help start a law school at the University of Utah. Kadish taught there for 10 years and then taught at the University of Michigan before moving to Berkeley.

During his distinguished academic career, Kadish was a Guggenheim Fellow and a visiting professor at Harvard, Columbia, Oxford, Cambridge, Kyoto-Doshisha University, the Freiburg Institute for Criminal Law, and the University of Melbourne. He received honorary degrees from the City University of New York and Cologne University.

Kadish also served as president of both the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Law Schools, and as vice president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice and his books include Discretion to Disobey, which he wrote in 1973 with his brother Mortimer Kadish, a philosophy professor at Case Western Reserve University who died in 2010.

Despite his many responsibilities, Kadish always made time for colleagues and friends.

“Sandy went out of his way to meet new faculty members,” Choper said. “He had a series of lunches with many of them and mentored a significant number of our senior and junior faculty. I succeeded him as dean, which was ideal. He came by never to critique me, only to help.”

In 2000, Kadish and his wife June conceived of—and generously endowed—Berkeley Law’s Kadish Center for Morality, Law, and Public Affairs to help probe the theoretical and moral aspects of criminal law. Kutz, the center’s director, said “Sandy firmly believed that questions of moral philosophy are not abstractions, but are crucial for us to be able to keep a critical eye on the state’s claim to be able to punish or otherwise coerce citizens to follow the law.”

Kadish was married for 68 years to June, who died in March 2011. He is survived by two sons, Josh Kadish of Portland, Oregon, and Peter Kadish of Orem, Utah; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

By Andrew Cohen
BerkeleyLaw
University of California
September 5, 2014

[Ed. Note: Professor Kadish had long been on our UNLV JLS/OLS Archival Project mailing list. He was yet another JLS/OLS veteran on the University of California Berkeley faculty. There was probably more cross-pollination between the USN JLS/OLs at UC and Cal Berkeley than anywhere else. The first JLS Director was Florence Walne, a professor at Berkeley before the War. More than 48 JLO veterans went to Berkeley for graduate degrees after the War. Many of the JLS/OLSers returned to Berkeley to positions on the Faculty: Helen Craig McCullough - JLS class of 1944; professor at Berkeley in Japanese Literature; Thomas C. Smith - JLS class of 1943, professor at Berkeley in Japanese History.; Robert A. Scalapino - JLS 1943, Professor of Political Science; Head of The East Asian Studies; Susumu Nakamura - JLS chief Sensei, chief instructor of Japanese language program at Berkeley; Toshi Ashikaga - JLS Sensei, instructor of Japanese language and literature at Berkeley; Ari Ihone - JLS Sensei, graduate of Berkeley in 1941, worked in the department of Grounds and Buildings on Berkeley campus as a landscape architect for thirty two years; Charles E. Hamilton - JLS 1944, Brancfort Library, librarian, cataloger and acting head East Asian Library; Henry F. May - JLS 1944, Margaret Byrne Professor of History, (Emeritus); Hugh McLean - OLS (Russian) 1945; Russian Literature; Madison S. Beeler - JLS 1944, Linguistics; Paul H. Mussen - OLS (Malay) 1944, Clinical Psychology; Andrei L. Knutson - JLS 1944, Behavioral Sciences; Martin Malia - OLS (Russian) 1945, Russian History; Michael Courtney Rogers, Professor of East Asian studies who was honored by the Korean government for his contributions to the study of Korean culture; Joseph R. Levenson – JLS 1943, Sather Professor of Chinese History; Robert B. Brown - OLS 1945, Professor of Physics.]

Christmas 2014 Greetings

Thanks once again for the Oriental flavored Christmas card! I am still receiving and reading with great interest, The Interpreter, which takes me back to the long ago Boulder days. I keep in touch with Orv Lefko, but he is the only one I still know of from those days.

Guy Riccio
JLS 1944

Francis Stenstrom
1918-2014

Francis (Bud) Stenstrom passed away Sunday, Aug. 24, 2014, at age 96, surrounded by his sister, Rose van Dyk, and his niece, Kitty Dixon and her husband Bob, as well many people who deeply cared for him at Life Care Center of Lewiston. Born in 1918 in Minot, N.D., he moved as a child to Lewiston, where he attended grammar school at St. Stanislaus School, high school at Lewiston High, and college at the University of Notre Dame.

He joined the U.S. Navy, which sent him to the Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and he then served as a Japanese language translator and interpreter during World War II. He spent his adult life working as a chemist for the Potlatch Forests Pulp Mill.

Bud was a scholar, a historian and loved trivia. He and his brother Albert (Blue) loved music, especially the Irish ballads. Bud also loved sports; his true passion was golf. Along with playing the game, he dedicated a good portion of his free time to building the love of the sport in youth and mentoring them in the game. Most importantly, behind the scenes, Bud would always be offering a helping hand to anyone in need.

Bud was preceded in death by his mother, Catherine Stenstrom; his father, Albert; his sister, Marion; and his brother, Albert (Blue). He leaves behind lots of family who loved him deeply, his sister, Rose; and many nieces and nephews and their children, all in California.

The Lewiston Tribune
September 1, 2014

[Ed. Note: Mr. Stenstrom had been on our mailing list for more than a decade.]

Beate Sirota
Reprise

Dave, I was reading today Number 205 of The Interpreter and noted in both Ann Ashmead’s letter to Donald Keene and in the latter’s reply, a reference to “Beata Sarota”. Her correct name was Beate Sirota, and she and I graduated together from The American School in Japan in 1939. Ours was a small class, only seven of us. I’m attaching the brief write-up about her that appeared in The Chochn, the school’s annual yearbook, in reference to the members of that year’s senior class (pay no attention to the reference to George Shimizu, who is a good friend, still alive, in California. I didn’t know how to eliminate him from the page, so I just scroll down to see Beate.)

Beate and my paths never crossed after our high school graduation, but it will interest you to know that in the occupation of Japan, when Beate was only 22 or 23, she worked in MacArthur’s headquarters, starting in early 1946, engaged in the drafting of Japan’s new constitution. It was she who was responsible for the inclusion in it of the equal rights of women. And her later career was illustrious.

Richard Moss
Ed. Note: Thanks go to Dick Moss for this correction and clarification. I will post the article from The Chochin in a future issue of the newsletter.