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.

Francis H. Dowley
Historian of French Art
JLS 1944
(1915-2003)

Francis H. Dowley, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Art History at the University of Chicago, died Friday night, Dec. 5, of natural causes at the University Hospitals. He was 87 years old. A renowned expert on the art of early modern France and a lifelong bachelor with an “absolute devotion to the unfashionable,” Dowley’s distinctive approach produced highly original work and students.

Dowley, “Frank” to those who knew him, was described as a sovereign master of his subject who approached its study directly, though close reading and intimate knowledge of the artwork itself. Mary Harvey, Associate Provost of the University who earned a Ph.D. under Dowley, said that “his command of the oeuvres of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century artists was encyclopedic. To study Poussin, or Rembrandt, with Mr. Dowley was to grapple with the inconsistencies of style and entertain subtle nuances of meaning. His appetite for images was insatiable - and his love for them infectious.” Barbara Stafford, the William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Art History and the College, added that Dowley encouraged people to look at important subjects that were not trendy: when Dowley did his Ph.D. work on an crucial series of 18th century sculptures, “nobody was looking at sculpture, it was all painting, and he really opened up the field.” His dissertation was never published; instead, he gave ideas to students and influenced the field through them. “Frank didn’t write a lot, his students did it for him. Underneath all that quirk was an enormous intellectual generosity.”

Stafford characterized Dowley as a uniquely vibrant personality: “Frank was lovely, quirky, intimidating - he knew everything about everything about his period and had a band of absolutely devoted students. He had this kind of French courtliness, a gallantry maintained always, but he was also a bachelor who never married, had a rather monkish existence and lived for many years in the [University of Chicago’s famous] Quadrangle club, if you can imagine that. He finally, after years and years, moved because the club needed the space, and when he moved there were mountains of paper, papers on papers, books on books. He had one black suit, shiny with age, one white shirt and one black tie. He was eccentric in the best way: he was his own person. And he absolutely adored his students and did everything for them. If you were in the department you felt you had to study with Frank Dowley, and he remained loyal to you throughout his life.”

Born in New York City on December 13, 1915, Francis Hotham Dowley graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University in 1936, going on to earn an M.A. in Philosophy in 1941 and a Ph.D. in Art History in 1955, both from the University of Chicago.

During World War II he entered the US Navy Japanese Language School in April 1943, and graduated in June 1944. He served as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, an experience he recalled warmly in later years. From 1946-47, Dowley held a fellowship at the Institute of Fine Arts in New York, and from 1947-49, he researched eighteenth-century French portraiture in Paris on a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. He was hired to teach at Chicago in 1949, and spent the rest of his career here, receiving tenure in 1958 and a full professorship in 1974. He served as a member of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, the College Art Association of America and La Société de l’Histoire de l’Art français. He wrote such pieces as “Sobriety and Elegance in the Baroque” and “Thoughts on Poussin, time, and narrative: The Israelites gathering manna in the desert,” in which he laid out his approach, “one founded in the examination of the visual work of art as an end in itself, not the visual manifestation of aesthetic theory.”

Harvey remembers a human being who was down to earth and approachable despite his brilliance, whose “office door was always open to any student, and many with no particular interest in his field of Baroque art were regular visitors. He was ever eager to discuss an art historical problem, to offer bibliographic advice from his astonishing card files, or perhaps to share some campus gossip over instant coffee.”

from Seth Sanders
The University of Chicago
News Office
December 17, 2003

Magee’s Navy (2)

Our group was an unusual one. My roommate, Wayne Gruner, was a brilliant student in physics under Oppenheimer at Berkeley. He found himself in the Navy as a radio technician. He was approached about an assignment at Los Alamos to develop “munitions” which he turned down. He was sent to OCS and for unknown reasons sent to Boulder. Al Roetzer was an older, married man who volunteered for military service, thinking his mechanical engineering degree and experience in building and operating compressed gas systems would be useful in the fleet. Instead, he was assigned to Boulder. Jim Maguire was a trained and experienced meteorologist. Others also were trained and experienced engineers, as I recall. Only one had an academic career close to foreign language, literature as I recall. All were fresh from OCS; I was distinctly the youngest and the only one without a commission.

Al Roetzer was not happy with the work and, despite determination and hard work, dropped out. He sat around Boulder for several months waiting for reassignment. Later he wrote me he was able to combine his Japanese language training and compressed gas experience when he was put in charge of a group of Japanese prisoners working in a beer warehouse in Pearl Harbor.

British Born in the US Navy

Thank you for your letter of 30th June with enclosures.

No, I have no OLS archive papers on hand, and, even if I had, you can be sure that English archives would not have taken an interest. TV programmes here pay little attention to the war in
the Pacific, which was splendidly covered by U.S. forces' cameramen. I am only too pleased to try to make a humble contribution in the appropriate area.

Perhaps I should start by referring to issue #56 and the letter of Sidney Brown on the subject of British JLSers. Although I was on the Russian course, like Ivan Morris, the JLSer (whom I knew well, since we were at Harvard together before OLS), I too had been born, brought up and educated in England and entered the OLS as a US Navy Ensign. Ivan died in Bologna in 1976 while on his fourth honeymoon. Two of his previous wives were Japanese, the other French.

In 1944 there were three Royal Navy officers attending the Boulder Japanese course, who referred to us, amiably, as "renegades". They were the bearded John Catt, who became a priest after the war, John Quine, who was mentioned as an interrogator of an Englishman who had spied for Russia, and Lt. Wilkinson of whose later history I know nothing, despite the fact that he had converted me to shaving with a cut-throat razor - so much more satisfactory in rough weather at sea.

Ivan was on course for the OLS when I first met him, since he was majoring in Japanese at Harvard. My own route was accidental, as a "90-day wonder" via midshipman's school at Notre Dame, where I qualified as a deck officer, expecting to serve on landing craft. At this juncture, I was invited to an interview with the redoubtable Cdr. Hindmarsh. Knowledgeable voices warned me by no means to express an interest in Russian, since anyone choosing the easy option would be recognised as a "feather merchant". The choices were Chinese (one of three dialects) 18 months, Japanese 14 months, Malay 9 months or Russian 6 months.

"What would you like to study?" Hindmarsh asked.

"Russian."

"Why Russian?"

"Because I majored in Latin and Greek at Harvard, languages cognate with Russian."

"Who was your tutor at Harvard?"

"John Finlay."

"I know him well! Yes, go on the Russian course." (to be cont'd)

Gerald Stonehill
OLS 1945 (Russian)

[Ed. Note: Yet another example of a Hindmarsh interview. There is more of this story to come.]

"Shorty" Grannis

Laurence R. Grannis, JLS 1944, left quite a mark at both Stanford University and the JLS. I gleaned this from the Stanford Lawyer, an alumni magazine.

"If you can sit a little longer, listen to the story Mal Furbush told a bunch of us at the Friday Club's Christmas party: When Furbush was a very young lawyer at Brobeck, he received a message to report to Mr. Phleger's office. The future PG&E executive vice president raced down the hall, because it wasn't good to be late. When Mal opened the door, he saw only the back of the great man's chair, facing the wall. But the words were welcome: 'Mr. Furbush, I have been reviewing your record, and I am very pleased. We are going to triple your salary.' Then the chair swung slowly around, and there sat our law school classmate Shorty Grannis, world-class mimic. Shorty had given a performance worthy of his [imitation of] Franklin Roosevelt, which he had done as the star of the 1942 Stanford Gaieties."

Frank Bauman, JLS 1944, told me that Harry Muheim, JLS 1944, wrote the lines for the Stanford Gaieties, seemingly a necessary prerequisite for his work on the 1943 JLS Revue.

David M. Hays
& the Stanford Lawyer

[Ed Note: I remember a winter night several years ago with the Muheims and the Baumans at the Boulderado Hotel listening to stories about their time at Stanford University.]

John K. McLean Dies August 26, 2005 in Arlington, VA.

Reprise on #81's Stories by Bob Wade & Jack Craig

The Interpreter #81 was particularly gratifying because of the stories of two of our oldest friends, namely, Bob Wade and Jack Craig. Bob was the first JLSer I met as he was a friend of my sister Victoria Siegfried, Head Catalog Librarian at CU, through their church. We had contact at times, and he was the best man at her wedding to Gordon Barker, CU Professor of Sociology. She had come to Washington to work for the Bureau of Standards and on return to Boulder, worked at their library until her retirement. I hope Bob and Elllie are still well. ['I called them and gave them Marylou's address when I got this letter, But Bob has since died.]. Jack's piece, written with Larry Vincent, led me to phone Jack, who is not especially well. I would jokingly say that at our ages, you should not wait too long to print a second installment of the article. [Nope, the next parts came out the following issues].

A couple of thoughts that are just nitpicking: The classification we all used on our mail and otherwise was USNR(W). I assume that applied to LT. Smith as well. The other officer in charge of one of the dorms was Lt. Dorothy Johnson. Oh, yes: I had an E-mail from Martin Packman that Robert Hachenburg died on November 6. One of the best, he and his wife Selma welcomed us all to their little house at the bend of Broadway for music and good conversation. They had a small black dog named Taksan and a large black dog named Sukoshi, 'a lot' and 'a little' in reverse order. A few years ago, we had a memorable reunion with them and the Craigs. Sad to see it all pass. Cheers,

Marylou Siegfried Williams
JLS 1944 (- 2005)
Lt., j. g. USNR (W)

[Ed. Note: We are sorry to hear that Jack Craig and Bob Wade have since passed away and also of the loss of Marylou Williams and Robert Hachenburg. It was a pleasure to hear that Martin Packman is well. As is often said, the ranks are thinning.

Larry Vincent had been calling to ask me when his offering was going to appear in the newsletter, as he had been waiting awhile. So when #81 came out with his story, I asked Karen to call him to confirm that he had received his copy. He passed along his appreciation. Karen told me that every time she talks to him, his good cheer makes her day.]

Robert Hachenburg
JLS 1944

Robert Hachenburg died of cancer on November 7, 2004, at the age of 86 at his home in Philadelphia, PA. He had been a Professor of Law at Temple University School of Law following a twenty year career at A.M. Greenfield & Co., where he was Vice President & General Counsel. At Temple, he specialized in teaching courses on real estate law and chaired the academic standing committee. He loved interacting with students, his daughter Ruth Adelman said. He was strict, she said, but former students would meet thanked him for being so exacting. He retired in 1983.

After attending the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado from 1943 to 1944, he served as a naval intelligence officer until 1946, with service in Japan during the Occupation. He received his AB (Phi Beta Kappa) and LLB from the University of Pennsylvania. He had been a longtime resident of Wynocate before moving to Center City in the late 1990s.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline Cooper Hachenburg; his three daughters, Ruth Adelman of Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Susan Reyniers of Montpellier, France, and Lisa Taylor of Seal Rock, OR; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Selma Vigderman Hachenburg.

NY T/Phil. Inq.
Nov. 9 & 15, 2004
D.M. Hays, Editor

[Ed. Note: William Hudson sends along obits to me when he sees them. Mr. Hachenburg had been on our mailing list since 2000.]