

Next PDAA Lunch Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

DACOR-Bacon House
1801 F Street NW,
Washington, DC

Speaker:

Vaughan Turekian, Ph.D.,
details at right

- Cash bar 11:30 am
- Lunch 12 noon
- Speaker 1:00 pm

\$30.00 per person

Reservation deadline:
Wed. November 10, 2010

To reserve please return coupon on p. 7, or the form at www.publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm

Upcoming PDAA lunch meetings:

- February 8, 2011
- April 5, 2011

Inside this issue

Salvaging USIA's Historical Legacy.....	2
President's Note	3
Member news, requests, poetry	4
In Memoriam	5
Ray Komai, appreciation..	6
New PDAA members	6
Reservation form	7



PDAA Today

Public Diplomacy Alumni Association

Formerly USIA Alumni Association

Science Diplomacy Explored at November PDAA Luncheon Meeting

The relationship between public diplomacy and science will be the focus of the next Public Diplomacy Alumni Association luncheon meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the DACOR-Bacon House in Washington, DC. Vaughan Turekian, Ph.D., Chief International Officer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Director of AAAS's Center for Science Diplomacy will discuss how the conduct of science can support U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Vaughan Turekian leads AAAS's international activities, which bring together science and foreign policy stakeholders to help build better relationships among nations. Before joining AAAS, Dr. Turekian served as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs. In that capacity, he advised on international science, technology, environment, and health issues, including clean energy, sustainable development, climate change, scientific outreach, and avian influenza. He twice received the Department's Superior Honor Award for his work on climate change and avian influenza.

Dr. Turekian is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Nonresident Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, and has published numerous articles on the linkages between science and international policy.



Vaughan Turekian

(Photo: Courtesy, AAAS)

He received master's and doctorate degrees in atmospheric geochemistry from the University of Virginia and is a graduate of Yale University with degrees in geology and geophysics, and international studies.

This PDAA event will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 11:30 a.m., at the DACOR-Bacon House, 1801 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. To reserve your place, please return the coupon on page 7, or the form at www.publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm, by **Wednesday, November 10, 2010.**

National Treasure: Salvaging USIA's Historical Legacy

Dominick DiPasquale

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part feature by PDAA member Dominick DiPasquale describing his post-retirement work for the State Department saving artifacts of USIA's history.

Question: What do 75,000 IBM Deutschland punch cards from 1956, the top half of a mannequin, two cartons of red tape, and a two-inch videotape with Episode 18 of the second season of "Moonlighting" have in common?

Answer: These are among the items found in storage at 301 4th Street SW that did *not* go to the National Archives.

Like cleaning out a beloved relative's attic and stumbling across artifacts from a bygone era, three WAE assignments between 2006 and 2009 at the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP – a direct successor to USIA's Bureau of Programs and "I" Bureau) unlocked for me an important part of USIA's rich history, as well as the substantive role the Agency played in the Cold War's battle of ideas. Of even more significance, though, is the fact that with the help of many colleagues in IIP and elsewhere, a collaborative effort to save this legacy for eventual transfer to the National Archives proved successful.

Saving a small part of American history

Archiving may not be the most glamorous subject imaginable, even if prowling around the sub-basement storage rooms at the old USIA headquarters building did at times have a certain Indiana Jones feel to it (minus the bullwhip and natty fedora, of course). But as I discovered, the chance to help save a small part of American history is, as the credit card ads say, priceless.

My unlikely involvement began in 2006, when I came back to work as a WAE employee at IIP, the bureau where three years earlier I had finished my 27-year Foreign Service career. IIP was undergoing a major organizational restructuring at the time, and I was asked to oversee the daily nuts and bolts aspects of the process. With the physical realignment of IIP offices on the fourth floor of the building and ensuing moves around that floor by most bureau employees, it became readily apparent that

IIP held an immense volume of unarchived material – some dating back 20 years or more – that needed to be sorted through and, where appropriate, categorized and packed for final storage at the National Archives. It was also readily apparent that this material constituted a treasure trove of immense value for future researchers and historians.

The "back of beyond" burner

Getting material ready for the National Archives is a meticulous, time-consuming process that requires great attention to detail (compulsive hoarding as done by the Collyer Brothers is not considered a best practices model for records management) and a systematic commitment of time by employees and managers alike. With the usual press of daily business and urgent deadlines, though, it perhaps is easy to understand why records management was not just on the back burner in many USIA offices but on "the back of beyond" burner, to borrow an apt phrase from the Aussies. More often than not, records that were out of sight truly were out of mind.

It wasn't always so at USIA. According to David Langbart, a National Archives official who served as liaison with USIA, the Agency did a good job up until the late 1970s of archiving appropriate, historically valuable materials. By the time USIA moved from 1776 Pennsylvania Avenue to 301 4th Street in 1983, however, the long slide downhill had begun. According to a 1983 National Archives inspection report, "USIA program management of files maintenance and records disposition is seriously deficient." The report estimated that even then there were 6,000 cubic feet worth of old USIA records that needed attention, an amount that in and of itself would take several years of work to correct.

While it is unclear what progress, if any, was made on this backlog after the inspection report, by all appearances USIA never really got a handle on archiving in subsequent years. (One professional records manager who transferred from the National Archives to USIA in the mid-1980s eventually left in frustration from dealing with USIA offices that did not or would not retire their records). Add to that the budget-driven cuts of the early 1990s that saw the abrupt abolition of entire USIA divi-

(Continued on page 3)

National Treasure: Salvaging USIA's Historical Legacy (cont'd)

sions rich in historic holdings, such as the Exhibits Service and the Agency magazines, and the backlog of material to be archived grew even greater.

Flash forward 15 years or so to 2008, when it became clear that the two USIA successor bureaus in the State Department, IIP and ECA, would be leaving the old Agency headquarters building after a quarter-century's occupancy.

It was also readily apparent that this material constituted a treasure trove of immense value for future researchers and historians.

The impending move to swanky new digs at State Annex 5, directly opposite Main State, created a firm deadline to handle once and for all the mountain of accumulated USIA-era material; if not taken care of before the move out of 301 4th Street, more likely than not that material literally would end up in the dustbin of history.

With the support of the IIP front office and executive office (especially Coordinator Jeremy Curtin and staff assistant Laura Hesselton in the former, and Kate Yemelyanov and Reta Champion in the latter), I returned to IIP for a pair of four-month WAE stints in 2008 and 2009 to work on archiving and move-related issues.

Part 2: The stuff we found ... in the next issue of *PDAA Today*.

President's Note

What a pleasure to have VOA Director Dan Austin update us on VOA and developments at the BBG at our September luncheon. So many of our members were delighted to re-connect with former VOA colleagues who joined us for the program. We hope they'll decide to join the PDAA family!

As public diplomacy practitioners, we've witnessed the power of science, scientists and scientific cooperation and exchange to build bridges where others – including diplomats—could not. Our November gathering will focus on new directions in science diplomacy as we host Vaughan Turekian, former Department of State official and now Chief International Officer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

As always, we welcome new members to the PDAA. Please share with colleagues and friends that if they join as new members between now and November 30 their \$30 annual dues will cover 2010 and 2011 membership; see the form on page 7. Why not bring a potential recruit to the November 16 luncheon? We'll see you there!

- **Kathy Brion**

Scholarship Reviewers Needed

The American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS seeks volunteers to evaluate the scholarship applications of students from Afghanistan, the republics of the former Soviet Union, Poland, Serbia, and other countries of South East Europe. Funding for these programs is provided by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

Students will spend one year living with an American family and attending a U.S. high school. Evaluation of applications will take place at the American Councils office at L Street, NW (near the Farragut West and Farragut North metro stations), from November 2010 through March 2011. Training will be provided on how to evaluate the applications in accordance with established criteria.

For more information, please contact Megan Timmens at mtimmens@americancouncils.org or by calling 202-833-7522.

A Question From Walter Roberts about VOA's Beginning

Walter Roberts writes: "Dear Colleagues. I need your help.

"Some of you may remember an article of mine a year ago regarding the origins of the Voice of America in which I wrote that the first U.S. Government radio broadcasts to Europe occurred on February 1st, 1942, in German, French and Italian. Through the superb research of Chris Kern (formerly VOA) who recently found at the National Archives the earliest German scripts and through the determined pursuit of Mike Gray (VOA) who retrieved in the Library of Congress the actual first recordings of these earliest German broadcasts, we now know that February 1st was indeed the date of the first USG broadcast to Europe.

"On February 8, 1957, the Acting USIA Director Abbott Washburn sent a memorandum to President Eisenhower inviting him to visit VOA headquarters on February 25, 1957 which, he wrote, "marks the fifteenth anniversary of the first radio broadcast of the United States Government under the designation, Voice of America." He did not say, it was the anniversary of the first broadcast which, he implied, had occurred earlier. It was the anniversary of the VOA designation. (The Washburn memorandum to the President was discovered in the Eisenhower Library)

"I have found no corroboration in any files nor do the scripts and recordings of February 25, 1942 indicate any change, but I must assume that Washburn would not have written these words without solid proof. It is true that John Houseman, the first VOA director, writes in his book *Front and Center* that Robert Sherwood, FDR's speech writer and head of the

Foreign Information Service had decided in early 1942 that the USG broadcasts "would be known as the 'Voice of America'". Maybe this was announced on February 25, 1942?

"Yet, by the 40th anniversary of VOA (1982), the date had been changed to February 24 and the reason given was that that was the date when the first VOA broadcast occurred (which we now know is incorrect).

"My question: Why was the switch from February 25 to February 24 made? And when? (I have some suspicion that the switch occurred as early as 1962 when President Kennedy visited VOA). Your help will be greatly appreciated."

You can contact Walter at (202) 363-2294 or wrroberts8@verizon.net.

Honor for Eddie Deerfield

Eddie Deerfield has been named a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. He was informed of the award in a letter from Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France to the United States. The letter cited "France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for your personal, precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in liberation of our country during World War II." Deerfield flew combat missions in a B-17 bomber attacking targets in preparation for the Normandy invasion.

Slava and Me

A poem by Jim Jensen

His intimates called him Slava,
but I never had the courage, for
he was too imposing a figure.
A giant in music, thrust into politics,
master cellist, superb conductor,
player on the world stage,
he intimidated me.

But with a name like
Mstislav Rastropovich,
one had to choose something.
I decided to try "Maestro,"
and he never corrected me,
so Maestro it was.

We sat at the table in his London flat,
working out details of a trip to India.
Three-way negotiations –
the two of us, our office in Delhi,
officials in Washington –
eventually solved all problems
and the trip was set.

Until, that is, an earthquake
near his Soviet Union home.
The Maestro pulled strings and
arranged a benefit relief concert
with the London Symphony
on a date he should be
performing for us in India.

Start over.

Telegrams and phone calls flew
as I chased the Maestro all over London.
Passports, visas, special permission
to use Air France, first-class seat for
cello,
new program details from Delhi,
all worked out.

Mentally drained as I was,
it was a happy moment
when I took him and his diva spouse
to Heathrow, where I received my
reward --
a huge Russian bear hug
and two kisses on each cheek.

I'll always remember Slava.

In Memoriam

- ◆ Ray Komai, 92, a designer and retired USIA exhibits official, died on July 3 in Switzerland where he had lived since 2004. After being interned during World War II, Mr. Komai opened his own design studio in New York. He produced textile designs for Laverne Originals. A chair he designed is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. In 1963 Mr. Komai joined USIA's Exhibits Service and served overseas in New Delhi, Osaka (Expo 70), Tokyo, Bonn and Vienna. In Japan he received critical acclaim for his dramatic redesign of American Centers and his role as art editor of *Trends* magazine. Mr. Komai retired in 1980. (See appreciation, page 6)
- ◆ Zofia Korbonski, 95, a former VOA broadcaster, died August 16 of pulmonary failure. During WWII, she sent clandestine radio dispatches from occupied Warsaw. Her husband, Stefan Korbonski, who died in 1983, was one of the central figures of the underground Polish resistance operations against the German occupiers. "She was in more danger than her husband," said Ted Lipien, who grew up in Poland and later worked with her at VOA. "She was basically the only link between Poland and the outside world," Lipien told the *Washington Post*. In 1942, Ms. Korbonski reported that the Germans were deporting 7,000 Jews a day from the Warsaw ghetto to concentration camps. A year later, she provided the first reports of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. In 1947, the Korbonskis escaped from communist Poland aboard a coal ship bound for Sweden. After arriving in the United States, Ms. Korbonski began working with VOA. Although she wrote and delivered her Voice of America reports under an assumed name, communist officials in Poland learned her identity and denounced her. After her husband's death, Ms. Korbonski established a foundation in his name to preserve the legacy of the Polish resistance in World War II.
- ◆ Dr. Frances Anne "Fay" Leary Lewis, 67, wife of former Ambassador and USIA FSO Arthur W. Lewis, died at their Washington, D.C. home on September 25 of complications from a brain tumor. A pioneer in the field of African studies, Dr. Lewis conducted field studies in Senegal, Morocco, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and many other African nations. Until she became ill in Spring 2010, Dr. Lewis had been a program officer at Meridian International Center for 22 years. She taught African and Mid-East history at Temple and Northwestern universities. Dr. Lewis was also a lecturer at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute. From 1977 through 1981, Dr. Lewis was the Chair of the (U.S.) Association of African Studies Programs. From 1980 to 1982 she was branch chief of USIA's Fulbright Program with Africa.
- ◆ Gwendolyn Louise Remick, 80, wife of retired USIA FSO Marlin Remick, died July 28 from congestive heart failure. She accompanied Marlin on his overseas assignments in the Soviet Union, Iran and Yugoslavia. In Moscow Ms. Remick hosted in her apartment three famous Russian poets, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Andre Vozneshensky and Bela Akhmadulina. It was one of the rare times that the three of them got together. She did volunteer work for each of the three Embassies. After returning to Washington in 1982 Ms. Remick worked for several years as a Fairfax City registrar.
- ◆ Hugh Turnbull, 93, an engineer with VOA, the FCC and NASA, died September 14. He lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. Active in ham radio organizations, he was an honorary vice president of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio. Mr. Turnbull had been a licensed and active radio amateur since 1932.

Member Directory Updates

Please note the following changes in the August 2010 PDAA member directory.

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Ray Komai – An Appreciation

Barry Fulton

Ray would be the first to agree that words are inadequate to capture the breadth and depth of a man. He could come closer with graphic design when words would not suffice. I recall a team briefing in Tokyo of a new Area Director. When it was Ray's turn, he said "I'm in charge of camouflage – to try to make the rest of these guys look good." And he did.

There were many ways to appreciate Ray, as I learned when I traveled with him on a five-country tour through Southeast Asia. With my new Nikon in hand, Ray promised to teach me photography and tutored me throughout the 10-day trip. Back in Tokyo, he suggested we each load a tray of slides on a Kodak Carousel projector to compare our results. Although more than satisfied with what he had taught me, it was immediately evident that I was an amateur photographer and Ray was an artist.

Beyond his extraordinary skills as an artist, he was an expert manager. In the heady days of USIS Japan renovations, there was no shortage of suggestions from colleagues. Ray promptly added each to his ever-expanding Punch List and placed them in category 1, 2, and 3. What is the distinction I asked? Just a reminder to me for scheduling, Ray replied. Years later, he revealed his code. Category 1: immediately. Category 2: soon. And category 3: never. No hurt feelings – and no bad design.

One of the few skills that Ray did not possess was speaking Japanese, although that was not evident to his Japanese interlocutors until they tried to engage him. I recall sitting in a restaurant in Kyoto with several colleagues including Ray and Paul Blackburn. When Paul ordered for us in fluent Japanese, the waiter continued to look at Ray and with a nod of the head acknowledging each order to him. By returning to his side and continuing eye contact with Ray throughout the meal, the waiter had evidently concluded that Ray was a ventriloquist.

Ray and his wonderful wife Harumi remained close friends long after our Japanese experience. It was Ray who remarked how lucky we were to be skiing in Pennsylvania well after nightfall when the temperature had plummeted to 10 below zero. Lucky, I asked? Yes, he said, since there's no one else here, we never have to wait for a chairlift. Years later, Ray introduced me to skiing in the Alps and demonstrated that his talents also included being an accomplished skier. He had long since shown me up in tennis.

If one were to paint his picture, it would have to include his beaming smile, his attentive gaze, his raised eyebrow, and – it showed even on his face – his innate modesty. I have known no one else who so well illustrates the strength of character that arises from his rare combination of modesty and genius. We are all the richer for knowing and remembering Ray Komai.

Another appreciation of Ray Komai will appear in the next issue.

Welcome New PDAA Members

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New members: Join PDAA now and get all of 2011 free

The annual membership fee for the Public Diplomacy Alumni Association is **\$US30.00**.

New members: Join PDAA during October-November 2010 and get all of 2011 free. Because of the low fee, we cannot prorate memberships for a partial year. Please complete the form below and mail the completed form with your check to:

Eileen Binns, PDAA Treasurer
6919 Radnor Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817

Name(s) _____

Street address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Date _____

Membership type, please check one: New (\$30) Lifetime (\$300)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Renewals: Please use form at <http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/7.htm#form>

PDAA November 2010 Luncheon Meeting

November 16, 2010 - DACOR-Bacon House (See page 1 for program details),
1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

Deadline for reservations: **November 10, 2010.**

Please complete the form below and mail with your check for **\$US30.00** for each person to:

Eileen Binns,
PDAA Treasurer
6919 Radnor Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817

(Please send payments for this event only.)

Name(s) _____

Street address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Date _____

Number of people _____ x \$US 30.00

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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