



Oral History Interview of Edward Hartmann (SOH-013)

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Oral History Interview of Edward G. Hartmann

Interview Date: July 16, 1992

Interviewed by: Louis Connelly

Citation: Hartmann, Edward G. Interviewed by Louis Connelly. Suffolk University Oral History Project SOH-013. 16 July 1992. Transcript and audio available. Suffolk University Archives, Suffolk University, Boston, MA.

Copyright Information: Unknown.

Interview Summary

Edward G. Hartmann, former director of libraries and professor of history, reflects on his thirty-year career at Suffolk University. The interview covers his experiences at Suffolk; his teaching career and methods; his thoughts on the university's presidents and administrations; and his work as an ethnic historian. He concludes with his thoughts on the progress of Suffolk and his hope for continued high educational standards at the university.

Subject Headings

Education, Higher—United States

Hartmann, Edward George, 1912-

Suffolk University

Suffolk University—History

University administrators and faculty

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Interview Transcript

LOUIS CONNELLY: All right, now how would you—what memories do you have of Suffolk University?

EDWARD G. HARTMANN: What do you mean?

CONNELLY: What memories overall, over the long span of time, do you have about Suffolk?

(pause in recording)

CONNELLY: What memories do you have of Suffolk, Ed?

HARTMANN: Well, as I think about it, there probably was (inaudible) frustrations at times. But, as I said, I enjoyed the students very much, and I enjoyed Boston, living there, very stimulating. And I had chances to move, but I didn't. I could have gone. I'm sure I speak for a lot of others, Stan Vogel and the like, we could have gone elsewhere but we didn't. We liked the environment for the most part.

I'll say this, we didn't always like what the administration was doing. The faculty got along pretty well with each other. We liked the administrators, and the ones we disliked most were the trustees. (laughs) Didn't like them one bit, many of them. I mean, they had their own ideas of what to do. We didn't think they were necessarily academic enough for running the school. And I don't mean the present ones but back in that period. And they were (inaudible) a bunch of lawyers.

And what was frustrating for those of us on the college faculty, of course I was in both pews, but I didn't have a legal degree. There was no question about it, as long as Judge

Donahue¹ was there, that it was *the* law school. And, if we could tolerate the college, good. If we couldn't then we had to get rid of it, go, it was going to go. (laughs) There was no question about it. In other words, we got the impression sometimes that it was a money-making scheme to keep the law school going, which it (inaudible)

CONNELLY: Because the college helped the law school keep going.

HARTMANN: Sure, or the law school probably would have closed because all that money that we had, we had far more students than they did. And I'm sure we kept them going for the first ten years, if anything, until they got accredited and began to have students of their own. What's helped the law school, in my opinion, was that one of our competitors faded up, got out, and that saved our neck. Northeastern closed its law school. It's opened up in the meantime, but it closed at that time. And I think that made a big difference.

And the other thing is we were, then, the only law school that had classes at night other than New England Portia, which was not an accredited school, you see, at that time. The fact that they too could survive indicates, I think, that we were lucky.

CONNELLY: If I had asked you to name three people at Suffolk who have made the greatest impression upon you, would that take a little while or could you—

(pause in recording)

CONNELLY: In your time, Ed, you served under a number of presidents, maybe six presidents you served under and maybe at different times during the different eras and

¹ Frank J. "Daisy" Donahue (1881-1979), Suffolk Law School class of 1921, served in several state and local political capacities, including Massachusetts Secretary of State, before being appointed to the Massachusetts Superior Court in 1932. He was a life member of Suffolk's board of trustees and served as treasurer of the university from 1949 to 1969. Suffolk's Donahue Building at 41 Temple Street is named in his honor.

such, different things brought different problems. But do you want to give some thoughts of some of the leaders we've had?

HARTMANN: Well, I liked President Burse,² but I felt he was, perhaps, not as academic as he might be. He was a lawyer, he did a nice job. A lot of people didn't like him, but I liked him. And then the second president was Munce³ of course. He was an academic, and he did a good job, I thought, all things considered. He used to say to me, he said, "You know Ed?" He said, "They give you the cloth, and you're supposed to use that cloth." He said, "You can only make the pattern that the cloth will give you." He was talking about the fact that we weren't getting as much money as we should. (laughs)

By the way, I was only getting, my budget at both libraries was five hundred dollars. It was just fantastic. And oh, how Judge Donahue and I used to quibble over buying books and all that sort of stuff and what have you. And it was just unbelievable, unbelievable some of things that we had to do.

All right, Munce was the second one, nice job. Then came Mr. Haley, Doctor Haley,⁴ who came directly from the public school system. I think he was principal or something of that sort. He is the most shadowy in the sense, nice fellow and whatnot. I know less about him. He only stayed about two or three years.

And then I believe Judge Fenton,⁵ Judge Fenton came after that. Of course with Fenton, you know darn well he was around, there was no question about it. And what I wanted to say, not so much about the presidents but from the standpoint of the trustees, and Judge

² Walter M. Burse (1898-1970) served as president of Suffolk University from 1948 to 1954.

³ Robert J. Munce (1895-1975) served as president of Suffolk University from 1954 to 1960. Munce began his career at Suffolk as director of the evening session and lecturer in social studies in 1948. He was appointed dean of the college of liberal arts in 1950, chancellor of Suffolk University in 1960, and chancellor emeritus in 1970.

⁴ Dennis C. Haley (1893-1966) served as president of Suffolk University from 1960 to 1965. He had previously served as superintendent of the Boston Public Schools for twelve years.

⁵ John E. Fenton, Sr. (1898-1974), a Suffolk Law School graduate (JD '24), served on the Suffolk University Board of Trustees for sixteen years before serving as president of the university from 1965 to 1970. He had previously served for twenty-eight years on the bench of the Massachusetts Land Court.

Donahue, it was always called Judge Donahue's school, they were far more interested in the law school than the college.

And sometimes I got the impression [from] Donahue to get rid of the college would be a good thing. He used to refer to the college as a tenant-at-will, meaning he could kick us out any time he wanted to. And it was true in a sense because the law school was in a different building at that time, but, that type of thing. However, Fenton was also a judge. (laughs) And the kids won him over, I think from his attitude, which was pretty much along the same. But he got so much interested in the college. And I think that—

CONNELLY: Tough times too.

HARTMANN: Fenton, yeah. So, in that sense, there was no question that he was interested in both schools.

CONNELLY: He was there at the edge of the student unrest in the late sixties?

HARTMANN: (simultaneous conversation) Unrest, but he was very much in the picture all the time with the college as well as the law school. And after Fenton, who came after that?

CONNELLY: Tom Fulham.⁶

HARTMANN: Oh, Fulham, of course, Fulham, who I respected very much and I like him as a person. He's still a personal friend. And for a non-academic, after all he was just a businessman, I think he did a bang-up job.

CONNELLY: He spent a decade—

⁶ Thomas A. Fulham (1915-1995) served as president of Suffolk University from 1970 to 1980. Except for Suffolk founder Gleason L. Archer, Fulham held the longest presidential tenure of any of his predecessors. Prior to his presidency, Fulham served on the board of trustees for nine years and continued to serve until his death in 1995.

HARTMANN: Yeah, well he was a decade. Yeah, he was one of the best we had. And I just as soon not say anything about his successor, who I didn't care for particularly.

(laughs)

CONNELLY: And then you have the current president⁷ who you know certainly well (simultaneous conversation)

HARTMANN: Oh, yes, as a student. I never had him but I'm sure he used my library. Back in those days, of course, the two libraries were in one room. And the law students were there, and they all knew me, and I knew them. And I remember (inaudible)

CONNELLY: You mentioned the faculty. I mean, who were some of the faculty that you admire or have impressed you over the years?

HARTMANN: Oh, Doctor Friedman was an exceptional person. He didn't have to stay there either. The salary was such that he had a private income. He was a real scholar, Harvard PhD. Stan Vogel, of course, was a good man. So was Doctor Murphy in Cambridge. I liked Charlie Farley in history. As far as some of the others were concerned, it's hard to say, hard to evaluate people (inaudible). I would say most of them were good and competent. And the few that weren't, we were lucky to get rid of. And there's always a few of those, unfortunately.

CONNELLY: Do you think you've seen Suffolk mature and change a lot over the years?

HARTMANN: Oh, very much so. One of the things that was very discouraging when we first came to Boston was the fact that we realized it was sort of a—what's the word for it? — a bad relative. I mean, everybody looked down, Oh, Suffolk this and that, and

⁷ David J. Sargent graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1954, then served as a law faculty member from 1956 to 1973, dean of the law school from 1973 to 1989, and has been president of Suffolk University since 1989. OH-016 in the Moakley Oral History Project is an interview with President Sargent.

so on. That would be one. Or the other one would be, Oh, the law school. And so they had no conception at all of [it] being a college.

And I'm very happy to say that, in my lifetime, I saw that change completely, from Suffolk being some sort of a bastard outfit that a madman by the name of Archer⁸ started and all the law schools were against it and that type of thing. And then probably, because at that reputation, you had an undergraduate school wasn't worth a damn. This was popular concepts. And they used to embarrass us very much. And I'm happy to say that, over the course of the years, in my lifetime, things like these have changed. The law school, fine, everybody respects it, and I hope the college too. I don't know enough about the college. I certainly know the law school has done fine.

Just watching that law school develop was one my great joys, because, in a sense, I always felt a part of it, having been the director of libraries and having had the law school library over the years, I was glad to see it get accredited, and not only, and by the association of law schools. And when I go upstairs and look there, three or four floors of the library. (laughs) I had one half of a side at Ridgeway, the Ridgeway Lane side.

It's just unbelievable a staff of five people, of part-timers and so on, and the school that's there now, and with a good reputation. This is wonderful because it could have failed. Perhaps it's a compliment that Judge Donahue and some of those hardnosed lawyer/trustees we had back in the fifties had kept the lid on and made it possible, even though they weren't interested particularly in the college. But at least they kept the mother institution and the law school going.

⁸ Gleason L. Archer (1880-1966) was founder and president of Suffolk University. After graduating from Boston University Law School and passing the bar examination in 1906, Archer founded Suffolk University Law School. The school expanded its mission during the 1930s to include undergraduate education with the formation of the College of Liberal Studies (1934) and the School of Business Administration (1937). In 1937 Archer became the president of the newly incorporated Suffolk University. Archer remained at Suffolk University until his retirement in 1948. In addition, Archer published fourteen law textbooks and also became a popular radio broadcaster for NBC in the late 1920s and early 1930s. An amateur historian, Archer wrote many articles for various journals and was especially interested in colonial New England history and specifically his ancestry as a Mayflower descendant. Gleason Archer's personal papers, MS108, are housed in the Suffolk University Archives.

CONNELLY: You have a great affinity for Suffolk. I know just because of the time you spent there even after retirement. And it became a family?

HARTMANN: Very much so. And I'm happy that some of the kids get together, and they invite me. They didn't used to invite me for annual get-togethers. Some of them write to me. It's been a very pleasant arrangement—and faculty members, too. So I was quite happy. And, of course, Boston, that was good too, I always lived on Beacon Hill, very stimulating around the legislature and the events and things of that sort.

CONNELLY: What challenges do you see for Suffolk down the road?

HARTMANN: I really don't know. See, since I've had my heart attack, it's been four years since I was up there. So I don't know the ins and outs. And I got the impression that the enrollment is being maintained. Whether the quality of the undergraduates—I'm sure the law school is keeping its standard. Whether the undergraduates, or whether the new crops of teachers are doing what we did to maintain standards, I wouldn't want to say one way or the other. I just hope so. I've met some of the new people, they seemed quite impressive.

CONNELLY: Ed, what do you with yourself now?

HARTMANN: Well, until I had my heart attack I was writing. My last publication was a history of my own community.⁹ Of course I was living on Beacon Hill at the time for twenty-seven years, right around the corner on Hancock Street. And I haven't been doing anything now except for catching up on my reading, doing a lot of things of that sort to the extent I feel like doing it.

CONNELLY: Do you enjoy the dual residence as you come here to the Cape, then you go down to Florida?

⁹ *The Welsh of Wilkes-Barre and the Wyoming Valley*, by Edward Hartmann, was published by St. David's Society of Wyoming Valley (Wilkes-Barre, PA) in 1985.

HARTMANN: Well, sometimes it seems like a dream. It's so different; it's so different. And I miss the intellectual stimulation of a big city like Boston. I am not a suburbanite. And some of the things to do in Florida, (laughs) bingo and what have you, I thought, in the surroundings, we're down at the motor park in Florida. And they're all nice people and everything else, but there's not much intellectual stimulation. But there wouldn't be any intellectual stimulation in many of our suburbs either, as far as that goes.

So I miss the stimulus of Boston even—I belong to, I'm a shareholder of the Boston Athenaeum,¹⁰ over there every day to read the newspapers and things of that sort. And that I miss tremendously. Fortunately, there are libraries, now, in each of these communities, Dennisport here and down in Florida, where I can get the books and whatnot. The only thing that sort of disturbs me, I'm dependent upon my nephew and niece. In Boston I was on my own. (laughs) I'd go to the Athenaeum. Now I have to wait for a ride to take me to the library, which is nine miles away and all that sort of stuff. You can have your suburban living. I'll take my chances in the Boston ghetto maybe first. (laughs)

CONNELLY: Do you hear from any of your old colleagues?

HARTMANN: Well, let me see. Don Grunewald he's probably calling me up. He has a place here on the Cape. And we get together at least once a year. Of course I get up to the school once a year and see everybody. And last fall Judy Holliman and Maggie Lloyd came down to see me. Maggie Lloyd's father lives in a town nearby in Florida. And she's got a new job. She was head of the department, she's down at Georgia Southern I think it is. So her buddy Judy Holliman comes down. They both come down to see me. Now Judy lives over here in Hyannis. I've called her up, but I think she's in Europe. Did you hear anything about—

¹⁰ The Boston Athenaeum, founded in 1807, is one of the oldest independent libraries in the United States. It is a membership library, funded in part by its members' yearly fees.

(pause in recording)

CONNELLY: How would you like to be remembered by people at Suffolk?

HARTMANN: Oh, primarily as, I suppose, a competent scholar and also someone who was interested in his students and hopefully a good teacher.

CONNELLY: I think you will be. Who are some of the people that you admire in the world today?

HARTMANN: In the world today? (laughs)

(pause in recording)

CONNELLY: Let's turn to some of the international affairs, what's your feeling on the dramatic Russian upheaval in the past?¹¹

HARTMANN: Well, of course I've been anti-communist for so many years. And, in fact, during the so-called strikes¹² and so on, I always felt there was a bit of a leftist behind the whole thing and did all that just to counterbalance it. We didn't let them shut the school down. Anyway, but I was, of course, delighted. I can't believe that a little country like Lithuania, for instance, would ever get its independence in my lifetime. Nor could I believe that the Soviet regime and such could be overthrown. I thought it was there for maybe two or three hundred years at least before people got out from there.

So it came to me as a great surprise. I almost thought that maybe the Soviet Union was really a paper tiger. I don't mean from the standpoint of being able to fight, but actually from a standpoint of stability. And, of course, they can keep their thumbs on stuff, so you

¹¹ The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), ruled by the Communist Party, collapsed in 1991.

¹² In the 1960s, Suffolk students protested the university administrators' control over student affairs. The students sought representation in these affairs, and as a result, a Joint Council on Student Affairs, which included student, faculty, and administrative participants, was established in 1967.

didn't realize how much, perhaps, the population really was dissatisfied. So it all sort of collapsed. I couldn't think of anything happier than to see these little countries get out from under—

CONNELLY: Why do think these—

HARTMANN: I've actually become friendly with the Russians. I follow Mr. Yeltsin¹³ and wish him well and whatnot. (laughs) Before that, I was very prejudiced. Any Russian, I was, "Ooh, the Commie in the skies" and that sort of thing. I feel friendly now towards the Russians. I don't mean the Soviets now, I mean the Russians.

CONNELLY: What do you think happened?

HARTMANN: I really don't know, and I don't think anybody else does for certain. We had hints of it, but I wouldn't equate them, hints of it over the years. It began with Khrushchev¹⁴ really, that why would he have gone out of this way to criticize Stalin,¹⁵ and mention, for the first time, things were going wrong? The only reason he did that, I think, was that he felt that there was unrest. And this was sort of to balance things, at least keep him all right.

And then Gorbachev,¹⁶ the same sort of thing. So there must have been a great amount of unrest. I have never been to the Soviet Union. But so during that period a lot of people might have realized that maybe they're all afraid to talk and stuff, that they're certainly not in love with the regime. And this sort of exploded. Gorbachev saw it coming, and by his own actions he helped it when he didn't mean to necessarily. (laughs)

¹³ Boris Yeltsin (1931-2007) served as the first President of the Russian Federation from 1991 to 1999.

¹⁴ Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971) served as the first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1953-1964 and as the premier of the Soviet Union from 1958-1964.

¹⁵ Joseph Stalin (1879-1953) was the totalitarian dictator of the Soviet Union from 1928 until his death in 1953. His successor, Nikita Khrushchev, implemented a reform campaign known as de-Stalinization, which denounced Stalin's policies and aimed to destroy his infallible image.

¹⁶ Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-) was the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, serving from 1985 until 1991, and also the last head of state of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), serving from 1988 until its collapse in 1991.

CONNELLY: What do you see in the future for Russia?

HARTMANN: Well, I hope, I mean, they're great people. I like the Slavic peoples particularly. I grew up with Poles and Slovaks and Ukrainians and so on. Very marvelous people. And I just hope that they can really establish themselves, Russians too, and all the rest of these little groups. The only trouble with this ethnic business now, you see, they get fighting with each other over fancy drawings and this and that, like in Yugoslavia. And that is depressing.

On the other hand, I am happy that there's an independent Croatia and independent Slovenia. I like each nation, in a sense, to have its own affairs. You have to be cooperative with the rest. And that was what pleased me the most in that regard. And of course though, the fact that the Russians were not a threat anymore. That was the big thing that we've done.

My worry now is—well, I used to say this before the Soviets (inaudible)—that, if we ever have atom war, it would not be because the Soviets threw the first of them, or the Chinese either. I'd say unrest in the Middle East and some of these third-world countries, if they get their hands on the apples we could have a lot of trouble. I never felt the Soviets would be foolish enough or the Chinese either, or anybody else that has it. So this was the other aspect of the collapse of the Soviet Union that pleased me.

CONNELLY: How do you see the political presidential election? Have you given that much thought?

HARTMANN: Well, a year ago it was so bad that no one would run on the Democratic ticket. It was sort of young people coming to take a chance. The bigwigs like Mr. Gephardt and some of the others who might have run, they realized that they didn't have a chance as a result of all the hullabaloo, over winning the war and that. This was before we got some of things that we found out later and so on.

So Bush was really foolish. They had to run a token candidate in the meantime. A lot of things have happened, particularly the economy and whatnot. Well, I would put it very frankly. I would say that if the Democrats win, it will not be because they love Clinton, but to get rid of Bush. And, of course, Democrats, I believe, are eager, because if Perot stays in there, they think Perot will take a lot of Republican votes.

CONNELLY: Perot pulled out today.

HARTMANN: Oh, did he? Well, anyway, of course that's nonsense anyway. (laughs)

CONNELLY: It was amazing how he caught on so fast when—

HARTMANN: Well, the point was that people were disgusted. And George Bush—well, I've always been a Republican but this is the one Republican president I never could take to. I just didn't like him one bit. Oh, I mean you could make fun of Ronald Reagan, he's this and that and so on, but everybody liked the guy. You liked him. And I always felt that Bush was—I mean, perhaps, of the presidents that I've known, he was the one I disliked the most. And I was born under William Howard Taft. I don't remember him. (laughs) But all the rest of them, I liked Hoover. I felt sorry for him. And I liked Jimmy Carter, I thought he had a hard time. But this is the man that I think I like the least. I don't why either, just a general impression. Do you feel that way too?

CONNELLY: I find that he's a likeable individual in many ways. But, I mean, I think he's been weak in the economy, and I don't know how forceful he is anymore.
(simultaneous conversation)

HARTMANN: I like his wife.

CONNELLY: Yeah, I think his wife has a nice image. —

(pause in recording)

CONNELLY: —come to Suffolk yet?

HARTMANN: Well, I was studying at Columbia for my library degree. I already had my PhD in history. And I had the GI Bill,¹⁷ and I thought, Well, I'll get myself another degree, maybe might work out. So I got the degree. And that spring, Dean Ott from Suffolk came down to recruit me and whatnot. And he asked me if I wanted to take the job, as the director of libraries for Suffolk. He offered me five thousand dollars, which was a wonderful salary in those days. And I took the job.

CONNELLY: You were the director of libraries for about nine years?

HARTMANN: For nine years, yes, both libraries.

CONNELLY: And you had something to do with the accreditation by all means?

HARTMANN: Well, first of all, I should say that I always a part-time teacher too. I taught history in the evening during that same time. And one of the students I had was Congressman Moakley¹⁸ by the way. He went to our evening division. So I was a part-time teacher. I taught two courses in the evenings and later in the daytime, as well as being director of the two libraries. And I might say that the people in the libraries were all in one big room. The law school was on one side, and the college on the other, of the library.

CONNELLY: How did you describe a typical Suffolk student or is there a typical Suffolk student?

¹⁷ The GI Bill of Rights, officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, provided, among other benefits, government compensation for the educational costs of returning World War II veterans.

¹⁸ John Joseph "Joe" Moakley (1927-2001), a Democrat, represented Massachusetts' Ninth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1973 until 2001. He also served as a Massachusetts state representative (1953-1960), state senator (1965-1970), and city councilor (1971-1972). Moakley (JD '56) attended Suffolk University Law School from 1952 to 1956, taking classes at night.

HARTMANN: You mean then or now?

CONNELLY: Then and now, both.

HARTMANN: Well, I'm not so sure. You're talking about, of course, the college students rather than the law students?

CONNELLY: Yeah, that's in your area, your bailiwick.

HARTMANN: The law school, of course, they've been all undergraduates somewhere else. But the Suffolk undergraduate student, in my time, well, at least in the first years they were almost exclusively boys. We did have a few girls that came. Not because of any reason for it, we just didn't attract them. The few girls we did get, they had a ball of a time because of all the boys around them.

But in the beginning, it was mostly the GIs plus a few younger ones. They were very good students, most of them. They worked hard. Later the average Suffolk students, I would say about 1955 or '58, I'd say was a poor kid from South Boston or one of our suburbs and whatnot, mostly people with a modest background eager to get ahead. And I was very pleased with them, most of them I would say they were nice people. That's why I stayed; I liked the students.

CONNELLY: The students always had you pegged as a tough teacher. And they had you as the winner, one year, of the Big Screw Award. Do you want to tell us a little about that?

HARTMANN: Well, the point was, you see, as an educator, I realized a lot of these kids, they were GIs, they expected you to let them go through. Or if the kids came from high school, they'd been so badly trained, and they figured they just sit there on their seats and eventually pass and that type of thing. So I liked to stir them up a bit.

And so I worked out a scheme, it wasn't a matter of passing, but there are degrees of passing as there are degrees of failing. I'd bring out to them how badly they'd failed as one to another and so on and so forth. I felt there was a big difference between a student who had a got a 55, which would be an F, and a student who got a 25, which would be triple-F. (laughs)

So I think those in the 50s got an F, those in the 40s got a double-F, those in the 30s got a triple-F, the 20s four-F, and below that, a big Q, which meant quit. (laughs) I did that primarily and it worked mostly for the first tests. I used to give three tests rather than most others probably would give two. But I wanted three because I thought you had to catch up with these particular freshmen before it was too late. And that's when the day of doom came. Of course, if they came through later, I never held that first grade against them if they came through with the next two. So that's the basis for all of this.

CONNELLY: What about the "Big Screw"?

HARTMANN: Oh, the "Big Screw." That, of course, was just for fun, escapade. Alpha Phi Omega, is that the name of the fraternity? They had a relationship with MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology], with fraternities—

(pause in recording)

HARTMANN: —contest for the most disliked professor, not necessarily the poorest, but disliked professor. So our group decided, this was about Christmastime, to raise funds. And, of course, (inaudible) people too, for I guess it was one of those newspaper funds for Christmas, Santa and that type of thing, so to raise money.

And they started out, anybody could vote. You could vote as many times as you want to. It started out the first week was a penny, I think, the second week dimes and nickels and so on and so forth. And you voted for whom you disliked, is what it amounted to, or just

to have some fun. And, of course, I knew that I would get the most the first day. I was leading and so on. I knew that. (inaudible) I turned it into a fun contest. (inaudible) I enjoyed it.

CONNELLY: You won it once?

HARTMANN: I won it twice.

CONNELLY: You won it twice?

HARTMANN: Only by default in both cases. The original people were so upset they wouldn't accept it. (laughs) So I agreed, "Oh, all right, I'll go up and take the honors," with much booing and hissing. But we made a lot of fun out of it; I enjoyed it.

CONNELLY: It was a fun—

HARTMANN: Yeah. But I knew that they weren't holding that against me.

CONNELLY: I think you said world history is your favorite?

HARTMANN: Well, my favorite course was really the freshman course, introduction to western civilization because they were mostly freshman and some older students. But being exposed to history in a serious way, I don't want to talk down about high school or good ones. But it was a different approach completely and you can see how it was affecting what we were doing.

For instance, it just occurred to me, I'll never forget—was it when, when the Pope died, John 23rd or something like that. And one of my students came up to me on the street, a former student, he said, "You know," he said, "Professor Hartmann, I knew precisely what was going to happen because you told me what happens when a pope dies. And they get together and this and that, and so on and so forth." And he said, "I still remember

that.” I said “Well, that’s fine. That’s great.” (laughs) So that you could see that they’re opening up. I don’t think they got sort of a thing—maybe they did—before at school. That’s one instance of (inaudible) So I enjoyed watching the freshman that young (inaudible) I had more fun there. In contrast, even the other students in advanced courses, which I enjoyed too.

CONNELLY: You were really regarded as a pretty tough history department with Norman Floyd and (inaudible) and yourself—

HARTMANN: Yeah, that’s our department. And why would we want it tough? The main thing is that the educators would realize that these kids were so immersed in high school—I don’t mean all high schools, not at most of them—taking for granted you get your diploma without any work and whatnot. We wanted these kids to really learn. And the only way you could do it was be tough with them and insist on standards. So that’s the main reason. We were tough, but also I think you’ve forgotten, it was tough, but it was fair, tough but fair. I mean, that’s the thing.

CONNELLY: So Ed, how do you review your life and your career now it’s sitting here at 8-0? How do you assess everything?

HARTMANN: Well, I have very few regrets. I doubt that I could have done any other job as well as I did on this. I didn’t make the money I might, but then I don’t think I would have been capable of some of these high-powered business jobs and things of that sort. So I think nature was kind to me, I just got what worked out. And I got to a nice place, Boston. I had decent kids, and I’m very happy.

CONNELLY: Colleagues you enjoyed, good people?

HARTMANN: Beg your pardon?

CONNELLY: Your colleagues you enjoyed, good people?

HARTMANN: Very much, they were all nice people, only one or two I didn't care much for. But, by and large, I liked them. I only hope that they continue to be nice.

CONNELLY: Right.

HARTMANN: And I liked their attitudes towards the students. Some of them, of course, were too easygoing. But everybody was interested in trying to help the students. We had that feeling.

CONNELLY: Big difference from the one building down to all multi buildings in the hills?

HARTMANN: Oh, yeah, they're all in one building, my goodness. Hard to believe. The law school—

(pause in recording)

CONNELLY: We're talking with Ed Hartmann, professor emeritus for history at Suffolk University who spent thirty years as a member of the history faculty, nine years as the director of libraries. And he retired in 1978, but he kept close to Suffolk University since then. We're talking with him here at his summer residence in Dennisport, in Cape Cod. Ed, one of the most recent occurrences in his very brilliant career was the award he got from the Welsh for his efforts in Welsh immigration to this country. And Ed, would you tell us a little about your history in Welsh and the things?

HARTMANN: Well, in the first place, I'm an ethnic historian, meaning my emphasis is broader than just plain Welsh, such as immigration, Americanization, and things of that sort. And I wrote my dissertation, *The Movement to Americanize the Immigrant* back in 1948, it was published by Columbia Press, Columbia University Press. And it's still in print. And, subsequently, I have written a number of writings on that.

Now my mother, of course, was born in Wales. And back in this particular period, it was before all the interest in immigrants and that sort of thing associated with roots, back in those periods. So I'm sort of a pioneer in the field among many others, including the late Louis Adamic, who was a Croatian immigrant intellectual. And he sponsored a series called *The Peoples of America*, in which there was a volume on the Hungarians and the Irish and the Germans and whatnot, and so on.

So when the war was over, I asked him if I couldn't—he lived, at that time, in Philadelphia—would they be interested in a volume on the Welsh? They said they might be interested if I wanted to go ahead. But the series wasn't selling, there wasn't that interest, you see, back in those days with things of that sort. But I continued anyway into it. I did all the research in about fifteen years. I was very happy. I could only have done it in Boston because I could use the Harvard library. They gave me full facilities over there, I must thank them for it. It didn't cost me anything then. Now it would be five hundred dollars, I guess, a year.

And thanks to Harvard and other libraries, I was able to write the book. It didn't come out, of course, until 1967. But I was able to get it published, the original publisher wasn't interested in the series anymore. And it has been reprinted twice. And it went out of print for the third time this year. Whether there will be another edition, I'm not sure. So between '67 and '92 and it sold very well.

And it's a story of Welsh immigration. And my mother, of course, is Welsh and came over when she was three with my grandfather. And I enjoyed writing it up. And I might add that we have a Welsh Society, by the way, right here in Boston. The Cymrodorion Associates is having its 100th birthday. The organization was founded in 1892.

CONNELLY: Excuse me, tell us a little bit about the library collection you donated to, and then some of your awards in the—

HARTMANN: Oh, in this connection, all of my works on my various publications, the notes and things of that sort, lots of material that, of course, couldn't go in the books. I donated to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia.¹⁹ The Balch was set up by a multi-millionaire who was interested in the different ethnic groups that came to America and whatnot. And they had a fine facility there. And they have arrangements for keeping these records, they're open to the public, of course. But, what's the word for it, the proper heating temperature, the proper temperature and whatnot so the things won't disintegrate.

And well, right there, there's a nice piece about how important the ethnic library thinks my contribution is. And so it pleased me. I gave it to an institution like that rather than, shall we say, to Suffolk or one of my own alma maters, Bucknell or Columbia, because I felt they would be able to preserve it more. And it would be easier for people in the semantics and comparative literature groups and so on. So it was a natural—

CONNELLY: Sure. What about the awards you've received?

HARTMANN: Oh, well I just received a reward from the National Welsh American Foundation which is an organization that was just set up to have good relations between Wales—because, you know, the British, it's part of Great Britain—between Wales and America. And we raise money for scholarships for Welsh students to come over here and study American culture, and for American students to go over to Wales to visit the National Library and things of that sort.

So I was a founding member of that organization. And, now that I'm about to be eighty, I guess they figured you better get the old man an honor before he kicks the bucket.

(laughter) Last year they honored me with a banquet in Baltimore and gave me their heritage medal. I've received a number of other awards of that sort, too, over the past years for my writings. And, I might add, that one of the things that I enjoyed most was

¹⁹ The Balch Institute specializes in documenting the ethnic and immigrant experience throughout the United States. It became part of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 2002.

that I was one of the few professors at Suffolk (laughs) who was in *Who's Who in America*²⁰ as a scholar. And I guess I still am one of the few professors— (simultaneous conversation)

CONNELLY: Well, it's got to be comforting to be recognized as one of the experts in your own field and particularly in Wales as a country?

HARTMANN: I enjoyed that. As I was telling you, you get *Who's Who in America* for two reasons, either you're an administrator or something of that sort, or you're a prominent editor or else you're an academic, published in the field. I'm very happy that one of my good friends, Art West made *Who's Who in America*. I believe he was one of the few teachers who had—Professor Sahakian who was a professor of philosophy, he was in *Who's Who in America*.

And, of course, some of the law school faculty have been and, in the past, but I think Art West, at the moment, and myself are the only Emeriti, and perhaps even the only regular professors in it. And you get in, in our case, of course with the writing. Now with him, in Art's case it was, I think, because of another thing, that his interest in setting up museum facilities or whatnot, and that type of thing, I believe are from a standpoint of a science person interested.

In fact, it's harder for someone like that to get in than someone like me. Also, I might say that, for the benefit for whoever might be listening to this, that Art is one of our own, one of our own Suffolk students who graduated from Suffolk, went on and got his PhD in New Hampshire. And we've all been very proud of him.

CONNELLY: I had him as a teacher.

HARTMANN: What's that?

²⁰ *Who's Who in America* is a series published annually that features biographical profiles of notable people in the United States.

CONNELLY: I had him as a teacher.

HARTMANN: Yeah, you had him as a teacher. I think he was—

CONNELLY: Ed, if I asked you to, what do you think was the biggest thing that, in your memory, that has occurred at Suffolk University? What single thing is there that might have made the story or made the school what it is?

HARTMANN: Well, I can't say any particular event and such, but I would say the progress of the school itself, from what it was before 1948, when I came there, and it's just been a marvelous story as David Robbins has put it in the history that he wrote.²¹ You see, the progress of the school against far odds. We were disliked. We were disliked. The legal profession looked down its nose because the founder, Gleason Archer, had a different way of doing things, and was sort of a character. He broadcasted and whatnot.

They were really down. This wasn't just a new institution getting started, but it was one that really had blackballs all over the place. And the point was that, in my lifetime, in my tenure, I was so pleased to see us overcome all of that and become the institution we are today which, at least in the case of the law school, is very, very respectable. And it wasn't back in those days. Not that it wasn't, but the impression was that it wasn't. A lot of prejudice of Suffolk, you know and whatnot, and it was sad.

And that'd just always be a little bit embarrassing to those people who were there. But we knew it wasn't that bad at all. And I'm happy to say that, in my own period of thirty years I was there, that both schools got properly accredited and have made their place. They are definitely a part, very much, of the academic community and no longer the pariah, I guess that would be the word for it.

²¹ *A History of Suffolk University 1906-1996*, by David L. Robbins. Robbins is a professor of history at Suffolk University.

CONNELLY: Did you know Gleason Archer?

HARTMANN: I had met the founder. I knew all the presidents, well I guess all the way down. I've met them all. I met—Gleason Archer, of course, had retired the year I came. So I met him later, at the 50th anniversary, I think it was, chatted with him. I knew his brother Hiram Archer, quite well, who was there for many years right in the same building. So I have known all the presidents of Suffolk.

CONNELLY: What impressions do you have of Gleason Archer?

HARTMANN: Well not much, because I didn't know the man. And I've heard all sorts—there are controversial stories this way, that way, or the way, very bright individual, very much interested in doing things for kids. But he had his own way of teaching law that the rest of the school didn't like. But our lawyers, our Suffolk people certainly did well, a lot of them that were trained under his arrangement.

Things changed about 1947-'48, when I came. And we became, then, more along the regular academic way of doing things. And, of course, it was a matter of getting accreditation for both schools. The college got it first, the law school later. Because the law school had to wait until the college had it. And then the law school got the accreditation of the American Society of Law Schools, I forget the name, ALA.²² And so, it's really, what I would say, a very fine, respectful school today, which it might have been back in those days. But it wasn't considered, back in '48.

One of the things, I might add, when I first came in '48, I said, "What in the hell am I getting into here?" Because I immediately heard, "Oh, Suffolk, you know," that type of thing. I thought, Boy oh boy. So it was really kind of sad.

²² The Colleges of Suffolk University were accredited by the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in December 1952. Suffolk Law School was accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) in August 1953. The law school was also later accredited by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in 1977.

CONNELLY: It must speak pretty highly for the fiscal management of the school. Over the years, it's been consistently—

HARTMANN: Yes, it has, it has indeed. And again, I think in the early years, it was probably Judge Donahue who deserved a lot of credit. He was certainly only interested in the law school, as far as that was concerned. But, nevertheless, he wouldn't allow a lot of things that might have happened, that might have pulled us down. But, being more conservative, he kept us going.

And, of course, as I think I mentioned, one of the reasons we got a break was that Northeastern Law School, which was a real rival with us, closed up. They didn't have a law school for about twenty years, and that gave us a chance. We were the only—when they did that, we were the only law school other than little Portia, which was floating along, that had evening classes. And I think that saved our hide. Plus, very watchful tactics in the forties with Judge Donahue, who was interested primarily in the law school not the college, but the college also benefited.

CONNELLY: Because it's continued with the current leadership, too.

HARTMANN: Well we did what we could with our money that we had. Wasn't much of it, I remember, I had a budget of five hundred dollars for two libraries. (inaudible) things like that. (laughs) But, as the years went on, as we picked up the enrollments, good fiscal management, I can't think of anything that was really very badly done. It's not my field, of course, but I feel that each of the presidents, cooperating with the trustees, they played it very careful.

We used to be annoyed because the tuition rate was three hundred dollars when we first came. And Harvard and the rest were charging four hundred dollars. And we could have gotten four hundred dollars a lot for four or five years with all the GIs. But Donahue and the rest said—by the way, our school is Donahue's school, you see, this was his school. And he felt that the poor boys should be taken care of, who could use that extra one

hundred dollars, which the government would have given us, just as easily as it gave BU [Boston University] and the rest of them. But that was how conservative they were.

I gather, I don't know, but I gather everything's been fine since we had—each of the presidents has been a little bit different, but basically they made no mistakes, serious mistakes. So that's why Suffolk has managed to do well. Plus for the fact that it's kept the tuition down, and we are still a school, I think, for kids of modest backgrounds, but also a school, of course, for kids whose records aren't too good.

And it's sort of an open admissions, which I always have felt encouraged, because I've seen it happen, in many a youngster that hadn't done well in high school, really turned right around when he got into college with us, and did a superb job. A lot of them became good lawyers, among other things. So we had that open admissions [policy]. Perhaps we still do, I don't know, where we'd give kids a chance. But we also tried to get them out if we realized they couldn't make it. We weren't going to take their money.

CONNELLY: Back in the early days, you mentioned the so-called bullpen. And there were a lot of funny stories, I guess, regarding that. And we can see that was just the one building, which is now the Archer Building, and the people gathered in there. And we compare that with what it's like today.

HARTMANN: Oh, I see all the help these people have, in special buildings and whatnot, just for administrators. I just can't believe it. I can't believe it. It's just fantastic. I believe Dean Goodrich²³ had one secretary, I think. (laughs) And I don't know how many people are helping Mike Ronayne²⁴ at the moment, including two or three assistant deans and associated deans and all of that sort of stuff. There's something, it's not the Peter

²³ Donald W. Goodrich (1898-1989) was a Suffolk University administrator and dean emeritus for twenty-two years. Goodrich began his career as registrar in 1947 and later served as dean of the college in 1956. The Board of Trustees appointed Goodrich university vice president in 1966 and awarded him an honorary doctor of humanities degree upon his retirement in 1969.

²⁴ Michael R. Ronayne, Jr. (1937-2005), was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1972 to 2004.

Principle, there's some sort of principle that keeps expanding—what's it called? I just can't believe it. (laughs)

And the money that's being [spent] for this and that and the other thing and so on, woo. I had to fight with Judge Donahue for every book. He had to approve every book I bought for the library. I might have quit, but I thought, To heck with it. Today—

CONNELLY: What about the fight over the telephones up there with you in the bullpen?

HARTMANN: The what?

CONNELLY: You had to fight over the telephones?

HARTMANN: Oh no, there was nothing. We got along. The bullpen that he's talking about is one of the two big classrooms in which we all had desks. And that was the sort of thing. And we had one secretary, that there'd be some conflict there, because—but I always typed my own stuff. I didn't trust the secretaries or the students or anybody else. I typed my own tests and things. I never used any secretary. But we were all in those rooms. That's how close it was.

After all, the library, both libraries were there, too, in that same building, all the various laboratories, plus the auditorium. And it's a wonder, I don't know how we did it, but we did, until we got the additions built.

CONNELLY: Over your career, you certainly developed a terrific reputation among your peers and followers, students. Do you have anything you'd do differently, or is there anything that you ever regretted doing that came back to haunt you or anything else?

HARTMANN: I don't think so, Lou. As I look back on my days at Suffolk and Boston, I am very, very happy, very, very pleased. I enjoyed Boston so much. I'm not a

suburbanite. And I'm a stockholder of the Boston Athenaeum, which is right around the corner. I always lived on Beacon Hill, for twenty-five years, right opposite the State House on Hancock Street, at the top. And I enjoyed it. My wife never cooked or anything. They offered it in the different restaurants.

One of the big changes I regret from Boston, when I first came there, there were any number of ethnic restaurants. And you could eat a different style practically every night—Chinese, Syrian, so on and so forth. And you can't do that any more. All of those family-oriented, ethnic, Swedish restaurants are all gone. That's one of my regrets is the only thing left is Chinese and, of course, the Italian, the Italian cuisine, you go to the North End. But the rest of them are gone.

I've even had Jewish—they had Jewish dairy restaurant, the only thing was dairy food. And they also had regular kosher restaurant right down there at Combat Zone,²⁵ when it was a Combat Zone then, the corner of Washington Street. And this was wonderful, two Swedish restaurants, a couple of Armenian restaurants, Syrian restaurants, and of course a lot of French ones. So it was a stimulating place to be in Boston.

CONNELLY: You think the location, of course, has helped us over the years anyhow. (simultaneous conversation)

HARTMANN: Oh, there's no question about it. I think it has helped Suffolk, from the standpoint of the faculty. I believe that—I don't know about the law school, but I believe that many of the undergraduate faculty came and stayed because of Boston. (inaudible) Like Dr. Murphy gave up a good job in Iowa. She wanted to be in Boston, and she came here. Now, if we had been out in Worcester or someplace, I don't know whether it would be quite the same thing. But Boston was a great mecca for a lot of us. I don't know whether that's true, whether it attracts people now or not. But it did then.

²⁵ In 1974, Boston city officials created a zone in downtown Boston for adult entertainment, officially named the Boston Adult District but popularly known as the Combat Zone. After years of increasing crime in the area, city officials approved three major development projects that displaced the Combat Zone's establishments.

CONNELLY: Right. So any final words, Ed, about Suffolk in of itself? Just whatever you'd like.

HARTMANN: Oh, I've been delighted at the progress they've made. I only hope that they continue. I'm not worried so much about the law school. I hope the college faculty is insisting on good standards at educating the kids and the like. But I feel I've been very proud to see the law school develop from an institution that was sort of a pariah into one that is really, really remarkable.

CONNELLY: Right, very, very well known, very well known.

HARTMANN: And that place has gained tremendously. And I've seen—I know the college can produce. We've had at least six PhDs in my department. And more of them have written books, and they're all doing well. And they're around there, one of them now. Of course one of them would be Bill Spellman. He's over in Europe at the moment. He's associate professor down at the University of North Carolina in Asheville. And he already has one book, and he's got a second one. And it's on philosophical problems, too.

And as I say, this is the sort of thing that we produce, not only good lawyers and congressmen, Congressman Moakley, one of my former students, but also in the academic—and I know that Art West, to bring him up again, has more than his share of people who have gone on to graduate school and done well in the science field.

CONNELLY: Joe (inaudible)

HARTMANN: Yeah, particularly prominent people. So we have a whole clutter of people, including some movie actors—

CONNELLY: Right. (inaudible)

HARTMANN: —and novelists.

CONNELLY: Ed, it's been good talking to you. Thanks very much.

END OF INTERVIEW