Stewart Library adds the new OED to its shelves

New Memberships in Coe's Library Association Continue to Come In

Coe College is grateful to those who have responded to President Brown's request for membership in the Coe College Library Association. All who have joined the group of contributors to the library's acquisition fund before July 1, 1989, are listed in the fall issue of the Coe Courier.

Anyone interested in contributing $25 or more toward the purchase of new books for the library may still do so. It's not too late! Memberships for the 1989-90 year will be gratefully accepted at the college until June 30. Simply send your check and intention to join CCLA to the Coe College Development Office, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

When publication of a book makes the pages of Time and Newsweek, as well as Nature and the more likely New York Times Book Review, you know it's a major event. The second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) attracted that kind of attention when it was released this spring.

Realizing that the OED is "the best," a small group of friends of artist Conger Metcalf '36 purchased the second edition in honor of Conger. Thanks to their generosity, Coe College has the new OED on its library shelves today.

The OED is a kind of biography of each word in the English language. All words since shortly after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 are treated as historical entities, with origins in etymologies and histories of changing usage. The earliest meanings are presented first, followed by developments in genealogical sequence, including dated citations from literature.

The first edition of 13 volumes took 70 years to complete after it was first proposed to the Philological Society of London.

The newly-released second edition comes in 20 volumes. It describes 616,500 words and terms, including 5,000 that have gained currency since the early 1970s. Producing this new edition took 14 years and an international army of 180 to key the entire work into computer systems. Revisions henceforth will be even quicker.

These handsome new books — weighing in at 138 pounds as a set — contain a wealth of information waiting to be discovered by users of Coe's Stewart Library.

Consider these bits of word history:

- The longest word in the OED is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis, a disease of the lungs.
- When the word nice appeared in the English language about 1290, it meant silly or foolish.
- Trekkie may mean a fan of TV's Star Trek in the U.S., but to the South Africans it means a small group of hikers.
- The word ant shrank from the 12th century Old English amete to emete to ante by 1380, and by 1633 George Herbert used it in its present form in the phrase, "The smallest ant or atome knows thy power." Recent additions include antify and the colloquial phrase "to have ants in one's pants." (Also the first editor of the OED, James A.H. Murray, had come only as far as the word ant in his first 20 years of work!)

With all its valuable scholarship and history, the new OED carries a list price that far exceeds the $25 average book price used by the Coe College Library Association by 1000 percent. Its price tag of $2,500 puts it out of reach for most library budgets.

Coe gratefully thanks Marguerite Durekin of Boston, MA, and Cedar Rapidsians Dr. & Mrs. Robert Youngman, Richard & Edith Benson Buresh '35, '34, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ottesen '34, and Merle & Irma Tehel Holloway '32 for this magnificent publication.
Library galleries of Marvin Cone works named for Winnifred Cone

Although it took some gentle persuading before she would agree to having a gallery named in her honor, the gallery containing 46 of Marvin Cone's paintings is now officially named the Winnifred S. Cone Gallery.

In June Coe's Board of Trustees enthusiastically named the gallery for the late artist's helpmate and wife of 43 years. The Winnifred S. Cone Gallery is a gift from William and Gayle Schroeder Whipple '35, '33, who previously created the Marvin Cone Gallery in Sinclair Auditorium in 1981.

A plaque just inside the door of Stewart Memorial Library now states that the new gallery has been named "in honor of Winnifred S. Cone, beloved wife of the artist, friend of Coe students."

Artist Marvin Cone '14 is shown at work on one of his later paintings, just a few years before his death in 1965. This photograph was made by George Henry '49.

Winnifred Cone, Marvin's beloved wife of 43 years, was recently honored when the college named its large gallery of Marvin Cone works in her honor.

Members of the Iowa Library Association were guests of the college at a reception in Stewart Library in October, during the annual ILA convention, which this year was held in Cedar Rapids. Among the areas they visited was the second floor reading room, where pieces from Coe's Permanent Collection of Art are hung in the midst of the book collection.
CCLA helps Coe double the number of books purchased in 1988-89

Coe was able to purchase 4,135 books in the first full year of support from the Coe College Library Association (CCLA) for book acquisitions. That number of titles compares with 2,151 books purchased in 1986-87 (before CCLA was established), and 2,483 books purchased in 1987-88, as memberships in CCLA began coming in.

CCLA members thereby met President John E. Brown's challenge to double the library's acquisition fund in its first year.

A total of $112,692 was spent on book purchases in the 1988-89 fiscal year, with $59,620 of that total coming from special gifts and from endowments for book acquisitions. In addition, $81,300 was spent on acquisition of periodicals. (Due to the enormous increases in periodical subscription prices, this expenditure did not allow for any additional titles in this area for 1988-89.)

Library Director Richard Doyle says the money couldn't have come at a better time. "Book prices have begun to climbastronomically," he explains, "and we are so grateful that the funds came to us at the most opportune time."

The money is being spent carefully in a four-part improvement program for acquisitions, Doyle says, with purchases being made in the following areas:

• **Award-winning books** — systematically identifying award-winning books each year, as well as checking back over the past 10 years to spot award-winners that may have been missed earlier.


• **All volumes of multiple-volume sets** — after a complete analysis of Coe's collection, missing volumes of published sets are being purchased. Doyle explains that volumes are often not issued at the same time and subsequent volumes in a series are seldom reviewed. Coe's staff will be annually checking *Books in Print* to see which new volumes are available.

• **Contemporary fiction** — is being purchased for the first time in many years. This provides for leisure reading by students and other library patrons—such as Coe alumni and members of CCLA, if they wish to have a Coe library card.

Another of Doyle's goals has been to give students access to the new books as soon as possible after shipments arrived. "We had all 4,135 books on the shelves for the start of Fall Term," says Doyle proudly, "and we did it without increasing staff." He adds that his technical services staff, aided by student assistants, did yeoman's work in accomplishing the huge cataloging and processing tasks. "Having a computerized cataloging system helped, of course, but our people did a fine job," says Doyle.

"This is the most exciting time in the last two decades for library services at Coe College," he adds. "It is a joy to be working in this outstanding facility. With continuing support, we will have the financial resources to acquire the books that will give us one of the outstanding library collections in the Midwest in a short span of years."

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**Computerized card catalog due to arrive this spring**

The final act in the transformation of Stewart Memorial Library will be completed this spring when a new computerized card catalog system arrives.

Plans for a computerized card catalog and acquisition system were part of the overall design for new library facilities from the beginning of the project.

More information on this new system — which will allow library users to locate items in Coe's collection via computer — will be included in the spring issue of *The Bibliophile*.

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Iowa art educators visited the Winnifred Cone Gallery, as well as the other galleries and rooms of the Coe library and the studios and classrooms in Dows Fine Arts Center, during their October meeting on the Coe campus for one day of their annual fall conference.
What have you been reading? Coe faculty recommend some books they’ve enjoyed

For the third year, several members of Coe’s faculty have written reviews of books they have enjoyed for the college’s Reading Guide.

This year’s crop includes Nien Cheng’s Life and Death in Shanghai, suggested by Dr. David Mungello, associate professor of history; William Kennedy’s Ironweed, offered by Dr. Lowry Fredrickson, professor of psychology; and Irina Ratushinskaya’s Grey Is the Color of Hope, described by Dr. Margaret Haupt, professor of political science.

Dr. Charles Lindsay, Yothers Professor of Mathematics, recommends James Gleick’s Chaos—Making a New Science, and adds a vote for Teo Savory’s Stonecrop—The Country I Remember.

Copies of the 1989 Reading Guide are available free to anyone requesting one. Simply call (319-399-8555) or write the Coe Public Information Office, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402, for your copy.

Previous guides have recommended the following:
World’s Fair by E.L. Doctorow
The Mind’s I: Fantasies and Reflections on Self and Soul by Douglas R. Hofstadter and Daniel C. Dennet
The John McPhee Reader edited by William L. Howarth
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
Dance of the Happy Shades by Alice Munro
The English Teacher by R.K. Narayan
Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirit in a Promised Land by David K. Shipler
Japanese Inn by Oliver Statler
The Youngest Science: Notes of a Medicine-Watcher by Lewis Thomas
Pigeon Feathers by John Updike
Origins of Magnetospheric Physics by James A. Van Allen
All the King’s Men by Robert Penn Warren

What are Coe freshmen reading and experiencing in the Core Course?

Coe’s Fall Term Core Course, Ways of Knowing, introduces all freshmen to the breadth of the liberal arts. Essentially a reading and discussion course of 15-18 students, the course also includes several cultural experiences. First is a September trip to Spring Green, Wisconsin, to see the American Players Theater’s production of Shakespeare’s “Midsummer Night’s Dream” in an outdoor setting. This is followed by a night at a Cedar Rapids Symphony concert, the October 24 production of “Madame Butterfly” by the Minnesota Opera Company on campus, and a November performance of “The Marriage of Bette and Boo” by the Coe Theater Arts Department.

A guided tour through Coe’s Permanent Collection of Art exhibited in the Stewart Memorial Library caps the special Core Course experience for the freshmen.

The readings for the course include these:
The Book of Job from the Holy Bible
Plato’s “Apology” and “Crito”
Either George Gale’s The Theory of Science OR
Hanbury Brown’s The Wisdom of Science and
James Watson’s The Double Helix

A series of psychological readings on theories of madness by Sigmund Freud and others
A series of historical readings on the assassination of Marat during the French Revolution
Study of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony
Study of Picasso’s Guernica
Final reading of the instructor’s choice, e.g.
Austen’s Pride and Prejudice

Untitled Still Life, the newest Cone painting in Coe’s collection, is hung over the fireplace in the Richter Room, adjacent to the newly named Winnifred S. Cone Gallery. The Cone family gave this painting to the college at the time of the dedication of Coe’s library and galleries in December, 1988.