Frank McDonald's love of books builds a legacy

"I enjoy buying books for the college," says Quaker Oats retiree Frank McDonald. It's the simple truth.

In the last year and a half, McDonald's gifts have bought 200 books for Coe's library, and the matching gifts from his former employer are building an endowment fund that is expected to grow to $150,000-$200,000 in the next ten years.

He learned to make his gifts go farther by talking with 1974 Coe grad and fellow Quaker Oats employee Joe Nosek. "Instead of giving Coe the book on (Coe Library Director) Rich Doyle's list that I want to buy, I write a check to pay for it. The money is then matched by my company, and the matching money is put in an endowment fund to buy books for years after I'm gone," says McDonald.

"If you're a 'little shot,' it takes time," he says, as his face lights up with a grin. "If I gave Coe $150,000 all in one year, it'd be a long time till I could give more—until I was paroled!"

McDonald has been a bibliophile all his life. He loves beautiful books, is an avid reader, and has always given books as gifts to nieces, nephews, and other members of his family. "I grew up in a small town and the library there didn't have many books," McDonald recalls. "so when I got to a bigger place I just loved being able to get whatever book I wanted." He wants others to have that opportunity too.

He also values higher education. McDonald has a degree in European history from St. Ambrose University and did two years of graduate study at the University of Iowa. He loves books on history and Frank Lloyd Wright (his favorite architect), along with everything about the automotive industry. "I've also learned a lot about art from reading history," he says, "and I've always liked paintings."

Although he has no children of his own, McDonald has helped several members of his extended family pay their college bills. A grandniece he has helped will graduate from the Colorado School of Mines this spring with a Ph.D. in mineral economics.

A book search brought McDonald to Coe in the first place. "I was looking for books at the public library and had been paying for interlibrary loan to get them for years," he explains. "A librarian there suggested the Coe library. I told him I couldn't use it because I hadn't gone to Coe, but he said he thought I could."

McDonald was indeed welcomed at Coe, where he found the books he was looking for. "But I kept them three weeks (the loan period for the public library) instead of Coe's..."

Frank McDonald looks through one of the beautiful art books he has bought for Coe's library. In the past 18 months, his gifts have purchased all the books displayed on the shelves behind him.

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two weeks," he adds. "The students (at the circulation desk) were very nice and didn't chew me out because my books were overdue, so I wanted to make it up to Coe," McDonald says.

He bought some books for Coe that he spotted at Nancy's Books, a shop owned by Nancy McMann (whose daughters, Sandra and Susan, graduated from Coe in 1989 and 1986, respectively).

Library Director Richard Doyle wrote McDonald thanking him for the gift books and asked McDonald to stop by his office. They have since become good friends and now confer on book purchases, so that the titles match special faculty requests and the general needs of an academic library.

"Frank and I now go down to Nancy's together. I tell him which books we need, and Nancy helps us find out-of-print and hard-to-find titles," says Doyle. "He helps us buy art, architecture, design, furniture, environmental, natural science, and other expensive books that the faculty have requested." Coe now has the second largest collection of volumes on Frank Lloyd Wright in the state of Iowa— as well as such works as Designing and Drawing for the Theatre, Masks of the Bolivian Andes, Japan: A Cartographic Vision, and Imperiled Planet: Restoring Our Endangered Ecosystems.

The magnificent Yale University Press volume illustrating The Glory of Venice: Art in the Eighteenth Century, the current exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, is also among McDonald's purchases, Art of This Century: The Guggenheim Museum and its Collection is there, as is a book on the European and American painting and sculpture collections of the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha.

Coe's theater department used Russian Furniture: The Golden Age 1780-1840 in preparing for last fall's production of "The Cherry Orchard," and they now have volumes describing fashions of the 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s as permanent references.


**Faculty and alumni authors add works to collection**

William L. Shirer’s final book on the Tolstoys, new books by professors Nesmith and Flanagan, and alumnus Charlie Shedd’s latest book Brush of An Angel’s Wings are all among the past year’s additions to the archives.

The original manuscript of Prof. Jerry Owen's 1994 composition, Out of America, is there too. This new work for soprano and piano incorporates poetry by the late alumnus Paul Engle and was written for Hualing Engle’s latest trip to China. Three of the latest collections of work by composer and guitarist Michael Engberg (Coe '81) were purchased for the archives during Engberg’s campus appearance this winter.

A complete list of the year’s new titles—and first editions or autographed copies of older titles—follows. Wherever possible, a second copy of each title is shelved with the general collection for use outside the library. Look for some you’d like to check out.


Cravens, Jay H. A Well Worn Path (1994) [Craven, Coe '46]


Flanagan, William G. Urban Sociology: Images and Structure. 2nd ed. (1995) [Professor of Sociology]

Hoskins, Marilyn W. and Eleanor Murray Shepard. Life in a Vietnamese Urban Quarter. (1965) [Shepherd, Coe '27]

Glad, Paul W. War, A New Era, and Depres-
Mysteries in the Archives

Intriguing items of Coe memorabilia have come to the archives. Their stories of origin may well be interesting, too, but these histories have been lost. Can you help?

A pale blue and white jelly dish found in a Minnesota antique shop proclaims “Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa” under a picture of Old Main and Marshall Hall. The stamp on the back says the piece was made in Germany, but there are no more clues. Head of Technical Services Randy Roeder would like to have an approximate date so the item can be identified properly.

A sterling silver ring stamped with the Coe seal was brought to Coe sophomore Michelle Mignon by her father. A friend of the family was renovating a house in Appleton, Wisconsin, and found the ring in a wall. Since the ring’s seal is the one designed by Marvin Cone, who graduated from Coe in 1914 and began teaching here in 1919, the ring could have been a class ring from anytime after 1920.

If you can place these items in a more precise timeframe for the archives’ documentation, please call the Public Relations Office at Coe, 319/399-8613.

New Horizon computer system being installed

A new generation of computer systems will be installed in the library between the end of Spring Term and the beginning of Summer Term. It will interface more directly with the recently installed campus-wide computer network.

“Designed for the Microsoft Windows or Macintosh graphical environments, the Horizon Library System moves beyond the simple search of the library catalog to the actual retrieval of cataloging information and, in some instances, the text of a document, eliminating the need to retype information,” explains Library Director Rich Doyle.

“Students will be able to transmit complete bibliographic references directly into their research paper bibliographies from the new library catalog,” Doyle illustrates. Other powerful new features of the system will be the ability to create and maintain separate lists of holdings, such as the complete collections of alumni authors, best sellers, award winners, compact disks, and video cassettes. All of these will be available to faculty and students, who simply will have to select an icon on the screens of their personal computers and click the computer mouse to activate.

Watch for more news of computer developments in the library to be included in the fall issue of the Bibliophile.
BIBLIOPHILE

Winnifred Cone establishes library endowment fund

When Winnifred Cone left the house she and Marvin had shared for so many years to move to Hallmar Center last year, she gave the home to Coe College. Now the $33,000 proceeds from the sale of the house are establishing a library endowment fund that will generate income to purchase books in art and art history in perpetuity.

Cedar Rapids attorney Kay Chapman, a friend of Coe College and a former paraprofessional instructor in Coe’s Introduction to Liberal Arts program, purchased the house and intends to preserve it.

Meanwhile the first book acquisition with the fund has been made. Although it won’t be on the library shelves until 1996, the 34-volume set titled *The Dictionary of Art* has been secured for the prepublication price of $6,000. Edited by Jane Shorof Turner and published by Grove’s Dictionaries, Inc., this major reference work will sell for a retail price of $8,000 when it is published.

Considered the single most important art reference work available, *The Dictionary of Art* will encompass the full range of visual arts from Africa, Latin America, Islam, the Indian subcontinent, Asia, pre-Columbian America, and Native North America.

Marvin Cone Appreciation Day is scheduled for May 28

The Coe-Mound View Neighborhood Association, headed by Joe Nosek (Coe ’74), will host a neighborhood open house on Sunday, May 28, to honor the late artist, Coe alumnus, and faculty member Marvin Cone.

A commemorative stone will be dedicated at 12 noon in Daniels Park, not far from one dedicated to Cone’s colleague and friend, Grant Wood, who grew up in the neighborhood. Robert Kocher, who is retiring this year as Coe’s Marvin Cone Professor of Art, will speak.

Walking tours and trolley rides to guide people through the neighborhood are being planned.

Coe’s library staff is also collecting its wealth of material on Winnifred and Marvin Cone for display in the Winnifred Swift Cone Gallery on the first floor of Stewart Library.

A family trunk that evidently went to Europe with Marvin at least once is among the items of memorabilia, along with a print of Wood’s painting “Stone City” that Wood autographed for the Cones. A diary Marvin kept while serving in France in the First World War will also be displayed, as will photographs by George T. Henry (Coe ’49), exhibit catalogs, and a myriad of other items.

The library will be open from noon to 4 p.m., with displays and activities beginning at 12:30.

Marvin Cone’s family trunk, which went to France with him in 1919, will be on display in Coe’s library during Marvin Cone Appreciation Day on May 28.