

# The Bibliophile



Fall, 1995

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

## William L. Shirer's papers and manuscripts arrive

When one of Coe's most famous alumni—author William L. Shirer (Coe '25)—announced that all of his papers would come to Coe College, many in the literary world were surprised. When he died last December, the fact that Coe would house his manuscripts and papers was confirmed.

And indeed, in September 22 boxes of Shirer materials arrived at Coe. Randy Roeder, head of technical services, has been unpacking and identifying this treasure trove ever since.

"To say this is an exciting piece of history is an understatement," says Roeder. "Even the fan mail is interesting."

Manuscripts of all three of Shirer's memoirs, *20th Century Journey*, *The Nightmare Years*, and *The Native's Return*, are there, as well as *Berlin Diary*, *Gandhi: A Memoir*, *The Collapse of the Third Republic*, and the less famous *Stranger Come Home*, and *Challenge of Scandinavia*. Coe had received the manuscript for *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* some 25 years ago.

"A Ph.D. candidate wanting to do his thesis on Shirer and his relationship with Edward R. Murrow has already contacted us," says Roeder.

Some of the most interesting letters came from readers of *Stranger Come Home*, a political novel that came off the press just as Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigative hearings were getting underway. The

publisher of Shirer's book, apparently afraid of reaction from McCarthy's supporters, did not promote the book, so it was not a big seller.

One of Shirer's correspondents saw this coming: "I am only afraid that this book may not receive wide enough circulation, and have already written to several friends in various parts of the country recommending it." He urged Shirer to organize his own distribution effort, noting "your book is a very refreshing antidote to this (McCarthy's) propaganda..."

Another wrote: "I have just finished *Stranger Come Home*. It's wonderful! I couldn't put it down, read it in two days. It upset me so in the first two hundred pages, I felt worse almost than I did watching the hearings. Had to

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## CCLA memberships do make a difference

Coe College Library Association membership funds of \$45,611 were received during the 1994-95 fiscal year, compared with \$35,648 in 1993-94 and \$29,414 in fiscal 1992-93.

When income from library endowment funds was added to these resources for acquisitions, Coe was able to purchase \$60,465 worth of new materials.

"We were able to buy 3,555 new books last year," says library director Rich Doyle, "and this is basic collection development."

He adds, "CCLA members are helping us maintain the breadth of our collection. We are most grateful."



Student library assistants Hillary Ellingson (center) of Inver Grove Heights, MN, and Karalee Jones of Lena, IL, help Randy Roeder, head of technical services, inventory the newly arrived Shirer papers before moving them to archival storage.



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*The Road to Waubeek* by Marvin Cone (Coe '14), founder of Coe's art department, is now hanging in the Winnifred Cone Gallery, thanks to a bequest from Irving and Kathryn Churchill. A statement on the back of the work explains "the setting is between Whittier and Waubeek, Iowa. The road in the background runs from Waubeek village toward Camp Waubeek of the Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America."

Irving Churchill was a professor of English at Coe for 32 years. Kathryn was a former member of the library staff.

## Appreciating Marvin Cone



Marvin Cone Appreciation Day in late May and a neighborhood open house honoring Grant Wood and Marvin Cone in July brought many visitors to Stewart Library. They viewed historical displays and the Cone paintings hanging in the Winnifred Cone Gallery on either side of the library entrance, as well as a rocking chair created by Grant Wood and Cone's WWI steamer trunk filled with mementos.

These special events were sponsored by the library and the Coe-Mound View Neighborhood Association, of which Coe is a part.

## Cone's *Road to Waubeek* comes to Coe Collection

*The Road to Waubeek*, another wonderful Marvin Cone painting of an Iowa landscape, has returned to Coe through a generous bequest of Dr. Irving Churchill, emeritus professor of English, and his wife Kathryn, who was a former Coe librarian.

The Churchills had moved to North Carolina following Irving's retirement in 1969, after 32 years as part of the Coe community. Kathryn died in 1989, and when Irving died this past July at age 94, their son Malcolm followed his parents' wishes and shipped the Cone painting to Cedar Rapids.

"I am glad this painting will be back at Coe where others can enjoy it," wrote Malcolm Churchill. "The painting also meant a great deal to me, partly from its portrayal of a scene familiar to me from my years at Camp Waubeek and partly because of its association with the artist. When I was a small boy, Marvin Cone used to perform magic tricks for me. The one I particularly remember was his putting a coin in one of my ears and taking it out of the other."

Malcolm also noted that his parents wanted the painting to return to Coe because of their strong feelings for the college.

On the back of the painting is this note: "Mr. Cone often referred to this painting as his finest landscape. Painted about 1941 or 1942, it was first exhibited at a showing of Mr. Cone's work at the Coe College Library. We purchased it shortly thereafter for \$400, including the framing which was done by Mr. Cone."

*The Road to Waubeek* is now hung near Marvin Cone's chair in the Winnifred S. Cone Gallery of Stewart Library. It brings to 55 the number of Marvin Cone works in the Coe Permanent Collection of Art.



## Horizon computer system manages more records in a user-friendly manner

The five-year-old Dynix automated catalog system installed in 1989-90 has more than met its match. A new Horizon system that does more than Dynix and does it better is being installed this year.

"Horizon is a different kind of system," says Randy Roeder, system supervisor and head of technical services. "We're introducing graphic symbols which the user can point to with a computer 'mouse' and open up beautiful color screens leading to more information." He adds that there is less chance of error in using the new system.

Horizon is also being expanded to take on library management functions—such as book purchasing, accounting, inventory control, and reserve reading lists—some of which the Dynix system simply could not handle.

"For the first time, the new system tracks what we have on the shelves or in circulation and allows us to integrate our ordering process into the same system," notes Rich Doyle, now director of library services and academic computing. He adds that there was a definite need to merge the academic library and com-

puter services under one roof on a campus the size of Coe. "We cannot operate the kind of educational program we have without doing so."

The new Horizon system will be expanded gradually through the academic year, as additional sections come on-line. Doyle explains, "Library staff will be able to do all their work and check on usage and inventory on one system."

Sandy Blanchard, head of circulation, adds that the Horizon system is also better for the 56 student workers who work at the library through the week. "It's easier to train students under this system, because commands are visible on the screen rather than being imbedded in keyboard commands."

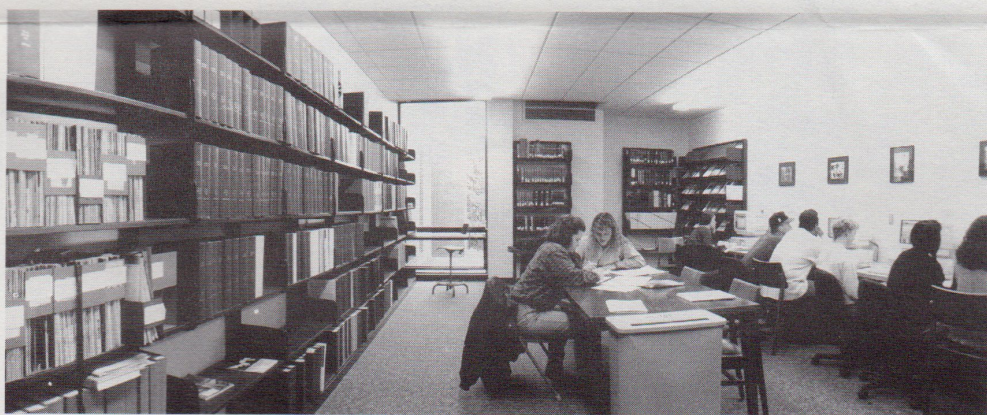
Roeder adds, "So much of the day-to-day work of the library depends on student workers. They are very important to us. They are asked to do rather sophisticated functions, but they are here in relatively short shifts a total of only eight hours per week. They need to be able to pick up procedures quickly in a system that is easy to learn and use."

*Shirer's papers and manuscripts—  
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turn them off. Won't you please send a copy to President Eisenhower? I think he was in the position of Raymond Whitehead, had been away for so many years he did not realize what had been going on. He needs to, if it isn't too late..."

A New York City writer told Shirer, "I wanted to cry this thing from the house-tops. I want it made compulsory reading in the House and Senate. Why do I find no editorial about it in every paper every day? Why isn't Little Brown [the publisher] taking out full page ads in *The Times*?...Because of its form, because it isn't pleading on the ineffectual factual bases, *Come Home Stranger* is stronger than *Trial by Slender*. And it is curiously restrained. I should never have been able to speak of the Squirring Cobra...can't even in conversation...as dispassionately and therefore forcefully as, in this book, you have spoken..."

Shirer's response to this letter is included also. "Your letter was more encouraging than I can say...Your letter and many others like it have bucked me up. It would have been nice if the book had sold well, but I didn't write it to get a best seller. And long ago I grew weary of badgering publishers to push a work of mine. One comes to depend on luck, and mine has been good as well as bad..."



Coe's chemistry library has been remodeled and expanded to include computers connected to the academic network. The network's Horizon system allows students to check the automated catalog for a host of resources, utilize the Internet, and record data from lab projects underway across the hall. Reference books and journals on the shelves cover the latest five years. Older volumes are shelved in the main library.



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## \$254,590 to library from Laura Davis Estate

An unassuming person firm in her belief that actions speak the loudest, social worker Laura Hutchison Davis bequeathed \$254,590 to Coe's library at her death in November, 1993. The gift came as a wonderful surprise to the college.

"I had visited her home many times to pick up books she and her husband, Lloyd, were donating to the library," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services, "but I had no idea she was contemplating a gift of this size."

The gift establishes the Laura Hutchison Davis Endowment Fund, which will produce income each year to purchase new library books and materials for the Coe collections.

Davis had graduated *cum laude* from Coe in 1938, graduated from the School of Social Work at Loyola University in 1940, and completed her master's degree in social work at the University of Iowa in 1950. She organized the first congregate meals program in Linn County and worked for the organization that preceded the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program. She was instrumental in the creation of Geneva Towers in downtown Cedar Rapids.

In 1973 Davis was named Social Worker of the Year, and she received the local Outstanding Citizenship Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

A 30-year volunteer for the American Red Cross, she also volunteered on many local planning boards, Westminster Presbyterian Church's Board of Deacons, and Church Women United.

Not shown in the library staff photo at right are Cheri Pettibone, audiovisual assistant, and Richard Adkins, music library supervisor.



## Library staff salutes Prof. Kocher

When Marvin Cone Professor of Art Robert Kocher retired from the faculty this spring, the library staff joined friends and colleagues in wearing neckties—a Kocher trademark—to the reception held in Perrine Gallery.

Kocher has a personal collection of over 250 ties, selected with an artist's eye. The library staff, however, confessed to making their selections at the Salvation Army's Thrift Store.

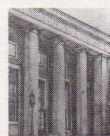


Shown from left, front row: Jeff Schulte, technical services assistant; Harlene Hansen, reference assistant; Cedra Williamson, head of audio visual; Mildred Taylor, library acquisitions assistant; Sandy Blanchard, head of circulation. Back row: Randall Roeder, head of technical services; Betty Rogers, head of reference; Richard Doyle, director of library and academic computer services; and Linda Bloedel, interlibrary loan assistant.



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