

The Bibliophile



Fall, 1996

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Landmark *Dictionary of Art* now on Coe shelves

The newly released 34-volume *Dictionary of Art* now on Coe's library shelves created quite a stir in the press when it was published this fall. The mammoth project took 15 years to complete, covering every angle of the visual arts of every civilization from prehistory to the 1990s.

"It's a landmark publishing event, and we're so thankful that we had the financial resources to be able to purchase it at a discounted price," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services.

Published by R. R. Donnelley & Sons, one of the few printers in the world that could handle a project of this size, the price of *The Dictionary of Art* is \$8,800 today. Two years ago Coe was able to purchase the set for the pre-publication price of \$6,000, thanks to proceeds from an endowment fund established in 1994 by Winnifred Cone, widow of artist and Coe art department founder Marvin Cone.

Only 1,700 sets of the work had been sold in the U.S. by mid-October, and by mid-November Coe was one of only 11 libraries in Iowa to have this extensive art resource in its holdings.

"It's the very best art reference text that I know of," says David Goodwin, Marvin Cone Associate Professor of Art. "My History of Architecture students are already doing research in it."

"It's an incredible publication," says Doyle, noting that the dictionary is worldwide in scope, with the comprehensive, detailed index that is a full volume in itself. He adds, "The printing quality is outstanding and the illustrations are exquisite."

Statistically there are 720,000 index entries directing readers to 41,000 articles illustrated with 15,000 images, spread over 32,600 pages. The text was written by 6,700 contributors from more than 120 countries.

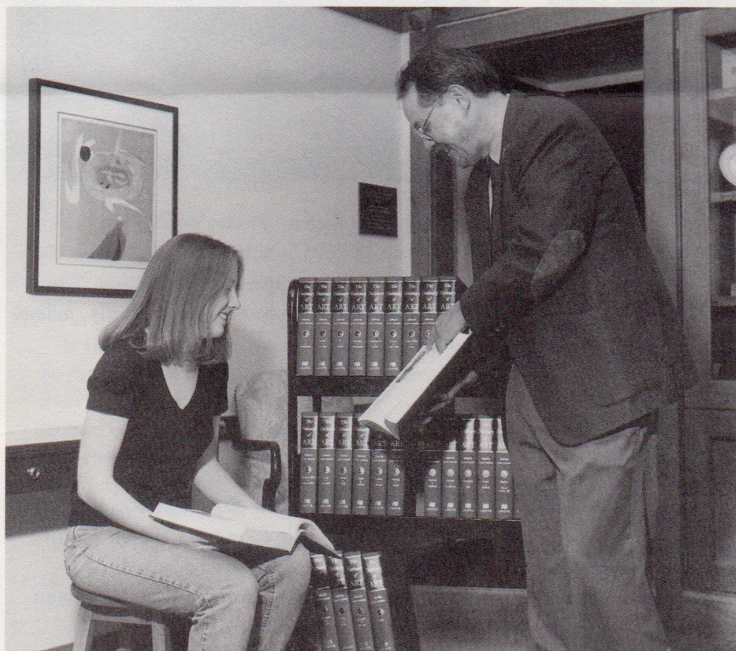
Sampling of Alumni Collection displayed Reunion Weekend

Paul Engle's *A Lucky American Childhood* and Rachel Canon's *The Anniversary* are two of the latest additions to Coe's Alumni Collection of works by authors who are also alumni of the college.

A display of these and other recent additions to the Alumni Collection was prepared for the Alumni College/Reunion in June by freshman Megan Ihns from Cedar Rapids and senior Jodi Oberfoell of Sherrill, Iowa.

The late Paul Engle graduated from Coe in 1931, went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, won Yale's Younger Poets Prize, developed the famed Writers' Workshop, and co-founded the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. His 1996 memoir was nearly completed at the time of his death in 1991 and has been edited by his wife, Chinese novelist Hualing Nih Engle, who received an honorary degree from Coe in 1982. *A Lucky American Childhood* is a warm account of Engle's early life in Cedar Rapids.

Rachel Canon was known as Susan Canon when she graduated from Coe in 1966. After a long career writing various kinds of articles and reports for corporate employers, she decided to fulfill a promise she'd made to Coe classmate Ann Parkinson Woolf '66 before Ann died in 1987. *The Anniversary* is her first novel, published by Random House and now being considered for a screenplay.



Library Director Richard Doyle shows freshman Beth Sheldon some of the illustrations in one of the 34 volumes of *The Dictionary of Art*, which Sheldon helped catalog.

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Three new works for Coe's Permanent Collection

Three interesting new pieces have been given to the college for Coe's Permanent Collection of Art—*Riverbend No. 7* by Marvin Cone, *Summer Still Life* by Conger Metcalf, and *The Ballet Class* by Richard Pinney.

Cone's *Riverbend No. 7* came to Coe through the generosity of Lydia King Macy (Coe '24) of Eugene, Oregon, and her daughter Martha Macy Hughes of Cupertino, California. Mrs. Macy is the wife of the late Dr. C. Ward Macy, who taught economics on the Coe faculty from 1923 until 1946, when he was named dean of the college. He left Coe in 1950 to head the department of economics at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The Macys bought the Cone painting from the artist for \$300 in 1940, and the painting had been in the family's collection until this September when Mrs. Macy decided that Coe should have it for the Permanent Collection.

Metcalf's *Summer Still Life* was given to Coe last spring by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Kobin, Boston friends of Metcalf and of his friend, Marguerite Gurekian. The work is done in oil and graphite on clay-coated paper and brings to nearly 50 the number of paintings in this collection. Metcalf, who studied with Grant Wood and Marvin Cone, is a 1936 music graduate of Coe still actively painting in Boston.

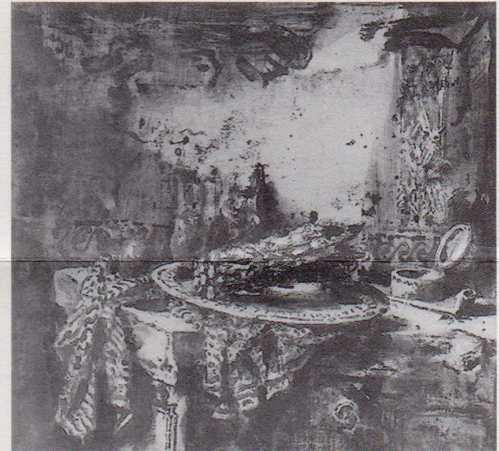
Pinney's *The Ballet Class* is a situational sculpture, created as a three-dimensional building with lights, mirrors, and moveable ballet figures inside. Pinney was an unusually versatile and creative artist, writer, humorist, musician, and inventor, who was also formerly vice president for public relations at Coe. The Pinney family of Cedar Rapids gave this piece to Coe following Richard's death in February.

Robert Kocher, emeritus professor of art and curator of Coe's Permanent Collection, has known all of these artists well. "We're lucky to get one of the last paintings Marvin did in his series of river landscapes. He combined all the elements of the previous works in this piece," notes Kocher. "It is also good to have a situational sculpture in our collection. This particular piece shows dancers who are all working hard at their art, and it is Dick at his



Lydia King Macy '24 and her daughter Martha Macy Hughes gave Coe Marvin Cone's *Riverbend No. 7*.

Mrs. Macy is the widow of Dr. C. Ward Macy, former dean of the college and professor of economics. The Macys had purchased the Cone painting in 1940.



Conger Metcalf's *Summer Still Life* is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Kobin.



Inventive artist Richard Pinney created this three-dimensional *Ballet Class*, captured here with a fisheye lens by photographer George Henry. The piece was given to Coe by the Pinney family, following the artist's death.

most serious."

Referring to *Summer Still Life*, Kocher says, "Only the inimitable Conger Metcalf could take something as prosaic as a bunch of asparagus and feature it in the center of a beautiful Romantic painting."

Latest Shirer papers include important clippings

Another shipment of William L. Shirer's papers has arrived at the Coe library, following last fall's initial delivery. (Shirer, renowned broadcaster and author of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* and 15 other books, bequeathed all his papers to his alma mater at his death in 1994.) This newest set of 10 boxes contains manuscript revisions, notes, and an interesting look at public opinion in the United States the year before Pearl Harbor forced the U.S. entry into World War II.

A full year's collection of newspaper clippings referring to the 1941 release of Shirer's first book, *Berlin Diary*, shows what the book's uncensored first-hand account of events in Germany meant to American readers. "It is a resource that collects into one place a broad spectrum of public opinion at a time when the U.S. entry into the war was not a foregone conclusion," says Randall Roeder, head of technical services.

The Omaha World-Herald, for example, said on June 29, 1941:

By nearly any standard this book seems destined to rise high in the current nonfiction best seller lists—because it brings much new, reliable information on what has been going on in censor-shrouded Germany; because it throws new light on the secret of Nazi military success; and because it is exciting reading and high drama...

[Shirer] has done himself proud in this book of facts and observations that couldn't be told until he left Europe and returned to New York last December...

Josef Mossman, in a piece printed in *The Chronicle* of Marion, Indiana, said on the same day:

It is high time that every thinking person be thoroughly conversant with the current international situation, for those who resolve to turn over a new leaf and forego their headline-reading habits, William L. Shirer's *Berlin Diary* is the perfect book to provide the background up to now...

The Evening Union in Springfield, Massachusetts, concluded in a July 23, 1941 editorial:



Author William L. Shirer, on a 1969 visit to Coe.

...There seems no justification for the wishful thinkers expecting the German people to rise in revolt against Hitler, if Mr. Shirer's conclusions are correct. Grim reality, distasteful as the facts may be, must be faced.

The Germans are not going to give up until they are defeated, no matter how long it takes and how much they suffer, or how much others suffer. That is William Shirer's conviction.

Roeder says that there were between 500 and 800 clippings in the shipment of papers. "Unfortunately the newsprint is so brittle that the clippings had crumbled to dust in some of the boxes," he notes, adding that he is photocopying as many as possible. "I'd estimate that 20% are lost already, but we certainly want to preserve what we can as quickly as possible. If someone wanted to study the impact of this book on American society in 1941, this material would be the source."

Also included in the papers received by Coe's library are Shirer's manuscript revisions and notes for several of his books. *Berlin Diary* was also Shirer's first book in the diary format he used in many of his subsequent works.

Thanks to CCLA members

Again, in this fiscal year ending June 30, Coe College Library Association memberships totalled nearly \$45,000, significantly improving the college's ability to make needed book purchases in a timely manner.

Last year's total of \$45,611 for library acquisition funds is slightly higher, but both years compare favorably with the \$35,648 in 1993-94 and \$29,414 in 1992-93.

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Sampling of Alumni Collection...

These books, and most of the volumes in the Alumni Collection, are also available on the open shelves for circulation outside the library.

Megan Ihns
poses with the display
of alumni-authored volumes
she and Jodi Oberfoell
prepared in the library's
Richter Room for
Alumni College/Reunion
Weekend.



Recent new books take many forms

Coe's library collection continues to expand, thanks to the timely and generous support of the Coe College Library Association. During the 1995-96 academic year, 3,585 book titles were added, as were 293 videotapes and 183 compact disks (CDs).

"We're beginning to build a collection of materials that is now available on CD-Rom," notes Library and Computer Services Director Richard Doyle, explaining that the library industry refers to non-musical CDs as CD-Roms. "Given the other pressures of computer services, we are moving into this format [of information materials] rather slowly," admits Doyle. Two new multimedia CD-Rom workstations have been added to the facilities in the audiovisual department, where the new collection is being housed.

Doyle emphasizes that these new electronic versions of texts and musical and visual productions are not replacements for paper versions of the same works but simply additional

formats. "We bought the CD-Rom versions of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *Oxford English Dictionary*, for instance, by faculty request. But under no circumstances would we ever get rid of the paper copies," he says. *A Passion for Art: Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, and Dr. Barnes* is another CD-Rom that includes the history and work of each artist and the collector who preserved their work. The CD-Rom of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* includes not only the text but the musical performance clips. "Each format has its strengths and preferred uses," Doyle adds, "so nothing is being lost. The reader-viewer can just enjoy it on different levels."

"Using the power of the computer," says Doyle, "the search for illustrations, descriptions, and biographical information is so easy." Students and faculty can access these resources from their own rooms and offices, rather than having to come to the library to check things out.



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