

Coe Bibliophile

Fall/Winter 2004

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

William Shirer papers to be preserved and cataloged

Coe College hosted a reception on September 30 in the George T. Henry College Archives to view the latest collection of the William Shirer papers. Although Shirer died in 1993, the Shirer collection at Coe has been growing steadily since the arrival of the first papers in 1995 and is made up of approximately 100 linear feet of materials ranging from typescripts, revisions and proofs of several of Shirer's books to the research materials gathered during his writing.

The late President Emeritus Joseph McCabe, a collector of first editions, asked Shirer to donate to Coe the original manuscript of "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." Shirer agreed, and the friendship between the two men resulted in the eventual donation of the Shirer collection to Coe.

The importance of Shirer's work comes directly from his personal experiences and the people he knew and met. After graduating from Coe in 1925, Shirer left for Europe and began a career in journalism, working for the Paris Tribune, the Chicago Tribune (as a foreign correspondent) and later CBS. Described as a journalist first and an historian second, Shirer worked as a reporter during the rise and fall of Nazi Germany. Many of Shirer's radio broadcasts had to be cleared in advance by Nazi censors. Shirer relied on the officials' lack of familiarity with subtleties of the English language to get his message across.

Alumni and friends of the college enjoy browsing the Shirer collection in the George T. Henry College Archives.

Photo by Beth Kovarna '05

The Shirer collection at Coe documents much of Shirer's extensive career and contains numerous clippings from newspapers, both American and foreign, including clippings Shirer used for research and clippings about himself. Also included are typescripts of broadcasts, speeches and some typed diary entries along with extensive correspondence, both with publishers and personal acquaintances. The collection includes not only manuscripts and notes from Shirer's extremely successful titles such as "Berlin Diary" and "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," but also manuscripts from lesser-known and unpublished works.

These papers represent the largest concentration of Shirer's papers in the country. While Shirer correspondence is available in at least 13 other collections around the U.S., none can boast the full range of Coe's collection. It provides an extensive history of the writings of a major 20th century literary figure, as well as personal insight into the author.

Despite the collection's historic significance, it remains unavailable to researchers and scholars due to the deteriorating condition of the papers. Coe College would like to change this.

At present, the papers are stored in the archive's climate-controlled vault, but in a

semi-processed state. The papers arrive at the library boxed — some with brief descriptions of the contents. Unpacking the material is time consuming as the original order of the documents must be maintained. Many items have meaning only in the context of the sheets of paper next to them. Approximately 40 percent of the materials are in their original packing materials and folders, much of which is highly acidic and at risk of further deterioration.

In order to be a useable collection, the papers need to be preserved and organized with formal descriptions and finding aids. This requires the assistance of a full-time archivist devoted solely to this project. Coe plans to contract with an archivist who will be responsible for fully processing the entire collection, writing descriptive guides, creating electronic resources to facilitate access and implementing a process of long-range care and preservation.

The college is currently raising funds to support this preservation project and create access to this historic collection. The estimated cost of the project is \$60,000. Gifts to the project should be designated to the Shirer Papers Preservation. Opening the Shirer archives to researchers will boost both the significance of Shirer's work and Coe's academic reputation.



Cedra Williamson retires



said Williamson, who retired on Oct. 7. "I loved going to work everyday."

It was so typical of Cedra's deep commitment to the college that her last day was a Thursday, so she could be on hand for that day's Thursday Forum. Media was so much a part of the forum and Cedra was insistent that things would work well. "We will miss her," said Richard Doyle, director of library services. He went on to add that "she ably managed the department with grace, style and wit, and in her years of services transformed it into a highly used service by faculty, students and departments throughout the campus."

During those 15 years, Williamson witnessed many changes in the department, which is not surprising when one considers that 15 years ago, the digital media revolution had not yet taken hold.

After 15 years as head of the library's audiovisual department, Cedra Williamson has retired. "My colleagues here have been a dream to work with,"

"When I started at Coe, 16mm films were still being used in classes," said Williamson. "We had only 99 VHS tapes in our collection — and they were only available for check out to faculty who were using them in class. Once the price of media began to drop, we were able to purchase more videos and expand our collection." The collection now includes more than 3,700 titles. Williamson also noted that the advent of digital media has been a wonderful educational supplement.

Despite some changes, other things have remained constant, particularly the department's commitment to service. "Our goal has always been to provide a high level of service to students, faculty and staff," said Williamson. "This service-oriented component was in place when I began working at Coe, and we worked diligently to preserve it."

Throughout her time at Coe, Williamson worked with a large number of student workers. "They've all been fantastic," she said, speaking of the students' level of commitment to their jobs. "It's a tribute to the quality of students that Coe attracts."

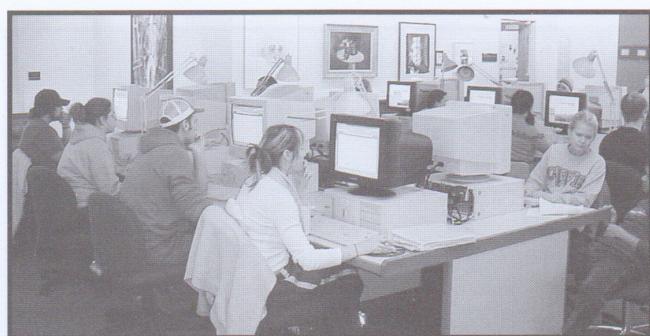
First floor of Stewart Memorial Library updated

Portions of the library's first floor were updated this fall, including the Pochobradsky Reading Room, which received new ceiling tiles and 10 new ceiling can lights that were realigned over the shelving to provide better illumination for reading. The furniture was also rearranged to make the area more spacious and inviting.

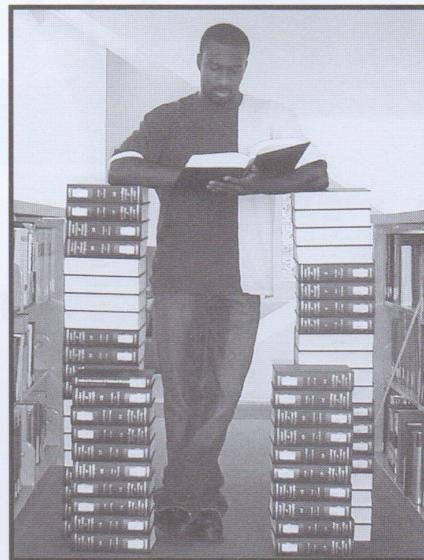
New carpet was installed in the main traf-

fic areas of the first floor. This includes the area from the front door to the back wall behind the reference desk. More than 900 people come through the library's doors each day, and the carpet, which had not been replaced in 16 years, was showing heavy signs of wear.

Sixteen additional computers were also installed on the main service floor near the reference desk, bringing the number to 42 on the first floor. Students are able to use these computers during the library's operating hours.



Students are hard at work on the new computers on the library's main floor.



Student Mike Hale '07 stands between stacks of Coe's newly acquired Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

The arrival of a new edition of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) marks one of the newest and most significant acquisitions at Stewart Memorial Library. This illustrated, 60-volume collection contains more than 50,000 biographies of the men and women who were influential in Britain's history from the fourth century B.C. to the year 2000.

According to the ODNB Web site, the 50,000 articles were written by 10,000 expert contributors, including university scholars, independent researchers and writers. The printed collection takes up 12 feet of shelf space and contains 62 million words.

Due to its comprehensiveness, the Oxford DNB is beneficial to students across the disciplines.

"This is a remarkable research tool for students. No upstanding academic library can be without this collection," said Rich Doyle, director of library services.

Electronic music reserves debuts at Coe

Students enrolled in the May term Introduction to Jazz History course were the first students on campus to benefit from the new electronic music reserves in Fisher Music Library. The three-and-one-half week course, which was taught in two sections to nearly 50 students, places an emphasis on listening to different styles of jazz by different musicians, including George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" (1924), "Kind of Blue" (1959) by Miles Davis and "A Love Supreme" (1964) by John Coltrane.

While all of the required music selections are available on CD in the Fisher Music Library, the library has a limited number of copies of each song making it difficult for all of the nearly 50 students to listen to the required selections during the short timeframe.

The college addressed this issue by making the required listenings available to students online. Using an MP3 format and MAC iTunes, the music library staff digitized the songs into streaming audio and placed them in Blackboard, the college's course management software. Because the songs were in streaming audio format, they could be listened to but not copied. And placing them in the course management software meant that only students enrolled in the jazz history course had access to the songs.

This arrangement was extremely beneficial to the students because they no longer had to go to the music library to listen to the selections — and hope that another student was not listening to the CD they needed. With the online option, students could simply logon and listen to the required music reserves 24 hours a day from almost any computer on campus — even in their dorm rooms. The

system's flexibility allowed the students unlimited access to the music. This means that all 50 students could have listened to the same song at the same time from 50 different locations on campus — something that was impossible prior to e-reserves when the only access to the music was the CD and listening stations in the music library.

"The electronic music reserves permitted students to pursue their listening examples any time, day or night, that was convenient for them," said Bill Carson, professor of music and chairperson of the music department. Carson continued, "The students really seemed to appreciate the accessibility of having the listening examples available online. It was also particularly good for May term, since library hours were limited."

In the three-and-one-half weeks of the course, there were more than 5,000 listening events by students enrolled in the jazz history course. The electronic music reserves proved so successful, that now all courses with required listening will use the electronic reserves process.

"This is one of the most exciting services that we've been able to offer our students in recent years," said Music Library Supervisor Rich Adkins. "Getting the course up and running was not difficult, but it was time consuming. Staffing the library after hours has always been an issue. Now, the library can serve the students' required listening needs 24 hours a day. Studying for listening tests could not be easier. It's a real advantage for everyone and just another reason why Coe is a great place to be."

Alumna gives Grant Wood painting to Coe

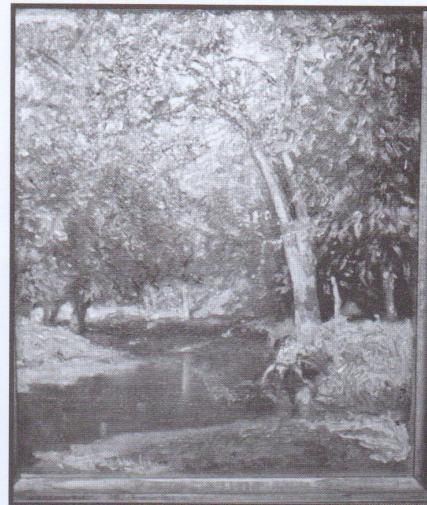
Coe College alumna Betty Kitterman James '36 has given a painting by renowned painter, Grant Wood, to the college. The piece represents a unique addition to the significant Grant Wood collection owned by the college.

The artwork is a 14 1/2" X 12 1/2" oil painting on upson board entitled, "Midsummer." The painting is of Indian Creek, Linn County, Iowa, with its frame made by Grant Wood as well. Created in 1926, "Midsummer" appears to be a study for a larger work. Despite its unfinished elements, "Midsummer" conveys tremendous depth to its viewers.

As an early work, the alumna's father purchased the painting from Grant Wood for \$25. The Kittermans gave the painting to Ed and Bess Monilaw of Cedar Rapids as a gift. As years passed, the Monilaws gave the painting back to the Kitterman family. In the 1960s, Kitterman James inherited the Grant Wood painting from her parents. Her wish for the painting is that it stays in a place where it will continue to be appreciated for years to come.

According to Director of Library Services Richard Doyle, "The age and style of this Grant Wood painting is a departure from the style Wood made famous. Not previously represented at Coe, this style adds new dimension and depth to the current art collection. As a solid addition, this piece extends the Coe art collection."

In the past six months, Coe has received five new pieces to add to its permanent collection of art.



Grant Wood's "Midsummer" is a gift of Betty Kitterman James '36.

Coe included in the Iowa Heritage Digital Collections

A statewide digitization project documenting Iowa's history and cultural heritage is underway and Coe College is one of the contributing organizations. The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections project, led by the University of Iowa Libraries, is an online collection of documents, images, maps and other educational materials documenting Iowa's history and culture. The information contained in the collection is provided by Iowa's public libraries, schools, historical societies, museums, archives and other colleges and universities as a research tool and educational resource.

Coe's current contribution to the project is a collection of more than 30 Flunk Day broadsides dating from the first Flunk Day in 1911 through the 1970s. These broadsides

were distributed and posted on buildings to announce the arrival of Flunk Day. Although many of the broadsides were not preserved, the college has in its archives copies of several broadsides from each decade between 1911 through the 1970s, which is the last known decade that the papers were produced.

This collection of broadsides is the first set of resources to be placed in "Coe College Student Humor" — a digital compilation of resources housed in the George T. Henry College Archives in Stewart Memorial Library.

You can view the Iowa Heritage Digital Collections (including the Flunk Day announcements) at <http://lib-transition.iowa.uiowa.edu>.

Help Coe meet the ICF Library Challenge!

Coe is still accepting gifts to Stewart Memorial Library as part of the Library Challenge Program administered by the Iowa College Foundation (ICF). All gifts received by December 31, 2004, will help Coe qualify for the challenge. This program is made possible by the generosity of the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, the Mansfield Trust and the Maytag Family Foundation. These donors have contributed \$170,000 to fund the challenge program this year. These funds will be distributed among the 25 ICF member colleges that meet the challenge. These challenge dollars are unrestricted and will be used to enhance the library's resources for students.



First Floor of Stewart Memorial Library

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