



THE BIBLIOPHILE

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A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Portrait of artist Metcalf comes to his library gallery

Conger Metcalf, a 45" x 61" portrait in oil, by Warren and Lucia Prosperi of Boston.



Boston artists Warren and Lucia Prosperi have painted an imposing oil portrait of their friend and fellow artist Conger Metcalf '36. The work, which is one of 15 completed portraits in a proposed series of 50 paintings depicting the American character, was purchased for Coe's Permanent Collection and is on display at the entrance of the Conger Metcalf Gallery.

The Coe purchase of this portrait was made possible through gifts from several Cedar Rapids friends of Coe and of Conger Metcalf. "We thought the portrait belonged at Coe," says President John Brown, who with his wife, Nancy, was one of the donors, along with President Emeritus Joseph and Peggy McCabe, Bill and Gayle Whipple '35, '33, Russell and Louise Knapp '30, '32, David and Ann Pickford '43, Trustee chairman Bill and Teddy Shuttleworth, Dick and Edie Buresh '35, '34, Justin and Mildred Albright '30, and Morgan and Edie Davis '34.

Brown relates that he'd first seen the painting two summers ago when the Prosperis stopped by the college. Although he was thrilled with the power of the painting, Brown felt the budget was just too tight for a purchase at that time. The image of the painting wouldn't go away, however. Conversations last December with the Prosperis revealed that Warren and Lucia were also convinced of the appropriateness of Coe's Metcalf Gallery as the home for the portrait. Given the news of the generous cooperation of the Prosperis, the group of donors quickly decided to make the purchase.

The painting arrived at the college in April and was in place on the gallery wall in time for Metcalf's visit to his hometown later that month.

Book sets for alumni house needed

As the new Clark Alumni House is being readied for its June 12 dedication, President John E. Brown is calling for used multi-volume sets of classics or other books in excellent condition to line the shelves of the living room and conference room.

"We have selected a number of volumes from the Joseph E. McCabe Collection of first editions for the shelves of the conference room," says Brown, "but we'll need many more to adequately fill the wonderful shelves provided in the design of the living room."

Anyone wishing to contribute sets of suitable books should contact Rich Doyle, director of library services, at 319/399-8023.

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Book prices up— in case you haven't noticed

We all know that the price of books continues to rise. *Choice*, a publication for libraries, recently published the average prices charged for academic books in 1992.

The average price for humanities books was \$42.24, ranging from \$24.17 for a language or literature book to \$57.88 for one in art or architecture. Science books average \$54.09 each, versus \$42.07 for books in the social and behavioral sciences.

Humanities books posted the biggest increase between 1991 and 1992—a 9.2% rise—while reference books went up the least (4.1%).

Randy Roeder likes being where the action is

"Technical Services" doesn't mean "Mission Control" to most people. To Randy Roeder, head of the Coe library's technical services, however, this department is the nerve center of the library.

All items purchased—both book and non-book—come through tech services for cataloging and processing. The operation of the library's automated (computerized) catalog system is also based there.

"Everything that's not furniture or computer hardware is cataloged," explains Roeder, "and the automated system is our way of telling people what we own that might be of interest to them." He says the key to the whole process is the use of a standardized language.

"Most of our cataloging is purchased, as the electronic record for each book resides at OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) in Ohio." He adds that Coe modifies that record to suit its needs, but uses the same cataloging data provided by the Library of Congress and other OCLC users across the country.

"It's only when we at Coe catalog an item first, as we recently have with Jerry Owen's works (15 original compositions by Dr. Jerry Owen, Coe's Shuttleworth Professor of Music), that we create the electronic record for everyone else," Roeder says.

Some of the most interesting items to cross his desk are earmarked for the archives room. "We recently cataloged a promissory note for \$75 signed in 1850 by Williston Jones (one of Coe's founders) from the personal papers of John S. Ely (who died in 1950)," Roeder says, "along with a daily log book of Ely's round-the-world cruise from the 1920s, when American Express was still a cruise line."

Roeder is very pleased with the relatively trouble-free way the automated catalog system has worked since its installation three years ago. "We've been online 99.5% of the time," Roeder says. "It's been very good."



This spring a "dial-up" feature was added to the computer system. It means that anyone with a personal computer and a modem can call into the library's computer system to search for books and check on the availability of a particular item. The Coe campus soon will also be linked in a Local Area Network (LAN), making library materials available to virtually anyone on campus via computer.

"One of the beauties of an automated library is that we now know what parts of our collections are being used the most—what times of day, what days of the week, and from which segment of the Coe community. The circulation of the music library, for instance, has been surprising. We never realized before how heavily it was used."

Roeder looks forward to additional advances in computer technology for Coe's library. He works with the Iowa Library Information Network, a group of interested libraries who want to link their automated catalogs throughout the state. "It's sort of the next step," he says.

"Ultimately we'll connect with the Internet (an international computer network), making our materials available to any other user in the world."

Each development will make the system seem more like "mission control."

Roeder has Coe degree

Tech Services Director Randy Roeder's personal curiosity about a wide range of subjects and his determination to get to the best information source also led to his becoming a Coe graduate in 1986. He'd joined Coe's library staff in 1979, just after receiving his master's degree in library science from the University of Iowa, and two years later took a German course from Dr. Herb Wiese, now emeritus professor of German.

"My grandparents are Luxembourgish, and the only book on the great Luxembourg immigration of the 19th century was in German," he explains.

One course led to another. "I think the world of Herb Wiese. He has a real love of grammar." Roeder spent a month in Germany at the Goethe Institute in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, studying German conversation in a 17th century Franciscan monastery and living outside the walled city with a German family. "By the end of the month, I could talk about taxes and politics," he says, with a proud grin. "I plan to go back someday with my wife (Nancy) and daughters (Jennifer and Kristina)."

And the book on the great Luxembourg immigration? Roeder laughs, "By the time I'd finished my courses, the book had been translated into English!"

Community loves library

Cedar Rapids is discovering Coe's library. Nearly a fourth of the library users registered on the circulation system right now (561 of 2439) are not otherwise affiliated with Coe.

"I really appreciate being able to do the reading I need for my graduate courses in Coe's library," says Jerry Herrington, Cedar Rapids Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa. "It's so comfortable that you kind of expect Mom to come in with a cup of cocoa." He's found that eight times out of ten Coe's collection will have the book required for his courses, and, since he lives in Cedar Rapids, he is pleased to have access to this convenient resource.

Other individuals from the Cedar Rapids community have expressed surprise and gratitude when they were told they could check materials out of the library freely once they have a visitor's card.

"Dr. and Mrs. Percy Harris just sent us a nice gift as a thank you for the help Lileah Harris received from Prof. James Randall in locating materials on a research project she was doing on Blacks in Roman history," says Library Director Richard Doyle.

Students from schools as far away as Parkersburg, Iowa, have come to see the art collections displayed in the library galleries. Adult groups such as the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership for Five Seasons class have also included the library art collections in their on-site visits. An ad agency in town found an archival photo of oldtime leather football helmets in the library's archives room.

Companies have been interested in the library building itself. Seifert's women's apparel shop used the library for some fashion shots, and AEGON USA utilized Coe's library window for a photograph needed for a financial planning brochure. Two high school seniors requested the use of the library as background for their senior portraits.

"We're very pleased that the Coe library is serving the local community as well as campus needs," says Doyle.

Building a master's level collection

In the fall issue of *The Bibliophile*, you'll read about new books being added to several segments of the library's academic collection for the new Master of Arts in Teaching degree program just established at Coe. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools approved the program in April, and the first teachers will enroll for classes this summer.

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Test your knowledge of the library's art

When Library Director Doyle's daughter's Girl Scout troupe was looking for a program idea, he suggested the library and devised a quiz to help guide the youngsters through the art collections.

See how many of these answers you can remember for your next visit to Coe's library galleries:

1. Find a famous scientist.
2. Find a painting by the famous children's illustrator who created the "Madeline" series of books.
3. Find the drawing done by the artist who first drew Santa Claus as we know him today.
4. What painting is actually a window shade?
5. Locate the signature on the drawing of a clam.
6. Who painted the poster of a Parisian showgirl?

Answers: 1. "Einstein," by Mauricio Lasansky, gift of the artist. 2. "Torero" by Ludwig Bemelmans, gift of F. M. Hinkhouse '48. 3. "M. Button," by Thomasast. (One of three cartoons that also includes "What the Wild West is Saying" and "U.S., English, and Irish") 4. Grant Wood's "Stork," a gift of Prof. Jeanette Ringland. 5. Marvin D. Cone 1912. 6. Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, whose poster "May Milton" was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Owen Elliot.

Collections of French books and books on Quebec get a boost

A grant from the Quebec government and timely memberships in the Coe College Library Association (CCLA) have boosted two of the library's collections this spring.

"We now have a remarkably good collection on Quebec history and culture for a small college," says Dr. Carla Zecher, assistant professor of French. She has a deep interest in Quebec, and discovered, quite accidentally in a phone call to the Chicago office of the Quebec delegation, that funds were available for the purchase of books published in Quebec. "We purchased \$1,000 worth of books, in both English and French, and they are reimbursing us for half of that cost," Zecher explains.

"It's a great way to acquire—a good fit," adds Richard Doyle, library director.

Among the 51 books Coe was able to purchase were several in economics, political science and history, as well as many literary works written in French and published in Quebec.

Thanks to CCLA support, Zecher and her colleague Dr. Jeannine Hammond, professor

of French, also were able to personally select books by French authors about French culture and the French Revolution from Paris shops in January.

"They checked on the availability of funds from the Coe College Library Association before leaving (with their Winter Term students) for their course in Paris in January," says Doyle. "It was a great help to them to be able to make personal selections."

"We found several hard-to-find books in French museum shops," reports Zecher, "and we were pleased to be able to examine the art reproductions to be sure they were of good quality."

Hammond found an anthology of French literature from 1950 to 1990 that will be very useful in the 20th century literature course she teaches. "It's difficult to select very modern works that will continue to be important in the future," says Hammond. "This book will give students three or four selections by some of these authors without having to buy three or four books."



"May Milton," a poster by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and part of Coe's Permanent Collection of Art on display in the library.