

THE BIBLIOPHILE

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A Newsletter for Members of the Coe College Library Association

All of Grant Wood School's students visit Coe's gallery



To mark the 101st birthday of the late artist Grant Wood, all 420 students at his namesake school came to the Coe library on February 13 to see the Grant Wood works in the Perrine Gallery.

"Last year we had an all-day celebration at our school for Grant Wood's 100th birthday," said Grant Wood Principal Sheila Billington (Coe '63), "so this year we wanted to see more of his work in various Cedar Rapids locations. After we saw what Coe's collection included, we decided that would be our site for this year's field trip."

One school bus shuttled loads of students to the Coe library and back from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Each group of students heard a half-hour presentation by second grade teacher Linda Norton on the Grant Wood works in the Coe collection.

Shown hearing the first presentation of the day are students from the Chapter 1 reading program and the third and fourth grade combination class. Parent Anne Suggs is standing at left, and, continuing from left, Chapter 1 teachers Susan Wilkey and Harriet Yetsley, and third/fourth grade teacher Joy Rainbow are seated at the side.

Fisher Music Library gets an update as it comes on-line

Although Fisher Music Library is physically located across the campus from Stewart Memorial Library, it will soon be part of the automated circulation system of the main library. An on-line catalog terminal is already available to show library users the holdings of the main library and some of the music library. By next fall, students and faculty will be able to check out materials from Fisher Library through the computer system.

Making the changeover has prompted a review of all books, scores, and records that are not in machine-readable form but are, nevertheless, available on the Fisher library shelves.

"We have identified a number of CDs that could replace long-playing records we've had for years that are not in the best shape," says library director Richard Doyle. He adds that CDs have several advantages — they're more durable, have better sound reproduction, and are machine-readable. "In many cases, they are also less expensive than long-playing records," says Doyle.

Fisher Library now holds 277 CDs, while the LP collection includes over 4,000 records. Two new CD players have also been added to Fisher Library in the past month to bring to three the number of these essentials for today's music students.

Complete Books-in-Print on one CD — technology may help booklovers afterall

Though feared by booklovers as signs that books would no longer be needed, computers in today's libraries are simply making books more accessible.

The books themselves are in no danger of being replaced, but the indexes needed to locate those books, as well as periodicals and other sources of specialized information, are being replaced today with CD-ROMs.

The CD-ROM — a compact disk (CD) containing computer information with a "read only memory (ROM)," allowing you to access information but not to change it — is a marvel of instant answers.

"It's a major technological breakthrough in our access to information," says Coe library director Richard Doyle.

"We've had microfilm, microfiche, and compact storage devices of other types for years, but we are now at another watershed period in library services," Doyle explains.

Coe currently has just two CD-ROMs, and they store massive amounts of data. The newest is the Books-in-Print CD-ROM index of all the books available today in the United States and Canada. The paper volumes, which are most often seen in bookstores, are larger than unabridged dictionaries. Yet all the same information can be found in a disk the size of a music CD, and it is updated every two months with a new disk.

Academic Index, by InfoTrac, was the first CD-ROM installed in the library. It is an academic index to the contents of approximately 1,000 of the periodicals published in the U.S., and it is updated every month.

Head reference librarian Betty Rogers adds, "Every paper index we have is available in a CD-

ROM product." InfoTrac effectively replaces *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, for example, and the list of CD-ROM indexes includes biographical data, education indexes to such sources as the ERIC publications, and sources in the humanities, the natural sciences and social sciences, nursing, and the arts.

"Ironically, these indexes are cheaper in CD format than they are in paper right now," says Doyle, "but they are still expensive to start up, because of the cost of the microcomputer-based work stations."

Although a wholesale switch to CD-ROMs is beyond the capacity of the current Coe library budget right now, Rogers believes, "We are planning to move in this direction in the long range, because of the ease of use and the speed at which you can search." She adds, "Many libraries have gone to a network of work stations to allow more than one user to access an index at the same time." Another option would be a larger automated system for the library's circulation, which would allow the loading of the CD-ROMs on one big machine.

For now, Coe students and faculty seem to be enjoying the two CD-ROM work stations that are available for periodicals and books-in-print. "Our patrons really prefer to use the automated system," says Rogers. "The paper indexes have gone down in use."

In other words, the information revolution — long predicted to change the way we learn and to add enormously to what we need to learn — is here. Coe's library is in the forefront, preparing today's students for what's ahead.

Seniors Susan Bye, from Dubuque, Iowa, and David Pate from Epworth, Iowa, examine the compact disk used in the Books-in-Print CD-ROM workstation. This tiny disk contains all the information in the enormous Books-in-Print hardbound paper volumes often seen in bookstores.

Susan and David have used the Coe library as students and have worked there as student assistants throughout their campus careers. Both say they know how lucky they are to have such a wonderful facility at Coe.

"I love the light and the colors in our library," says Susan. "I've visited other college libraries, but Coe's is my favorite."

David adds, "Working here has really helped me get acquainted with these facilities."



President Emeritus McCabe gives 100 years of first editions to Coe

"First editions have been my hobby for years," says Coe President Emeritus Joseph E. McCabe as he describes his gift of 597 of these first edition volumes to Coe. "On travels for Coe or for the Presbyterian Church, I would haunt book shops and pick up copies for my collection."

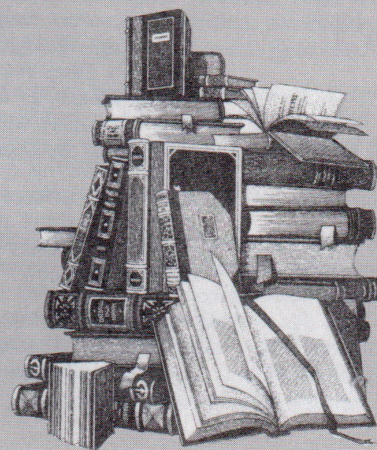
When he and his wife, Peggy, moved to a condominium last June, McCabe had the formidable task of sorting through his personal library of over 2,000 books. "After selecting the first editions for Coe, I gave a thousand books to the Cedar Rapids Public Library for their annual sale," he explains.

Among the collection of first editions are books whose dates span 100 years and more--from Dan DeQuille's *History of the Big Bonanza* (1877) and Henry James' *Daisy Miller and An International Episode* (1878) to Helga Sandburg's 1978 biography, *A Great and Glorious Romance: The Story of Carl Sandburg and Lilian Steichen*, James Michener's *Chesapeake* (1978), and Theodore White's *In Search of History* (1978). Other early "finds" are G.K. Chesterton's 1903 *Robert Browning* and Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* (1913), Richard Harding Davis's *Ranson's Folly* (1902) and Booth Tarkington's *The Two Vanrevels* (1902).

Coe faculty and alumni authors are well represented, including Prof. Donald Lisio's 1985 book, *Hoover, Blacks, & Lily-Whites*, and an autographed first edition of every book William L. Shirer (Coe '25) has written. Seventeen volumes by Herbert Hoover reflect

McCabe's long interest in the life of the former U.S. president. Other extensive collections include nine different titles by John O'Hara, eight by Oliver Stone, seven by John Steinbeck, and seven by John Gunther.

Most of these gems are currently on the shelves in the Richter Room of Coe's library, awaiting the completion of their intended home in the rooms of the Clark Alumni Center. However, library director Rich Doyle has selected several volumes to fill gaps in the Coe's scholarly collections and in the collection of alumni authors in the Archives Room.



New books offer intriguing titles

Among Coe library's recent acquisitions are some tempting subjects.

Sandra Birdsell's latest, *Agassiz: a Novel in Stories*, details the lives of three generations of a fictional Manitoba family. The revised, corrected, and expanded edition of e.e. cummings' *Complete Poems* is the first collection of every poem cummings published or designated for publication in his lifetime.

And theologian/physicist Willem G. Drees' *Beyond the Big Bang: Quantum Cosmologies and God* began as a doctoral dissertation, but has now

been revised for a wider audience.

Other titles range from David Dubal's *Evenings With Horowitz: a Personal Portrait* and Deena Rosenberg's *Fascinating Rhythm: the Collaboration of George and Ira Gershwin*, to Le Corbusier's *Precisions: On the Present State of Architecture and City Planning* and Thomas Toch's account of a decade of reform in American public education, *In the Name of Excellence*.

With your Coe Library Visitor card, you can check them out today.

President Brown — voracious reader and library donor

All college presidents are readers, but Coe's John E. Brown probably reads more than the average. At least 300 books each year, to be specific.

"Two-thirds of the books I read are therapeutic," President Brown explains, adding that he loves mysteries and espionage. "I read in airplanes and at home late at night."

Each year he also reads about 100 more serious works—biographies, historical studies, works on various current aspects of American society and higher education — the kinds of things most college presidents read.

"I'm pretty catholic. I read across the range," says Brown. "I also try to read new authors — first novels and first mysteries of writers that may later become very successful. Sarah Paretsky is a good example."

In a recent week, Brown completed the following: Ward Just's *The Translator*, Michael Dibdin's *Dirty Tricks*, Geoffrey Norman's *Sweet Water Ranch*, as well as Eric Lax's *Woody Allen* and William H. McNeill's *Hutchins University: a memoir of the University of Chicago 1929-1950*.

"I also correspond with a number of college presidents about mysteries," says Brown, suggesting that his tastes in reading are not unique among his peers.

About three years ago, Coe library director Richard Doyle observed Brown's personal library when he was visiting John and Nancy Brown in their home.

Doyle remarked on the extent of Brown's collection, noting that many students come to the Coe library looking for popular fiction to read as a break from studying and academic reading. "But we can't afford to invest in a collection of popular fiction for the library," Doyle told Brown.

"So I started giving the library hardback copies of recently published mysteries, before they're out in paperback," recalls Brown.

Since January, 1990, he has donated 350 volumes, nearly all first editions that had been out less than 18 months.

Doyle puts a selection of these books on the browsing rack just inside the door of Stewart Library so that students and faculty, as well as alumni and friends, can scan the titles on their way into the library each day.

Library patrons can be assured that at least one other person has already read each of these books — donor John E. Brown.



President John Brown often steps off the Stuart Hall elevator with his arms and briefcase loaded with books for Stewart Library. He reads over 300 books a year and passes these current first editions on for library patrons to enjoy.