

The Bibliophile



Spring, 1996

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Faithful and valued, Mildred Taylor retires in January

Known for her welcoming smile and precise work in Coe's library for the past 27 years, Mildred Taylor retired in January from her post as acquisitions assistant and secretary to the library director.

"She was a delight to work with," says Richard Doyle, her boss for the past 18 years. "To a great extent, Mildred was the library's chief financial officer. She managed library accounts down to the penny, so I never worried about the library's monies.

"When I got ready to order a book, she'd say, 'We'd better not charge it to that account because there's no money in it.'"

Professor of Psychology Lowry Fredrickson adds, "Mildred has always bent over backwards to get the special orders I wanted." Beyond that, he says, "She's really a quality person."

When she joined the library staff in April, 1969, she started out as a clerk-typist. "I had worked for the Air Force (114th Fighter Squadron) at O'Hare Field during World War II," Taylor recalls. "When my youngest child (she and her husband have four sons) was old enough for day care at St. Wenceslaus Church, I decided to rent a typewriter and get ready to re-enter the workforce." She was turned down many places before she came to Coe.

Former Director Everett Howell hired Taylor to type new and replacement cards for the library card catalog (which, ironically, is no longer in existence). Fred Borchuck was library director a few years later, when she

moved up to a secretarial position in the technical services department. And in 1978 she became secretary to Doyle, when he was named interim director after Borchuck's departure.

Keeping an accurate record of each of the library's many accounts has been Taylor's favorite part of each job she had at Coe. "All the librarians would check with me to see how their accounts were doing," she says. "If there were any discrepancies, I had to track them down. Those accounts had to be right."

Now a few months into retirement, Taylor says she looks on the change in her life as "just another phase." She has been an organist and pianist for her church for many years, and now is plunging headlong into volunteering—in her church's office, in a Rock and Read Program at Monroe School, and at Mercy Medical Center. In each of these endeavors, rest assured, Taylor will do it right.



Mildred Taylor and Library Director Richard Doyle share a minute before guests begin arriving for Taylor's retirement party on January 5.

Book prices rise

It's a familiar story, but one we must tell nonetheless.

The average cost of books for the Coe library has been climbing along with the price of books for home libraries. For the 1994-95 academic year, the average cost of a book purchased for the Coe library was \$34.98—totalling \$124,353 for 3,555 books.

This means that the \$25 asked by the Coe Library Association for each book designated by a donor must also rise. One book will now cost \$35, two books \$70, and so on up the scale.

Videotape and compact disk materials are costing more too, even when purchased at reduced library prices. Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services, says the average price of a videotape last year was \$42.14. The average compact disk was \$16.59.

The Coe College Library Association hasn't changed the suggested book contribution levels for membership since 1988, when the association was formed. Prices are necessitating it now.

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Book processing tracked at the click of a mouse

The Horizon computer system installed last August continues to be extended to new areas of the library's operations.

The acquisitions module of the Horizon system now allows the staff to track titles from the time they are ordered to the time they are placed on the shelves. "The system has been programmed to indicate when a title has been ordered, when it has been received, when it is in process here, and when it's shelved," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services.

The serials check-in module now monitors the scheduled arrival of every magazine, newspaper, and scholarly journal to which the library subscribes. If a periodical does not arrive on schedule, the computer program issues a claim notice that can be sent out to the publisher.

A schedule for volume binding is also in the Horizon system's memory, alerting the library staff at the time each periodical is due to be bound.

Endowment gifts bring library funds to new highs

"We've had tremendous growth in endowment gifts for the library," says Richard Doyle, director of Coe's library and computer services. He adds, "We would not have attained the present quality and currency of our collection without this endowment."

In the past 10 years, beginning just before construction on the remodeled and expanded Stewart Memorial Library, endowment gifts have totaled \$1,220,301. These funds produced \$65,964 in income last year for use in support of the library, more than doubling the \$50,000 institutional budget designated for acquisitions.

On top of this, memberships in the Coe College Library Association brought in \$45,611 last year for use in purchasing books.

"Having these resources available packs quite a punch," notes Doyle. "It allows us to purchase the books requested by faculty, to select other recommended titles for our aca-

demic collection, and to maintain our periodical subscriptions—even in the face of their dramatically increased prices."

Doyle thinks back to his early years at Coe, recalling when the budget funds for book acquisitions ran out in November of the fiscal year ending June 30.

This year brings an \$8,285 added boost from the Iowa College Foundation.

Thanks to gifts from the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, the Carver Trust, and the Maytag Family Foundation, every three dollars Coe and the other Iowa colleges raise in support of the library will be matched with a dollar from a challenge gift.

To get its share of this gift, Coe needs to raise \$24,857 before June 30. This will result in \$33,142 for support of the library and its programs in 1996-97.

New faculty and alumni work added to collection

Alumna Barbara Scot's critically acclaimed family memoir *Prairie Reunion* is among the 21 new titles added to Coe's faculty and alumni collection in the past year. Noted in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Time* magazine, Scot's book refers not only to her own Coe graduation in 1963, but her mother, Kathleen Hughes Norris, who graduated from Coe in 1928, is a key figure. The story is a quest for a mysterious, courageous, and tragic family history that encompasses much that readers can identify with in their own lives.

My Father Becomes the Wind, a new volume of poetry by Whipple Professor of English Robert Drexler, is another addition, as is McCabe Professor of Religion David Hay's new book, *Pauline Theology: Volume III: Romans*. A delightful book of quilt designs and poetry, *Words & Quilts*, includes "Mother's Postage Stamp Quilt," a poem by Coe's Writer-in-Residence Ann Struthers. Rounding out the faculty works is Professor of Sociology

William Flanagan's 1995 book, *Urban Sociology: Images and Structure*. The chapter "Explaining Deadlock" by Assistant Professor of Political Science Bruce Nesmith is included in the 1994 book *New Perspectives on American Politics*.

Three new CDs have Coe faculty connections as well. Music instructors Jan Boland and John Dowdall perform in *Home Sweet Home: Parlor Music From the Civil War Era*, and Professor Jerry Owen's compositions are performed by two faculty and an alumna in *Intimate Dances*.

Two other alumni pieces of note are Jay Craven's autobiography *A Well Worn Path* concerning his life in the forestry service, Terris Grimes' mystery novel *Somebody Else's Child* featuring a female African-American protagonist, and Dr. Mark Johnson's student interview with Ishmael Reed, which first appeared the 1974 issue of *Mwendo*.

The complete listing of new titles in the archives' collection is listed on the next page.

Wherever possible, a second copy of each work is shelved in the general collection for circulation outside the library.

Boland, Janice Dockendorf, and John Dowdall. *Home Sweet Home: Parlor Music From the Civil War Era*. Port Washington, NY: Koch International Classics, 1995. [Boland, instructor in music (flute)] [Dowdall, instructor in music (guitar)]

Burgdorf, Doris. *Country Mile*. South Windsor Historical Society, 1995. [Burgdorf, Coe '52]

Cravens, Jay H. *A Well-Worn Path*. Huntington, WV: University Editions, 1994. [Cravens, Coe '46]

Delong, Marilyn Fuller. *Medical Acronyms, Eponyms & Abbreviations*. Los Angeles, CA: Practice Management Information Corporation, 1994. [Fuller, Coe '75]

Drexler, Robert Daniel. *My Father Becomes The Wind*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Coe Review Press, 1995. [Drexler, Professor of English]

Flanagan, William G. *Urban Sociology: Images and Structure*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 1995. [Flanagan, Professor of Sociology]

Gaga [Mark S. Johnson]. "Interview with Ishmael Reed." *Conversations with Ishmael Reed*. Ed. Bruce Dick and Amritjit Singh. Jackson, MI: University of Mississippi Press, 1995. 51-58. [Johnson, Coe '74]

Gregor, William. *Interlang: Hidden Horizon*. Norwest Publishers, 1995. [Gregor, Coe '48]

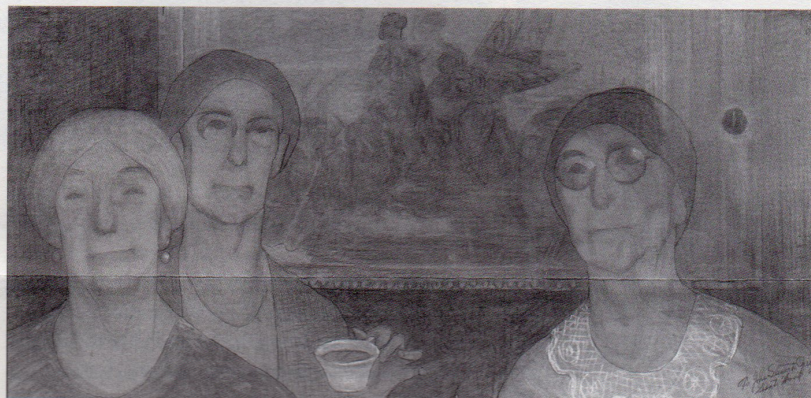
Grimes, Terris McMahan. *Somebody Else's Child*. New York, NY: Penguin Group, 1996. [McMahan, Coe '71]

Hay, David M. *Pauline Theology: Volume II: 1 & 2 Corinthians*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993. [Hay, Professor of Religion, Coe '58]

Hay, David M. *Pauline Theology: Volume III: Romans*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995. [Hay, Professor of Religion, Coe '58]

Kane, Carl. *101 Best of Write Right: Selected From Columns Published in the Phoenix Gazette*. Carl Kane, 1985. [Kane, Coe '40 and former instructor in journalism]

"Daughters of Revolution" sketch on tour in Iowa



Keeley, Stuart M. *Asking the Right Questions in Abnormal Psychology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1995. [Keeley, Coe '63]

Stuart M. Keeley/Browne, M. Neil. *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1994. [Keeley, Coe '63]

Nesmith, Bruce. "Explaining Deadlock." *New Perspectives on American Politics*. Ed. Lawrence C. Dodd and Calvin Jillson. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 1994. 191-211. [Nesmith, Professor of Political Science]

Orosz, Susan E, Philip K. Ensley, Carol J. Haynes. *Avian Surgical Anatomy: Thoracic and Pelvic Limbs*. Philadelphia, PA: W.B. Saunders, 1992. [Ensley, Coe '65]

Owen, Jerry. *Intimate Dances*. Baton Rouge, LA: Centaur Records, 1995. (Compact disc) [Professor of Music]

Schwan, Carlton Frederick. *World War II Remembered: History In Your Hands, a Numismatic Study*. Portage, OH: BNR Press, 1994. [Feller, Professor of Physics '79]

Scot, Barbara J. *Prairie Reunion*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1995. [Scot, Coe '63]

Struthers, Ann. "Mother's Postage Stamp Quilt." *Words & Quilts*. Ed. Felicia Mitchell. Chicago, IL: NTC Publishing Group, 1996. 60. [Struthers, Visiting Associate Professor of English]

Grant Wood's pencil and charcoal study for his familiar "Daughters of Revolution" painting will be missing from its second floor location in Coe's library from March 23 though September 8. The sketch has been lent to the Davenport (IA) Museum of Art for a retrospective exhibition of Grant Wood's work. Wood's painting, on loan from the Cincinnati Art Museum, will hang next to the pencil and charcoal study from Coe's Permanent Collection.

"American Gothic," Wood's most famous painting, has been lent by the Chicago Institute of Art for the Davenport exhibit as well.

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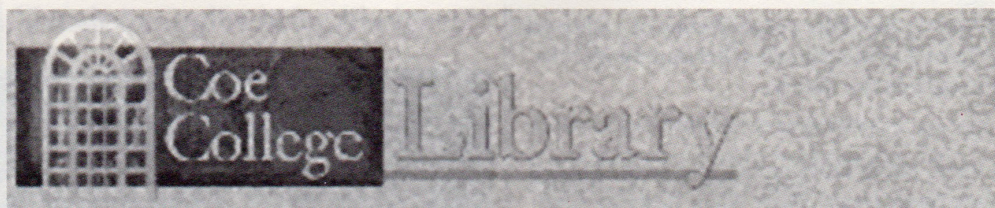
Students donate funds for audiovisual library

In an effort to cut down on trips to video rental stores, Coe's Student Senate has purchased \$900 worth of videotapes for the library's audiovisual department.

"It offers students a free, convenient, popular form of weekend entertainment," says Cedra Williamson, head of the AV department. She adds that Coe's total collection of videotape titles numbers 1,526, the majority of which are classic and specially requested films for class purposes.

Two groups of student senators selected the 63 titles of popular films they wanted added to the Coe collection for use in lighter moments.

Among the choices were "Hunt for Red October," "The Mask," "The Shawshank Redemption," "Philadelphia," and Disney's "The Lion King" and "Aladdin."



Library's homepage zeros in on information

Now that computer users in every building and every residence hall room on campus are plugged into the Internet or the World Wide Web, how does one discover all that's "out there"? Learning about the vast resources available is made simpler with the Coe library's "homepage."

"It provides access points to information on the 'Web,'" says Reference Librarian Betty Rogers. She developed the computer page (or menu of information sites) this past summer, with help from students Vicki Pingel '95 and Sarah Atencio '99, as well as faculty and staff colleagues Dave Shafer, Peter Thompson, and Harlene Hansen. Access points on the home page link the user to a host of directories, federal and municipal sites, and international repositories of information.

"We created the library's homepage as a service to the Coe community. We selected useful sites—identified by names such as "Good Lists" or "Interesting Sites"—and made it possible for users to open up these directories with the click of a computer mouse," explains Rogers.

Some faculty members are requiring their students to use these Internet resources in their coursework to help them learn ways to access the network of networks. "The annual State Department report on the status of human rights in all countries was more up to date than the published volume for my Introduction to Politics students," says Prof. Fred Willhoite. He adds that his students found they could retrieve more specific information, too, such as a publication by a watchdog group in Guatemala.

Biology Prof. Floyd Sandford's students used the library home page site "Search the Web" to select "Biology," followed by "Fish

and other Aquatic Animals," to continue to "Cichlid Information" or "Whalenet" or another specialized site of information on specific fish.

In Assistant Professor of Religion Elizabeth Galbraith's class in "Culture and Revolution," students are scanning biographies of such individuals as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Frederick Douglass, and Martin Luther King, Jr. They are determining how gender roles and race relations tied into American revolutions and movements.

"The Internet has become an important tool for democratic exchange of ideas across the world," says Associate Professor of Teacher Education Roger Johanson. His seminar in "Democratic Principles" for social studies teachers monitored this international exchange as an important sub-theme of the class.

Political Science Assistant Professor Bruce Nesmith assigned his students to follow the activities of specific members of Congress or presidential candidates through Internet channels. "Hypertext means that students can jump quickly from one reference to another, scanning documents very quickly to see if they are useful. The speed with which documents can be posted and read, and the volume of documents to be found on the Internet, means that the potential for finding sources for a paper could be multiplied even beyond our handsome collection," says Nesmith. "The biggest problem right now is that most students see the Internet as a foreign country for which they have no passports or vaccinations..."

Homepages like that developed by Coe's library help students and other users find signposts directing them on this information-seeking journey.