

# The Bibliophile



Spring, 1999

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

## Henry Archives Project Nearing Completion

The future home of the 50-year collection of Coe College negatives and images created by alumnus photographer George Henry (Coe '49) is nearing completion. Remodeling work in the vault in the George T. Henry College Archives is almost complete, and work is underway in the larger reading room.

"We're hoping to have most everything finished in time for George's 50th Coe class reunion June 11-12," says Technical Services Director Randall Roeder.

A quarter mile of high-density, compact shelving—mounted on six moving nine-foot carriages—has been installed in the vault inside the archives in the lower level of the library. "You just push a button, and the shelves move to open an aisle for you to access the shelf of information—or, in time, negatives—that you've selected," explains Roeder. "It's really high tech." The vault's two windows have been eliminated to seal out sunlight, and a vapor barrier prevents humidity from creeping in. The temperature is being maintained at 62 degrees, with the relative humidity at 35%. All that remains to be installed in the vault is an alarm system to report whenever temperature and humidity parameters have been exceeded.

"George's negatives and all the other archival materials will be kept dry, cool, and away from the light, as historic items have been preserved for centuries," says Roeder.

Meanwhile, George Henry has finished printing proof sheets of five decades of his Coe images, placing them all in protective pages in

25 large three-ring binders. These binders will ultimately be the resource from which researchers will select the photo they want to have scanned or printed from the negatives stored in the vault. Library student workers have also been at work sorting thousands of Henry's printed photographs and inserting them into Mylar™ sleeves for storage.

A high-resolution transparency scanner will be placed in the photo research area of the archives reading room, along with a light box and network computer. New carpeting, fresh paint, window shades, and some new furniture will complete the new look, and a cozy corner at the far end of the archives reading space will include two overstuffed chairs, a lamp, and a side table for more relaxed reading.

"When this is finished," says Roeder, "it will be a state-of-the-art research facility, allowing access to George Henry's incredibly valuable Coe photo images for years to come. We are indeed blessed."

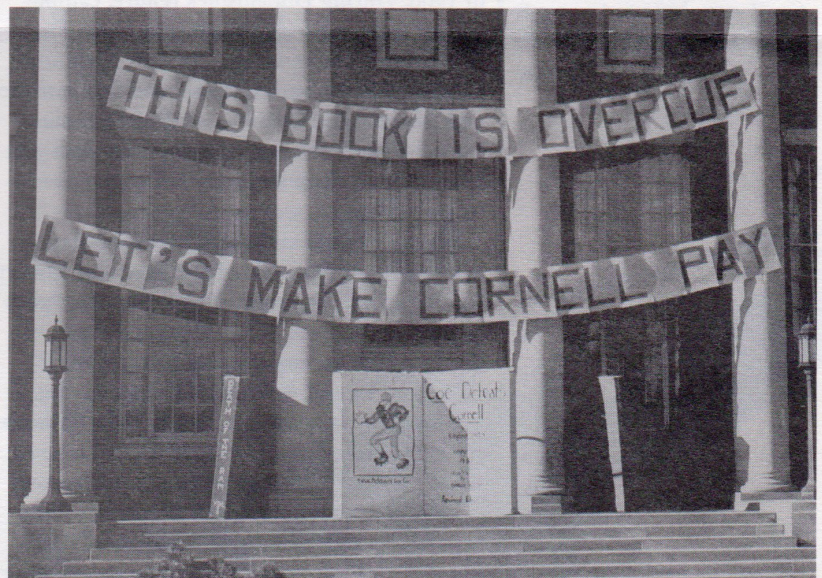


Installers wired each set of shelving with electronic control panels operated with a touch of a button.

The loaded shelves will move aside to open aisles for convenient access to the set of shelves the user desires.

A 1951 George Henry photo shows a Coe-Cornell game slogan in front of the library, when B Avenue still cut across the campus with steady traffic.

This photo will be among thousands referenced in volumes of negatives to be stored in the library's new George T. Henry College Archives, funded through a \$233,000 gift from George Henry (Coe '49) and his wife, Kay. (See Fall 1998 Bibliophile.)





# Bibliophile

## Gallery Director Donaldson retires after 30 years



*Shirley Donaldson receives congratulations from Coe President James Phifer at her retirement party in the library's Perrine Gallery.*

Even before her Coe graduation in art in 1969, Shirley Donaldson was at work hanging art works in Sinclair galleries as Coe's new gallery director.

"Actually, I was called 'exhibition director' then," she laughs, "but I changed that title as soon as I could."

That first show was an exhibit of the work of graduating seniors,

but Donaldson didn't include her own oil paintings in the show. "I didn't want to deal with them too," she says, noting that her focus at that time was on how the exhibit would look overall.

Before Donaldson's appointment, Marvin Cone and Bob Kocher, as successive chairs of the art department, had done all the organizing and hanging of work displayed in Coe's galleries. The task grew, however, with the galleries in Sinclair Auditorium being added in the 1950s and Gage Memorial Union opening up in 1966. During Donaldson's tenure, campus gallery space expanded to include Dows Fine Arts Center, the renovated Stewart Memorial Library, Clark Alumni House, and this year the new Nassif Admission House. Refreshments for the 10 exhibit opening receptions each year have also been handled—and often prepared—by Donaldson.

Speaking at her retirement party in May, Marvin Cone Professor of Art Emeritus Robert Kocher said his hiring of Donaldson was "pure genius" on his part. "One afternoon I was showing Shirley how to hang pictures for a show, and when I returned the next day she had completely redone it. I knew then I'd made the right choice."

Donaldson now hangs most of the art in every building on campus, including faculty and department offices, using works from Coe's Permanent Collection. Assisted by several art

students, she also unpacks and repacks traveling shows coming from other galleries or private collections for exhibit in the Marvin Cone and Eaton-Buchan Galleries in Sinclair Auditorium.

"Third Grade Clay is always the biggest show in terms of numbers of pieces," says Donaldson of the annual exhibit of ceramic works done by all the third grade school children in Cedar Rapids. "It's probably the most fun too," she says. "It's great to see the kids and their excitement at having their work displayed." Yet she recalls, "We had an awful lot of fun at one of Bob Kocher's shows too. Visitors had to wade through a sea of balloons that filled the gallery."

She reflects, "I've met lots of interesting artists. I remember particularly Judy Chicago. We covered all the walls in the gallery so she could write on them. And there was a group of women artists—Artemesia, I think they were called—who exhibited their work together. One of them eventually joined the staff at University of Iowa Hospitals, and we got together a few times."

Donaldson came to Coe originally as a non-traditional transfer student with a two-year teaching certificate from the University of Northern Iowa. She had taught kindergarten, first and second grade, and began taking occasional classes at Coe to renew her teaching certificate. "I didn't decide on art until later," Donaldson says. "My final year was really busy," she adds with a chuckle. "I was finishing my degree, starting my new job in the art department that spring, and I had two pre-schoolers of my own at home."

In retirement Donaldson will have more time to see her grandchildren—the children of those 1969 pre-schoolers. She and her husband, Bob, will also do some traveling.

And Ginny Northcott, a 1997 art graduate of Coe and an independent artist, has been working with Donaldson already to begin taking over the many-faceted job Donaldson has developed over 30 years—displaying art to the Coe community and to all campus visitors every time they enter a building.



## Portrait of Winnifred Cone among latest additions to Marvin Cone Collection



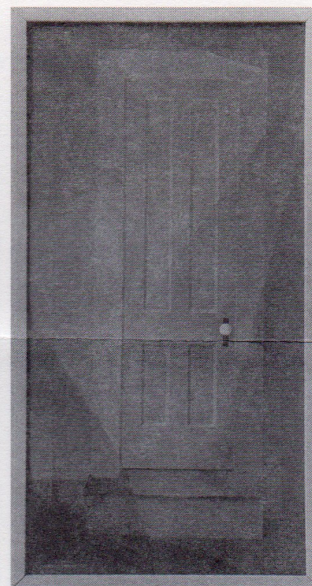
*"Winnifred Cone," an early portrait Marvin Cone painted of his wife, is one of the recent additions to the Winnifred Swift Cone Gallery from the Cone Family Trust.*

"Winnifred Cone," a portrait painted by her artist husband early in his career, is among several new pieces which recently came to the Coe College Permanent Collection of Art from the Cone Family Trust. The painting is in oil and will hang in the Winnifred Swift Cone Gallery at the entrance of Stewart Memorial Library.

Other Cone paintings in the newly acquired group are "Night Shapes," "Golden Web," and "Pattern in Gray and Gold." In addition, one pastel work and eight pencil drawings—including the study for "Golden Web"—are in the group.

"These are significant gifts from the Cone Foundation that will fill developmental and thematic gaps in our collection of Marvin's full range of work," says Robert Kocher, Coe's Marvin Cone Professor of Art Emeritus and the curator of Coe's galleries.

Winnifred Cone died in 1997 at age 98; Marvin died in 1965. Their daughter, Doris Cone Weeks (Coe '45), her husband, Reginald, and their children—Winnifred "Freddy" (Coe '70), Stephen, Sheila, and Peter—established the Cone Family Trust several years ago.



## 'Shadowed Door' an Engle gift

"Shadowed Door," a 32 x 15 oil painting by Marvin Cone, has been given to the Coe College Art Collection by Hualing Nieh Engle (Coe HD '82), widow of poet Paul Engle (Coe '31). This brings the number of Marvin Cone works in Coe's collection to over 60.

## Campus computer power keeps growing

Gearing up for the year 2000 has led to extra activity in the Computer Services Department of the library. Essential upgrades are needed on nearly half of the 500 Coe computers on campus.

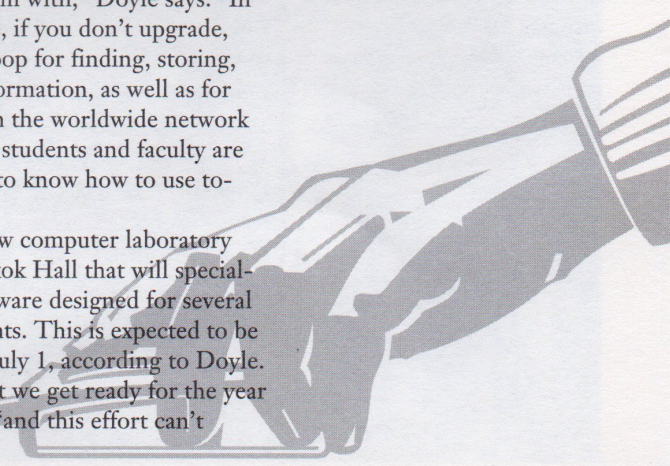
"We have an effort underway to replace all the college-owned 486 PCs and earlier Macintosh microcomputers with faster, more powerful (and year-2000-compliant) Pentium II or G3 machines," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services. He adds that 110 computers in library workstations and faculty and staff offices have been replaced, with another 100 computers scheduled to be replaced over the summer.

"Some of the machines we've replaced were five and a half years old—two generations

slower and less powerful than the machines we are replacing them with," Doyle says. "In this information age, if you don't upgrade, you are out of the loop for finding, storing, and transferring information, as well as for communicating with the worldwide network of resources college students and faculty are expected to be able to know how to use today."

There is also a new computer laboratory being set up in Hickok Hall that will specialize in statistical software designed for several academic departments. This is expected to be up and running by July 1, according to Doyle.

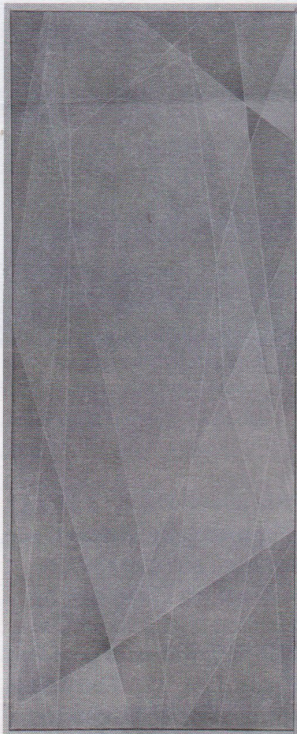
"It is essential that we get ready for the year 2000," he explains, "and this effort can't wait."





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## New alumni and faculty books both philosophical and practical



"Night Shapes"  
is another Marvin Cone work  
from the family trust. The  
painting is now on view in the  
Cone gallery at the library  
entrance.

In the past year's additions to the Alumni Collection of the archives, Coe's alumni authors cover topics ranging from David Ransel's *Imperial Russia: New Histories for the Empire* and Shelby Steele's *A Dream Deferred: The Second Betrayal of Black Freedom in America* to Ted Miller's *Kiplinger's Practical Guide to Your Money* and Vivian Buchan's *Making Presentations With Confidence*. Two new suspense novels by Ed Gorman are included as well.

Faculty offerings range from the methods of playing the historic one-keyed flute to the images and structure of city living and the edited short pieces by rediscovered New England author Sarah Orne Jewett.

Second copies of most of these recent acquisitions are also out on the general circulation shelves for easy access. Check these out for your summer reading:

**Boland, Janice Dockendorff.** *Method for the One-Keyed Flute: Baroque and Classical*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1998. [Boland, Instructor in Music.]

**Buchan, Vivian.** *Making Presentations with Confidence*. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series, 1997. [Eaton Buchan, Coe '33.]  
**Burbank, Jane, and Ransel, David L.,** editors and contributors to *Imperial Russia: New Histories for the Empire*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1998. [Ransel, Coe '61.]

**David, Paul.** *Evolutions*. St. Paul, MN: Lovecoo Records, 1997. [Paul David Stanko, Coe '88]

**Flanagan, William G.,** *Urban Sociology: Images and Structure*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 1999. [Flanagan, Stead Professor of Sociology.]

**Gorman, Edward.** *Cat Crimes Through Time*. New York, NY: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1999. [Gorman, Coe '68.]

———. *The Day the Music Died*. New York, NY: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1999.

———. "Out There in the Darkness," pp. 39-89 in *The Horror Writers Association Presents Robert Bloch's Psychos*. New York, NY: Pocket Books, 1998.

**Hausknecht, Gina,** contributor. pp. 21-42, "Self-Possession, Dolls, Beatlemania, Loss: Telling a Girl's Own Story," in Ruth Saxton's *The Girl: Constructions of the Girl in Contemporary Fiction by Women*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1998. [Hausknecht, Assistant Professor of English.]

**Heller, Terry,** editor and annotator of Sarah Orne Jewett's *The King of Folly Island and Other People*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Coe Review Press, 1998. [Heller, Hall Professor of English.]

———. *Tales of New England*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Coe Review Press, 1997.

**Matiegka, Wenzel,** composer. **Jan Boland** (flute) and **John Dowdall** (guitar), performers. *Czech Chamber Music: For Flute, Viola and Guitar on Period Instruments*. Buffalo, NY: Fleur de Son Classics, 1998. [Boland and Dowdall, Coe Instructors in Music.]

**Neher, E.C.,** translator from the French of Remy Lestienne's *The Creative Power of Chance*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1998. [Neher, Coe '73.]

**Miller, Theodore J.,** *Kiplinger's Practical Guide to Your Money*. Washington, D.C.: Kiplinger Books, 1998. [Miller, Coe '66.]

**Steele, Shelby.** *A Dream Deferred: The Second Betrayal of Black Freedom in America*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1998. [Steele, Coe '68.]

**Zavoral, Nolan.** *A Season on the Mat: Dan Gable and the Pursuit of Perfection*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1998. [Zavoral, Coe '65.]