

The Bibliophile



Spring, 2000

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Harrises bring valuable resource to Coe in memory of Vernon Smith '50

Cedar Rapids physician Percy Harris and his wife, Lileah, have enabled Coe to add a valuable book to the library's collection. The book will also memorialize the Harrises' long-time friend, Vernon Smith (Coe '50), who had co-founded the Cedar Rapids Negro Civic Organization (CRNCO) with Percy Harris in the 1950s.

When Smith died last October, Percy Harris became the only surviving CRNCO member and discovered that the organization still had \$400 in its bank account. "We used to meet at Coe at the end of each school year and award scholarships to deserving students going on to college," he recalls. He thought of an important book of African-American history that could be purchased with this money as a fitting memorial to Smith.

Thomas Truxton Moebs' book, *Black Soldiers—Black Sailors—Black Ink: research guide on African-Americans in U.S. military history, 1526-1900*, was published in 1994. Containing a formidable 1,654 pages, the book today costs \$500. Dr. Harris had been unable to locate a copy when he tried doing so a few years ago through the library of the hospital where he worked at the time. Since Smith had been the one who first told Harris about the book, Harris thought he should try again to find a copy now and add \$100 to the CRNCO treasury total to purchase it for Coe's library in Smith's memory.

Enter Cheri Pettibone, library acquisitions assistant, who went to the BiblioFind website on the Internet to search for copies of the book anywhere in the country. "We were able to locate and purchase a copy from the Hamilton Book Store in Williamsburg, Virginia," says Pettibone. "Not only that, but Thomas Moebs (the author) happens to be a close personal friend of the bookseller, and he (Moebs) was thrilled to hear the story of who wanted his book."



Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris look through the book of African-American military history that they and the former Cedar Rapids Negro Civic Organization have purchased for Coe's library as a memorial to Vernon Smith (Coe '50).

This monumental research book of African-American history arrived in flawless condition and is now available on the Stewart Library shelves.

Vernon Smith (Coe '50) was an esteemed chemist who served in the Army Quartermaster Corps during World War II, prior to his coming to Coe. Just weeks after receiving his master's degree in chemistry from the University of Iowa, he was stricken with polio and spent most of his life in a wheelchair. Smith, who died last fall at age 73, went on to serve 35 years as a biochemist and toxicologist in the special chemistry department of St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. Not only did he co-found the CRNCO with Harris, but he also worked in civil rights, co-chaired hospital fund drives, directed sickle cell screening programs, judged area science fairs, and advocated for children and for the handicapped. Smith was named Handicapped Iowan of the Year in 1970 and received Coe's Alumni Award of Merit in 1975.

Reserve readings go electronic

Remember hanging out in the library reading room, waiting for a classmate to finish the reserve reading selection so you could get your chance before class?

With the Spring Term introduction of electronic reserved reading at Coe, that waiting game will soon be a thing of the past. "We can now get these articles scanned into the computer while they are being photocopied," says Head Circulation Librarian Sandy Blanchard. "They can go up on our webpage without further editing, thanks to a new, fairly expensive software package called Adobe Capture. Students then may either read the selections on the screen or print them off in a paper copy." She notes that the network on which these readings will be posted is a closed system—accessible only to the campus community—as it must be for copyright purposes.

"This is a very positive step forward," says Blanchard. "It will make everybody's life easier—students and faculty."

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History predominates in new alumni and faculty titles

The newest additions to the Alumni Collection of the archives have a historical bent. Beginning with the 1999 compact disk that instructors Jan Boland and John Dowdall produced using historical musical instruments from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the list concludes with the World War II experiences of Class of 1944 members dubbed the "Coe 22." A first edition of Prof. Alma Turecek's transcriptions and translations of Czech and Slovak folksongs is there, as is Elinor Day's history of Cedar Rapidian Howard Hall and Robert Dana's edited collection of essays about Paul Engle and the Writer's Workshop by some of the most famous alumni of that pioneering writing program.

The full list is included below. You might want to check some of these out.

Boland, Janice Dockendorff; John Dowdall. *Crystal to gold: precious flutes and guitars from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.* Buffalo, NY: Fleur de Son Classics, 1999. (Jan Boland, instructor in music; John Dowdall, former instructor in music.)

Day, Elinor. *Call me Howard: the story of the Hall-Perrine Foundation.* Cedar Rapids, IA: Hall-Perrine Foundation, 1998. (Elinor Kanaske Day, Coe '49)

Dana, Robert. *A Community of Writers: Paul Engle and the Iowa Writer's Workshop.* Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 1999. (Paul Engle, Coe '31)

Skandera-Trombley, Laura E. Critical Essays on Maxine Hong Kingston. New York, G.K. Hall; London: Prentice Hall International, 1998. (Laura Skandera-Trombley, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty)

Frese, Everett. *Life in the Spirit: A Para-Liturgy in Song, Word, Dance.* S.l.: s.n., between 1964 and 1998. Score. (Everett Frese, Coe '47)

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Latest Shirer papers give personal look at contemporary authors

As she goes through the newest shipment of author-journalist William L. Shirer's papers, junior Erin Gallagher is learning about the World War II era that had previously been in the dim past for her. She's also learned about the real lives of other 20th Century authors and about such things as the major rift between 1925 Coe graduate Shirer and his former colleague Edward R. Murrow.

Gallagher, who is an English major from New Orleans, spent summer 1999 and much of this past spring unpacking and organizing Shirer's papers from 30 recently-arrived boxes in the Technical Services Department of the Coe library.

"I love seeing all the old newspapers he saved," Gallagher says. "We also have the letters Shirer received—hate mail, really—during the breakup with Murrow and the accusations that he (Shirer) was a Communist. The biggest chunk of (this newest installment of) the collection is correspondence." She adds that she spent two months at her library work-study job just pulling letters from the boxes and putting them in archival boxes by decade. "Eventually we'll have them in chronological order,"



Junior Erin Gallagher looks through the newspaper clippings and letters in one of the files of Shirer papers.

Gallagher explains.

Among the authors with whom Shirer carried on a correspondence were Thomas Mann and Archibald MacLeish. Younger authors like John Berendt also wrote occasional notes to Shirer. "I don't think he ever threw away anything," says Gallagher.

Randy Roeder, head of the library's technical services department, notes that this shipment of Shirer papers came from his family, following the recent publication of *This is Berlin*, the transcripts of radio broadcasts Shirer made from Berlin as war in Europe was raging.

He adds that Gallagher is the perfect student for the task of organizing these papers. "She's very perceptive, very thorough, and I'm delighted to have her on that project."

Gallagher is getting an understanding of the Shirer's reputation, too. She says, "I was on the Newberry Library Semester in Chicago (a one-term study program sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest) last fall, and when we met in the home of one of the scholars in the program, I saw a couple of Shirer's books on a shelf in his library."



The Shirer papers, temporarily labeled with sticky notes, fill many shelves of the archives vault.

New group study room to be named for Paul Engle '31

Planning is underway to create a new Paul Engle Conference Room that will offer more space for student study groups and also memorialize the internationally-known poet and educator who graduated from Coe in 1931.

"We never anticipated the popularity of the group study rooms when we included them in the new building," says Randall Roeder, head of the library's technical services, "and now we need larger group study spaces." He explains that the five current study rooms are designed for groups of four students, but classroom groups planning joint projects or presentations are often larger. "We have a real demand for spaces for groups of 8 to 10, to give a modicum of privacy and to allow people to discuss things aloud."

A room of this kind is also a fitting way to honor one of Coe's most famous alumni, who developed the famed Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa and who, with his wife

Hualing Nieh Engle, co-founded the International Writing Program there as well. Libraries, scholarly discourse, and dialogue among writers were all dear to Engle's heart.

Roeder notes, "In 1981 when Paul Engle wrote the poem *Library* in honor of the 50th reunion of his graduating class, he inscribed it this way: 'Written for the Coe College Library—With Great Affection.'"

In addition to chairs and a table for group discussions, the new room will have a display case showing some of Engle's papers and personal effects. The room will be created by taking out a wall between an existing small study room and a research area for independent honors students. (The small study room, Roeder says, will be replaced elsewhere in the library).

Funding for the Engle Conference Room is not yet complete. Gifts are still being received through Coe's Advancement Office.



The small study room at the left and the research spaces at the right will be combined to make the new Paul Engle Conference Room for larger study and planning discussions.

Alumni and Faculty Titles—continued

Barton-Kriese, Paul. Contributor, p. 195-204. *Indiana Politics and Public Policy*. Needham Heights, MA: Simon & Schuster, 1999. (Paul Barton-Kriese, Coe '67)

Kinney, Ruth Ellen. *Using Public Relations Strategies to Promote Your Nonprofit Organization*. New York: Haworth Press, 1999. (Ruth Kinney, Coe '77)

Knaus, John Kenneth. *Orphans of the Cold War: America and the Tibetan Struggle for Survival*. New York: Public Affairs, 1999. (John Knaus, Coe '45)

Krumboltz, John D. *Learning and the Educational Process: selected papers from the Research Conference on Learning and the Educational Process, held at Stanford University, June 22-July 31, 1964*. Chicago, Rand McNally, 1965. (John Krumboltz, Coe '50)

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

Opperman, Mark. *The Art of Veterinary Practice Management*. Lenexa, KS: Veterinary Medicine Publishing Group, 1999. (Mark Opperman, Coe '76)

Oxley, Marvin. *The History of Marion, Iowa: 1838 – 1927*. Marion, IA: Marion Independent School District, 1995. (Marvin Oxley, Coe '03)

Nesmith, Bruce. Contributor. *Presidential Policymaking: an end-of-century assessment*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1999. (Bruce Nesmith, professor of political science)

Shirer, William L. *This is Berlin: radio broadcasts from Nazi Germany*. Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1999. (William L. Shirer, Coe '25)

Stone, Larry A. *Listen to the Land: selections from 25 years of naturalist writing in the Des Moines Register*. Parkersburg, IA: Mid-Prairie Books, 1999. (Larry Stone, Coe '68)

Whither little path and other authentic folk songs from the Czech and Slovak Republics. Arranged and translated by **Alma A. Turechek**; edited by **Margie Vathauer Marrs** and **Tricia Ostermann**. Cedar Rapids, IA: Coe Review Press, 1999. (Alma Turechek, Coe '25, professor of music emerita. Margie Marrs, Taylor Professor of Music; Tricia Ostermann, Coe '00)

World War II Experiences of the Coe '22. Cedar Rapids, IA: Alumni Office of Coe College, 1999. (22 profiled members of Coe Class of 1944)

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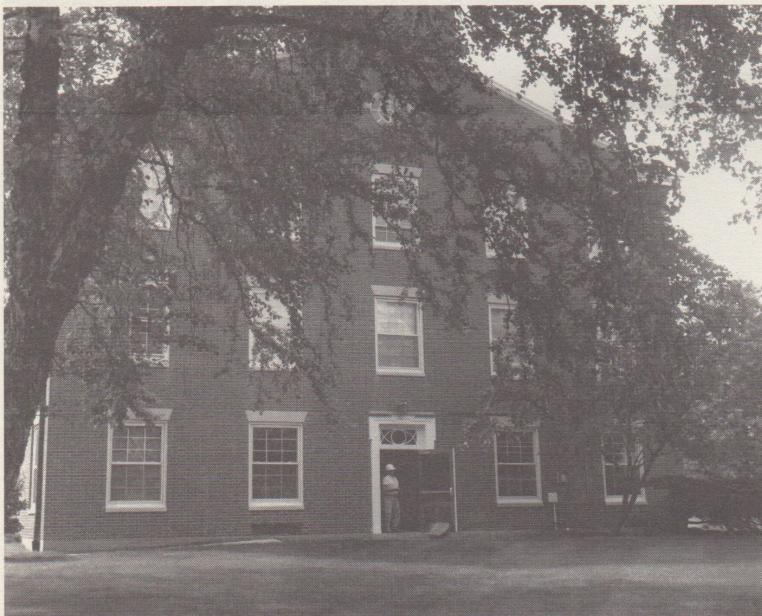
Renovated Kesler lecture hall to have high-tech audiovisuals

Although not physically located in the library, the new Eliza Hickok Kesler Lecture Hall (in what was formerly called Hickok Hall 105) will be closely tied to the library's audiovisual and computer services departments. The "brains" of this electronic state-of-the-art classroom will be contained in a free-standing lectern. It will replace the old projection booths, microphones, amplifiers, and computer and VCR carts with an electronic keyboard and all-in-one storage unit.

"One of our goals is to make this aesthetically pleasing and to eliminate the clutter in this room," says Cedra Williamson, director of audio visual services and consultant on the project. The large lecture hall is used each week during the academic year for the popular Thursday Forum lecture series, which draws community crowds that frequently overflow the existing room. She hastens to add, however, that the lecture hall is used for many traditional classes each week as well.

"We want this to be a versatile room that is useful for a variety of purposes," Williamson emphasizes.

Workmen carried out discarded materials from the sideoor of Hickok Hall, as the renovation project got underway after Commencement.



By the second day of work, nearly all the old classroom seats had been removed, except for the back row just in front of the old projection booth in the rear of the hall. Completion is expected by the start of classes in the fall.

Seats in the lecture hall are being replaced this summer with more streamlined models that include a table arm and cup holder. The existing 141 seats have been pulled out to make room for 156 new fixed seats and space for another 30 folding chairs—creating a maximum seating of 186. Since the projection booth that formerly stood in the back of the room is coming out, the back windows will be uncovered to add natural light to the room when the shades aren't needed. Walls, floors, and ceiling will also be resurfaced. A new data projector will handle videos, computer screens, digital movies (DVDs), and music CDs—all controlled from the lectern.

Cost of the "make over" of the lecture hall will be \$170,000, of which \$140,000 has been raised from a variety of sources, including many regular Thursday Forum attendees.

Roby Hickok Kesler, who was instrumental in getting the Thursday Forum series started at Coe in 1989 and is a regular participant, says that she is "thrilled to death" about the room renovation and the new audiovisual and electronic features. "It's nice, too, that it will still be in Hickok Hall," she adds, referring to the building named for her father, Professor Charles T. Hickok, who taught at Coe from 1905-1940.