

# The Bibliophile



Coe  
College

Spring, 2001

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

## McCabe Gives Cone's Final Painting to Coe

Marvin Cone was dying of a brain tumor, and tidying up the loose ends of his life, when he walked into Coe President Joseph McCabe's living room in 1965. He carried a painting, a study drawing and a request. He wanted McCabe to speak at his funeral – the artist had an inoperable brain tumor.

The painting was "Remembered Light," Cone's last work, and what some consider the great artist's interpretation of a luminescent life coming to an end. It was his gift to the McCabes.

For the next 35 years "Remembered Light" was the focal point of the Joe and Peggy McCabe living room and the treasured reminder of a great talent and a true friendship between Cone and McCabe. Last summer "Remembered Light" came to the Coe College Fine Arts Collection, a gift from Joe McCabe and a reminder of his generous spirit.

McCabe, Coe's president from 1958 to 1970, died April 9. The gift of his treasured painting was one of McCabe's many generous gestures for Coe. Among them, Joe and Peggy in 1997 gave back every penny he earned while at Coe: \$458,616.67.

"Peggy and I had stated in our will that the painting would come to Coe," McCabe said last summer. "And I was just realizing that very few people can see it in our home, where we enjoyed having it for 35 years. It was time that others had the chance to see it too."

The painting brings the number of Cone works in Coe's Permanent Collection of Art to 60, and provides a bookend to the range of the artist's work. One of Cone's early pieces of art, a biology class drawing done in 1912, is exhibited, along with "Remembered Light," his last painting in oil, accompanied by its pencil study.

"The sketch shows the subtle use of graphite that Marvin was so good at, and the painting shows a level of abstraction that goes beyond the planes of color he had been working on at the time," explained Robert Kocher, Coe's

Curator and Marvin Cone Professor of Art Emeritus.

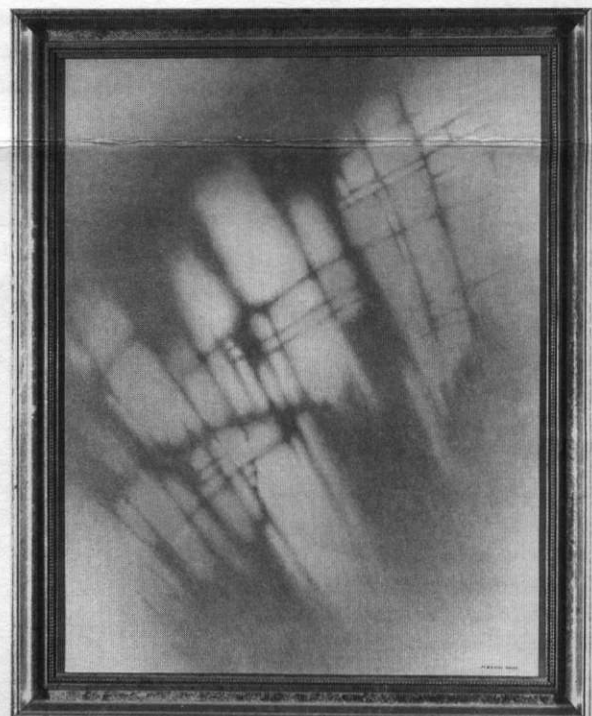
Cone graduated from Coe in 1914 with a major in French. He founded Coe's art department gradually, until he was teaching full-time in that area in 1934. In 1960 he retired and became artist-in-residence at Coe from 1960-1962. In 1965 he died of brain cancer.

"When I informed him (Cone) that he would receive full salary for those two years and that all the works he would paint during that period were of course his own possession, he was simply overwhelmed. I told him his only obligation was to come to the college once a year and tell me he really was working," McCabe recalled.

At the time of the donation McCabe remembered Cone as a "gentle soul." And McCabe recalled Eliot Nausbaum of the *Des Moines Register* once telling him when the painting was part of a touring exhibit in that city, that it was Cone's finest work. "He believed that, had Marvin lived, this work would have been the beginning of a whole new era in his work," McCabe said.

"Remembered Light" is open to interpretation. Cone's wife, Winnifred, who died in 1997 at the age of 98, once asked her husband if the light in the painting didn't suggest Chartres Cathedral. "It's not one place," Cone replied.

Kocher believes the title may also allude to the fact that Cone knew his life was ending.



*Remembered Light,  
believed by some to be  
Marvin Cone's finest piece,  
is now exhibited in the  
Winnifred S. Cone Gallery  
of the  
Stewart Memorial Library.*

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## Additions to the Alumni/Faculty Book and Music Collection

These books by Coe alumni and faculty have been added in the past year to the George T. Henry College Archives:

**Buchan, Vivian.** *Amerikajin wa kosbite purezen ni jisbin o tsukete iru = Barron's Business Success; Make Presentations with Confidence.* Tokyo: Surie Nettowaku, 2000.

**Cuninggim, Margaret Louise.** *Fifty Years in Alpha Lambda Delta.* N.p.: n.p., 1973.

**Demuth, Charles.** *Letters of Charles Demuth, American Artist, 1883—1935.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2000.

**Goodwin, David ed. and others.** *Turning Up the Leaves: A Sesquicentennial Miscellany of Coe College Alumni Writing.* Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Coe Review Press, 2000.

**Gorman, Edward.** *Voodoo Moon.* New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2000.

**Gracey, Douglas R.** *Flying Lessons, Ambulances, and Other Airforce Vignettes.* San Jose: Writers Club Press, 2000.

**Henry, George T.** *Coe College: A Sesquicentennial Look Through 50 Years of George Henry Photography.* Cedar Rapids, Iowa: WDG Communications, Inc., 2000.

**Moore, Roger Hart.** *A History and Genealogy of the Moore Family of Fayette County, Pennsylvania.* Conyngham, PA: R.H. Moore, 1997.

**Pitts, Lilla Belle.** *Singing and Rhyming.* Boston: Ginn, 1957.

**Pitts, Lilla Belle.** *Singing in Harmony.* Boston: Ginn, 1957.

## Library Teaches the Ease of Finding Information

By Ann Scholl Boyer

Libraries have always been in the business of helping people find information. But with the advent of computer technology, finding that information isn't always as easy as locating a book on a shelf.

At Coe's Stewart Memorial Library, that process has been getting a little easier.

Coe is one of the colleges in line to receive funding from the Mellon Foundation. The money will be used for "information literacy."



This photo of a window in Coe's Stewart Memorial Library, taken by fourth grader Jordan Narclý, appears on a poster of photos snapped by Pierce Elementary students. The poster, featuring some of the most beautiful windows in Linn County, is aptly titled, "Windows of Linn County." Free-lance photographer and teacher Bob Campagna, a guest teacher in Coe's MAT program, taught students at Pierce Elementary in Cedar Rapids the art of photography. The poster is the result of the project.

Coe's Betty Rogers explains that information literacy involves helping people locate, evaluate and use resources to find information, whether it be in a book or on the Internet.

"It's something libraries have been doing for a very long time," says Rogers, head of reference at Stewart Memorial Library.

Though most students have been exposed to computers since they were in grade school, that doesn't mean they are necessarily computer savvy when it comes to finding information. Rogers wants to help.

"We're developing materials. We're working with classes to help them understand where information comes from (and) how you can evaluate it," Rogers says.

Because of the funding from the Mellon Foundation, Rogers believes students will notice "a difference in the focus of our programs."

"We will be hoping to use technology to teach about information literacy. Focus on the education experiences they have in the library will possibly be different," she says. The funding "will give us an opportunity to expand our programming and work, hopefully, collaboratively with faculty on developing programming."

The library is continuing to expand its electronic resources. Rogers says it is important that the library continues to assist students who are using these resources.

"They do need assistance," she says, "just identifying appropriate resources to use. Many times they don't get to the right place to find appropriate information. And even knowing the difference between scholarly and popular articles — they don't understand where the information is coming from."

Being information savvy is important to students' futures, whether they plan on continuing their education or working in the business world.

While students might not always know how to find information, Rogers says they do like technology. "They do like to find things electronically," she says.



## Nosek's a True Bibliophile

By Ann Scholl Boyer

Joe Nosek knows books.

That's been good news for Coe College. Over the past decade, Nosek has donated money, matched by his employer, Quaker Oats, to Stewart Memorial Library. The money has been used to buy books. Nosek also has donated books himself.

"He's a true bibliophile," says Rich Doyle, director of library services. "He does collect and he knows the book market, especially the used book market. He's an avid reader, and he's dedicated to Coe College."

Nosek, who earned a biology degree from Coe in 1974, has lived in the Mound View neighborhood since 1975. He works as a lab technician in quality assurance at Quaker Oats, his employer since the fall after he graduated from Coe.

"It was really good," Nosek says of his college days. "I had a bunch of wonderful teachers and learned quite a bit from them."

Donating to Coe's library seemed a natural choice.

"I feel I got a good education from Coe, a liberal arts education. I benefited quite a bit from that. It's a small way to give something back. Books, they last a long time. Students can get a lot of use out of them."

Doyle says Nosek helped the library immensely by sharing a Web site called BiblioFind.com. Before discovering the site,

Doyle says the college worked with only a couple of out-of-print book jobbers.

"It took a long time to ever get anything fulfilled," he says. Because of the site, "we've turned our out-of-print book selection around," Doyle says. "We have an incredible hit rate. We've been able to fill in some gaps."

Thanks, he says, goes to Nosek.

Beyond the library, Nosek's fingerprints can be seen all over the Coe neighborhood. Nosek started the Mound View Neighborhood Association in 1992. He has served as president ever since.

Though Nosek hasn't been supportive of all development in his neighborhood, he did support Coe's expansion. Nosek says he appreciated the way Coe kept the neighborhood informed about its plans by holding meetings.

"It looked real good," Nosek says of the college's plans. "The neighborhood liked what they saw."

Most of the houses cleared out for the expansion were deteriorated anyway, Nosek says. "And we had some problems with crime in the area, which isn't good for us or Coe."

He feels Coe's expansion improved the neighborhood. "I see houses close to Coe, fixing them up a little more," he says.

The neighborhood association recently took a slice of Daniels Park, south of H Avenue, and turned it into an artists' memorial area. There, they have installed two stone memorials to artists Grant Wood and Marvin Cone. Recently, a stone bench was installed to honor Winnifred Cone, Marvin's late wife. Soon, geraniums will be planted, as well as white petunias near Winnifred's bench. The flowers were said to be her favorites.

*Continued on back page*

*Book and Music Additions—  
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**Pitts, Lilla Belle.** *Singing juniors, songs for youth.* Boston: Ginn, 1953.

**Pitts, Lilla Belle.** *Singing every day.* Boston: Ginn, 1957.

**Russell, Vera Evelyn Sanderson.** *Songtime 7, Music Edited by Vera Russell.* Toronto: Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada, 1966.

**Stokey, S. Donald.** *Explorations in Glass.* Westerville, Ohio: The American Ceramic Society, 2000.

**Thrane, Susan W.** *County Courthouses in Ohio.* Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2001.

Sound Recordings:

**Boland, Jan, John Dowdall, David Miller.** *Vintage Viennese: Matiegka & Beethoven — trios for flute, viola and guitar.* Buffalo, N.Y., 2000.

**Boland, Jan and John Dowdall.** *Crystal to Gold: Precious flutes and guitars from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.* Buffalo, N.Y., 1999.

**Jun, Rose Marie.** *Broadway First Take, Vol. 1.* New York, 2000.

**Jun, Rose Marie.** *Broadway First Take, Vol. 2.* New York, 2000.



Joe Nosek, a consistent donor to the Stewart Memorial Library, is pictured in Daniels Park, by two stone memorials to artists Grant Wood and Marvin Cone. Recently, a stone bench was installed to honor Winnifred Cone, Marvin's late wife. Nosek worked with the Mound View Neighborhood Association to create the artists' memorial area.

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Joe Nosek—  
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"I think it looks nice," Nosek says. "It's right when you come into the neighborhood. It gives pride to a lot of people."

Nosek learned about volunteerism from his father, the late Franklin Nosek. "My dad always helped other people. I'm kind of continuing what he was doing."

Nosek's father, who died two years ago, also worked at Quaker Oats. He used to give veterans rides to the hospital in Iowa City. He also helped the elderly "or anyone in need," Nosek recalls.

Nosek has a sister and two younger brothers. His sister Pamela Nosek is an active volunteer for the African-American Museum in Cedar Rapids.

## Park and Read

The **Gayle S. Whipple '33** Browsing area, a reading nook on the first floor of Stewart Memorial Library, already offers four comfy leather chairs for student readers wishing to park and peruse. Now the first floor will feature more bookworm-friendly space — two loveseat-sized leather couches. The furniture is in memory of Frank McDonald, a historically generous library donor, and **Doug Peters '81**, Coe's equipment manager and a loyal contributor to Coe.

Peters has previously donated a multi-volume encyclopedia to the library, giving \$25 a month out of his paycheck, which took two years to pay. This time he's donating \$50 a month for the next four years. Peters said he wanted to offer something especially practical for students. "I wanted to give something that would benefit the students. I didn't want something that would be a dust collector," said



*Doug Peters '81 is pictured on the leather couch he donated for a Stewart Memorial Library reading area.*

Peters, whose personal motto is, "I do everything for the students. I don't care about myself!"

The new furniture initiated further spruce-ups of the popular area. Four of **George Henry's '49** photos from his recent Coe exhibit were installed in the Whipple Browsing Area. And additional lighting and fresh paint also brightened up the area, which is on the main level of the library, just past the Winnifred S. Cone Gallery.



*Coe's Sesquicentennial celebration is marked with these colorful banners on the front of The Stewart Memorial Library.*