



The Bibliophile



Spring 2003

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

New faculty in history department emphasize importance of research

Assistant Professors of History David Nordmann '87 and Derek Buckaloo joined the Coe faculty in August 2002, bringing with them their passion for teaching and student research. Some alumni may remember Nordmann who also taught history at Coe from 1996-99.

"History is not simply dates and places," said Buckaloo. "History is about 'why,' causation, motivation and the interpretation of these factors. It's about asking questions and making historical judgments." And this requires research.

To ensure that students learn the basics of how to conduct quality research and to familiarize them with the ever-increasing number of research sources, Buckaloo and Nordmann arrange for their students to meet with Coe's Head of Reference, Betty Rogers.

"In our research assignments, we emphasize the importance of primary source reference material," said Nordmann. "This allows students to interact with actual pieces of history, such as a 1942 issue of Time magazine. When researching this type of source, students gain an everyday perspective that isn't always available in history textbooks. This research requires students to think like historians, to examine historical documents and draw their own conclusions."

Beginning with the fall 2004 semester, a new course will be offered entitled "The Historian's Craft." This research-intensive, methods course will be required for history majors and will strengthen students' research skills by requiring increased use of the library's research resources. A main goal of

the course will be to enhance student preparedness for upper-level, advanced historical research that they will encounter in graduate school and in some career paths.

"I've found the library staff to be very receptive to our requests for materials," said Buckaloo. "It's exciting to work with a library staff so dedicated to supporting the academic goals that we set for our students."



Professors David Nordmann '87 (right) and Derek Buckaloo joined Coe's History Department last fall.

Coe film is well-received by Coe community

The recently restored film that depicts Coe College life in the pre-World War II era is receiving rave reviews from faculty, staff, students and alumni. The first showing of the film, after it was restored through a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation, occurred in the Kesler Lecture Hall on December 6. The College has since shown it at various campus events and

alumni gatherings.

The film includes scenes with Coe legends President Harry Gage, Professor Ben Peterson and football coach Morey Eby, as well as numerous students from that era.

After viewing the film, Marilyn Threlkeld '51 wrote to Coe, "Many, many thanks again for allowing me to revisit the places and people that no longer exist. It was great fun!"

May you be able to do the same 50 years from now."

Anyone interested in viewing the film on campus, or obtaining their own copy of the film, can contact Cedra Williamson, head of the library's Audiovisual Department, at (319) 399-8211 or 1-800-332-8404, ext. 8211.

Shirer collection grows with addition of new papers

Coe College received the first shipment of William Shirer's (Coe '25) papers and manuscripts in September 1995 — and they have been arriving in regular intervals ever since. This year's shipment marks the largest one received to date with 21 boxes arriving in

two separate shipments. If stacked, the Shirer papers in Coe's possession would stand a towering 65 feet tall!

"Shirer was a prolific writer," said Randy Roeder, head of library technical services. "It appears he wrote something everyday of his

adult life — and retained it. It will take years to inventory and process his papers. When we have received all of them, it will be an impressive collection, indeed." The Shirer papers are housed in the George T. Henry College Archives.

Bibliophile

Coe's Marvin Cone paintings displayed at the University of Iowa Museum of Art

Eight of Coe's Marvin Cone '14 paintings were loaned to the University of Iowa Museum of Art as



Coe loaned its Marvin Cone painting *The Old Red Barn* to the University of Iowa Museum of Art.

part of its *Celebrating the Farm* exhibit, which included over 125 images depicting life on the rural American farm from 1890 to 1950. The exhibit, on view March 7 – May 4, combined the work of Cone and other artists whose

work portrays the rich heritage of our nation's farms and the people whose passions made them work. This is the first exhibition of Cone's work in ten years.

The Marvin Cone paintings loaned to the UI Art Museum were "The Pink Silo," "Thunderhead No. 3," "Triptych Panorama," "Road to Waubeek," "Educational Exhibit," "River Farm," "Landmark," and "The Old Red Barn."

Cone's oil paintings offer an abstract view of the eastern Iowa landscape as it was during his lifetime, both pre- and post-World War II. Cone once said, "The purpose of art is not to reproduce life, but to present an editorial, a comment on life... Art, such as poetry, music, and painting, is simply a portion of the experience of the artist."

A native of Cedar Rapids, Marvin Cone was a contemporary and lifelong friend of Grant Wood and taught art at Coe for more than four decades.

Coe loans Marvin Cone painting to Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, opened in 1997 to showcase the extraordinary work of Georgia O'Keeffe and to provide a venue to highlight her art in conjunction with other significant American artists. It is the first and only museum dedicated to a woman artist of international stature. In its five years of existence, the museum has welcomed more than 800,000 visitors.

To celebrate the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum's fifth anniversary, the museum organized the exhibit

"Georgia O'Keeffe and the Calla Lily in American Art, 1860–1940," which was on display October 3, 2002 through January 14, 2003.

In the 1920s, O'Keeffe became known as "The Lady of the Lily" due to the frequency that these flowers appeared in her work. She was not alone. The recent calla lily exhibit featured 54 images of the calla lily by 33 artists. Included in the exhibit was "Lilies for a god," a Marvin Cone painting from Coe's collection.

Old Quarry, Stone City to come home to Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill, the historic Cedar Rapids home once lived in and owned by the late Robert '18 and Esther Youel Armstrong '25, and recently willed to Coe College as the President's house, will be the permanent home to Marvin Cone's painting "Old Quarry, Stone City." This painting hung over the fireplace in the Pleasant Hill library for many years. In her will, Esther stated that her house, which their friend Grant Wood helped design, would become the property of Coe College along with her Marvin Cone painting. Esther Armstrong died December 1, 2002. Robert Armstrong, president of

Coe's board of trustees for many years and recipient of the Alumni Award of Merit in 1962, died in 1990. The painting is currently being stored in Coe's vault until the renovations at Pleasant Hill have been completed.

Coe will honor the lifelong friendship between Grant Wood and Marvin Cone, and the close relationship between Wood and the Armstrong's, by again displaying the Cone painting in Pleasant Hill. It's a fitting tribute as Grant Wood designed the home using early houses in Stone City as his inspiration.

Marvin Cone painting loaned to the Davenport Museum of Art

The Davenport Museum of Art in Davenport, Iowa, recently hosted *The American Experience*, which included Marvin Cone's *Big Top* from Coe's art collection. The exhibit featured 67 works including paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures from various time periods and artists, including Andy Warhol and Ansel Adams. Collectively, these works portrayed our nation's history and traditions, the American landscape, and the American perception.

Rolling "Stones"

New film focuses on one-and-done author

After toiling in obscurity for most of his 60 years, Dow Mossman '66 has recently gained quite a bit of notoriety.

In recent months, Mossman's public appearances have ranged from national television to Coe College as he supports a documentary that centers on his 1972 book, "The Stones of Summer." Through newspaper accounts of the film, "Stone Reader," Mossman's story has been told wherever the movie has played, including his alma mater in his hometown April 9-11. The Iowa premiere of "Stone Reader," sponsored by United Fire Group, was shown to a sold-out crowd in Coe's Cherry Auditorium on April 9. Due to the overwhelming response on Coe's campus, the film was shown for one week at Cedar Rapids' Wynnsong 12 cinema.

"Stone Reader" chronicles Pennsylvania filmmaker Mark Moskowitz's two-year search for Mossman, who disappeared from the writing world along with his milestone book 31 years ago. The film won top honors at last year's Slamdance Film Festival (a sideshow to the well-known Sundance Film Festival) in Park City, Utah.

Mossman left Coe after two years in the 1960s and enrolled at the University of Iowa. He was later accepted into the Writers' Workshop, then under the direction of the late poet and notable Coe alum Paul Engle '31.

With Engle's encouragement, Mossman received a \$3,000 Book-of-the Month Club Scholarship as an undergraduate. He graduated with a master's of fine arts — and the makings of a book — in 1969.

Upon its release in 1972, the novel was lauded by every critic who tackled the 552-page opus.

The publisher sold all 3,000 copies printed in its only run. Mossman received about \$4,500, and disappeared into the rank-and-file. Now he's being grouped with the likes of Margaret Mitchell ("Gone With the Wind"), J.D. Salinger ("Catcher in the Rye"), Ralph Ellison ("Invisible Man"),



Harper Lee ("To Kill a Mockingbird") and other notable one-time novelists of the 20th century.

Coe's lone copy of Mossman's book (which recently sold for \$1,300+ over the Internet) turned up missing in an audit of the library's collection three years ago. The author recently parted with a scarce copy for the college, leaving him with only three from the initial set of 20 he received in 1972.

"I owe Coe a lot," said Mossman, who lives just five blocks from campus in the house where he grew up and wrote his magnum opus. "It taught me how to go to college really."

The "new" copy, freshly autographed by Mossman, will be permanently preserved in the George T. Henry College Archives, assuring that it will never be lost again, said library director Rich Doyle.

"I am thrilled to have this book back in our collection," Doyle said. "I am extremely grateful to Dow for this gift, especially for the inscription."

Attending a reception April 10 at Coe College's Clark Alumni House prior to a special showing of the film, "Stone Reader," were (left to right) filmmaker Mark Moskowitz of Chester Springs, Pa., sponsors Scotty and DeeAnn McIntyre of Cedar Rapids, author Dow Mossman '66 of Cedar Rapids, Coe library director Rich Doyle of Cedar Rapids and author Dan Guenther '66 of Morrison, Colo.

A student relaxes in the Metcalf Gallery. The library received another gift from Marguerite Gurekian to complete the leather ensemble in the two galleries containing Conger Metcalf art.



Bibliophile



Students enjoy the comfort of new leather furniture in the Perrine Gallery. Student use of the Gallery has increased since the addition of the new furniture.



Photographs of the Grant Wood Stone City Artist Colony, taken in 1932 and 1933 by the late John W. Barry, adorn the walls in the newest library study room. The addition of these rare photographs complete the newly created room and were donated to the college by Russell '30 and Louise Northcott Knapp '32.

Additions to the alumni/faculty book collection

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

Carey, Michael, Editor. *Voices on the Landscape: Contemporary Iowa Poets*. Loess Hills Books: Farragut, IA, 1996.

(Vegetarian's garden, Ice breaking up on the Mississippi, Chicken dinner, p. 119-121 by Ann Struthers, Visiting Professor of English, 1986-)

Coe College. *Alumni Directory 2002*. Bernard C. Harris: Purchase, NY, 2002.

Faulkner, William. *A Rose for Emily*. Harcourt College Publishers: Fort Worth, 2000.
(Telltale hair, p. 33-47 by Terry Heller, Professor of English, 1975-)

Flannery, Maureen Tolman, Editor. *Knowing Stones: Poems of Exotic Places: An Anthology*. John Gordon Burke Publisher: Evanston, IL, 2000.
(Footprints at the temple at Ain Dara, Syria, p. 71 by Ann Struthers)

Gorman, Ed & Carol Gorman, Editors. *Felonious Felines*. Five Star: Unity, ME, 2000.
(Ed Gorman, class of 1968 and Carol Gorman, Adjunct Instructor in English 2002-)

Gorman, Ed, Editor. *The World's Finest Mystery and Crime Stories: Second Annual Collection*. Forge: New York, 2001.

Gorman, Ed. *Everybody's Somebody's Fool*. Carroll & Graf: New York, 2002.

Gunn, John. *The Art of Playing the German Flute*. J.D. Boland: Marion, IA, 1992.

(Facsimile edition and introduction by Janice Dockendorff Boland, Part-Time Teaching Artist in Music — flute)

Kane, Carl. *101 of "Write Right": Selected from columns published in The Gazette*. Gazette Co.: Cedar Rapids, IA, 1983.
(Carl Kane, class of 1940)

Lounsberry, Barbara. *Politics is Murder: An Iowa Mystery*. Public Radio KUNI: Cedar Falls, IA, 2000.

(Memorial Day at Iowa's Great Lakes, p. 39 by Ann Struthers)

Mesplay, Gail G. *A Moment of Peace & Quiet: Meditations for Teachers*. Smyth & Hewlys Publishing: Macon, GA, 2001.

(Gail Graeber Mesplay, class of 1962)

Mossman, Dow. *The Stones of Summer: A Yeoman's Notes*. Bobbs-Merrill: New York, 1972.
(Steven "Dow" Mossman class of 1966)

Mungello, David E. *The Spirit and the Flesh in Shandong*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers: Lanham, MD, 2001.
(David Mungello, Professor of History, 1980-1994)

Nussbaum, Leo L. *Unlocking the Front Door*. KayT Publishing: Long Beach, CA, 2002.
(Leo Nussbaum, Coe College President 1970-1982)

