

COE BIBLIOPHILE

Spring 2006

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

'Room, room, room...and plenty of inspiration for hard-working students.'

Celebrating Stewart Memorial Library after 75 Years

A claim for the new campus library was anything but understated as students, faculty, staff and community members cheered the construction of Stewart Memorial Library, the college's first dedicated library building, in 1930 and 1931.

"If you are a senior, you'll curse unprintable words of regret that Commencement is this June and that you'll view the completion of the library only as 'grad' or alumnus," wrote the author of a spring 1931 *Cosmos* article titled 'Interior of New Library Is Mecca For Enthusiasts,' cryptically bylined "By AN OBSERVER."

The writer, since identified as Roby Hickok Kesler '31, daughter of Coe faculty member Charles T. Hickok and later a distinguished alumna and trustee of the college, went on to proclaim, "You'll think of the lucky fellows who will study there, think of how high their grades will be, for the very atmosphere of the building breathes A's and A+s." Her tour of the building as it neared completion yielded this further description: "Room, room, room — lots of it with lots of good sunshine...and plenty of inspiration for hard-working students."

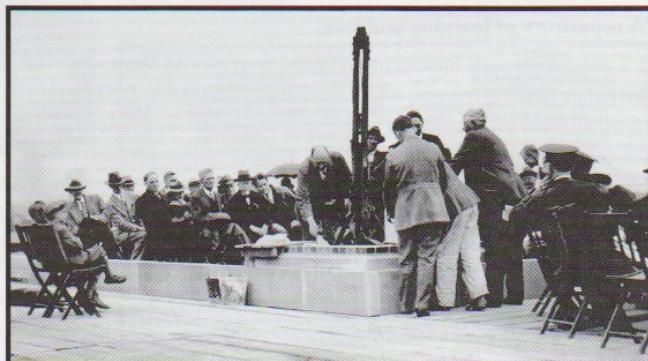
After three-quarters of a century, the words are still apt, says Director of Library Services Rich Doyle, who has been the college's head librarian since 1978. "Scholarship was and is definitely improved by the quality of this facility," he says, "and construction of this building was an institution-changing event. It was monumental in size for its time, and it was so well built and so huge that it lasted a half-century before we put on an addition."



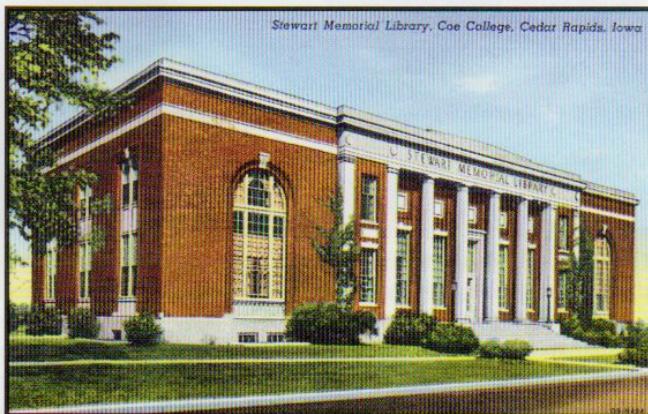
The Coe and Cedar Rapids communities watched with interest as the massive building took shape on brick-lined B Avenue.

Doyle credits President Harry Morehouse Gage, who led the college from 1920 to 1941, for his foresight in creating the footprint of the campus. "You had a few buildings on First Avenue and the new gymnasium on the other end of campus — almost in another county," he says. The new library rose up as the heart of the campus.

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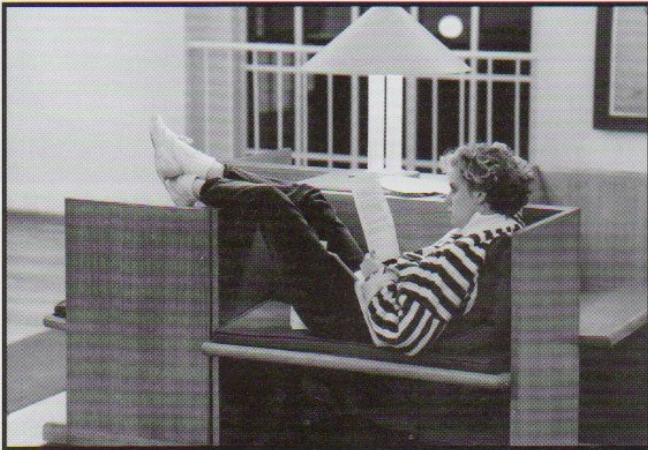


The Stewart Memorial Library cornerstone was laid on October 15, 1930 in a formal ceremony that included the Coe Military Band and the moderator of the Iowa Synod of the Presbyterian Church.



A postcard from the late 1940s shows the pride of the campus — the "monumental" Stewart Memorial Library.

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After the library's only major renovation in 1988, says Library Director Rich Doyle, the students once again quickly made it their own place, enjoying the many newly created study nooks and seminar rooms.

'A repository of learning and lore'

Coe's first library, located on the third floor of Old Main, was started in 1882 — the year after the college (founded in 1851) was re-established with the name of donor Daniel Coe. By 1931, the collection had grown to nearly 37,000 volumes under the direction of librarian Betty H. Pritchett.

The library quarters in Old Main were "inefficient, but somehow pleasant," according to another *Cosmos* writer. "The library is a rather fascinating place," she said. "The floors creak, the chairs squeak, and the table legs may even snag one's hosiery."

But with a pressing need for more space — for students, library staff and books — the cavalry came to the rescue, so to speak, in the form of a gift from former U.S. Cavalry 'Rough Rider' Col. Robert W. Stewart, an 1886 Coe graduate and former longtime chair of the board of Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

At commencement in June 1929, it was announced that Col. Stewart had made a \$200,000 gift to the college to erect a new library in memory of his parents, William and Eliza Stewart. The college hired architects Graham, Probst and White of Chicago to design the building, along with W.J. Brown of Cedar Rapids as local architect and O.F. Paulson as contractor.

The Stewart Memorial Library cornerstone was laid ceremoniously on October 15, 1930. Coe's Military Band played, an invocation was given by the moderator of the Iowa Synod of the Presbyterian Church, which was meeting in town, and President Gage introduced the featured speaker, prominent historian James Westfall Thompson

Perrine Gallery has provided an elegant space for hundreds of campus receptions, readings and other events, as well as a home for the college's collection of artworks by regionalist painter Grant Wood. Here President John Brown speaks to guests shortly after the library's renovation in 1988.

of the University of Chicago.

Thompson described the new library as "symbolic of what every library should be — a repository of lore and learning, of the critical and imaginative literature of humanity across the ages, a temple of humanism and science." Libraries serve both cultural and practical ends, he added, noting that "the most dangerous thing on earth is an illiterate and uneducated democracy."

At the conclusion of Thompson's talk, President Gage called up librarian Pritchett, who handed a time capsule containing college books and documents to the donor's chosen representative, trustee John Ely, who in turn entrusted it to Hans Schmidt, "Master Workman," representing the contractor. The cornerstone was placed using a "historic trowel" that had also been used to smooth the mortar on the cornerstones of Science Hall in 1909, Sinclair Memorial Chapel in 1910, the Voorhees Quadrangle in 1914, and the recently completed Coe gymnasium.

A sense of space

The following spring, an article published in the newsletter of the Cedar Rapids Savings Bank and Trust Company (now Guaranty Bank) described the new library facing B Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets. "The construction is of red brick with limestone trim, in a combination of Georgian and Colonial styles. In addition to other features favorable to the development of superior library service, there are three spacious reading rooms, the largest being 42 by 60 feet, three seminar rooms, and a stack room with a capacity of 144,000 books."

The completed building also reflected the desire of Coe Professor of Art Marvin Cone, who had urged the inclusion of a library gallery "where well-chosen works of art shall exert their cultural influence upon the student body...an art gallery not to be gauged by its gorgeousness but by its quiet effectiveness." When the library was officially dedicated at the opening of the next school year on September 14, 1931, it featured an exhibit of paintings by Marvin Cone — the first among hundreds of artworks that have been displayed throughout the library and its galleries since then.



It Has Always Been about Them

In the late 1980s, Stewart Memorial Library underwent its only major renovation when an addition was constructed on the back of the building. The five-level stack tower that dominated the center of the library was removed, opening up the main floor and making room for the first- and second-floor galleries that house works by Marvin Cone and Conger Metcalf. The second-floor Perrine Gallery, home to the college's collection of works by Grant Wood, has also provided a bright, elegant space for untold numbers of campus receptions and other events.

"We were able to achieve that key element," says Doyle, "a sense of space that is inviting, promotes learning, and has a social function as well."

As with the original building, he adds, the students immediately took ownership of the renovated library, as is obvious on an early morning before mid-terms, when it is brimming with students studying alone and in small groups. "The kids still love the library and are excited about every new thing we do here," he says. "Roby hit it right on the money."

Cake, Cocktails and Recollections

The college is planning a number of special events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Stewart Memorial Library. Please mark your calendar for the following activities:

Alumni Reunion Weekend: President's Reception, Saturday, June 10, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Perrine Gallery, Stewart Memorial Library

In honor of the 75th Anniversary of Stewart Memorial Library, President James and Linnie Phifer invite you to a reception honoring the reunion classes and guests in Perrine Gallery in the library. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be served.

Homecoming Weekend Events:

- Reading by bestselling mystery writer Ed Gorman, Coe '68, Thursday, September 28, time TBA, Kesler Lecture Hall
- Campus-wide reception in the library, September 29, time TBA

Events marking the library's anniversary year began with an official "75th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff — Student Appreciation Lunch" on February 22. Specially designed anniversary t-shirts were handed out to library student workers and staff, who quickly donned them. "Then we gave the students a celebratory lunch party where we bought too much pizza," says Library Director Rich Doyle. "But they loved it as they got to take leftovers back to the dorms."



Modeling the new library anniversary t-shirts are (left to right) Library Director Rich Doyle, Alexis Johnson '09, Library Acquisitions Assistant Cheri Pettibone, and Gannon Hjerleid '08.



At the anniversary kick-off event, faithful student workers enjoyed pizza on the library — and happily took home the leftovers.



Student Library Workers: Beginning with the front row, left to right: Chris Paasch '06, Froilan Sanchez '08, Paige Knebel '07, Shannon Murphy '06, Liz Scatamacchia '06; second row: Mehmoond Haq '07, Lauren Banos '09, Pat Taylor '06, Bethany Kitzman '09, Molly Fiala '09; third row: Vivek Shrestha '08, Jane Ebot '08, Melissa Mai '08, Sarah Dolan '06, Jessica Fraghia '08, Ben Carlson '06, Count Lebby '08; fourth row: Amanda Letcher '09, Michael Hale '06, Cassidy Brandt '07, Mary Ensminger '09, Kelly Weston '09, Abby Frick '09; fifth row: Rachel Hedin '06, Matthew Frye '08, Brandon Scodius '07, Gary Webb '09, Gavin Wright '07, Andrew Wiezorek '07, Gannon Hjerleid '08.

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.

Boland, Jan and John Dowdall. *Mozart, Molitor & Molino: Three guys named Mo*. Fleur de Son Classics, Ltd.: NY, 2004. (Jan Boland, Instructor in Music (flute) 1977 -) (John Dowdall, Instructor in Music (guitar) 1978 -)

Cone, Steve. *Steal These Ideas! Marketing Secrets That Will Make You a Star*. Bloomberg Press: NY, 2005. (Steve Cone, class of 1972)

Feller, Steven A. and Joseph E. Kasper. *The Complete Book of Holograms: How they work and how to make them*. Dover Publications: Mineola, NY, 2001. (Steven A. Feller, Professor of Physics 1979 -) (Joseph E. Kasper, Professor of Physics 1958-1982)

Gorman, Carol and Ron J. Findley. *Stumptown Kid*. Peachtree: Atlanta, GA, 2005. (Carol Gorman, Instructor in English 2002 -)

Gorman, Edward and Dean Koontz. *Dean Koontz's Frankenstein, Book Two, City of Night*. Bantam Books: NY, 2005. (Edward Gorman, class of 1968)

Gorman, Edward. *Different Kinds of Dead and other tales*. Five Star: Waterville, ME, 2005.

Halonen, Virginia Sutton and Nancy Mohrbacher. *Learning a Loving Way of Life*. LaLeche League International: Franklin Park, IL, 1987. (Virginia Sutton Halonen, class of 1976)

Hausknecht, Gina. "The Gender of Civic Virtue." *Milton and Gender*. Ed. Martin, Catherine Gimelli. Cambridge University Press: NY, 2004. 19-33. (Gina Hausknecht, Associate Dean of the Faculty, 2000, Professor of English, 1994 -)

Havlik, Sheree Whitters. *Because We Love Them: Fostering a Christian Sexuality in Our Children*. Sorin Books: Notre Dame, Inc., 2004. (Sheree Whitters Havlik, class of 1980)

Kerr, Roberta Ann and Walter Richardson. *Lost Nickel*. Vantage Press: NY, 1981. (Roberta Ann Kerr class of 1972)

Leonard, Maria, revised by Maude Lee Etheredge. *Bible Truths*. Bible Truths: Livermore, CA, 1979. (Maria Leonard, Professor of Mathematics and

Dean of Women 1912-1923)

Mesplay, Gail G. *Tapestries: Words of Devotion for the Second Half of Life*. Smyth and Helwys Publishers: Macon, GA, 2004. (Gail G. Mesplay, class of 1962)

Ransel, David L. and Bozena Shallcross. *Polish Encounters, Russian Identity*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington, 2005. (David L. Ransel, class of 1981)

Trane, Susan W. and Tom Patterson. *State Houses: America's 50 State Capitol Buildings*. Boston Mills Press: Erin, Ont., 2005. (Susan W. Trane, class of 1964)

Weld, LeRoy D. *Theory of Errors and Least Squares: A Textbook for College Students and Research Workers*. The MacMillan Company: NY, 1916. (LeRoy D. Weld, Professor of Physics 1902-1945)

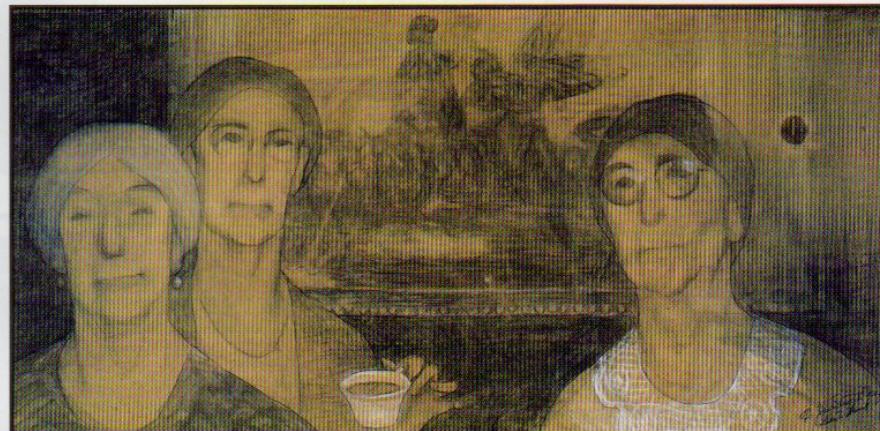
Wood, Sharon E. and M. Emilia Rockwell. *A Home in the West: Emigration and its Consequences*. University of Iowa Press: Iowa City, 2005. (Sharon E. Wood, class of 1980)

Grant Wood work from Coe's collection on loan to Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery

"Study for Daughters of Revolution," a Grant Wood drawing that normally hangs in the Perrine Gallery of Stewart Memorial Library, is currently on loan to the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. The work is part of a major exhibit of Grant Wood works titled "Grant Wood's Studio: Birthplace of 'American Gothic,'" which will run through July 16.

The Smithsonian exhibit was organized by the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and is based on the museum's own exhibit of Grant Wood works, "Grant Wood at 5 Turner Alley." The Cedar Rapids exhibit, which drew unprecedented numbers of viewers to the museum, coincided with the opening of Wood's Cedar Rapids studio apartment, where he painted "American Gothic" and many of his other well-known works.

"Study for Daughters of the Revolution" is a charcoal on brown butcher paper created at the studio in 1934. Although a preliminary work, it is the same size as the finished painting, "Daughters of Revolution," which hangs beside it in the Renwick exhibit, and reveals the detailed nature of Wood's preparatory drawings.



By Wood's admission, "Daughters of Revolution" was intended to poke fun at the Daughters of the American Revolution, a group that had criticized him for using German craftsmen to help fashion the mammoth stained glass window he had been commissioned to create for the Cedar Rapids Veterans Coliseum in honor of American veterans.

Given to Coe in 1954 by Mr. and Mrs. Owen Elliot, "Study for Daughters of Revolution" is one of 12 works in Coe's Grant Wood collection. Best-known among them

Grant Wood showed his disdain for the Daughters of the American Revolution, who he viewed as anything but revolutionary, in this drawing titled "Study for Daughters of Revolution," currently on loan to the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery.

are the seven "Fruits of Iowa" murals commissioned by Eugene Eppley for the Eppley Hotel Chain. Coe's collection of Grant Wood works was appraised at a value of several million dollars in 1985.