

The Bibliophile



Winter, 2000

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

New entrance sculpture a gift from the McClains of Cedar Rapids

Library visitors have been noticing a slim young man sitting near the entrance pillars, intently reading a book and eating a hamburger. A closer look reveals that he is reading Frank Conroy's book, *Stop-Time*.

He's a life-size \$80,000 bronze Seward Johnson sculpture selected for the library and given to the college by Carl and Doris (Mac and Dodie) McClain of Cedar Rapids. Unveiled on September 3 (which happened to coincide with the weekend's celebration of the McClain's 60th wedding anniversary) the sculpture was named "Food for Thought" by senior Dale Evans of Cedar Rapids during a student contest to select a title for the piece.

Mac McClain says he adopted Coe as his alma mater after his own school, Parsons College, closed in the 1970s. "Over the years we've enjoyed Coe and participated in many activities there, including attending the Thursday Forum lectures and using the fieldhouse to play tennis in the winter," he explains. McClain notes that he and Dodie have been impressed with Coe and the kind of education it offers

and decided to make a visible gift to the college, in addition to commitments they have made for Coe in their will. "I got the idea (for the sculpture) from a college in Illinois that we visited where an alum had put up a Seward Johnson sculpture," he says.

The McClains met with a committee of Coe art faculty and students to select the work for Coe from a catalog of Johnson's work. While copies of the chosen piece are currently on display in Rockefeller Center's Exxon Plaza in New York City and in Palmer Square in Princeton, NJ, the original work was still in the sculptor's private collection. He had intended to give it to his children one day, but was convinced instead to let the McClains buy it for Coe. Works by J. Seward Johnson, Jr. are displayed in public spaces around the U.S. and in several other countries.

"This sculpture adds immeasurably to our collection," says Robert Kocher, Marvin Cone Professor of Art Emeritus and curator of Coe's Permanent Collection of Art.



Dale Evans (at right) accepts prizes from donors Mac and Dodie McClain for his winning title for the new library sculpture.

In keeping with the sculpture's image, Evans received the book *Stop-Time* by Frank Conroy and a certificate for a fast-food meal at a local restaurant.



Students were part of the crowd gathered to see Seward Johnson's "Food for Thought" dedicated on the library steps on September 3.



The lifelike sculpture seems unaware of what the fuss is all about, as Library Director Rich Doyle expresses his thanks to the McClains.

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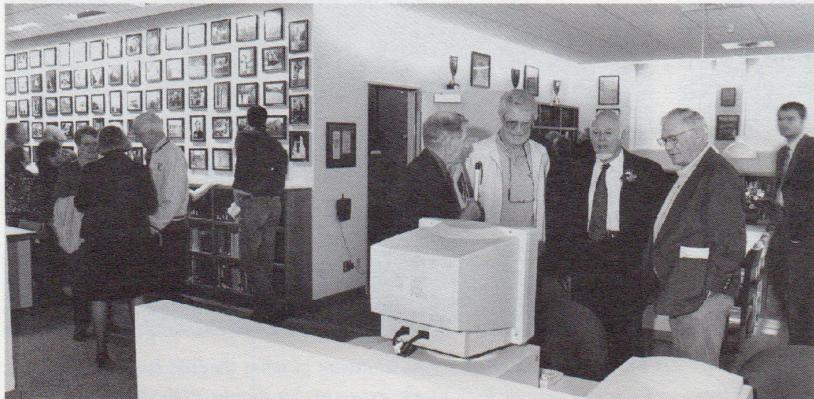
George T. Henry College Archives officially opens October 21



Kay and George Henry (foreground) join President Phifer in reacting to remarks being made by Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services, as part of the dedication program.

George Henry describes the use of the digital scanner and viewer in the foreground of the archives reading room. Those listening are, from left, Ben Wolverton, Jack Stuhl, and Dr. Robert Sedlacek. The door to the archives vault is visible in the background, just to the right of Henry's photo display.

(Photos by David Van Allen)



It's been a long journey from the cardboard boxes that once stored the historic documents, files, and memorabilia of Coe College 30 years ago to the state-of-the-art climate-controlled facilities dedicated October 21 as the George T. Henry College Archives.

Funded by the generous gifts of George and Kay Henry, the refurbished archives reading room and vault now house and preserve cataloged records and resources relevant to the history of Coe College in the best and most inviting environment possible. A major part of this history is in the George T. Henry Photographic Collection, a rare, irreplaceable visual history of Coe College created by Henry over the 52 years he has been taking photos of the people, places, and events on campus. This is perhaps the only collection of its kind—over this number of continuous years by a single photographer recording the history of one college—in existence.

"To a remarkable extent, the modern history of the institution has not only been seen through, but created, by the lens of George's camera. In doing this, George has given us, all of us, a gift of inestimable value," said Coe President James Phifer at the dedication, as he had in honoring Henry with a doctorate in 1998.

The archives reading room contains a new display of 115 of George Henry's Coe photo-

graphs, a work area for the study and digitizing of archival photos and negatives, a browsing collection of frequently used printed resources on college history, a display of early Flunk Day posters, and a selection of early college photos from about 1893-1938. A limited-edition Amana wall clock, given by the children of George and Kay Henry, completes the decoration of the room.

The archives vault (described in detail in previous issues of the *Bibliophile*) contains historic photos, files, and other delicate, climate-sensitive materials. It will be the repository for the Henry Photographic Collection.

To preserve and promote the photographic heritage of Coe College, the Henrys have also created an endowment to preserve, maintain, and display photographic images of the college in perpetuity.



Randall Roeder, director of technical services and supervisor of the archives installation project, demonstrates the vault's compact shelving. With the touch of a button, the aisle at the right opened wide enough for people to pass into it, while all the other shelving units moved tightly together to conserve space.

Among those observing are, from left, Bill Quarton, Virginia Spalding, and (at right) Joan Lipsky, chair of Coe's board of trustees.

Gift by author Ruth Kinzey honors Prof. Robert Drexler

Public relations professional and lecturer Ruth Kinzey (Coe '77) visited the library in November to present a copy of her new book, *Using Public Relations Strategies to Promote Your Non-profit Organization*, and to give the library \$500 in honor of Whipple Professor of English Robert D. Drexler.

Library Director Rich Doyle and Prof. Drexler were both on hand to accept the gifts on behalf of the college. Kinzey said she was

honoring Drexler for "the scholarship he shares and the guidance he provides to his students on this campus." She designated the \$500 gift to a library book fund for Drexler's use.

Kinzey is a full-time guest lecturer in the Communications Studies Department at the University of North Carolina. She also presents seminars on writing effective newsletters, operating speakers bureaus, and managing community relations for Duke University's Nonprofit Management Certification Program.



Director Rich Doyle (at right) has Ruth Kinzey autograph a copy of her book for the alumni collection. Prof. Drexler, in whose name Kinzey has established a book fund, is at left.

Library to add netLibrary to its website options

The Internet-based electronic netLibrary will soon be available to Coe's library website users, offering some 6,000 titles of eBooks that may never have been printed in paper editions or are out-of-print books which can now be read as scanned images.

"This is just one of the new electronic features we're working on," says Richard Doyle, director of library and computer services. "We are currently testing a web-based Coe library catalog which we will launch early next year, and we're beginning to subscribe to selected journal titles through Electronic Collections On-Line."

Doyle says netLibrary has actually just started up within the past year. "A consortium contract through the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR), allowed Coe to get in at a one-time cost of \$2,700," he says, "and in another year there will be 10,000 titles available online." He adds that a user has exclusive use of a given volume for a certain period of time, just as is true with paper books. When a book is checked out, any other user seeking that book sees a message on the computer screen indicating when the eBook will be available.

Cone family donates Grant Wood painting, reclaims two heirlooms

Library visitors will miss seeing two paintings that formerly greeted them at the entrance to the building. Marvin Cone's *Davis Dummy* (1938) and *Self-Portrait with Malnutrition* (1955), which have been on extended loan to Coe from the Cone Family Trust since 1993, have been returned to Marvin and Winnifred Cone's grandchildren.

At the same time, the Cone family has given Coe the 1919 Grant Wood portrait of Marvin titled *Malnutrition*, which was the inspiration for Marvin's *Self-Portrait with Malnutrition*.

"Joan and I had a very pleasant meeting with Freddy (granddaughter and 1970 Coe grad Winnifred Cone Weeks), and it seemed only fair that the family heirlooms be returned to them. We will dearly miss them, of course,"

says Marvin Cone Professor Emeritus Robert Kocher, who is also curator of Coe's Permanent Collection of Art. He adds that he thought *Davis Dummy* was Marvin's "absolute masterpiece of composition," and often pointed this out to art students during his active teaching at Coe.

Kocher notes that *Self-Portrait with Malnutrition* is going to Cone grandson Stephen Cone Weeks, who is a respected artist and teacher of art in Dusseldorf, Germany. He has visited Coe on several occasions. *Davis Dummy* will hang in Freddy's home in Columbus, OH, above the desk her grandparents had in their dining room for many years. She is a senior staff attorney for Ohio Legal Rights.

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Library receives compiled WWII memories of "Coe 22"



"Coe 22" member Charles McManaman presented a copy of *World War II Experiences of the 'Coe 22'* to Library and Computer Services Director Richard Doyle.

Ten members of the World War II veteran alumni group known as the "Coe 22" were back on campus in June for their 55th class reunion. They brought along a book of their military experiences for the library.

The 22 men—all 1944 graduates—had joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Coe before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941), continuing their Coe studies until April 1943 when they all received orders for active duty. "Following orders only the military could draw up, they went first to Fort Dodge, IA for outfitting, then to Camp Roberts, CA for basic training, then back to Coe to await openings at Fort Benning, GA for Officer Candidate School. They were housed together in a home at 1345 A Avenue NE and became eligible to graduate in March 1944," writes honorary "Coe 22" member Frances Wagner Niggemeyer Pfaff '44 in her introduction to the book. Her husband, Donald Niggemeyer '44, was the only one of the "Coe 22" to be killed in combat.

"Famous for their camaraderie and their lovely, harmonious voices as they marched to the songs of Coe College," Pfaff reports, the "Coe 22" were accepted at Fort Benning in January 1944 and "became 90-day wonders—trained 2nd lieutenants in the army infantry by

May 1944. Many went to Europe as Replacement Officers, and nearly all saw front line duty under fire." She adds that eight of the 22 married Coe women ultimately, and "the part these women, and the other wives, played in encouraging and sustaining the 22 was not insignificant."

Christie Vilsack speaks at Coe

Christie Vilsack, first lady of the state of Iowa, was the keynote speaker at the September meeting of the Linn County Library Consortium, which met in Coe's library. Vilsack is an advocate for literacy and education in the state, and her husband, Governor Tom Vilsack, spoke at Coe's Commencement in May.

The consortium is made up of high school libraries, medical libraries, city libraries, and specialized libraries such as the CMF&Z advertising library throughout the county. "For 30 years, we've been lending among ourselves in an open-door policy," says Coe's Rich Doyle, who has been president of the group for the past three years.

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