

The Bibliophile



Coe
College

Winter, 2001

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Medora Added to the Conger Metcalf Collection

A young teenage girl with red hair, green eyes and a gentle, unwavering gaze, is the subject of the latest painting to be installed in the Stewart Memorial Library's gallery space. The painting is titled "Medora," and the artist who painted it in 1974, in oil and graphite on clay, is Conger Metcalf '36. "Medora" was Metcalf's mother.

The painting is a long-term loan from the Jonathan Clark Conger House, which is the museum of the Washington County Historical Society and was the home of Metcalf's great-grandfather. The Historical Society loaned the painting to Coe because of the lack of climate control systems at Conger House.

The painting was becoming slightly wavy in the upper right hand corner, said Evelyn Lukavsky, Washington County Historical Society board president, and needed to be in a setting where it would be preserved.

The Historical Society was aware of Metcalf's ties to Coe, Lukavsky said. "And we were aware of what a lovely library you have at Coe."

The loan brings Coe's Metcalf collection to 43, adding to a quality collection with broad range.

Metcalf studied art with Marvin Cone and Grant Wood. But in contrast to their Iowa themes, Metcalf's work shows a preoccupation with Italy, particularly in his use of earthy colors and in the choice of subject matters – landscapes, still lifes, flowers and street urchins. Metcalf was a former associate professor of art at Boston University's School of Fine Arts and his work was exhibited widely in the United States, particularly on the East Coast.

The Library galleries, which also exhibit 13 works by Grant Wood, 60 by Marvin Cone, and various other artists, were spruced up a bit, prompted by the loan of "Medora." Walls were painted and the Metcalfs were rearranged.

On June 27 a public reception was held to welcome the painting. Speakers included Lukavsky, Marguerite Gurekian, a dear friend of Conger's, and Bob Kocher, art professor emeritus and gallery curator.

On Oct. 8 members of the Washington County Historical Society came to Coe for a private tour of the permanent art collection.

They were impressed with the location of the Medora, said Rich Doyle, director of library services. The painting is located on the library's second floor, prominently displayed between the two galleries that hold the majority of the Metcalf collection.

By being displayed at Coe, more people will be able to see "Medora," Lukavsky said.

"I'm sure that Conger Metcalf would be very, very pleased."

Robert Kocher, Coe art professor emeritus, accepted the Conger Metcalf painting "Medora" from the Washington County Historical Society on behalf of the college June 27, 2000. The painting of Metcalf's mother has hung in Washington County's Conger House for years. (photo courtesy of The Cedar Rapids Gazette)



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Rare and Beautiful Book Given to Coe

One of the most attractively illustrated scientific books of the 18th century, and one of just 60 such books purported to be available in libraries, is now part of the Stewart Memorial Library collec-

production without sex (by budding), etc.

Howard Lenhoff, who has a Ph.D. in the Biological Sciences from The Johns Hopkins University, has close ties to

Johns Hopkins, and the third he gave in November to the University of California, Irvine, where he is a Professor Emeritus.

Randy Roeder, head of technical services and college archivist, describes "Memoires" as "in stunning condition, beautifully preserved." The book is printed on rag paper, which will last "forever," Roeder said. It is revered as well for its illustrations, and for details that show the great craftsmanship behind the printing. For instance, the imprint of the copper plates used to print the illustrations can be seen and felt on the pages.

Because of the book's rarity, it is now housed in the climate controlled vault of the Henry Archives. The rare book joins about two dozen other rare books in the Library's collection.

The Lenhoffs published a translation of the Trembley text in 1986, called "Hydra and the Birth of Experimental Biology." They translated the book from French, adding commentary and information about Trembley. Sylvia's role in putting Trembley's work in context with the history of science fit with her profession as well — She is a historian (Harvard MA). The couple donated a copy of their translation to Coe in 1986.

Randy Roeder describes the translation as "a first-class reproduction." The Lenhoffs went to great lengths to produce a book that stayed true to the quality of the original book, down to reproductions of the fold-out plates.

"This was a labor of love," Roeder said. "In a way, this translation is valuable in and of itself."

Howard wanted to give the book to his Alma Mater because, "Coe has always been good to me, and I wanted its library to have a copy of this rare and important book. I also hope it, through the translation, might stimulate more students to enter experimental biology."



This summer, Howard Lenhoff '50 (left) and his wife, Sylvia, donated an original French monograph, dating back to 1774. They are pictured here with Randy Roeder, head of technical services and college archivist.

(photo by George Henry)

tion, courtesy of a gift from Dr. Howard Maer Lenhoff '50, and his wife, Sylvia.

Abraham Trembley's "Memoires pour servir a l'histoire d'un genre de polypes d'eau douce" is a 1774, original French monograph, beautifully engraved with fold-out plates illustrating Trembley's pioneering research. Trembley's groundbreaking work offered outstanding discoveries with hydra — or as he called them, "polyps of fresh water with arms shaped like horns."

Trembley is considered by some to be the "father of experimental zoology." He is known for making the first experiments of regeneration of whole animals, grafting of animal tissue, positive phototaxis, re-

Trembley's work. In Howard Lenhoff's first post-doctoral research appointment he helped develop the means for culturing hydra so the animal would be more amenable for research scientists. He studied the animal for nearly 25 years and published over 100 research papers on it and edited about six books in the field, with his first coming out in 1961.

Howard Lenhoff got his first copy of the Trembley volume in the late 1950s. "I got the book because Trembley was a great scientist whose approach I was following: an experimental approach to the life history of the animal."

He eventually collected three of the rare books. One he gave to Coe, another

Senior Praise Lands Library a National Ranking

The group of patrons that spends the most time deep in thought in the Stewart Memorial Library has given high marks for the library's offerings and, as a result, an impressive national ranking.

In a survey of seniors at 79 four-year colleges in the U.S., 88 percent of Coe seniors ('00) rated Stewart Memorial Library's services as very satisfactory or satisfactory. While those adjectives may not seem overtly flattering, it's the numbers that show an incredibly impressive round of praise. The average library rating of other participating schools was just 55 percent.

The ranking came from the Senior Survey, a component of the 2000 College Student Survey developed by the Higher Education Research Institute at the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at UCLA.

The 33 percent spread between Coe and other schools is even more significant because it was far and away the largest in any of

the service categories measured, "indicating just how unusual it is for students to have this much regard for their library," said Randy Roeder, head of technical services and college archivist.

Other categories in the survey included class size, recreational facilities and student housing. No other school in the survey had a ranking as high as Coe's library in the library category, or any category.

"It shows that we are far and away more popular with our graduating seniors than the typical school," Roeder said.

Why?

"One of the main reasons we have such a high satisfaction rate with students is because of the quality of the library collections. The Coe College Library Association has provided thousands of dollars since its inception to support library acquisitions. We would not have had such an outstanding satisfaction level without CCLA members," said Rich

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Doyle, director of library services and director of technology.

Other participating schools include Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Penn.; Knox College in Galesburg, Ill.; Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.; and Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

Archival Scholarly Journals Now Available

Scholarly journals that may not be readily available to library patrons in hard copy are now easily accessible electronically through a new service at the Stewart Memorial Library. The Library has recently signed a license agreement with a service called "JSTOR" to provide remote access to archival scholarly journals. The service became available for the start of this school year via on-campus computers.

Over 4 million pages are available through JSTOR (short for "journal storage") which provides remote access to digitally archived scholarly journals. Stewart Memorial Library has subscribed to the Arts and Sciences Collection and the General Science Collection, which gives access to the 123 journals that are available online.

"The acquisition of JSTOR is a major enhancement of serial resources," said Rich Doyle, director of library services and director of technology. "Many of

the titles are not in the library or we do not own the complete sets."

JSTOR enables faculty, staff and students to read and print articles using standard personal computer equipment at any time and from any networked location (library, department, office or dorm). JSTOR specializes in nearly complete runs of scholarly journals, many of which date from the 1800's. The digital archive does not contain the current issues within the past three to five years.

The value of developing and maintaining a database of the back issues of scholarship journals has two primary components: It creates and maintains a trusted archival repository and offers enhanced and convenient access to older journal materials. JSTOR is also committed to adding new titles. So far, 739 institutions have signed up for the services provided. Coe College is one of four Iowa higher education institutions

to subscribe.

Other new services and upgrades:

THE NEW FIRSTSEARCH — an all new, updated interface to FirstSearch databases. It has an easier to use interface and will offer Electronic Collection Online, to further enhance journal literature.

SPECIALIZED REFERENCE RESOURCES

ATLA Religion bibliographic index

Women Writers Online, Medieval and Renaissance original manuscripts

Oxford English Dictionary

Access Science (McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology)

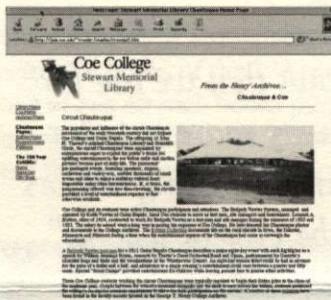
Grove Dictionary of Art Online

BAS Online (Bibliography of Asian Studies)

...and coming in 2001, The New Grove Dictionary of Music II

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Virtual Exhibits Let You Peer Into Coe's Colorful Past



Any archivist would be appalled at the thought of mice in their treasured collections. But at Coe, a click of a computer mouse gives you a peek into the dim corners of the school's extensive collection of archival material.

"From the Henry Archives..." is a series of virtual exhibits highlighting a few of the many items housed within the vault and reading room of the George T. Henry College Archives. The virtual exhibits are part of Coe's online Sesquicentennial information, featured at www.coe.edu. Access the Sesquicentennial content and the virtual exhibits through the library home page or the Sesquicentennial home page.

So far three exhibits have been mounted, featuring photos and ads from the Circuit Chautauqua, which employed many Coe students early in the last century, the history of Coe's Ditty Book and Game Day football programs from the 20s through today. New virtual exhibits will be added to the series every six to eight weeks over the course of Coe's Sesquicentennial celebration, which ends in December 2001.

Why mount a series of virtual exhibits? Most of the items featured have not been pre-

viously displayed due to their delicate condition or to a lack of exhibit space, said Randy Roeder, head of technical services and college archivist. Then too, contemporary technology allows the library to reach an audience far larger and more geographically dispersed than was once possible.

While there isn't really a substitute for an actual examination of original documents and artifacts, there are some advantages to the virtual exhibits. For instance, developments in imaging capabilities allow the presentation of visual information in ways that the original item can not be displayed.

Illustrations and photos, for instance, can be displayed larger than they actually are, which in turn shows more detail.

Rather than an academic endeavor, "From the Henry Archives..." is a celebration of the 150 years of Coe College. Images are freely re-sized and enhanced without notice of alterations or reference to the size of the original. No attempt has been made to present a systematic treatment of the history of the school. For the most part, exhibit topics were chosen for visual interest.

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