

# COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

*A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association*

Winter 2013

## CIRCULATION IS LIBRARY HUB AND STUDENT INCUBATOR

**A**t Stewart Memorial Library, the Circulation Desk is like the front porch – and the students who work there are the first people visitors meet.

"You have to have that friendly face – no one likes a grouchy person," says **Bimal Adhikari '13**, a senior who has been a Circ Desk student worker for four years. It's one of many things he has learned on the job, he says, following in the footsteps of older brother **Bibek Adhikari '11**, who also spent four years on the circulation staff.



▲ Over the years, students have painted the walls of Head of Circulation Sandy Blanchard's office, from which she oversees the large corps of work-study students who staff the Circulation Desk.

"When Bimal decided to come to Coe, Bibek asked me if I would hire his younger brother," says Head of Circulation Sandy Blanchard, who has been the general, den mother, and mentor for the library's largest corps of work-study students – 27 of them this term – for nearly 25 years.

Hanging over a chair in her office is a colorful, elephant-decked afghan sent by the boys' grateful mother in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Blanchard is responsible for all areas of circulation – helping patrons find, check

out and return books; getting materials properly reshelfed; handling reserve reading materials, and assessing fines – but sees her primary role as "training, scheduling and supervising students, making sure someone is at the desk every hour that the library is open."

Blanchard was finishing a master's degree in history when she was hired as Coe's circulation director in 1987. "I got this job because I was an assistant manager at a retail store while I was in school," she recalls. "They needed someone with management skills because of all the students. Libraries were always of interest to me, but I didn't think I would be here all these years," she laughs.

During her quarter-century at the library, she has seen wholesale changes in the way the library operates and the resources available to faculty and staff. "When I came, we were still using checkout cards, so we had to work with them manually to keep track of things. With computers, it's all automatic." She also arrived just as the library was undergoing a major renovation and expansion that transformed it into a more convenient and convivial place.

"My impression when I started was that the library was thought of as a sleepy place," she says. "With the renovation, the computer system, the resources we have, and the way students are using the library now, it has become a vibrant and interactive place."

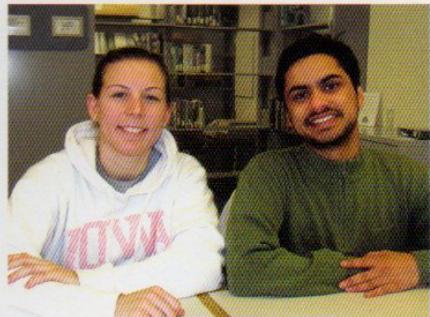
The vast resources available have only increased the importance of the Circulation Desk as a starting point for library patrons, requiring student workers to learn a host of valuable skills.

"I believe it teaches them how to speak with different sorts of people, deal with

the public – and maybe with people who don't speak English as well as they do," says Blanchard. "Some students are very nervous about talking to people they don't know. The change from freshmen to seniors is amazing." She also stresses to them the importance of providing accurate information and knowing when to refer a question to someone with more expertise.

**Megan Ehlen '13**, another four-year circulation employee, says the job – which includes stints at the desk interspersed with shelving and other tasks – is never boring. "You get to see everyone who comes in the library, and I like to talk to people. I have become a lot more aware of my resources. You have to be organized and on time and interact with your colleagues." She also has a word of advice for anyone who ever works in circulation:

"If you misplace a book, it is never going to be found, and lost items drive you nuts, so make sure it goes in the right place."



▲ Like many library workers, Megan Ehlen '13, a senior from Belle Plaine, Iowa, and Bimal Adhikari '13, a senior from Kathmandu, Nepal, have worked the Circulation Desk for all four of their years at Coe.

## COE ARCHIVES SPUR MEMORIES AND REASEARCH

In the George T. Henry Archives, Coe College has a resource that many colleges lack – a dedicated, professionally staffed area of the library where historical books and documents, photos and other artifacts are collected and catalogued for use by library patrons and others. The most well-known collection in the archives — the voluminous papers of **William L. Shirer '25** — draws scholars from around the world, and Coe faculty and students use the Shirer collection and other archival materials for research on a wide range of academic topics.

But scholarly pursuits aren't the only purposes that draw people to the Henry Archives, which offer a wealth of materials for anyone with a desire to delve into Coe history. Not surprisingly, Coe alumni are foremost among them.

“Every year at reunion planning time, the Reunion Committee will spend a couple of hours here searching and reminiscing,” says Archives Assistant **Sara Pitcher '07**. “They'll look through the *Acorns*, the *Cosmos*, and the George Henry photos.” Fraternity and sorority scrapbooks and photos are also of interest.

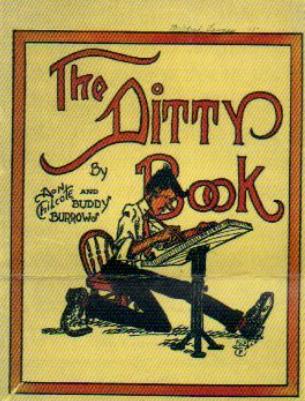
With its walls covered with George Henry photos of campus life over the years, the archives are a popular place for alumni to spend time when they're visiting campus, Pitcher adds. “It's a bit of an exhibit space where you can look at all kinds of things.” The Alumni Office and other campus departments also use the archives for researching Hall of Fame inductees and planning retirement parties and other significant events. “Annually at

Flunk Day time, someone from the Cosmos comes to do research on past Flunk Days,” says Pitcher. “The Martin Luther King Day Committee always searches for items to display – like the photo of Martin Luther King visiting campus or photos of campus protests, trying to connect today's students to Coe's history.”

This past summer, the archives received numerous items uncovered during the renovation of Peterson Hall, Pitcher says. “One professor found books published in the 1920s by a professor, and someone found a catalog of the old Coe museum. People find things on campus and wonder, ‘What do we do with this?’ And they end up coming to us.”

As any archivist knows, someday – decades from now – someone may find hidden treasure in those items.

## A GENEALOGY RESOURCE



▲ Grandchildren of Lowell “Buddy” Burrows '14 got a glimpse of their grandfather as a playful college student through this book of cartoons and poems published by Burrows and a classmate.

With an explosion of interest in family genealogy, it's hardly surprising that people are finding their way to the George T. Henry Archives in search of information about their ancestors.

“We have a lot of genealogy requests,” says Archives Assistant Sara Pitcher. “Most of them come from children or grandchildren of alumni. Back then, classes were much smaller. The *Acorn* showed everyone and everything they were involved in.”

One interesting discovery occurred this past year when the grandchildren of **Grace Stull Burrows '15** and **Lowell “Buddy” Burrows '14** contacted the archives in hopes of learning more about their grandparents' early lives. Pitcher found that Buddy Burrows and his friend **Don Chilcote '14** had created and published a booklet of cartoons and poems about life at Coe, called “The Ditty Book,” which she scanned and sent to the family, to their delight.

In response to a request for information from descendants of longtime Coe German Professor C. Wilfred Perkins (1911-1944), Pitcher found copious information, including a clip of the professor in a 1939 silent promotional film about Coe.

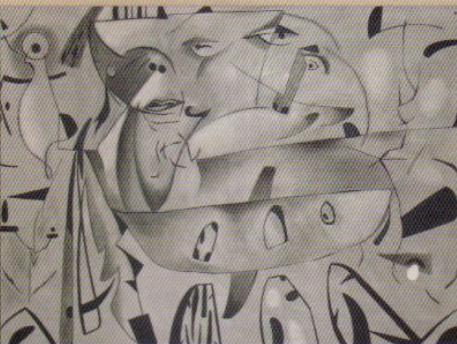
When she shared the materials, the ecstatic researcher sent this response: “Wow – I can't thank you enough for this gold mine you have unearthed for me and Joan.... The Coe College connection has been REALLY useful.... The bio material about Prof. Perkins helps us to uncover his path and that of his family's in Europe.... THANK YOU for all this great material! The film was especially incredible.... Coe has done quite a job documenting its history. How lucky...for us all!”

To view the complete “Ditty Book,” the 1939 film about life at Coe, and other interesting historical documents, visit the archives website (<http://www.library.coe.edu/archives/Archives MainPage.html>) and click on Digital Exhibits.

## GETTING A GRIP ON THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF ART



*Buildings in Far Rockaway*  
Benjamin Kopman, ca. 1940



*Platonic Agreement*  
W. Quirt, ca. 1940



*Bathers North Shore*  
Milton Avery, 1970s  
Gift of Mr. Roy Neuberger

Coe College Gallery Director Jennifer Rogers is in the final stages of a labor of love – creating a detailed database of Coe's large and valuable Permanent Collection of Art. Rogers worked with Assistant Professor of Art Andrea Kann and two summer work-study students to conduct a complete inventory of the college's art collection and develop a new acquisition numbering system in line with professional museum standards.

"The old system was clunky and incomplete, and we were concerned it wasn't sustainable. We met with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, and they were very generous in sharing information with us," she says. "Our system is a smaller-scale version of theirs."

The painstaking project involved locating, assigning a number, and creating an electronic record for every work of art, as well as attaching a tag with the new accession number to each piece. The file linked to that number contains a photo of the work and all available information about the piece – including the title, artist, medium, dimensions, donor and date it was donated to the college, if known, as well as the condition of the work and whether or not it is framed.

"There are all sorts of ways that people can use the database," Rogers explains. "If someone contacts us and wants information about a work, if someone wants to see a particular work, or if a student or someone is doing art historical research, we now have the information they need. It also helps because things move around a lot on campus and I can track them in a seamless fashion."

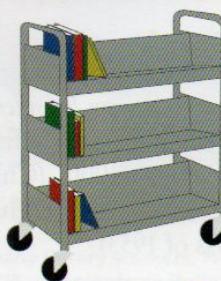
Some 700 paintings, photographs, and sculptures are comprised in Coe's Permanent Collection, approximately 85 percent of which is on display or in storage at Stewart Memorial Library. "There is also a nice bit of the collection in Voorhees, some in McCabe and some in other offices around campus," Rogers says.

For her, the labor-intensive project was well worth the effort. "Andrea and I and others on campus feel that the Permanent Collection is an important part of the college," she says. "There's a lot of history there. We want to be good stewards of the collection, be aware of the works and the condition they are in."

## WHAT LIBRARY STUDENTS ARE WEARING

The library's work-study students will soon be sporting a new t-shirt with a design created by library work-study student **Cassie Morigaki '13**. A senior public relations and business administration major from Hilo, Hawaii, Morigaki won a contest to come up with the best library t-shirt design. "We thought it would be a fun team-building type of activity," says Laura Riskedahl, head of audiovisual. "We had entries from several students throughout the various library departments, and a select group of other student workers chose the winning design." Morigaki says she struggled at first to come up with her idea. "Finally it hit me to use the book carts since we are always rolling those around the library."

That's How



We Roll

## PERRINE PRESENTS...



The library's new program series, *Perrine Presents*, kicked off in January with an appearance by Bruce Nesmith, Lipsky Professor of Political Science, who treated attendees to a rousing performance of his original folk music. The series is intended to provide an opportunity for faculty, students and staff to showcase their interests – academic or otherwise – through talks, readings and performances.

### Upcoming events:

- Thursday, February 28, 4 p.m.: Dennis Barnett, associate professor of theatre arts – presenting a series of speeches from Shakespeare plays
- Tuesday, March 26, 4 p.m.: President James and Linnie Phifer – an informal talk about their experiences during Dr. Phifer's presidency. Attendees are invited to bring Coe memorabilia to be autographed by Dr. Phifer and have their photo taken with the Phifers.

## ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS ADDED TO THE GEORGE T. HENRY ARCHIVES, 2012-2013

Adamson, Tom. *A Shot at the Sky*. Fremont, NE: Tom Adamson, 2012. (Tom Adamson, class of 1972)

Crawford, Paul. *Wanderer: The first book of the Beirut Quartet: A Return of Ancient Voices*. Denver, CO: Outskirts Press: 2012. (Paul Crawford, class of 1969)

Cumberland, Sharon. *Peculiar Honors: Poems*. Mill Creek, WA: Black Heron Press, 2012. (Sharon Lee Cumberland, class of 1969)

Dake, Elizabeth Wilhelm. *Aunt Libby, Cousin George and Community: The Calders, Greenes and Early Cedar Rapids*. Asheville, NC: Elizabeth W. Dake, 2012. (Elizabeth Wilhelm Dake, class of 1948)

Faber, Charles F. and Richard B. Faber. *The American Presidents Ranked by Performance*. Jefferson, MO: McFarland, 2000. (Charles F. Faber, class of 1948, Richard B. Faber, class of 1953)

Fritz, Karoline. *The Victorian*. Xlibris, Corp.: 2012. (Karoline Jensen Fritz, class of 1998)

Karns, Dean and Betty Bang Mather, eds. *Overture-suite in B Minor, BWV 1067*. Johann Sebastian Bach (score for flute and keyboard) King of Prussia: Theodore Presser Co., 2012. (Dean Karns, Professor of Mathematics and Music, Registrar and Director of Institutional Research 1960-1999)

Kelly, Kevin. *Eighty Years through the Lens: The Life and Work of George T. Henry*. (video recording) Santa Fe, NM: KJK Media Productions, LLC, 2012. (Kevin Kelly, class of 1967)

Malloy II, Daniel A. *The Way of the Cross*. (sound recording) First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA: 200?. (Marita Wolgast, accompanist, Part-time Teaching Artist in Music, 1995 - )

Murphy, David P. *Ace Your Zombie Exam! The Official Ph.Z. Study Guide*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, 2011. (David P. Murphy, class of 1977)

Nesmith, Bruce. "Reality-based Policymaking: Information, Advice, and Presidential Success" in *Governing at Home: The White House and Domestic Policymaking*. Nelson, Michael and Russell L. Riley, eds. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2011. (Bruce Nesmith, Professor of Political Science, 1989 - )

Petersen, Thomas. *Three Stripes and You're Out: Lessons in Leadership from a Young Army Sergeant*. Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2012. (Thomas Petersen, class of 1962)

Topolewski, Timothy. *Mastering Score Study*. St. Louis, MO: Shattiger Music, 2007. (Timothy Topolewski, Professor of Music, 1979-1987)

Wolgast, Brett and Marita. *Sundays at Four: A Concert of Duets for Piano and Organ*. (sound recording) Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Iowa City, IA: 200?. (Brett Wolgast, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music, 1992 - , and Marita Wolgast, Part-Time Teaching Artist in Music, 1995 - )