

A newsletter for the members of the Coe College Library Association

Stewart Memorial Library 2.0

BRINGING STUDENT SERVICES TO THE HEART OF CAMPUS

The Stewart Memorial Library, the longtime center of the Coe College campus, is completing a \$1.2 million renovation that adds a Learning Commons, a place that brings together the academic support services that help Coe students succeed at college – and at life.

The sawdust was still settling, the painters still painting, and sticky notes still on doorways when fall semester classes began Aug. 31. But the idea of an academic hub for students was firmly in place. Students were using the new study nooks and the new conference rooms, computers and comfy couches. They were writing chemistry equations on the new writable walls. They were talking with career consultants, checking out the Writing Center and Speaking Center, browsing through journals and books.

The Learning Commons is built atop the foundation of a strong academic library.

“Throughout its history, Stewart Memorial Library has been the heart of the campus, both literally and figuratively, providing excellent research support to both students and faculty,” Director of Library Services Jill Jack says. “Through a collaborative effort, the Library and Learning Commons staff will create an enriched, engaging and creative approach to teaching and learning that will benefit the entire Coe community. “It makes sense to have Coe’s academic student services in one place.”

The idea of a Learning Commons, while new to Coe, is in place at a number of universities and colleges. Centralizing Coe’s far-flung academic student services and providing new meeting spaces for the campus community were part of Coe’s strategic plan, and that goal was implemented quickly – basically in six months. Construction workers were at the library as soon as classes ended in the spring. Walls came down in the gallery spaces, replaced by big, dramatic, plate-glass walls. Thousands of books and works of art were moved or stored during construction and then reshelfed or rehung. Huge stacks were moved. New offices were added to the library’s main and lower levels, along with two new conference rooms, a seminar discussion room and two new study rooms, creating versatile meeting spaces for groups of two to 14. New furniture was added, while older furniture was refurbished. New carpeting was laid, floors were refinished, and walls were painted. New technology, including an interactive display system, was installed.

It was a mess. It was exhilarating. It was a lot of work. And the library stayed open through it all.

The upgrades and remodeling basically break down into three elements: new



The Joanne M. Pochobradsky Reading Room as it appears today on the library’s main floor. The remodeling retained the room’s comfortable reading spaces, with hundreds of academic journals laid out for browsing. A new seminar room is to the right, with glass walls and technology that allows students to share content digitally. And the new coffee shop is just around the corner.



The Joanne M. Pochobradsky Reading Room in the midst of its renovation this summer. The Stewart Memorial Library is putting the finishing touches on a \$1.2 million renovation that reshaped the library’s main and lower levels. The project brought academic support services into the library, too, to form the new Learning Commons.

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technology; new services for students and staff, offered in cooperation with the Learning Commons; and new spaces throughout the library that include new display spaces for valuable pieces from Coe's art collection.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Wireless Internet service was upgraded throughout the library building so students, faculty and staff no longer encounter "dead zones" on mobile devices and no longer have to sit at a computer station to ensure connections. New computers were added to the library's main and lower levels, as well as a computer lab on the lower level. Dual monitors allow students and faculty to have two screens open at once. Also, students can check out laptops and iPads to use anywhere in the library.

New technology also opens new avenues for instruction. An "interactive display system" is part of the main level's new seminar room, allowing for display of all things digital. And on the lower level, in the very cool, "open-air" classroom, is one of the renovation's "wow" factors – the AirMedia SYSTEM, an advanced, interactive display system that allows for multiple multimedia projects to be displayed at the same time. The 85-inch screen will make it easy for students and instructors to collaborate, view and share – and even write on the images displayed on the special presentation wall. Its potential to open worlds, and minds, is only beginning to be explored.

STUDENT SERVICES

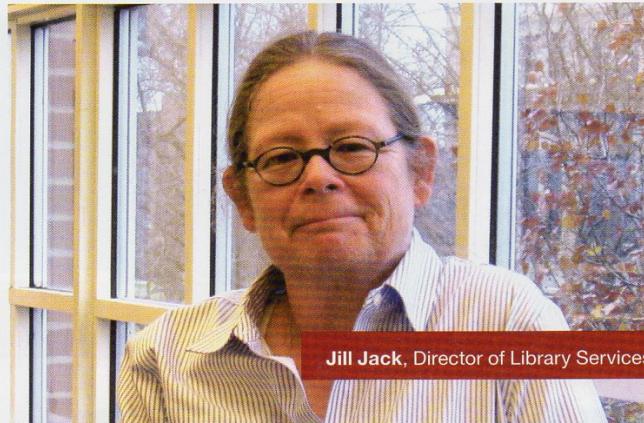
With the addition of the Learning Commons to the library, it will be easier for librarians to collaborate with students and the academic services that support their learning. It makes it easier for students to interact with each other and with the guidance professionals and staffers who can help them decide both on their majors and what they want to accomplish in life.

By way of example: "When I worked with AAP students, I would have to go meet them in Voorhees Hall or set up meetings here in the library," Jack says. "Now that they're here, those meetings can take place routinely. Tutoring is the same way, along with the Writing and Speaking Centers. In the future, we hope to fully collaborate and work closely with those students. The proximity of these services will make the partnerships a lot easier, and seamless. It will definitely benefit the students."

NEW SPACES

Main Level: The remodeling opens up the library's main floor and lower level. The entry is particularly striking with the glass-walled galleries and staircase. New circulation and reference/Learning Commons desks curve away from the entryway. The Writing Center and Speaking Center each hold a prominent corner, giving the well-regarded centers higher visibility and easier student access than in their former campus locations. In addition to the centers, two study rooms and a conference room have been added. Additional study rooms, also with glass walls, are tucked into corners and beneath stairwells. Located in the Joanne M. Pochobradsky Reading Room are current periodicals and the new offices of various student services. A seminar room offers technology that allows students to share content and collaborate digitally, letting up to four students display different content simultaneously. A new coffee shop also has been added to the reading room, which promises to be a popular retreat, with tables, chairs and couches sharing space with hundreds of academic journals laid out for browsing.

Lower Level: The library's lower level is anchored by the Whipple Browsing Area, formerly on the main floor, a cozy nook filled with fiction and non-fiction books and soft, gray chairs. A very cool, "open-air" classroom to the left of the stairs offers the interactive display system and comfortable, portable chairs. Across the open space sits a computer lab with 22



Jill Jack, Director of Library Services

computers. A new conference room and offices for Learning Commons' staffers line the back wall, and a new testing center offers privacy for test takers.

Upper Levels: The second floor's lovely, multi-tiered reading room remains in place, with a newly painted accent wall to warm up the already inviting space. Recently, the library also reupholstered all the bench seats on the second and third floors and will be upgrading the popular study rooms with writable walls. The book stacks on the second and third floors remain in place, somewhat tightened, with some bound periodicals moved to campus storage and available upon request. Jack singles out for praise the students who crated and moved and then uncrated and shelved the many volumes.

Art Display Spaces: In short, the renovation is allowing more of Coe's valuable art collection to be displayed in more spaces throughout the library.

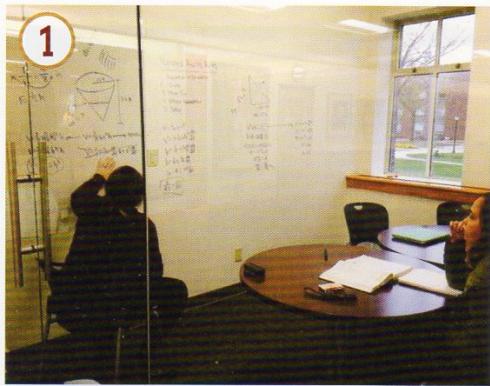
The remodeled Winnifred M. Cone Galleries at the library entrance now feature the original collection that longtime Art Professor **Marvin Cone**, Coe Class of 1914, originally selected to represent the different painting styles he employed throughout his long career. More Cone paintings are displayed in other library spaces, including in the Whipple Browsing Area on the lower level.

"We've never had art in the lower level before, but now we have nice spaces to display art," Jack says, adding the library also will find a spot for the recently donated Cone clock. The 4-foot-tall, pendulum clock (ca. 1900), which belonged to Marvin Cone's father and was displayed in his Cedar Rapids jewelry store at 213 Second Ave. in Cedar Rapids, was generously donated by Vivian Seidle.

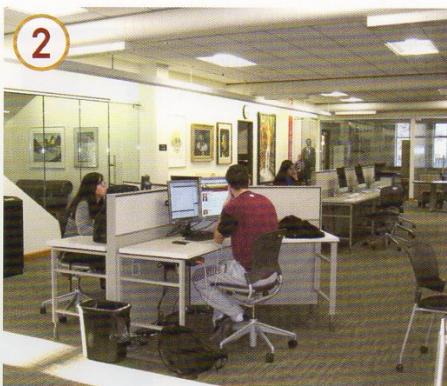
A new painting by **Peter Tong Xiao '84** will be hung, as will ones by Marvin D. Cone Professor of Art Emeritus Robert Kocher. Andy Warhol's "Polaroids" and six new Warhol prints will be displayed, along with one of his famed "Campbell Soup Cans" prints. The Perrine Gallery on the Library's second level still showcases 12 paintings and murals by Iowa artist Grant Wood, including the dramatic farm murals on the library's east and west walls.

More than 200 works of art, by more than 50 artists, daily greet Coe students, faculty and staff when they visit their Library.

All in all, Jack said, the remodeling will "allow us to do more as a library. It was a challenge to find areas for the books that students need. But I think we've done a good job of keeping books accessible. The traditional functions and services of the library are continuing and are stronger. The Learning Commons continues the library's outreach on campus by bringing more of the campus to the library. We now have a new environment to do it in. We'll be teaching in an expanded way, with more seamless and stronger partnerships."



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- 1 Coe students focus on work they've posted on an erasable white board wall in one of the new study rooms on the main floor of Stewart Memorial Library.
- 2 Students make use of the new double-screen computers on the main level of the library. Note the glassed-in study room to the left.
- 3 Study areas abound on the main level of the remodeled Stewart Memorial Library. The renovation allowed for more display of the Coe art collection.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

The academic student services now found in the Learning Commons of Stewart Memorial Library help Coe students:

- » Explore and choose a major
- » Manage their time and develop study skills
- » Plan their careers and lives
- » Find an internship
- » Volunteer and participate in community service
- » Study off-campus
- » Find tutors or an academic coach
- » Learn how to do research
- » Prepare for graduate or professional programs
- » Use the Writing Center (peer support for all aspects of writing)
- » Use the Speaking Center (peer support for public speaking, presentations, etc.)
- » Disability support
- » Take a test if they've missed an exam or need accommodations
- » Write and fund a micro grant if they have a teaching or learning idea

LEARNING COMMONS ALL ABOUT STUDENTS

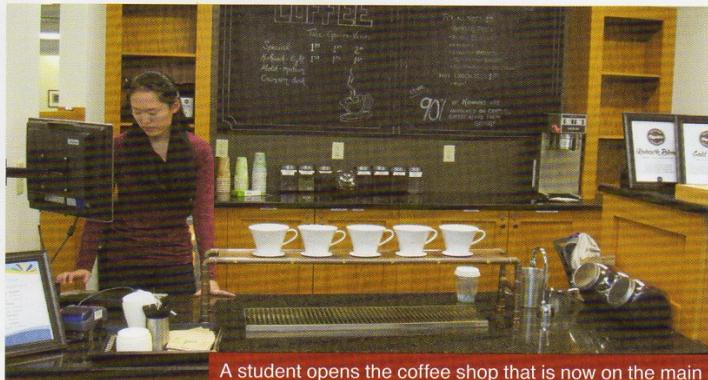
The best part of incorporating the new Learning Commons into Stewart Memorial Library was seeing how quickly students embraced the concept, says Gina Hausknecht, the newly appointed Associate Dean of the Learning Commons and Coe's John William King Professor of Literature and Creative Writing.

The idea of a Learning Commons, she says, is to "transform a library into a central meeting space where people can work on a whole variety of skills beyond the traditional realm of libraries. And to bring together different offices and programs that support student learning."

Bringing those academic services together, she says, brings a simplicity and ease of access for students: "Anything to do with learning, go to the library."

The academic services, formerly autonomous entities, are now working collaboratively as a team, explains Hausknecht, who's been at Coe since 1994. "We know a lot about each other's areas, and any of us, who work in any of these units, can help students get a foothold – whatever they need. We're cutting down on the 'pinball' effect of having students go here, now go there. Maybe students come in asking for help with their resume, but maybe they're really trying to figure out what to do with their lives. Maybe their major is turning out to be different than they expected, and they need to talk about that. Or maybe they didn't know before college that their love of art could be turned into a career in graphic arts. Now, that support is all here in one place."

"I think Coe is really good at opening doors to students. A Learning Commons is all about that. It's one more way we have as a college to help students learn about themselves and the world. We're not just interested in where you are right now, but where you're going, what conversations you should be having, what you need to explore – so every student builds a unique, individualized path through college to a great life after graduation."



A student opens the coffee shop that is now on the main level of the library. The shop was added as part of the \$1.2 million renovation of the library in the summer of 2015.

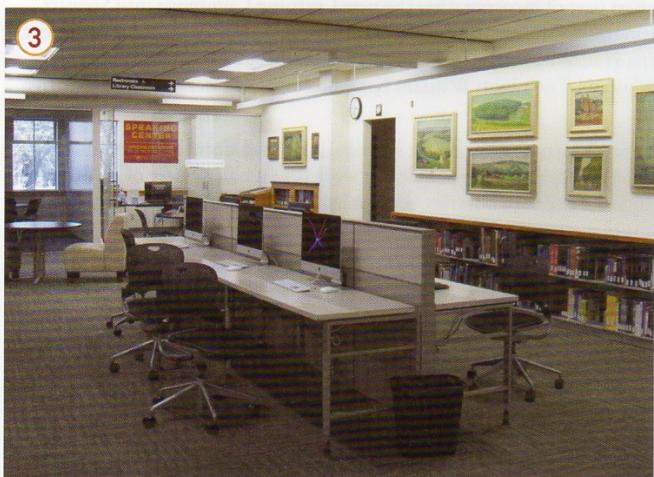
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1. Coe's well-regarded Writing Center now occupies a corner of the Stewart Memorial Library's main level. The Writing Center and Speaking Center were moved into the library as part of the consolidation of student academic support services into the new Learning Commons.

2. This photo shows the library's main floor in the middle of last summer's construction. The library remained open throughout the remodeling, with most of the work completed by the time Coe students returned in late August.

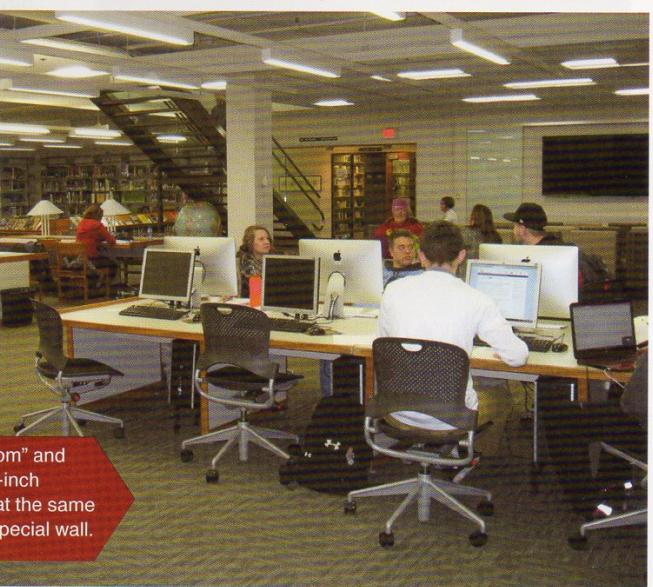
3. Study areas with computers, and without, sit outside the Speaking Center, now located in a corner of Stewart Memorial Library's main level. The relocation of the Writing and Speaking centers gives students easier access to those support services and also allows for more partnerships and collaboration with library staff.

4. What a difference two weeks can make! This photo shows the lower level of Stewart Memorial Library on Aug. 18 – a little less than two weeks before students returned. It took a hard, final push, but most library areas were ready to welcome back students on Aug. 31. If you look closely, just left of the middle pillar, you can see the opening for the presentation wall.

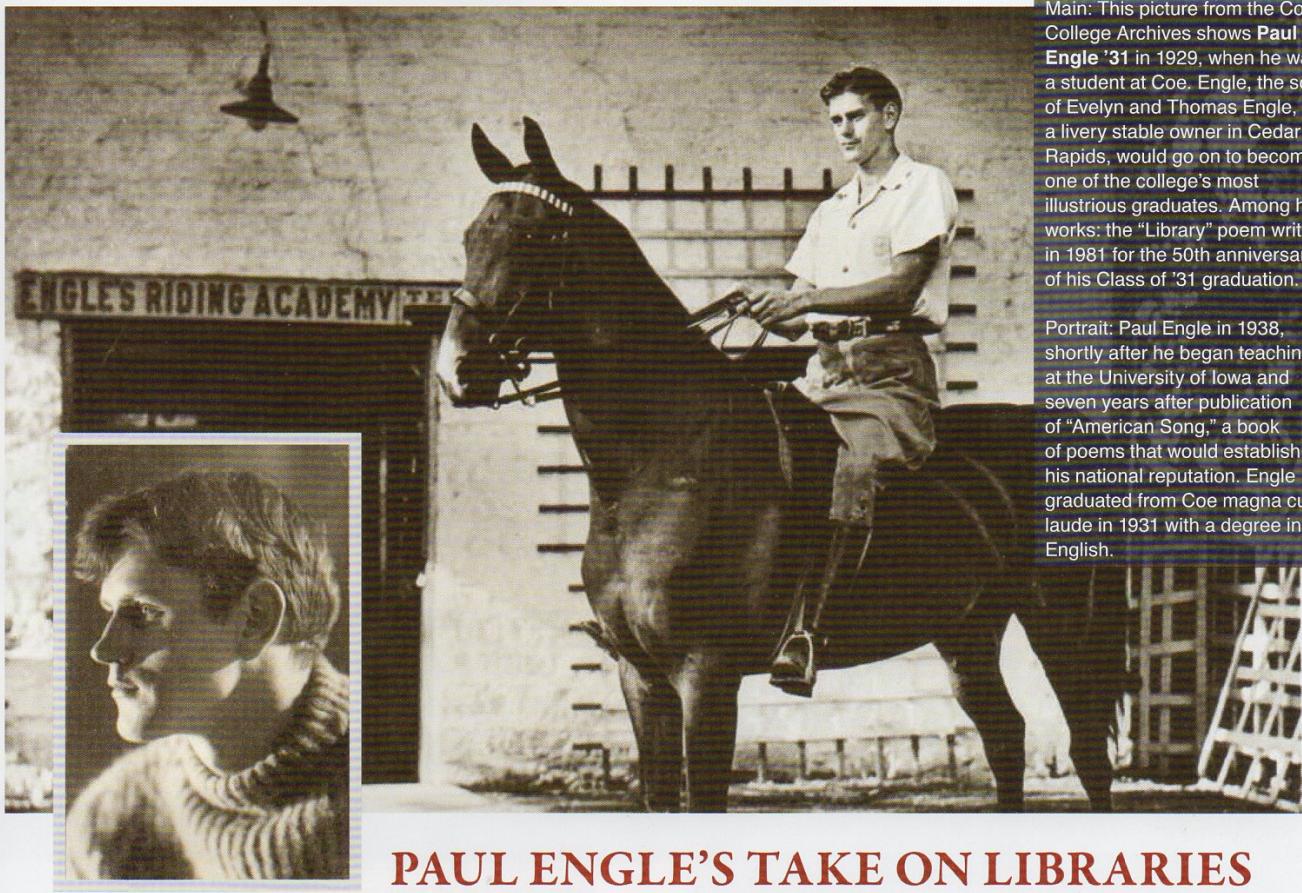


For more pictures of the library renovation, go to

www.facebook.com/Coe-College-Library-Stewart-Memorial-Library



This photo shows the same lower level area today, with the "open-air classroom" and presentation wall in place. That wall makes use of an AirMedia SYSTEM's 85-inch display screen. It allows students and instructors to display multiple projects at the same time and to collaborate in their viewing and sharing, including writing on the special wall.



Main: This picture from the Coe College Archives shows **Paul Engle** '31 in 1929, when he was a student at Coe. Engle, the son of Evelyn and Thomas Engle, a livery stable owner in Cedar Rapids, would go on to become one of the college's most illustrious graduates. Among his works: the "Library" poem written in 1981 for the 50th anniversary of his Class of '31 graduation.

Portrait: Paul Engle in 1938, shortly after he began teaching at the University of Iowa and seven years after publication of "American Song," a book of poems that would establish his national reputation. Engle graduated from Coe magna cum laude in 1931 with a degree in English.

PAUL ENGLE'S TAKE ON LIBRARIES

Eighty-five years ago, poet **Paul Engle** '31 was finishing his senior year at Coe College. Three years later, his second book of poetry, "American Song," would merit a glowing, front-page review in the New York Times Review of Books, a review that heralded him as "a new voice of American poetry."

Engle would go on to publish more than 20 books, including 11 volumes of poetry. He was director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa from 1943 to 1966, developing the fledgling program into the premier writers' destination it is today. In 1967, he and his wife, Chinese novelist Hualing Nieh Engle, established the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

In 1981, Engle wrote the lovely poem, "Library," for the Stewart Memorial Library, on the 50th anniversary of his Coe Class of '31 graduation. Its lines about the role of libraries continue to resonate:

*Libraries are alive, walls tremble, books
Bounce on their shelves. In terrible times
Enter, your life comforted by their lives.*

"These words are as true today as when they were written," says Jill Jack, Coe's Director of Library Services. "Engle calls out to the Coe community to 'Go to a library...' and they do. At a time when many colleges are struggling to maintain a strong and vibrant library, contributions from our alumni and supporters have enabled us to continue to provide the academic community at Coe with outstanding resources. Our circulation has increased, as has patron use and library instruction. We have enhanced our collections."

"But as Engle suggests, the Library is more than stone and mortar. It is the heart and soul of the campus. It is where friends meet, students study, knowledge is exchanged and debated. It is a place alumni come back to, to meet old friends among the paintings of Cone, Wood, Lasansky and Metcalf."

Engle graduated from Coe magna cum laude with a degree in English. He earned a master's degree the following year at the University of Iowa. His master's thesis was a volume of poems, "Worn Earth," that was published by Yale University Press that same year, winning the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. In 1932, he won a fellowship to Columbia University and a Rhodes Scholarship for study at Oxford University. He began teaching at the University of Iowa in 1937.

In 1946, Engle received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Coe and, in 1952, the college's Alumni Award of Merit. And in 1976, Engle became one of the first people to be awarded Coe's highest honor, the Coe Founders' Medal. That same year, he and his wife were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He died in 1991 at the age of 82.

It was an amazing life for a man born in 1908 in Cedar Rapids to Evelyn and Thomas Engle, a livery stable owner. The Paul Engle Center for Neighborhood Arts, at 1600 Fourth Ave. SE, is near Coe in the neighborhood where Engle grew up. Engle had his first job in that former pharmacy building, selling ice cream. In his memoir, he would describe the experience as his "window into the whole area."

The Stewart Memorial Library and the University of Iowa share Engle's papers, with the collection in Coe's George T. Henry College Archives filling 63 boxes and 18 linear feet. Included is correspondence from such influential writers as Robert Frost, Gwendolyn Brooks, Kurt Vonnegut and Flannery O'Connor. The collection also includes the opera, "Western Child," which Engle wrote and which was performed at the University of Iowa in 1959 and then broadcast by the Hallmark Hall of Fame as "Golden Child" in 1960. Engle's diary, from 1929-31, when he was at Coe, is also among the papers.

A quiet study room bearing Engle's name and memorabilia from his life is on the second floor of the Stewart Memorial Library. If you listen closely, you can still hear "the books inside their bindings breathe aloud."



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COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

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LIBRARY

BY PAUL ENGLE '31

Fire burns the trembling hand.

Cold freezes the five fingers.

Rock breaks the unbending bone.

But books can grab you by the throat and kill.

Go to a library. Listen. You can hear
The books inside their bindings breathe aloud,
Hear reckless phrases howling from their type,
Hear jokes tickling your ear like a fine feather,
Hear screams of rage, delight and agony.

Some books have brutal teeth that snap and bite,
Collared like dogs we lead them on a tight leash.

Passions of men and women cry
Out of the silence from that printed page.

Some books, soft as a hand, caress your hand.

Beware the library, its books are sticks
Of dangerous dynamite that men have dropped
When they explode, governments disappear.

Some covers hold ideas like live steam –
Open them, they can shatter your live face.

The mind is a gun shooting at history.

The brain is under pressure in a book
Whose words are stronger than a rocker's fuel –
The sky's the limit in a fury of fire.

Libraries are alive, walls tremble, books
Bounce on their shelves. In terrible times
Enter, your life comforted by their lives.

Written "with great affection" for the Coe College Stewart Memorial Library in 1981, on the 50th anniversary of the Coe College Class of 1931