



# COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

WINTER 2016-2017



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



## STEWART MEMORIAL LIBRARY – HAPPY 85<sup>TH</sup>!

How do you celebrate an 85th birthday? If you're the Stewart Memorial Library, sitting for eight-and-one-half decades at the center of the Coe College campus, you find people to throw three classy parties for you.

You start by inviting Marc Wortman, a writer who used the Library's George T. Henry Archives to research his critically acclaimed book, "1941: Fighting the Shadow War: A Divided America in a World at War," for an Oct. 18 reading and sessions with journalism and history students.

You invite Coe poetry students to study and reflect on the **Marvin Cone '14** paintings in the Library and create poems about them. Then you invite art students and their guests to dress as their favorite artists and come hear the poetry students read their poems, along with several by **Paul Engle '31**, at an Oct. 24 reception catered by the Cooking Club at the Library.

And then you invite Kay and **George T. Henry '49** to a Nov. 11 reception honoring their lifetime commitment to Coe College and the Cedar Rapids community, and you mount a weeklong retrospective of George Henry's most memorable photographs.

"We wanted to come up with ways to note this milestone that were in keeping with the mission of the Library—events to honor our history and those who have given us such a solid foundation, to celebrate the ways the different collections are currently used, while envisioning their use in the future," Library Director Jill Jack says. "The three programs were well-received and were good examples of just some of the ways the Library's mission has stayed the same but the method in which we fulfill our responsibilities to the college community continues to change. Combining the new with the old, re-imagining the works of Cone into a written form, is just one example."

The original three-story, 19,800-square-foot Stewart Memorial Library was built in 1931, with a gift from Colonel Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of Standard Oil. It was renovated and expanded in 1988 to 57,910 square feet, with a grant from the Hall-Perrine Foundation, and remodeled in 2015. The latest renovation of the Library's lower level and main floor also brought with it the creation of the Learning Commons within the Library. The Learning Commons has fit well into the overall mission of the Library, as a place where students can access a variety of valuable and innovative resources, assistance and support.

In short: Definitely worth a celebration.



## WORTMAN: ARCHIVES WERE 'ESSENTIAL'

Historian Marc Wortman says the **William L. Shirer '25** Papers at the Coe Archives "were essential for me to understand how determined Shirer was throughout 1941 to inform American audiences about Hitler's murderous intent and the danger Nazi Germany posed to the nation. The documents also showed me that Americans were gaining an increasingly clear picture of what was going on in Europe under Nazi rule. Finally, I also learned about his sheer bravery in keeping his secret diary and smuggling it out while under the eyes of the Gestapo."

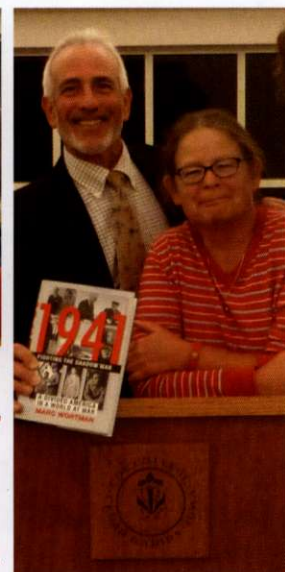
Wortman used Shirer's papers as a major source in his 2016 history book, "1941: Fighting the Shadow War: A Divided America in a World at War." The Wall Street Journal found the book "engrossing ... an absorbing worldwide epic set in that pivotal year" and likened its vigorous writing to "a good thriller." Wortman has written two other books, both to critical acclaim, and numerous articles for magazines and journals.

Wortman says working in the Library Archives in the spring of 2014 "was simply delightful. The very professional archivists made every effort they could to provide me all I needed." Returning to Coe in November to talk about his book and meet with Coe students, he says, was deeply rewarding. "I felt like I was completing a circle, from research to the completed book," he says from his home in New Haven, Conn. "I enjoyed interacting with students, exploring with them this complex, ambiguous period in their country's past and helping them to see how that history continues to inform the world they are living in."

Also, he adds, "It was just a pleasure to stroll through Coe's beautiful campus on crisp autumn days."



▲ Journalist and historian Marc Wortman reads from his critically acclaimed history book, "1941: Fighting the Shadow War: A Divided America in a World at War," during an Oct. 18 reading at the Stewart Memorial Library. Wortman used the William L. Shirer Papers in the Library's archives in researching his book.



► Author Marc Wortman and Library Director Jill Jack pose during Wortman's visit to Coe College in October.



## TWEMLOW: 'A CHANCE TO CONNECT'



**Nicholas Twemlow**

Library Director Jill Jack knew Nicholas Twemlow brought his poetry students to the Stewart Memorial Library to study paintings by **Marvin Cone '14**. When she contacted him about possibly using that class assignment in connection with the Library's 85th birthday celebration, and to celebrate Cone's and Paul Engle's birthdays (both in October), he was immediately on board.

Twemlow, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Film Studies, uses the Cone paintings to teach ekphrastic poetry—basically a poem where the poet reflects on the “action” of a painting or sculpture, perhaps creating a story about the subject.

In Twemlow's class, the students learn about ekphrastic poems, about Cone, his life and his paintings, and his relationship to fellow artist Grant Wood. They go to the Library and study Cone's paintings. “They meditate on these and find one they're attracted to,” Twemlow says. “They sit with it for ten or fifteen minutes, taking notes. It can be a narrative, or impressions of color, space, lines. They go back to the painting at least twice and then write some response as a poem.”

A bonus was the chance for the students to read their poems in public at an Oct. 24 reception at the Library. “Some were kind of shy, but several volunteered. Most of the students were excited. It was a chance to connect with an audience. Three read their own poems, three read poems by Paul Engle. Plus they got to learn a lot about Paul Engle, too.”

The other bonus, Twemlow notes, is having a collection of one artist's life's work in one place, as is the case with Cone and Coe, where observers can track an artist's growth and evolution.



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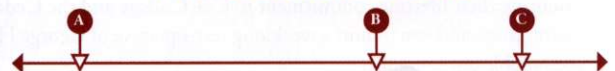
1. **Seala Hite '17** appears as Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, **Nathan Rey '18** dresses as Andy Warhol, and Writer in Residence Ann Struthers portrays artist Grant Wood's “Woman with Plant” during the Oct. 24 Marvin Cone/Paul Engle birthday bash at the Library.

2. The Cooking Club and art students combined to provide birthday treats for the Oct. 24 event.

3. Robert Kocher, Marvin D. Cone Professor Emeritus of Art, channels artist Vincent Van Gogh, sans ear, at the Oct. 24 celebration of the Stewart Memorial Library's 85th birthday. Kocher shared stories and anecdotes about his colleague Cone. The occasion, with poetry by Coe students, doubled as a birthday party for Cone and Paul Engle, both born in October.

4-5. Marvin Cone's “Two Pears” and “Strange Vigil” inspired Janelle Oster's poem, “Pears and Uncle Harry.” (Opposite).

### THROUGH THE YEARS



A) 1931 - Stewart Memorial Library built

B) 1988 - Library renovated and expanded

C) 2015 - Library remodeled; Learning Commons added

### LIBRARY DIRECTORS

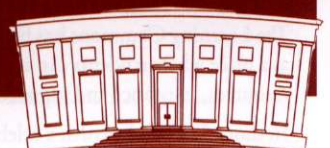
<b>1881-1887</b>	Rev. W.W. Gist	<b>1919-1921</b>	Jessie B. Weston
<b>1887-1888</b>	James R. Campbell	<b>1921-1942</b>	Betty H. Pritchett
<b>1888-1890</b>	E. Belle Stewart	<b>1942-1955</b>	Elizabeth A. Windsor
<b>1890-1891</b>	Miss M. Leeb	<b>1955-1963</b>	Warren F. Tracy
<b>1891-1892</b>	George R. Dean	<b>1963-1967</b>	Helen M. Lee
<b>1892-1894</b>	Isabel Ione Graham Stookey	<b>1967-1974</b>	Everett Howell
<b>1894-1900</b>	Marian H. Kilbourne	<b>1974-1978</b>	Fred Borchuck
<b>1900-1902</b>	Ida M. Dodd	<b>1978-2010</b>	Richard Doyle
<b>1902-1903</b>	Corinne Shelley	<b>2010-present</b>	Jill Jack
<b>1903-1911</b>	Mary Amidon		
<b>1911-1919</b>	Miranda Scoville		



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5



## Pears and Uncle Henry

By Janelle Oster

Today I received fresh pears

A neighbor had carried them to my home  
Knowing my lover's corpse was covered in rotting flesh.

They gleam in the sun shining through the window  
The only window in this home facing the sun as it sets.

I wonder if the neighbor realizes how inconsiderate  
She is making me stare at these two pears

Two pears

I am only one person

I could not eat two in one sitting

I need my lover

I need her mouth

I need her clean teeth and her precise tongue and her wicked jaw and her cracked lips and  
her sensitive tastebuds and her.

I need her.

The halls are covered with silence and shadows

She left a key to turn the lock

In the keyhole of the door to our passing room

I slink into the shadows hoping to not disturb the spirits that slither between the cracks

*Creakkkkkkkkk-ekk-ekk-ekk*

Her Uncle Henry stares me down from his picture hanging on the peeling wall paper

"How dare you make a sound in a house that mourns" I thought he said

I shake with fear and feel my body tremble with the sobs I had been holding in since her  
departure

Foot thud creak foot thud creak foot thud creak foot thud creak

I repeat

As my earthquake of a body runs up the stairs throwing the doors shut behind me

They're just pears.

The neighbors whose gesture triggered my emotions to finally overflow did not mean harm

They're just pears.

A fruit. A substance to keep me eating and breathing and living.

"They're just pears" I finally utter out loud.

*Creakkkkkkkkk-ekk-ekk-ekk*

The door stutters open afraid of the force I had just used to slam it

Foot thud creak foot thud creak foot thud creak foot thud creak

I repeat

This time I do not slink into the shadows in hopes of not disturbing the spirits that slither  
between the cracks.

This time I walk calmly.

I control the space

I control the spirits that buzz within my mind.

I glance at Uncle Henry as I stroll by catching his dark eyes as he whispers an apology.

I enter through the kitchen door with the key in the keyhole into the room with the two pears

No long gleaming they sit in the dark

The sun has set and so has my anger

I slide a stainless steel knife from a drawer

And join the two pears at the empty table.

I slice a piece of pear off

The flavors bleeds onto my tongue as my jaw works my teeth into grinding the piece into  
swallowable bits.

"They're just pears" I whisper as I set the porcelain plate with the two pears in the fridge.



▲ Marvin Cone's "Little Bohemia" painting inspired Samantha Tatman's poem, "Marvin Cone in the 1950s."

## Marvin Cone in the 1950s

By Samantha Tatman

The hot summer skies  
seep a mediterranean blue  
as I watch an old farmer and his  
friends walk toward the  
dry goods store.

Saturdays are always busiest  
for Jillian's shop. Because she's  
always stocking the shelves

while Mary tends the counter,  
Listening to Jerry for the 13th  
time going on about his shrimp  
farm and his brother, the mayor.

Then...

the smell of apple pie  
wafts down from one of  
the houses, and I wish  
I could paint that  
cinnamon-sweet  
scent.

and the sound of Marve hammering  
away at slabs of walnut  
to make a jewelry box for his

wife...I wish I could paint those  
sounds to help commemorate their  
60th anniversary together.

I paint the viridian fire hydrant  
with the orange top, the heat  
bakes the asphalt streets  
clean.

The 1800s style buildings share  
their wisdom with the 1950's me.  
I love this summer-lit town  
square.  
And now, time for some pie.



## HENRY: 'DOING WHAT I WANTED'

George T. Henry began taking pictures on the Coe campus in 1948, a year before he graduated, and he didn't stop until 2010. Henry and his cameras were there to chronicle every important Coe event and announcement, as well as the small, intimate moments of campus life. The pictures are as much a cultural history of America as a history of Coe.

About 130,000 of Henry's black-and-white negatives of Coe are now cataloged and preserved in the George T. Henry Archives at the Stewart Memorial Library, with another 10,000 color pictures awaiting cataloging. In addition, Henry says he has another 250,000 pictures of nature and wildlife in the United States and Africa and from his many summers of white-water rafting in Utah and Colorado.

When Library Director Jack called, asking if he could pull about 60 prints from his vast catalog for an exhibit noting the Library's 85th anniversary, he said yes, joking that at age 93, he was older than the Library. The show ran Nov. 11-18 in the student art gallery in lower Gage Memorial Union, opening with a Nov. 11 reception celebrating Henry and his wife, Kay, and their long association with Coe.

"The show looked very nice," Henry says. "Through the years, I was doing what I wanted to do. I had a great time. I've so enjoyed working with and knowing the people at Coe. Whenever I'm out someplace, someone almost always comes up to me and says, 'You don't know me, but....' and they tell me about a picture I took of them at Coe or on a river trip. Sometimes, it's three or four people in one evening. It is kind of rewarding."

The bonus of being a college photographer, he says, was having summers off—a schedule that led to 45 years of white-water rafting in the West, where he racked up 25,000 river miles and served as a river guide for hundreds of adventurers, including the Robert and Ethel Kennedy family.

The Henrys capped their support of Coe with the creation and funding of the George T. Henry Archives in 1999, which has allowed not only George's work to be preserved but also that of the college, faculty and alumni. They also provided an endowment to maintain the archives—"a wonderful, priceless gift," Library Director Jack says.

Those wishing to know more about Henry's well-lived life can view the 2012 **Kevin J. Kelly '67** documentary, "Eighty Years Through the Lens: The Life and Work of George T. Henry."



◀ Kay and George T. Henry '49 are shown during a Nov. 11 reception at Perrine Gallery honoring their years of commitment to Coe College and Cedar Rapids. George Henry was Coe's photographer for 62 years and organized a retrospective of his photographs to celebrate the Library's 85th birthday. A gift from the Henrys in 1999 funded the George T. Henry Archives at the Library.



◀ This 1957 photograph by George T. Henry shows Coe Professors Marvin Cone and Bob Kocher in the foreground as Grant Wood's "Fruits of Iowa" is hung in the Stewart Memorial Library.

## PRIVACY COMES WITH INSPIRATION

What better way to "decorate" the glass walls of a Writing Center than with the written word?

When the Writing Center wanted a bit more privacy than its glass walls afforded, Library Director Jill Jack came up with the idea of placing famous quotes on an acetate film covering the glass. It was easier said than done, of course, but Michael "Woody" Bruhn, from Energy Control of Iowa, brought the right mix of practical knowledge to the job.

"It wasn't easy to produce," Jack says. "'Woody' put up with a lot from me so I could get the look and feel I wanted."

Among the offerings are these words now appearing on the Writing Center's glass walls from writer and poet **Paul Engle '31**: "Writing is rewriting what you have rewritten." And from football coach **Marv Levy '50**: "Writers Block: I need to get going, I need to be bold. I need to stop putting this effort on hold." And from Coe's equipment manager **Doug Peters '81**: "Start small, think big."

The quotes from Coe alums have pride of place and appear in a larger typeface. It is, after all, the Coe Library. But others from the wide world of literature also have their words inscribed. Indonesian novelist Pramoedya Ananta Toer advises, "Painting is literature in colors. Literature is painting in language." And Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist John Cheever notes, "I can't write without a reader. It's precisely like a kiss – you can't do it alone."

All in all, quotes from 108 writers, artists and other notables now cover the glass walls, including this one from historian **William L. Shirer '25**, who extols the influence of Professor Ethel Outland, Coe's longtime teacher of journalism: "Professor Outland could not stand sloppy thinking and especially sloppy writing, and it was from her that I got a feeling of what a struggle it would always be to write the American language and how fine the awards were if you realized this and persisted."

Bruhn, whose company placed UV films on the Library windows, also created the giant "swoop" that covers the glass wall of the Library's main floor Sanders Conference room. "It's a modern touch in an old Library," Library Director Jill Jack says. "I love the combination."

# POP ART POPS ON LIBRARY WALLS



Dr. Ranelle Knight-Lueth

**W**hen the Stewart Memorial Library was being remodeled in the summer of 2015, a large conference

room and hallway were added, presenting the Library staff with two big blank walls—catnip for art lovers.

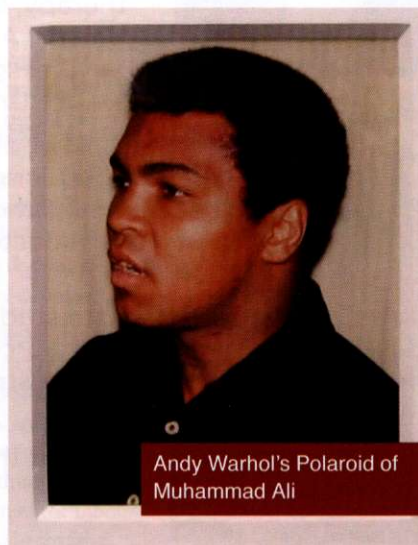
This year, silkscreen prints and Polaroids by famed pop artist Andy Warhol were placed on those walls, providing a stylish, modern counterpoint to the 85-year-old Library. The newly hung art—from Coe's collection of more than 800 objects of art—joins Warhol's well-known Campbell's Soup Can print, which already hangs in the nearby Pochobradsky Reading Room.

The six Warhol prints now displayed in the new hallway include a striking one of Goethe, the German

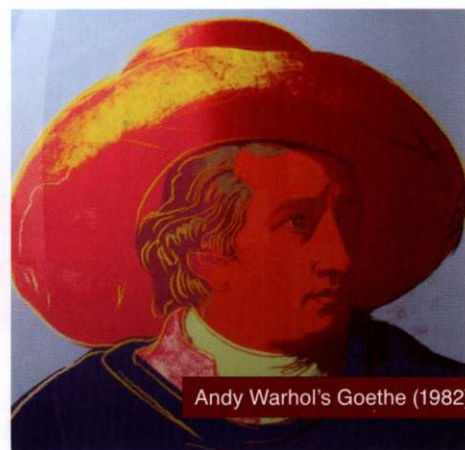
philosopher and writer. Dr. Ranelle Knight-Lueth, Coe's Director of Galleries & Collections, thinks the reason Warhol created such a large silkscreen print of Goethe in such vibrant colors was because of the groundbreaking treatise Goethe wrote on color theory in 1810. So Goethe got a big red hat.

"It was serendipitous that the Library added this massive new wall, and we had these big colorful prints that had arrived just as the Library was being remodeled," says Knight-Lueth, a Coe Assistant Professor of Art History. "Pop artists were ensconced in present-day popular culture, and a lot of Warhol works zero in on an icon. The works are meant to be viewed intimately and reverentially. So the fact they're in a tight space—it works."

A few feet away, six framed Warhol Polaroids grace the walls in the new Harold and Joan Sanders, William and Elfriede H. Sanders Conference Room. There are Polaroids of Muhammad Ali, Joan Collins and designer Halston and other pop culture notables—all photographed by Warhol with the Polaroid Big Shot camera he began using in 1970. Many of the Polaroids were taken in preparation for Warhol's production



Andy Warhol's Polaroid of Muhammad Ali



Andy Warhol's Goethe (1982)

of large silkscreen prints, basically becoming the pop artist's equivalent of a sketch book.

"These Polaroids—actually called Polacolors—are not like the regular Polaroids that popped out of your parents' camera and you shook to dry," Knight-Lueth explains. "The Polacolor was a similar process, but it produced a photographic print. We just call them Polaroids, though. They're simply a different iteration of that instant process."

The 156 Warhol photographic prints that came to Coe—106 of them Polaroids taken during the '70s and '80s—were a gift from the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy program of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Coe was one of 185 colleges and universities selected by the Warhol Foundation in 2008 to receive the Warhol Polaroids.

Knight-Lueth credits Mariah Dekkenga and Jen Rogers, former Directors of Galleries and Collections, for Coe's acquisition of the six Warhol silkscreens. Dekkenga created a colorful, 60-page catalog for Coe's 2009 exhibition of the Polaroids. The catalog and exhibition so impressed the Warhol Foundation that it then donated the six Warhol silkscreens to Coe, and Rogers cataloged and completed the acquisition.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO LIBRARY HELPERS UPON THEIR GRADUATION

Fifteen Coe College students, who were Library student workers during their Coe years, graduated in May 2016. Their names, and what they're doing now, are:

Front row (left to right): Brianna Trevino, now a graduate student in occupational therapy; Gordon Rey, living in Cedar Rapids; Alexis Avila, Spanish teacher at Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids; and Kenzie Drahn, nurse at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

Middle row: Paulina Harrison, living in San Diego and applying for graduate school; Whitney Smith, nurse in Ann Arbor, Mich.; Shawna Hoover, teacher at Summit Schools in Cedar Rapids; Elizabeth Schulte, living in Burlington, Iowa; and Erin Dalke, nurse in graduate intensive care unit residency program in Colorado.

Top row: Eric Stone, living in Wisconsin; Maisie Iven, graduate student in library and information sciences at the University of Illinois; John Clark, serving in Air Force in Alaska; Rory Skupeko, living in Minneapolis; and Meghan McClimon, graduate student in industrial and organizational psychology at Southern Illinois University.

Not pictured: Craig Konrardy, graduate student in kinesiology at the University of Northern Iowa; and Jamie Wolfe, working at a day care center in Cedar Rapids.