

Coe BIBLIOPHILE

Spring 2007

A newsletter for members of the Coe College Library Association

Stewart Memorial Library serves as valuable resource for off-campus community

Members of the Coe community may occasionally observe visitors — from the very young to the very old — touring the galleries or learning how to access print and electronic materials at Stewart Memorial Library. But few realize the important role the library plays as an educational and cultural resource for the broader community.

“The library has always had an open-door policy to provide services to the community,” says Library Director Rich Doyle. “Anyone can register to borrow materials, and approximately 10 percent of the book circulation is to townspeople.”

Every year, library staff members and volunteers also provide dozens of docent-led tours of the college’s renowned art collection to adults and students, says Doyle, who notes that two University of Iowa professors recently came to view the collection. Visitors with a particular interest in artists such as Grant Wood, Marvin Cone or Conger Metcalf, who figure prominently in Coe’s collection, may travel long distances to visit the library galleries.

Closer to home, many area schools rely

on the library to provide enhanced learning opportunities for their students. Classes from Franklin Middle School tour the galleries annually, Doyle cites as an example. “Each student must pick a favorite work by Wood or Cone, research it, and write a report. While on campus they also eat in the cafeteria, our students give them a tour of campus, and they get to try the climbing wall.” Pierce Elementary School classes also visit the library each year while doing a unit on Wood and Cone.

In January, fourth and fifth grade students from Johnson School for the Arts came to the library to conduct research on Paul Engle ’31 and his neighborhood, says Doyle. “The kids really got fired up.”

The library’s reference staff regularly provides research and reference services to high school students and others, he adds, noting that a Coe graduate who teaches English at Belle Plaine High School brings students to Stewart each year to learn how to use a college library.

Head of Reference Betty Rogers says several school classes visit the library each January in conjunction with National History Day

to conduct research on selected topics. She recently received a thank-you note from a local middle school teacher who described his students’ experience:

“Our aspiring historians are annually awed by the vast amount of resources available to them when we make our visit to Stewart Memorial Library to enhance our access to primary and secondary sources for National History Day.... Each year students select a topic and formulate a research statement. We then journey by bus to Coe College to be impressively guided to our historical riches by the gracious professionals at Stewart Memorial.”

Rogers says the Cedar Rapids Public Library frequently refers patrons to Coe’s library for access to scholarly materials not available at the public library, and students and faculty members from Kirkwood and other area colleges also use it as a resource.

The library’s George Henry Photo Archives are another resource for the community, Doyle says. “The photo collection is data-mined extensively. The collection is organized by year so that staff or visitors can go through the proof sheets to see if they can find certain people or photos.” Not surprisingly, the Coe Alumni Office and individual alumni are regular users of the collection that contains photos and materials dating to the early 20th century.

Whether visitors are interested in art, archival materials or access to specialized scholarly resources, the library staff is prepared to assist them, Doyle states. “We take seriously our role as art ambassadors for the college and providers of access to information for people of all ages.”

Franklin Middle School students visit the library every year while studying artists Marvin Cone and Grant Wood.



Shirer archive project will open fascinating window on history

This summer, four researchers from the United States and Germany working on unrelated projects will visit Stewart Memorial Library to delve into the archives of one of Coe's most famous graduates — William L. Shirer '25 (1904-1993). Their work — and that of countless researchers who will no doubt follow — is being made possible by a momentous effort to organize and catalog the archives of this titan of the 20th century, whose notes, manuscripts, and correspondence were donated to the college by the Shirer family.

Shirer, who was mentored by esteemed Coe journalism professor Ethel Outland '09, became a foremost World War II journalist, hailed for his pioneering radio broadcasts from Europe, and wrote more than 20 books chronicling his experiences and observances of 20th-century events. "He was an astute student of his times," says Library Director Rich Doyle. "Because of Ethel Outland's insistence, he was also a great writer."

The Shirer archives, which came to Coe in two large batches before and after his death, are housed in more than 40 boxes totaling 150 linear feet of material. Knowing exactly what is contained in those files is essential both to students of history and to Coe, which has been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing this invaluable resource.

This past fall, the library hired archivist consultant Jill Jack to tackle the challenge of viewing every item in the collection and creating a "finding aid" — an inventory and description of its contents. Building on an earlier survey of the first portion of the collection, Jack will complete the cataloguing of the Shirer materials and eventually merge the two parts of the collection into a coherent, searchable archive.

"I start with a visual survey and description," explains Jack, noting that Shirer generally organized his notes into folders with names on them. "His system was not kept throughout the whole collection, but to the extent that he had a system, I'm trying to preserve the way he saw things because that's

part of the record. I briefly scan every letter or document, noting who it's from and its content and making mental notes of issues that come up." She also lists the names of notable people that Shirer corresponded or had contact with — such as Edward R. Murrow, Mahatma Gandhi and Dwight Eisenhower — who may also be of interest to researchers.

During a second phase of the project, Jack and others will complete archival processing of the material — removing paper clips, putting dates (in pencil) on documents where only the first page is dated, and placing materials in archive-quality folders. Some items will be photocopied onto archival paper.

Jack expects the comprehensive finding aid will be 30 or 40 pages long, beginning with a biography of Shirer and organized topically with a subsection on publications. "This allows researchers or staff members to pinpoint material that is needed as well as to track what's in the collection, when people use it, and when it goes back into the collection. Once the collection is documented and on the Internet, people will be drawn to it whether they are interested in Shirer or in researching people or time periods that he wrote about." The archives will be available for use only at the library.

Among the fascinating materials Jack has uncovered are Shirer's correspondence with Gandhi, his description of being in Paris when the Nazis marched into the city, and press credentials for a Hitler birthday celebration.



Coe's collection of William L. Shirer papers, currently being catalogued by archivist consultant Jill Jack, includes this press pass to a 1939 audience with Adolf Hitler.

The significance of the Shirer collection for Coe students and faculty members and the larger scholarly community can't be overstated, she emphasizes. "It's a wonderful look into the events that shaped our lives in the 20th century — not from a politician but from someone who was listening, reading and taking interest in the things that were happening."

Even as Jack's work proceeds, Coe continues to search for sources of support for this enormous archival project, says Coe Senior Development Officer Dan Breitbach. Although a request for funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities was recently denied, Coe alumni Alan '78 and Ann '81 Anderson have provided a major lead gift with the hope that this will encourage others to support the project. Doyle and Breitbach are also pursuing other funding sources.

Archivist consultant Jill Jack describes the William L. Shirer Archives project to Kay and George Henry (seated in rear) and other friends of the college at the library's George T. Henry College Archives.



Long-time Stewart Library Reference Chief Betty Rogers to retire



Head of Reference Betty Rogers, who is retiring this year, says she will continue to track down information for family and friends after she leaves the position she has enjoyed for more than 35 years.

"The people part of the work is what I have loved the most," says Stewart Memorial Library Head of Reference Betty Rogers, "although I also love being a detective."

Rogers, who will retire at the end of the school year, has helped people find the best sources of information at Stewart Memorial Library for more than 35 years. She arrived at Coe in 1971 when the college received a Danforth grant to employ non-professionals who could contribute to undergraduate education.

"I was hired as a paraprofessional and had wonderful mentors who allowed me to be a colleague," she recalls. "I learned so much from them about the reference process and how to organize a collection and how to work with students."

Rogers credits the broad liberal arts education she received at Mount Mercy College with preparing her for work in the reference area. Realizing how fun it was to be involved in decision-making at the library, she relates, she began studying for her Master's in Library Science at the University of Iowa in 1988, completing her degree in 1990 while continuing to work at the library.

In 1989 she was named Head of Reference, a position that also carries the rank of associate professor. "I am always teaching," she says. "I meet annually with almost all first-year seminar students and have contact with 700 to 1,000 students a year. I give them information and support for projects and assignments."

Rogers describes her role as one of helping

people learn how to use the library, purchasing library materials, acquiring subscriptions to electronic resources, and being the go-to person on how to use those resources. She has also been active in professional associations, serving as president of the Iowa Library Association in 2003.

"The whole world has changed in the time I've been a librarian," she states. "Access to information is global, not local or based on what we can afford or have room for in our building." At the same time, she stresses, not all information is created equal.

"Electronic access is a very good thing, but the challenge is helping students and faculty make decisions about what is quality information and what is not."

Rogers says she will miss receiving flowers from students she has helped, visiting with returning alumni, and developing personal and professional relationships within and outside of the college. "I will also miss reading lots and lots of book reviews and seeing new book carts. But the time has come to embark on a new part of my life."

Prior to her husband's retirement as chair of the Social Work Department at Mount Mercy College, Rogers plans to spend time organizing the family archives, practicing the piano she purchased last year, and planning for future travel.

Nonetheless, she adds, "I will always consider this my library, and I will still entertain reference questions from my friends and family."

New Cone print preserves local history

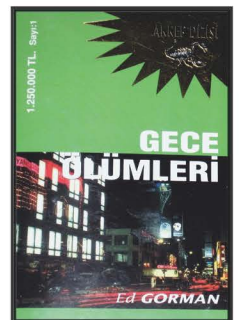
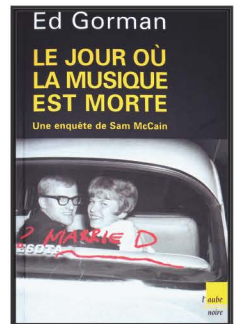
A print recently donated to the library captures an interesting piece of Marvin Cone — and Cedar Rapids — history. Called "Little Bohemia," it is a lithograph of the Marvin Cone painting "Little Bohemia Tavern," oil on canvas, 1941. Measuring 14 ½ inches wide by 5 ½ inches high, "Little Bohemia" is a replica of the original, which measures 39 ½ by 15 ½ inches. Copy in the lower right corner identifies the piece as "Lithography by Wagners Printers." Wagners was a Davenport, Iowa, printing house that opened an office in Cedar Rapids during the early 1960s. Library research has yet to determine when the lithographs were produced.



Additions to the alumni/faculty book collection

The following books and other creative works by Coe alumni and faculty have been added in the past year to the George T. Henry College Archives.

- Arrigo, Jeanne T. *The Journey's About to Begin*. (Sound recording) Arrigobery Records: Chicago, 2005. (Jeanne Arrigo, class of 1988)
- Bartholomay, Charles. *The Blue*. Vantage Press: NY, 2001. (Charles Bartholomay, class of 1972)
- Bohn, Parker and Dan Herbst. *Bowling: How to Master the Game*. Brunswick/Universe Pub.:NY, 2000. (Dan Herbst, class of 1975)
- Cole, Donna M. and J. Preston Cole. *Inside Out*. S.I., 2004. (J. Preston Cole, Professor Emeritus of Religion, 1976-1985)
- Cumberland, William H., Darald R. Schultz and Richard P. Hoffman. *Sharing the Spirit: The History of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1855-2005*. WDG Pub: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2005. (Richard Hoffman, Alma A. Turechek Professor of Music, 1977 -)
- Dangerfield, Joseph, et. al. *Butterfly Dance: Music by Americans*. (Sound recording) Albany Records: Albany, NY, 2006. (Joseph Dangerfield, Assistant Professor of Music, 2006 -)
- Faber, Charles F. and Richard B. Faber. *Spiritballers: The Last Legal Hurlers of the Wet One*. McFarland & Co.: Jefferson, NC, 2006. (Charles Faber, class of 1948, Richard Faber, class of 1953)
- Fertig, Michael P. *If Cats Could Talk: The Meaning of Meow*. New Seasons: NY, 2004. (Michael Fertig, class of 1999)
- Gorman, Carol. *Games*. HarperCollins Pub.: NY, 2007. (Carol Gorman, Instructor in English, 2002 -)
- Gorman, Edward. *Cavalry Man: The Killing Machine*. HarperTorch: NY, 2005. (Edward Gorman, class of 1968)
- Gorman, Edward. *Cavalry Man: Powder Keg*. HarperTorch: NY, 2006.
- Gorman, Edward. *Fast Track*. Penguin Group: NY, 2006.
- Gorman, Edward. *Gece Olumleri* [Night Kills – Turkish]. Hurriyet Medya Towers: Istanbul, 1990.
- Gorman, Edward. *A Cry of Shadows* [Japanese]. Tokyo Sogensha Co.: Tokyo, 1990.
- Gorman, Edward and Kevin McCarthy, eds. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers: A Tribute*. Stark House Press: Eureka, CA, 2006.
- Gorman, Edward. *Le jour ou la musique est morte: Une enquete de Sam McCain* [The Day the Music Died: A Sam McCain Mystery - French]. La Tour d'Aigues: Editions de l'Aube, 2006.
- Gorman, Edward. *Begushchie vo mrake* [Runner in the Dark – Russian]. Moskva: Izd-vo "Mir knigi", 2005.
- Gorman, Edward. *Different Kinds of Dead and other stories*. (Audio book) Request Audiobooks: 2006.
- Gorman, Edward, ed. *Mystery Scene 1986-2003*. (Periodical) Mystery Enterprises: Cedar Rapids, IA.
- Junchen, David L. and Jeff Weiler, ed. *The Wurlitzer Pipe Organ: An Illustrated History*. American Theatre Organ Society: Indianapolis, 2005. (Jeff Weiler, class of 1981)
- McKee, Geoffrey R. *Why Mothers Kill: A Forensic Psychologist's Casebook*. Oxford University Press: 2006. (Geoffrey McKee, class of 1965)
- Mossman, Dow. *Le Beau Petard: An Anthology of Prose and Poetry from the Younger Writers of the Iowa Workshops*. Iowa City, 1966. (Dow Mossman, class of 1966)
- Owen, Jerry. *Czech-Inspired: 21st Century Chamber trios*. Performed by the Red Cedar Trio (Jan Boland, John Dowdall and David Miller) (Sound recording) Fleur de Son Classics: Buffalo, 2005. (Jerry Owen, Professor Emeritus of Music, 1969-2006, Jan Boland, Instructor in Music, 1977 -)
- Hildreth-Werker, Val and Jim C. Werker, eds. *Cave Conservation and Restoration: 2006 Edition*. National Speleological Society, Inc.: Huntsville, AL, 2006. ("Model ethics system for resolving cave conservation dilemmas," p. 239-252, by John Wilson, class of 1966)
- Ransom, Daniel. *De vloek* [The Forsaken - Dutch]. Areopagus: 199?. (Daniel Ransom is a pseudonym for Edward Gorman, class of 1968)
- Roth, Karen. *Found on 16th Avenue*. Watercress Press: San Antonio, TX, 2006. (Karen T. Oujiri Roth, class of 1978)
- Steele, Shelby. *White Guilt: How Blacks and Whites Together Destroyed the Promise of the Civil Rights Era*. HarperCollins Pub.: NY, 2006. (Shelby Steele, class of 1968)
- Struthers, Ann. *What You Try to Tame*. Coe Review Press: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2004. (Ann Struthers, Visiting Professor of English; Writer in Residence 1986 -)
- Weld, Le Roy D. *A Textbook of Heat for Upperclassmen*. Macmillan Co.: NY, 1948. (Le Roy Weld, Professor of Physics, 1902-1945)



Novels by
Coe alumnus
Edward Gorman '68
have been
published in dozens
of languages,
including
(top to bottom)
Russian, French and
Turkish.