



STEWART MEMORIAL LIBRARY
GEORGE T. HENRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Marvin D. Cone Collection



Collection Summary:

Creator: Marvin Dorwart Cone

Collection Dates: 1863 - 2012

Collection Number: 2026.10 ZZ703

Quantity: 5 boxes; 27 x 32 x 40 cm and 1 box 21 x 37 x 3 inches plus trunk and display case

Repository: George T. Henry College Archives, Stewart Memorial Library, Coe College

Copyright: Copyright on Cone artwork is retained by Stephen Cone Weeks

Restrictions on Access: This collection is open for research

Language: English

Abstract: Includes exhibition catalogs, clippings, diplomas, memoirs of war days in France, high school and college yearbooks, awards, miscellaneous correspondence, books owned by the artist, and Winnifred Cone's diary of a trip to France.

Preferred Citation: Marvin D. Cone Collection, George T. Henry College Archives, Stewart Memorial Library, Coe College

Acquisition: Marvin and Winifred Cone

Processing Information: Harlene Hansen and Randy Roeder

Scope and Content

The Collection covers the Cone family with papers and photographs back to 1863 following with Marvin's life past his death in 1965 to celebrations and exhibitions to 2012.

It includes Artifacts, papers, correspondence, articles, drawings, photographs, taped interviews, books, diaries, plaques, awards, diplomas and certificates.

Biographical Note:

Marvin Cone was born in 1891 in Cedar Rapids, the son of a jeweler. He attended Washington High School where he graduated in 1910 in the same class as Grant Wood. He and Wood were friends and they sometimes painted backdrops for the community theater. Cone was active in the Cedar Rapids Arts Association from its beginning in 1906. Cone graduated from Coe College in 1914 and then attended the Chicago Institute of Art. He enlisted in the Army in 1917. At a training camp in New Mexico, he designed the insignia for the 34th Infantry division, the Red Bull. In France he served as interpreter for Brigadier General Hubert Allen. After the war he stayed on in France and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Montpellier.

In 1919 he accepted a post teaching French at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. In 1920, Cone and Wood both went to Paris to paint, where they lived in the Latin Quarter. On the ship the S.S. Grampion on the way home, the two set up an exhibition in the ship's lounge. On this trip, Cone met Winifred Swift of Ontario. The couple was married on August 10, 1921. They returned to Cedar Rapids, where he again taught French at Coe.

Cone served on the faculty at Coe College for over forty years. He gradually shifted from teaching French to teaching art, but did not stop teaching French until 1938. He became a full professor at Coe in 1934. During the 1920s and 1930s he was associated with Grant Wood and they worked together at the art colony in Stone City. He took 1938 off to paint, supported during this year by a group of local residents. He spent the summer of 1939 painting in Mexico. Cornell College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts in 1949.

Cone is considered part of the Regionalist movement. George Shane, writing in the Des Moines Register on May 5, 1968, said of Cone, "Cone was one of the most important Midwest regional painters and, in his interpretation of the Iowa scene in a straight-forward, realistic manner, the best."

He took matter-of-fact things -- old barns or village street corners -- and painted them without becoming photographic or too preoccupied with style. As a comparison, Grant Wood's preoccupation with style made some of his Iowa scenes less successful than those by Cone.

Cone is considered to have gone through several periods in his painting style, broken down roughly by decade: 1930s - barns and landscapes, especially including masterful renditions of clouds; 1940s - circuses; 1950s - empty rooms and doorways, sometimes referred to as haunted houses; and 1960s - abstract paintings. Quoting again from George Shane:

Although Cone worked with a more muted palette, running to blues and greens in later years, he could bring the full richness of sunlight and all its color to the canvas when he wished to do so. This is especially true in his carnival pictures, where barkers extol the wonders of snake charmers and other oddities of the midway.

Possibly the most evocative of Cone's works are his pictures of empty rooms in old houses, with half-opened doors. . . In later years, Cone turned from his subjective type of painting and worked mostly in abstract. He took the quiet colors of his old interiors and used them to develop abstract patterns.

Cone remained active in the Cedar Rapids Art Association during most of his life, where he served on the purchasing committee for many years. In addition, he had an avid interest in astronomy and kept informed on mountain climbing, though apparently, he did not do any. In 1960 \$10,000 was raised to relieve Cone of his teaching duties and allow him to paint as an artist-in-residence at Coe. He retired from the faculty of Coe College in 1960. In 1963 ill health prevented his continuing to paint and he died on May 18, 1965. Before Cone died, Coe College had announced the inauguration of two permanent collections -- the Marvin Cone Collection consisting of 22 paintings by Cone and the Marvin Cone Alumni Collection, featuring works of twelve of Cone's students. In 1966 the Cedar Rapids Arts Association named the auditorium gallery in their new art center the Marvin Cone Auditorium. They also established a memorial fund in Cone's name to defray the cost of the new arts center. His obituary in a local newspaper called Cone "a moving spirit in the Cedar Rapids Art Association" and stated that "No one ever did more to popularize art in Cedar Rapids than Professor Cone."

Marvin shared his life of art with his wife, Winnifred Swift Cone. They were married in Watford Ontario Canada in August of 1921. They had one daughter, Doris Cone Weeks and four grandchildren, Winnifred, Stephen, Sheila and Peter. Also, three great grandchildren, Sarah, Courtney and Christopher.

Subject Headings:

Cone, Marvin Dorwart, -1891-1965
Decedents' estates
Coe College—Alumni and alumnae—1910-1919—Collections
Coe College—Artifacts
United States—Army—Infantry Division, 34th
Dorwart, David
Cone family—Photographs
Cone, H. D.-(Harry DeForest)—1860-1931
Cone, Gertrude H.—1859-1918

Inventory

Box 1:

Diary – “War Days in France” copy 1
Diary – “War Days in France” copy 2
Diary – “War Days in France” Photocopy
Diary – “War Days in France” Transcription and CD

Small box no. 1

Folder 1 - American federation of Arts
Folder 2 - Art Institute of Chicago commencement program
Folder 3 - awards and honors
Folder 4 –Cedar Rapids Art Association
Folder 5 - Cedar Rapids Art Center
Folder 6 - Clippings and articles
Folder 7 - College Business
Folder 8 - Correspondence - Cone family
Folder 9 - Correspondence - Engle family
Folder 10 - Correspondence-Helen Lippincott Villa Tapestries
Folder 11 - Correspondence – Henderson
Folder 12 - Correspondence – Miscellaneous
Folder 13 - Correspondence- “Strange to me Now”
Folder 14 – Heyberger, Anna
Folder 15- Illustration Midwest Heritage conference
Folder 16 - Military papers
Folder 17 - Miscellaneous
Folder 18 - Nan Wood
Folder 19 - Phi Sigma Iota
Folder 20 - Winnifred’s death
Folder 21 – WWI Trunk deed of Gift 1995

Small box no. 2

Folder 1 – Cornell College Honorary Degree – Dr. of Fine Art –1949
Folder 2 – Notebook – History of Paris – N.D.
Folder 3 – Notebook – Purpose of Art – N.D.
Folder 4 – Oral History Project Transcriptions – 1989-1990
Folder 5 – Paris Diary – 1929
Folder 6 – Paris Miscellaneous
Folder 7 – “The Pulse” -October 1909
Folder 8 – “The Reveille” High School Yearbook – 1909
Folder 9 – “The Reveille” High School Yearbook – 1910

Folder 10 – Thesis on Medieval Prisms
Folder 11 – Washington High school graduation program
Small box no. 3 - Exhibit Brochures 1920-2012

Box 2: Cone Family

Small box no. 1 – Memorabilia –

small plaster plaque – stations of Christ's passions
small round pewter dish - Swan with arrow – symbol of Queen Claude of France, Duchess of Brittany

Small box no. 2 - Memorabilia

Daguerreotype negative in leather case – “Stoves D. Dorwart Dry Goods”
Print of Dorwart daguerreotype
Scrapbook – Gertie T Dorwart 1874 -mostly newspaper cutout poems. Back pages accounts 1863- 1864 - folder of extra clippings
Gertie Dorwart Bible 1875
H.D. Cone diary 1880
H.D. Cone Wallet
Gertrude Cone Autograph book – 1878-1879
S, S. Dorwart memoranda book -1878
Picture on metal pin back – unidentified male
Address book @1920

Small box no. 3 – Texts and Photographs

Folder 1 – Art Work – earliest known
Folder 2 – Biographies from county histories
Folder 3 – Correspondence
Folder 4 – Lucius Cone Funeral Sermon
Folder 5 – Miscellaneous
Folder 6 – “Owed to H.D. Cone” - 1895
Folder 7 – Photographs – Anna Dorwart
Folder 8 – Photographs – David Dorwart
Folder 9 – Photographs – H. D. and Gertrude Cone
Folder 10 – Photographs – Gertrude Cone
Folder 11 – Photographs – Group at Palisades Park
Folder 12 – Photographs – H. D. Cone
Folder 13 – Photographs – Lucius Cone
Folder 14 – Photographs – Marvin Cone
Folder 15 – Photographs – Pennsylvania (Dorwart?)
Folder 16 - Unidentified

Box 3: Magazines, Yearbooks, Plaques and Awards

The Acorn 1926

The Acorn 1960

Adieu, chère âme, T. R. Pearson ("Waiting for the Parade" on cover)

Alumni Association Golden Jubilee Certificate 1964

American Masterworks, Quincy Art Center 2000

American Prefaces Autumn 1940

Arts Digest February 1952

The Art Digest, N.Y. World's Fair Special Number June 1938 pg.32

The Arts Mid-Western Optimism pg. 215

Award of Merit 1953

Balieff's Chauve-Souris of Moscow

Booklet – "A Solemn Reception of the American Students by the University of Montpellier, 1919

Daniel Coe Fellow 1987-1989

Focus on TMA (Tucson Museum of Art), November December 1965

Coe College Courier January 1964 pg. 16

Coe College Courier October 1969 pg. 10

Coe College Courier January 1973 pg. 6

Currently at Coe – Commencement Preview May 1965

The Goat 1914

The Iowan Fall 1975 about Grant Wood and Stone City Art Colony pg. 6

The Iowan March 1957 article about Coe College pg. 34

The Iowan Spring 1970 Marvin Cone pg. 8

Life Magazine pg. 115 – Coe's Centennial

The Mistral, a Yearbook University of Montpellier France 1919

Retirement Certificate 41 years of Service 1960

Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow – Pin and Certificate

Shadowed Door plaque from James Bromwell, US Representative 1961-1965

White China dinner plate

Box 4: Books

About art and artists:

American Art of the 1930's: selections from the Collection of Whitney Museum of American Art, 1981

American Magazine of Art, March 1933

American Paintings and Sculpture: Forty-second Annual Exhibition, Art Institute of Chicago 1925 (inscription)

Art Treasures from the Vienna Collections 1949-1950

Caroline Durieux: 43 Lithographs and Drawings (inscription)

Catalogue of the First New York Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings by Grant Wood, 1935

Crazy People: Just Nonsense, by Webb and Jim Young 1939 (inscription)

Duval's Artistic Anatomy, 1911

Encyclopedia Britannica Collections of Contemporary American Painting

Fine Art Reproductions Old and Modern Masters (includes Grant Wood)

Gauguin, Art Institute of Chicago, 1959

International Exhibition of Paintings, Carnegie Institute 1935 and 1936

Jack and Jill, May 1947

Leaguely Speaking, 1963 Junior League of Cedar Rapids

The Lives of the Painters Sculptors & Architects by Giorgio Vasari Vols. 1 and 2

Lust for Life: a novel of Vincent Van Gogh, 1934 (inscription)

Modern American and French Paintings and drawings from the Hildegard Anna Sosenko Collection, 1954

Musée Rodin: Catalogue Sommaire, 1919

Trends in European Painting: from the XIIIth to the XXth Century Toronto, 1937 (inscription)

Vents Chauds (inscription)
Younger /European Painters: a selection, Guggenheim Museum 1953

By Paul Engle:

American Child
Embrace: Selected love poems (inscription)
Golden Child
Golden Child: a Libretto Hallmark Hall of Fame
Holiday: a magazine of Leisure for Higher Living Engle story: Iowa pg.42
Old Fashioned Christmas
Poems in Praise (Inscription)
Prairie Christmas (inscription)
A Woman Unashamed and Other Poems (inscription)
Worn Earth (inscription)
The World Comes to Iowa

Miscellaneous:

The Caravan, Winter issue 1943 poems by Doris Cone
Crainquebille: Putois, Riquet
Contes Dramatiques, 1927
Love Songs, Sara Teasdale, 1920
Jean Amos Comenius, Anna Heyberger, 1928
Opera Synopses: A guide to the plots and characters of the standard operas, 1919
Poetry, Vol. 72 no.2 May 1948 "Düer" by Doris Cone
Théâtre National de l'Opéra-Comique, 1929

Box 5: Celebrations, Media, Miscellaneous

Small box no. 1 – Marvin Cone Celebrations

Folder 1 – Articles and Pamphlets
Folder 2 – Bibliographies
Folder 3 – Coe College Seal – 1947
Folder 4 – Dedication Stone Limestone Chip - 1995
Folder 5 – Park Rinard remembrance of Cone – 1995
Folder 6 – Cosmos articles (photocopies)
Folder 7 – Illustrations for "The Continent" 1915-1916 (photocopies)
Folder 8 – Cedar Rapids Gazette (photocopies)
Folder 9 – Illustrations done for yearbook, Courier, Cosmos (photocopies)

Small box no. 2 – Media

18 Taped Interviews of people on Marvin Cone and his art. 1969-1990
Includes: Winnifred Cone, Stephen Weeks, Joan Kocher, Robert Kocher, Roby Kessler, Elsie Chadima, Audrey Anderson, Phoebe Montgomerie, Margaret Averill and Charys Pinney

Cone Family Panel – 2012 – CD

Stephen Cone Weeks with Carey Hahn on KGAN – 1997 - CD

"Marvin Cone, His Life and Art" KGAN- 1991- includes Winnifred Cone, Richard Pinney, Dave

Shay, and Joseph S. Czestochowski - CD

Small box no. 3 - Miscellaneous

Folder 1 – 34th Infantry Division – Insignia Background
Folder 2 – Marvin Cone Trust
Folder 3 – Miscellaneous papers

Small box no. 4 - **Papier Mache mask**

Box 6: Oversize

Academic hood, mortarboards and gown

Folder 1 – Diplomas and Awards: Cedar Rapids High School-1910, Coe College-1914, Art Institute of Chicago-1915 & 1916, University of Montpellier France -1919, Phi Kappa Phi-1935

Folder 2 – Newspaper articles

Folder 3 - “From the Sketchbook of Marvin Cone” - 1975 – portfolios. No’s – III, VIII, 66, 75, 77, 297, 300 and 405 out of 500 Signed by Winnifred Cone. III has a special note “to the Archives at Coe College...”

Artifacts:

Papier Mache mask (box 5)

Trunk – used by Marvin to go to Europe in WWI (oversize shelf)

In Display Case of Cone Gallery:

34th Infantry Patches

Drinking Glass with Insignia

Brown pottery jug

Jade green bowl used in “The Tapestry of the Jilted Lover”

Stone Carvings done by Cone- Man and Woman faces

Stone Bust done by Cone

Stone Tiki god used in “Lilies for a God”

See also George T. Henry Photographs – ZZ8.4 – “Marvin Cone Photographs”