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Newsletter

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12-5-2002

## Winter Newsletter 2002

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### Recommended Citation

Deredita, Laurie M., "Winter Newsletter 2002" (2002). *Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter*. Paper 5.  
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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

# 2002 Friends of the Connecticut College Library Winter Newsletter

## 21<sup>st</sup>

By any standard in fine art printing and fine press publishing, *21<sup>st</sup>: The Journal of Contemporary Photography* is an extraordinary publication. In this monumental series editor John Wood and publisher Steven Albahari have aspired to continue the late 19th and early 20th century tradition of fine art photography as exemplified by Alfred Stieglitz in *Camera Work*. *21<sup>st</sup>* is exceptional not only for its photography but for its attention to detail in the creation of the books themselves.

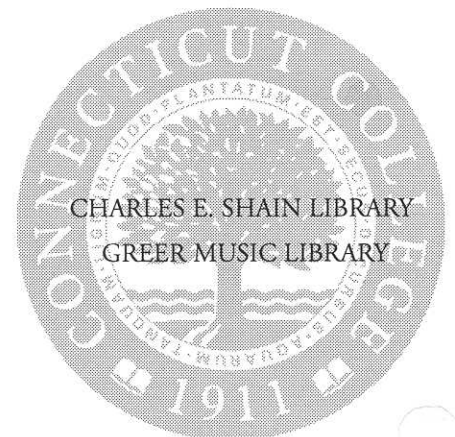
The Connecticut College Library has purchased the first five volumes of the deluxe limited edition of *21<sup>st</sup>* for Special Collections. Each of the volumes in the deluxe edition is issued in a beautifully made portfolio box. The folio-sized books have handcrafted bindings and are printed letterpress on special paper by either the Stinehour Press in Vermont or Stamperia Valdonega in Verona, Italy. Each signed and numbered volume contains tipped-in, hand-pulled photogravures interspersed with essays by well-known figures from the art and literary worlds. Volumes I and II are anthologies of works by many photographers, with an essay and an original woodcut of Louis Daguerre by Leonard Baskin in the first. Volume III features the photographs of John Dugdale in cyan blue. The exquisite floral photography of Cy DeCosse is showcased in Volume IV. Volume V, "Strange Genius," is another anthology that "represents a growing synergy between word and image, writer and artist."

The first five volumes of *21<sup>st</sup>* are also available in a trade edition but Connecticut College is the only institution in Connecticut that owns the deluxe edition of this special publication. *21<sup>st</sup>* will be the focus of an exhibition in Shain Library from March 14 to May 13. Steven Albahari, who is a photographer as well as the publisher of *21<sup>st</sup>*, will give a talk about this ambitious project in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room on Thursday, March 27, at 4:00 p.m.



*Fritillaria* Photogravure

Photograph by Cy DeCosse



## O'NEILL LECTURE AND EXHIBITION at Shain Library

The first event of this year's Eugene O'Neill Celebration on the weekend of October 18-20 was held at Shain Library. It was a lecture, tentatively titled "Is Academia Killing O'Neill?" given by Dr. Harley Hammerman, a well-known O'Neillian and webmaster of the electronic Eugene O'Neill archive [www.coneill.com](http://www.coneill.com), and illustrated by the striking image of a bleeding computer screen displaying O'Neill's photograph. In his Friday afternoon lecture Dr. Hammerman made a compelling case for the need to engage the interest of tomorrow's theatergoers in the work of America's most famous playwright and only winner of the Nobel Prize for theater by including his plays in the high school curriculum. Dr. Hammerman, who normally works as a radiologist in St. Louis, Missouri, also treated the audience to a virtuoso PowerPoint presentation of the many features of his website, such as an audio archive of O'Neill productions, a full-text archive of many of his plays, an essay section and links to many of the major O'Neill collections in the United States.

In conjunction with the O'Neill Celebration, an exhibition highlighting Connecticut College's Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection was shown in the

library from October 14 to November 27. The collection came to the college shortly before the death in 1993 of Louis Sheaffer, who was the author of the two-volume biography of Eugene O'Neill published by Little, Brown, *O'Neill: Son and Playwright* and *O'Neill: Son and Artist*. The enormous mass of documents, photographs and books accumulated by Sheaffer during sixteen years of exhaustive research and writing is an extraordinarily rich repository for the scholars who continue to delve into O'Neill's work and biography and for the light it sheds on other aspects of this fascinating period of American cultural history.

Connecticut College is the only liberal arts college to have an archive that compares in scope to the holdings of the major research libraries with O'Neill collections, and it provides a wonderful opportunity for undergraduates at the college to use the resources of a unique research collection in their own library. In fact, during the Fall Semester students from Theater Seminar "Eugene O'Neill and his America" taught by Linda Herr and J. Ranelli have been using the primary source material in the Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection to write their term papers.

## IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in the Friends of the Connecticut College Library!

Your membership for 2003, new or renewed, may now be sent in with the enclosed card and envelope.

Membership contributions to the Friends of the Connecticut College Library are the primary source of financial support for the events and exhibitions that are held at the library and over the years they have provided funding for hundreds of book and manuscript acquisitions. Contributions from the Friends support a Library Scholarship that is awarded each year to a Connecticut College senior or alumnus who is pursuing a graduate degree in library science,

book conservation or archival management. They also underwrite the printing and mailing costs of this newsletter. We hope that by affiliating with our library, you will feel that it is yours as well, whether you use Shain Library or Greer Music Library. Membership has many benefits including borrowing privileges at Shain and at Greer for those who contribute at the \$50 level and above, invitations to all Friends events and a subscription to the *Newsletter*.

*Laurie M. Deredita*

The Friends of the Connecticut College Library

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December 2002

## WHAT'S HAPPENING in the Chu Room

The readers of this newsletter will remember that the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room was opened with great fanfare in December 2001. In the year since then the room has been a valuable addition to Shain Library providing as it does a place for quiet study, gallery space for the Chu-Griffis Art Collection, a repository for a collection of books and journals dealing with Asian art, and a venue for occasional lectures and events. During the Spring Semester the Chu Room provided the setting for an Artists'

Books Symposium and a Japanese tea ceremony and during the fall it has already seen several lectures, poetry readings and a painting demonstration by Charles Chu, the curator of the collection.

The cabinets in the Chu Room have space to display fourteen scrolls at one time, and the exhibition changes twice a year. The current exhibition includes *Fruit* by Ting Fu-chih (1879-1949), a delicate painting of plum blossoms and fruit with calligraphy in the ancient oracle bone script and the running style; the

humorous *Rooster and Hen* by Lin K'ai (born 1924); and a lovely, melancholy landscape by Chang Ting (born 1917), which is also the cover image on the brochure created to mark the opening of the reading room. On the walls are several framed works including one of the collection's most recent acquisitions, *The Great Wall*, a gift of the artist Yang Xianrang (born 1930), and a number of modern Japanese colored wood-block prints. The room is open to the public during library hours.

## LITTLE FROG GALLERY

Visitors to the Chu Room often ask where they can view the artwork of Charles Chu but the answer is that they must go to the homes of his friends and family or, if they are lucky, they may see one of the occasional shows of his work in a local art gallery or museum. A solution to this problem has been provided on the Internet at the Little Frog Gallery, a web site created for the purpose of showcasing the work of Charles Chu by his son-in-law Rob Scala, the owner of Scala Systems, a New London software development consulting company. This very attractive web site takes its name from the nickname which Chu's mother gave him when he was a boy in Hebei Province, China. The web site has photographs of sixty of his paintings of landscapes, animals, plants and calligraphy. It can be visited at [www.littlefrog.com](http://www.littlefrog.com).

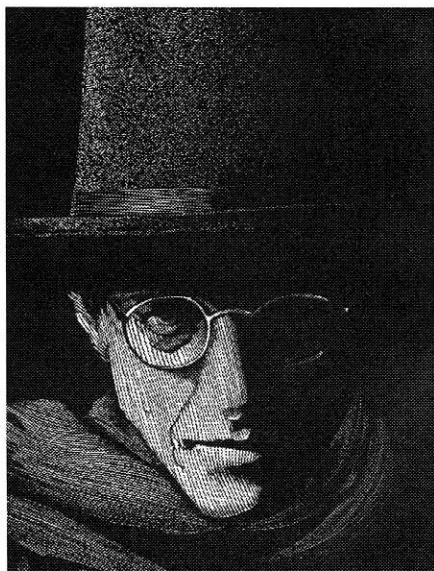
## THE CHU-GRIFFIS ART COLLECTION HOME PAGE

A web site for the Chu-Griffis Art Collection is now available on the Internet at <http://camel2.conncoll.edu/is/info-resources/special-collections/chu/index.html>. The site, which was created by Sharon Griffis for the New London Art Society Gallery, contains thirty-four images from the collection with short essays about each work. It has been modified for its new home at Connecticut College to include pictures of the Chu Reading Room and two essays about the collection and the room written by Brian Rogers, retired Special Collections Librarian.

## EUNICE KUA '02 wins Library Scholarship Award

Eunice Kua was awarded the 2002 Library Scholarship Award. Eunice, a major in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, is attending the University of Michigan on a full scholarship to get a graduate degree in Library and Information Sciences. At the 2002 commencement, she was awarded the Oakes and Louise Ames Prize for this year's most outstanding honors thesis. The Library Scholarship Award is funded by the contributions of the Friends of the Library. It has been awarded nearly every year since 1993 to a Connecticut College senior or alumnus who is pursuing a graduate degree in library science, archival management or book preservation.

## PENNYROYAL PRESS *FRANKENSTEIN*



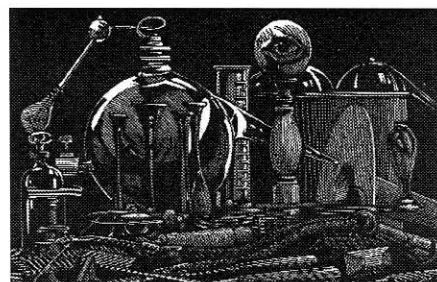
*Portrait of Victor Frankenstein by Barry Moser*

A splendid copy of *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus* has been added to the growing list of Barry Moser titles in

Special Collections and will go on exhibit in the library during the first part of the Spring Semester. The novel was first published anonymously in three volumes in 1818 by twenty-one year old Mary Shelley, the daughter of feminist Mary Wollstonecraft and radical philosopher-novelist William Godwin, and the wife of poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Steeped in the ideology of the Enlightenment and the sensibility of the Romantic period, this classic of the "Gothic" genre still has the power to engage the modern imagination. Moser's Pennyroyal Press edition is based on the 1818 text and printed by noted pressman Harold McGrath in a limited edition of 350 copies, of which Shain Library has number 200. Like all Pennyroyal titles this book is beautifully designed and bound, and the fifty-two mostly black and white wood engravings are stunning. The library's copy comes with an additional suite of the engravings each signed by the artist.

The success of the 1931 film version of *Frankenstein* is thought to have inspired several illustrated editions of the novel. This library owns the 1934 edition with wood engravings by Lynd Ward and a 1934 Limited Editions Club version with watercolors by Everett Henry. These along with the Pennyroyal edition will form the nucleus of an exhibition curated by Charles Price early in the new year. Robley Evans will give a lecture before the opening reception.



*The Laboratory by Barry Moser*

### SPRING SEMESTER EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Listed below are some of the events that will take place in Shain Library during the Spring Semester. A more complete list confirming dates and times will be mailed out in January. All of the events will be held in the Charles Chu Asian Arts Reading Room.

Library exhibition:

*Frankenstein* curated by Professor Emeritus of Art History Charles T. Price, January 15-March 7,  
Lecture by Professor Emeritus of English Robley J. Evans, Thursday, January 23, 4:00 p.m.

Lecture:

*A Tree by the Water : The Legacy of William and John Rogers Bolles* by Professor Emerita of Human Development Camille Hanlon, Thursday, February 6, 4:00 p.m.

Library exhibition:

*21st: The Journal of Contemporary Photography*, March 14-May 13. Lecture by Steve Albahari, editor of *21st*, March 27, 4:00 p.m.

This and other issues of the Friends of the Library Newsletter may be viewed online at <http://www.conncoll.edu/is/info-resources/special-collections>