

Connecticut College
Digital Commons @ Connecticut College

Friends of the Connecticut College Library
Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

4-1-2011

Spring Newsletter 2011

Benjamin Panciera
bpancier@conncoll.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fol>

Recommended Citation

Panciera, Benjamin, "Spring Newsletter 2011" (2011). *Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter*. Paper 24.
<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fol/24>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Friends of the Connecticut College Library at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.
The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

2011 FRIENDS *of the* CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY *Spring Newsletter*

CHARLES E. SHAIN LIBRARY ♡ GREER MUSIC LIBRARY ♡ LINDA LEAR CENTER FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

A YEAR IN PICTURES: THE MERCER SLIDE COLLECTION COMES TO THE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

In 1998, Connecticut College contracted with the photographer William Mercer to spend a year in New London taking pictures of the campus. Mercer, who is based in Massachusetts, specializes in photographing college campuses and has produced books on Wesleyan University, Simmons College, and Brown University, among others. Throughout the 1998-99 academic year, Mercer turned his lens on our campus, producing a thorough year in the life of Connecticut College.

Many of you know the results of this project as the beautiful book of photographs, *Connecticut College: The Long View* with an introductory historical essay by Brian Rogers. The photographs in that volume only make up about one percent of the total images captured by William Mercer. The entire collection of over 14,000 slides was transferred this year to the Charles E. Shain Library and now resides in the College Archives within the Linda Lear Center.

The Mercer slide collection exhaustively documents the seasons of Connecticut College. The collection includes all of the buildings and landscapes on campus, from New London Hall to the Charles E. Shain Library, the Tempel Green and the Arboretum. Mercer photographed in the brilliance of mid-morning sun and the gray of evening rain, fall, winter, and spring. The collection includes not just buildings and landscapes, but people as well. Whether it was Professor Niering conducting an outdoor botany lecture or ultimate Frisbee on the Green, the Mercer slide collection exhaustively documents the breadth and depth of the Connecticut College experience.

As part of the contract for the project, the College retained copyright control over all of the images, effectively giving us the ability to republish the photographs as we wish. The Archives has now embarked on an ambitious project to make the images usable for the campus community and to preserve the slides for years to come. For the past six months, student workers in the

continued on back page





THE PALMER LIBRARY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

The Friends of the
Connecticut College Library

<http://www.conncoll.edu/is/10875.htm>

W. Lee Hisle

Vice President for Information Services and
Librarian of the College

Benjamin Panciera

Ruth Rusch Sheppe '40 Director of the Lear
Center for Special Collections and Archives
and Newsletter Editor

Charles E. Shain Library

Greer Music Library

Connecticut College

270 Mohegan Avenue

New London CT

06320-4196

This and other issues of the *Friends of the
Library Newsletter* may be viewed online at
<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fol/>

This newsletter was designed by Susan Lindberg.

April 2011



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE

SPRING EXHIBITIONS

IN THE SHAIN LIBRARY EXHIBIT AREA

*Equal Education, Equal
Opportunity: The Growth and
Development of Connecticut
College in its First Half Century*

APRIL 25-JUNE 17

Connecticut College was founded at a time of tremendous growth in higher education options for women. Nevertheless, equal opportunity still remained out of reach for many in 1911. In the decades following the College's founding social and cultural changes brought greater equality to higher education. This exhibition will examine the changing curriculum and changing attitudes on campus in the half century leading up to coeducation.



IN THE LINDA LEAR CENTER FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

The Women's History Collections at Connecticut College

APRIL 25-JUNE 17

At the urging of Professor Chester Destler, President Dorothy Schaffter wrote in 1945 to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins to ask that she deposit some of her papers at the College with the goal of building manuscript collections in women's history. Although she had had no prior connection to the College, Secretary Perkins approved of the project and deposited a collection of manuscripts and documents to form the Frances Perkins Collection. Over the next two decades, Connecticut College faculty and administrators requested and received collections documenting important American women, including Democratic activist Belle Moskowitz, toxicology pioneer Alice Hamilton, and civil rights hero Prudence Crandall. These collections comprise an important core of primary source research materials that continue to be used today by Connecticut College faculty and students, as well as by visiting scholars.



IN THE CHARLES CHU ASIAN ART READING ROOM

Demolition: Second Story –

Works by Zhang Dali

APRIL 25-MAY 10

Our series of exhibitions of loaned material depicting the changing face of contemporary Asian art continues with a showing of works by the artist Zhang Dali. Zhang was trained in Beijing, but became deeply influenced by Western graffiti while traveling in Italy.

His art calls attention to the destruction of traditional communities in China's rapid growth. The Demolition series features portraits and resin casts of the migrant workers Zhang met who lived on the outskirts of Beijing near his studio. His work seeks to bring their lives and their struggles to our attention.



FEATURED ACQUISITION

RACHEL CARSON'S *UNDERSEA*



First published in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1937, Rachel Carson's vivid essay "Undersea" launched her career as a writer to a national popular audience. The essay formed the basis of *Under the Sea-Wind*, the first book in Carson's trilogy of the sea, and was later included in the anthology of her

shorter works *Lost Woods: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson*, edited by Linda Lear '62. It has now been published in a new private press edition by the Nawakum Press with an introduction by Lear.

The book is beautifully set in Granjon and Burgues Script typefaces on hand-



made paper with illustrations by Dugald Stermer (see <http://www.dugaldstermer.com> for a survey of his work). The portrait of Rachel Carson at the end of the book should be familiar to users of the Lear-Carson Collection. It is based on a photograph taken in Woods Hole, Massachusetts by Edwin Gray in 1950, one of a series of dockside portraits housed in our collection.

Undersea is officially the second publication of the Nawakum Press, the first being a short-lived printing experiment in 1979. When David Pascoe, proprietor of the press, decided to resume letterpress printing after a thirty year hiatus, he turned to Carson's essay. *Undersea* has since been followed by illustrated edi-



tions of Herman Melville's *Norfolk Isle & The Chola Widow* and Robert Bly's *The Indigo Bunting*.

This edition of *Undersea* is a gift of Linda Lear, sent to Connecticut College compliments of David Pascoe and the Nawakum Press. It is an excellent addition to both the Lear-Carson collection and to our strong collection of fine press books. We look forward to collecting more works of the Nawakum Press in the future.

A PIECE OF COLLEGE HISTORY ON LOAN

All year long we have been staging exhibitions on the first floor of the Shain Library and in the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives celebrating the history of Connecticut College. We thought we would find everything we needed to tell the College's story within our own collections, so we were surprised when Friend of the Library Judith Gildersleeve duPont brought to our attention a unique and precious item from her family papers: her great grandfather's notebook.

Oliver Gildersleeve was one of the College's founders and among its first trustees. As a prominent citizen of eastern Connecticut, he was approached to aid in

the creation of the school. His notebook lists various business transactions and notes from meetings during the years 1910 through 1912. Included among these are five pages of notes from 1911 referring to the fundraising and planning for Connecticut College. Gildersleeve's notebook lists the dates of meetings and the individuals present, the donations of land and the future location of the College, the election of the first trustees, a two-page enumeration of the donors and the amount of money they had pledged, and a list of buildings that would be needed to house a college of 50 teachers and 500 students. Finally, Gildersleeve pro-



vides statistics from Bryn Mawr, Vassar, Smith, and Wellesley to justify the need for a new college. This list was published at the beginning of the first College catalog in 1912.

The notebook is an invaluable witness to the history of the College and we are delighted to be able to display it.

ACTIVITY IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

- A researcher has been making extensive use of the Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection to produce an edition of reviews of Eugene O'Neill's plays for the Cambridge University Press. The Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection holds a substantial clipping file of news and reviews about O'Neill and his work.
- A Simmons College Library Science student is completing the arrangement of the correspondence portion of the William Meredith collection, identifying previously unsorted materials and producing a folder level finding aid, which will be posted online for future researchers.
- Professors Richter, Van Slyck, and Ning relied heavily on Special Collections materials for their courses on Eugene O'Neill, New London architecture, and modern Asian art.
- A Yale graduate student is making use of the Prudence Crandall collection for her thesis.
- An independent scholar made use of the interviews in the Sheaffer-O'Neill collection for a history of Bohemian New York in the 1920s and 1930s.

LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

Samantha Wickman is this year's Friends of the Library Library Scholarship Award recipient. A 2008 Honors graduate of Connecticut College majoring in Art and English, Samantha is currently nearing completion of her library degree from Simmons College. While at Connecticut College, she worked in the Shain Library gaining broad experience in many different areas of librarianship, including the shelf preparation, repair, and rebinding of books and the research and evaluation of materials from the Old Book Collection. Samantha is seeking to combine her undergraduate academic and work experience by finding a career in either a visual resources library or a department of special collections. The Library Scholarship Award was founded by the Friends of the Library in 1993 to encourage Connecticut College students and alumni to enter the field of librarianship.

MERCER SLIDE COLLECTION

continued from front page

Archives have been meticulously numbering the slides and placing them in acid free housing to guard against their deterioration. The slides will be kept in climate-controlled storage to enhance their longevity.

To enhance accessibility, we have begun scanning the slides at very high resolution and placing them in a database. This will provide digital files that can quickly be turned into printed pictures and will guard against the wear and tear of frequent use. When the database is made public, users on or off campus will be able to browse by subject areas such as Arboretum, Athletics, or Libraries or search keywords in order to sort through the incredible variety of images in the collection.

The work is proceeding quickly thanks to a new slide scanner purchased by the Shain Library that can process large numbers of slides at once and the diligent work of students trained to work with digital images and hi-tech equipment. At present, over 200 slides are being added to the database each week. We expect it will be a popular resource for the College staff, for alumni, and for all who love our beautiful campus.



FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Friends of the Connecticut College Library runs from January 1 to December 31, but it is never too late to join or renew your membership. The dues from the Friends are used to support the acquisition and preservation of materials, lectures, exhibitions, receptions, mailings, and scholarships.

If you wish to join, download a form at <http://www.conncoll.edu/IS/10886.htm> or contact Benjamin Panciera at bpancier@conncoll.edu or by calling 860-439-2654.

Membership has the following levels, named for important benefactors at the College's founding: Bolles (\$500), Palmer (\$250), Plant (\$100), Gildersleeve (\$50), and Wright (\$25). For recent graduates there is also a Young Alumni level (\$10). All members receive the newsletter and invitations to lectures and other events. Those who contribute more than \$50 will also receive borrowing privileges at both the Charles E. Shain and the Greer Music Libraries. Those who contribute at or above the \$100 level will receive a set of Friends of the Connecticut College Library bookplates and for a gift of \$250 or more, we will personalize the bookplates.