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Fall 2015

## Fall Newsletter 2015

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# 2015 FRIENDS of the CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY Fall Newsletter

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

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO EXPLORE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Over the past academic year, students in two history courses have been working with new technologies to bring Lear Center collections to a worldwide audience. In the fall semester, the Lear Center launched a student exhibition website for Connecticut College classes to create digital projects highlighting special collections and archival material. These exhibitions, available at [ccstudentexhibits.omeka.net](http://ccstudentexhibits.omeka.net), serve a dual purpose — to engage students in close research with physical, unique material in the Lear Center’s collections, serving as a real-world connection to concepts taught in the classroom, and to showcase this research in innovative ways.

Ann Marie Davis, an Assistant Professor of History who specializes in Japanese history and cross-cultural contact between the East and the West, brought two of her classes to the Lear Center over the 2014-

2015 academic year to create engaging digital presentations of two collections: Takejiro Hasegawa’s 19th century fairy tale series, and the 1861-1863 account of Cornelius Gold’s voyage to Hong Kong on board the merchant vessel *Oriental*.

In the fall semester, students in Davis’ first year seminar “Butterflies and Barbarians: Representing ‘East’ and ‘West’ in Popular Culture,” had the opportunity to create a virtual exhibition exploring a collection of Japanese woodblock-printed crepe paper fairy tale books, produced between 1885 and 1903 by Tokyo publisher Takejiro Hasegawa.

Born into a Tokyo merchant family in 1853, Hasegawa was exposed to the international trade business from an early age — Japanese ports reopened to Western trade that same year, and the global market saw an immediate demand for Japanese goods, aesthetics,

and art. Hasegawa discovered a market for traditional Japanese stories among European and American readers and in 1884 opened his own publishing house to produce translated texts for a Western market. Among his notable publications was a series of translated Japanese myths and fairy tales printed on crepe paper with traditional woodblock illustrations.

Davis’ class selected nine of these tales from a collection on loan to the Lear Center to create a digital presentation. In addition to hands-on work preparing digital images for the site, students researched the historical and cultural context of each book, forging a direct connection to course goals of exploring East-West relationships as they played out through the expansion of the global economy. Each book was presented in its entirety, with transcribed pages, critical essays, and resources for further reading. See

*continued on page 3*

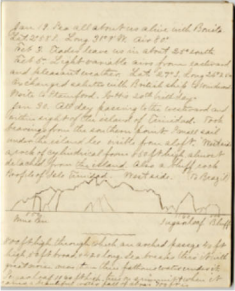
**Journal of a Voyage from New York to Hong Kong, Cornelius B. Gold, 1861-1863**

Exhibit overview

Journal

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Jan. 19. Sea all about us alive with Bonito [1]. Lat. 2° 53' S., Long. 31° 9' W. [2], Air 80°.

Feb. 3. Trades leave us in about 25° south.

Feb. 5. Light variable airs from eastward and pleasant weather. Lat. 27° S., Long 26° 22' W [3]. Exchanged salutes with British ship to windward. Write to Stamford. G.H.'s 20th birthday.

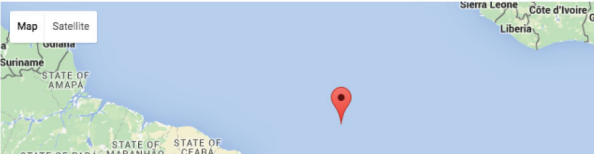
Jan. 30. All day passing to the westward and within sight of the island of Trinidad [4]. Took bearings from the southern point. Small sail under the island lee visible from aloft. West side a rock of cylindrical form 850 ft high, almost detached from the island. Also a bluff rock. Profile of Isle Trinidad. Westside. (To Brazil) [sketch of island profile]

850      1160      800

Nine Pin Sugarloaf Bluff

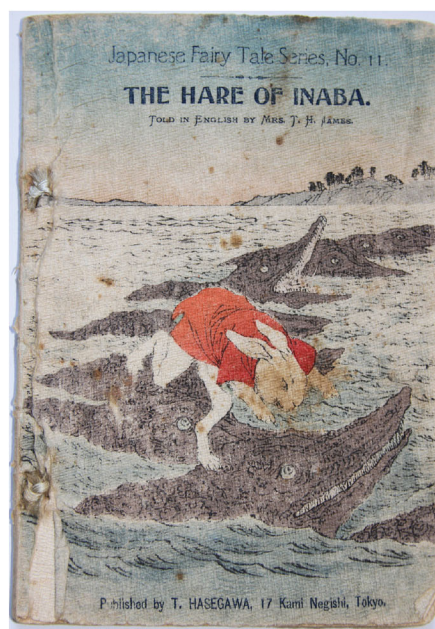
800 ft high, through which, an arched passage 40 ft high, 50 feet broad, and 420 long. Sea breaks thro' it with great noise, more than three fathoms water under it. Sugarloaf 1160 ft high. trees on summit and when it rains, a beautiful waterfall of above 700 ft is

Map    Satellite



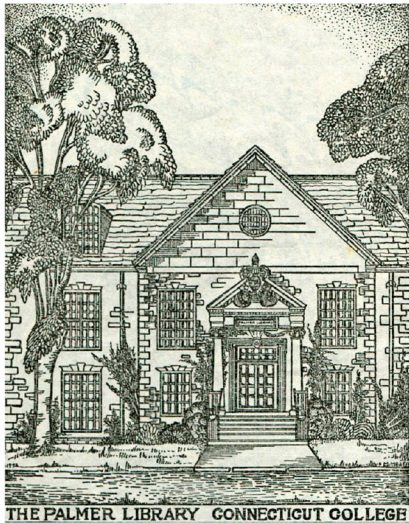
Sierra Leone    Côte d'Ivoire

Liberia



Left: A page from the digital exhibit of the Cornelius Gold journal Right: *The Hare of Inaba*, published in Tokyo in 1886





The Friends of the Connecticut College  
Library

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This and other issues of the Friends of the  
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<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fol/>  
This newsletter was designed by Susan Lindberg.

October 2015



CONNECTICUT  
COLLEGE

## MAP THIEF AUTHOR COMING TO CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

In 2005, a librarian at Yale's Beinecke Library noticed an X-Acto knife on the floor near the desk where renowned rare map dealer E. Forbes Smiley was working. Justifiably suspicious, she called campus security who trailed Smiley as he left the library. Upon confronting him, they discovered seven maps in his briefcase with a value of nearly \$900,000. A year later, Smiley was convicted of this and other thefts totaling 97 maps worth millions of dollars from six libraries on two continents.

Michael Blanding weaves together the criminal career of Forbes Smiley, the contemporary world of rare map dealing, and the history and art of cartography in *The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps*. Blanding is an author and journalist who has written for publications such as *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Boston Globe*, *Boston Magazine*, *Condé Nast Traveler*,



and *Consumers Digest*. The Friends of the Library will sponsor his talk in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room at 4:30 on Thursday, February 18th. A reception will follow the lecture.

## SUSAN AVERY DELIVERS SOUND LAB FOUNDATION LECTURE

Since 1998 the Sound Lab Foundation has been bringing distinguished speakers to campus to discuss cultural and scientific issues of national importance. On October



14th of this year, Susan Avery, President and Director Emerita of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution became the 18th Sound Lab speaker. She addressed a group of students, faculty, Sound Lab retirees, and Friends of the Library in a lecture entitled "Blue Economy for a Blue Planet." The lecture examined the impact of the earth's oceans on the economic life of the planet, the risks posed by a changing climate, the critical need for more exploration, and the technology behind current exploratory efforts. Dr. Avery spoke of the interest in the "blue economy" in Europe and Asia in contrast to the slow response from North America, despite growing interest in mineral and fuel extraction from beneath the ocean's surface.





## A PAIR OF NEW ARTISTS' BOOKS FROM WERNER PFEIFFER

Werner Pfeiffer is one of our favorite book artists and his works are very popular in classes on innovative book design and artists' books, so when he came to visit with several of his most recent projects we knew we were going to purchase one. Mr. Pfeiffer made a compelling case for several of his new creations, and as a result the Lear Center is now the proud owner of two new works.

Werner Pfeiffer's books are intriguing because they encourage the user to play with the format of the book, for example by rearranging pages or taking the book apart and reimagining it as a sculpture. At a time when our interaction with the book is changing because of the internet

and digital formats, artists' books in general and Werner Pfeiffer's books in particular bring us back to the notion that the book is a physical object, meant to be handled. A book is more than mere words on a page and we gain meaning from it through physical interaction.

The two new books added to the collection are *Simsalabim* and *Zig Zag*. *Simsalabim* is the third in a series, completing a cycle begun with *Abracadabra* and *Hocus Pocus* in which Pfeiffer explored our use of and fascination with magic words. The phrase "Sim Sala Bim" was a trademark expression of Harry August Jansen who performed on the Vaudeville circuit as Dante the Magician and was taken from

a children's song in his native Denmark. The book itself is a collaboration with the beloved children's author Eric Carle exploring the magic of color and the mystery of numbers. Ten folded numbered leaves can be bent to reveal a unique painted color field within. *Zig Zag* twists paper into a double accordion fold, turning it into a kinetic, three-dimensional object, a far cry from paper's traditionally conceived role as flat and inert.

These two books join a fascinating collection that will be on display through the winter and used in the classroom for years to come.

## USING TECHNOLOGY

*continued from page 1*

the exhibition here: <http://ccstudentexhibits.omeka.net/exhibits/show/hasegawa>.

In the spring semester, students in Davis' research seminar "Empire and Expansion in East Asia, 1840-1950s" once again looked to Lear Center collections, creating a virtual exhibition of the journal of Cornelius B. Gold, a young man from Connecticut who sailed on board a merchant vessel to the South China Sea from 1861-1863.

Gold, born in 1839 in the rural town of Washington in western Connecticut, was an early volunteer for the Union cause when recruiting began in 1861. Rejected

from army service due to his health, Gold turned instead to the sea. In December 1861 Gold signed on the merchant vessel *Oriental*, bound from New York to Hong Kong, with the hope that a voyage at sea would strengthen his condition and prepare him for military service upon his return. Over the course of his 15-month journey, Gold documented his travels in Malaysia, Indonesia, China, and the Philippines in a 63-page diary, providing invaluable insight into his experiences, impressions, and cultural encounters as he traveled the globe.

Using the Omeka web publishing platform, students in Davis' class transcribed, annotated, and mapped each page of the journal, researching aspects of the

maritime industry, international trade, and 19th century East-West relations, and publishing their research in short critical essays to illustrate key concepts and themes throughout the volume. See the exhibition here: <http://ccstudentexhibits.omeka.net/exhibits/show/goldjournal>.

Beyond their pedagogical intent, the launch of these two exhibitions has had immediate public impact. As of this publication these exhibits had been seen by over 3,600 users in 95 countries. As one might expect, they are particularly popular among viewers in East Asia where users in every major country have made use of these digital materials. As such they constitute a significant resource for researchers around the world.



## CURRENT EXHIBITS THROUGH DECEMBER 22



### *In the Charles E. Shain Library Exhibit area "A Sense of High Adventure": Connecticut College's 1915 Class*

When the doors to Connecticut College opened to its first class of students in 1915, the College consisted of a few buildings, not much more than a dozen faculty, and no traditions to speak of. The vision, enthusiasm, and spirit of this pioneering class laid the groundwork for the College's survival over the next decade and astonishing growth in the years following. Using documents, publications, and photographs from the College Archives, this exhibit shows how these young women built a College for their successors and successful lives for themselves.

### *In the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives Delftware from the Collection of Rose Lazarus Shinbach '39*

In the course of her life, Rose Lazarus Shinbach '39 collected dozens of pieces of hand painted pottery known as Delftware after the city of Delft in the Netherlands, its main center of production. Mrs. Shinbach's collection spans the history of Delftware from its golden age in the 17th century through the

revival of its manufacture at the end of the 19th century. The collection on display exhibits the many uses and styles of this beautiful pottery.

### *In the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room Rainy Days, Starry Nights: Mood and Light in Japanese Landscapes*

This exhibit features the subdued colors of Japan in rain and darkness from the collection of traditional woodblock prints in the Shain Library. Woodcuts exhibited include several by 19th century master Utagawa Hiroshige as well as many from those involved in the 20th century revival of the woodblock printing like Tsuchiya Koitsu, Takahashi Shotei, and Shoda Koho.



## 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/information-services/friends-of-the-library/> or contact Benjamin Panciera at [bpancier@conncoll.edu](mailto:bpancier@conncoll.edu) or by calling 860-439-2654.

Membership has the following levels, named for important benefactors at the College's founding: Palmer (\$2500), Plant (\$1000), Harkness (\$500), Freeman (\$250), Branch (\$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.