Winter 2016

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.
The Friends of the Library is now sponsoring two awards for the Connecticut College community. For over two decades the Friends has given an award of $500 to help pay for tuition and expenses for graduating seniors or alumni in a graduate degree program for library or archival studies. Beginning in 2016, the Friends began sponsoring a new $500 award for current students to recognize outstanding research using Connecticut College Library resources, both print and electronic. The Friends of the Connecticut College Library Research Prize came about through the efforts of Research and Instruction Librarian Andrew Lopez, who modeled the prize on a similar initiative begun by the University of California at Berkeley. The prize application asks students to describe their research process, rewarding them for the search, evaluation, and use of materials using the library’s extensive print collections and research databases. Both the Library Scholarship award and the Library Research Prize will be offered again in 2017 thanks to the generosity of the Friends.

NEW DIGITAL COLLECTION AVAILABLE

In 2015, the Greer Music Library was awarded a Delmas Foundation grant to digitize and make available its extensive collection of historic sheet music. Over the course of a year students scanned, transcribed, and uploaded nearly 1600 scores dating between 1785 and 1927. Most of the scores are of American popular music, with a smaller collection of European and classical sheet music. The project was completed in August and the sheet music has now been accessed over 30,000 times by users in over 150 countries, ranging from researchers at universities to teachers at middle schools to the general public. The music ranges from the well-known, such as an arrangement for the soft drink Moxie. The sheet music or the Barcarolle from Jacques Offenbach’s Tales of Hoffmann, to the obscure, like a 1920s advertising jingle for the soft drink Moxie. The sheet music also features classic chromolithographed popular art from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The collection is an excellent contribution to the history of American popular culture and can be accessed at http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/sheetmusic.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special Collections continued from page 1

Room was fitted with shelving and work tables for Lear Center staff. The new shelving can accommodate as much as 900 linear feet of material with the possibility of adding more storage space in the future. This has allowed staff to separate most of the material in need of processing from already processed papers and to prioritize those collections that will be of the greatest immediate value to researchers.

The new space has also allowed Lear Center staff to create a digitization center. As digital access to archival, photographic, and print items becomes a primary objective of the Lear Center, this new space provides for greater safety and security of materials and a more comfortable working environment for student assistants. It also provides a space for Lear Center staff to work closely in conjunction with students in the handling and photography of these unique and often fragile items.

The explosion of digital research resources in academic libraries has coincided with an increased interest in hands-on learning using rare books and manuscripts. We are proud that the Connecticut College Library has been able to integrate both modes of research into the liberal arts curriculum. The expansion of the space and the staff of the Lear Center will enable us to reach more students, transmit more of our resources to the wider research community, and better organize and safeguard the treasures that we already hold.

TWO AWARDS continue on page 4
NEW ACQUISITIONS: TWO ARTISTS’ BOOKS BY ANA PAULA CORDEIRO

The Lear Center has an impressive collection of contemporary artists’ books and is always on the lookout for works by new artists to add to the collection. This fall, the library acquired two different books that exemplify these facets of Ana's art. "Patherror" is Ana’s “attempt to make narrative” out of a seemingly random series of images: in this case, manhole covers intersecting bike lanes of New York City. This limited edition of 101 copies combines handmade paper, gold filament, letterpress, stencils, and inserted photographic prints to trace a path through the pattern of marked streets (hence, “Patherror”) with pages folding out from the structure of the book to emphasize nonlinear travel through the urban landscape.

Bare Abyss is a deeply and often uncomfortably personal book, reprinting text messages received by the artist from a brief but intense romantic relationship. The book was printed using letterpress that was intentionally smeared on layered tissue paper treated with tinted beeswax. The heaviness of the pages represents a physicality that contrasts with the ephemeral nature of text messaging and the one-sided nature of conversation taking place through the phone. We are able to browse the conversation taking place throughout the book. The book is composed of heavy wooden boards and is completely flexible while also remaining very solid. This is the only copy of this book in a collection accessible to the public.

We expect that these two books will be a source of inspiration to students working in book arts classes at the College.

The Friends of the Connecticut College Library
http://www.conncoll.edu/information-services/friends-of-the-library/

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This and other issues of the Friends of the Library Newsletter may be viewed online at http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/id/This newsletter was designed by Susan Lindberg.

December 2016

EXHIBITS

SHAIN LIBRARY EXHIBIT AREA

January 15-March 24

From 1998 to 2016, 21st Editions published some of the finest contemporary photography in deluxe bound volumes, which were eagerly acquired by libraries and museums. Beginning in 2007, the publisher will direct its efforts to marketing to individual collectors. While we are sorry to see this change, we are proud to have been among the foremost collectors of 21st Editions imprints. We will be displaying eleven volumes of stunning photography showcasing the skill and range of this important publisher.

Broad Visions: Connecticut College and the Development of the Liberal Arts
March 30-June 6, 2017

Connecticut College has historically had a unique perspective on liberal arts education. From Frederick Sykes’s vision of an education that would fit our graduates to do “useful work in the world” to Rosemary Park’s classical conception of a core body of knowledge to the College’s groundbreaking new interdisciplinary Connections program, the liberal arts has meant different things in different eras. This exhibition will trace the development of a century of the liberal arts at Connecticut College.

LEAR CENTER EXHIBITION AREA

Supermodels at the End of Time: New Photographs by Miles Ladin
January 15-June 6, 2017

Miles Ladin ’90 has made a career of slyly humorous photography of the New York fashion world. His new limited edition collection of photographs, published in 2016, features candid shots of supermodels paired with quotes from Bret East Ellis’s novel Glamorama. Some of these photographs were previously exhibited in the Cummings Art Center galleries in 2015 before the book’s publication.

CHARLES CHU ASIAN ART READING ROOM

Art in Exile: Chinese Artists in America, 1949-2000
April 24-June 15, 2017

War, revolution, and political turmoil drove many Chinese artists to the United States in the second half of the 20th century, including Connecticut College’s own Charles Chu. This exhibition looks at the work of those artists who transplanted traditional styles in a new land, often influenced by Western materials and techniques. This exhibition is occasioned by the donation of two works by Wang Chi-Yuan (1893-1975) to the Chu-Griffis Collection by Jane Hooper Percy ’69.

We are in discussion with two Chinese artists to host their work in separate exhibitions this winter.