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Friends of the Connecticut College Library  
Newsletter

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Winter 2016

## Fall Newsletter 2016

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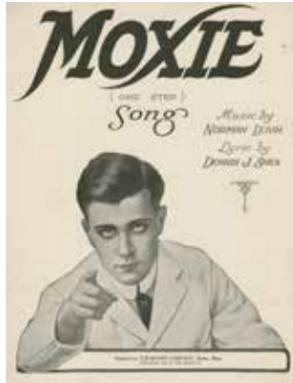
## FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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 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

*continued from page 1*

Room was fitted with shelving and work tables for Lear Center staff. The new shelving can accommodate as much as 500 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 both the staff and the space 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.

# 2016 FRIENDS of the CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY Winter Newsletter

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

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES EXPANDS

Over the past three years the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives has seen its use increase exponentially. The number of classes taught using rare and archival collections is on pace to increase threefold in 2016-2017 and the number of researchers using collections has more than doubled. While this increased usage has been more than welcome, it has strained existing resources considerably. Growing use of the manuscript collections and a reinvigorated drive to build the archival collection has left staff overstretched and provided some urgency to making the backlog of unpro-

cessed collections available to students and researchers. Last year in recognition of this, Linda Lear made a generous gift to Connecticut College to expand both the space and the staff of the Lear Center.

In early 2016, Shain Library began a search for a librarian to fill a new position. The new librarian would have two major responsibilities: helping to process the existing manuscript backlog and connecting researchers to the cluster of collections related to natural conservation and the environment, one of the Lear Center's collecting strengths. After a national search, Rose Oliveira was

selected to become the first Linda Lear Special Collections Librarian. Rose brings experience in archival processing, a professional interest in environmental issues, and an academic background in art and art history, all of which will be invaluable additions to the department.

Over the summer of 2016, the George Haines IV Room on the second floor of Shain Library was converted from the library's meeting room to a processing and digitization center. The conference room was moved to the lower level, taking over a former classroom space and the Haines

*continued on page 4*



Linda Lear Collections Processing Room

## 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 major research collections held in the Lear Center: Carson (\$2500), O'Neill (\$1000), Potter (\$500), Chu-Griffis (\$250), Crandall (\$100), Gildersleeve (\$50), and Meredith (\$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.



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/fol/>  
 This newsletter was designed by Susan Lindberg.

December 2016



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

## NEW ACQUISITIONS: TWO ARTISTS' BOOKS BY ANA PAULA CORDEIRO

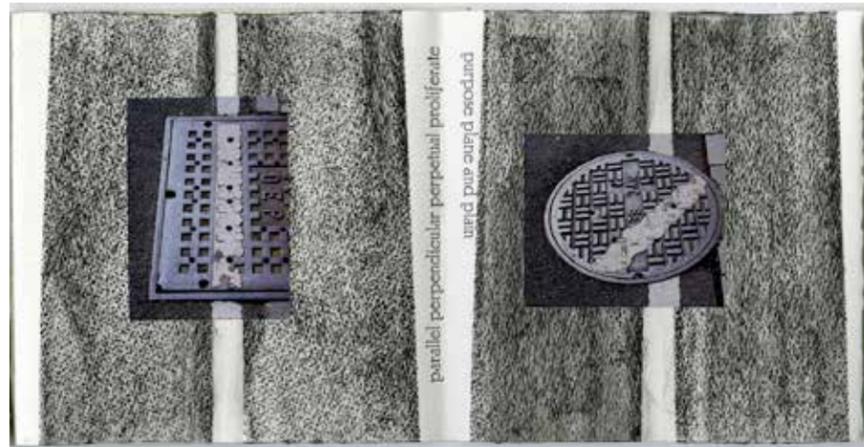
The Lear Center has an impressive collection of contemporary artists' books and is always on the lookout for works by new artists to add to the collection. This fall, a visit from New York-based bookbinder and artist Ana Paula Cordeiro presented just such an opportunity. Ana blends fine letterpress and innovative book structures to create limited edition books with memorable design and extraordinary craftsmanship. The Lear Center recently acquired two very different books that exemplify these facets of Ana's art.

*Pathern* 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, "Pathern") 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 smudged on layered tissue paper treated with tinted beeswax. The heaviness of the pages represents a physicality that contrasts with the ephemerality of text messaging and the one-sided conversation taking place throughout the book. The Secret Belgian-style binding is composed of heavy wooden boards and is completely flexible while also remaining very solid. This is the sole 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.



TOP: *Pathern*, BOTTOM: *Bare Abyss*

## EXHIBITS

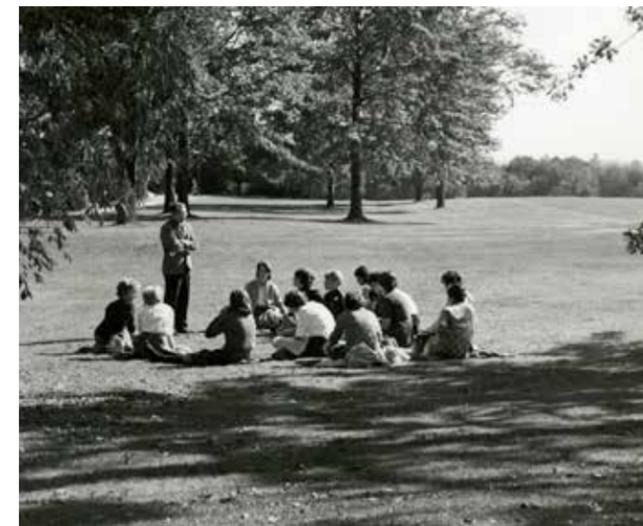
### SHAIN LIBRARY EXHIBIT AREA

*21st Editions: The Art of the Book, 1998-2016*  
 January 15-March 24

From 1998 to 2016, 21<sup>st</sup> Editions published some of the finest contemporary photography in deluxe bound volumes, which were eagerly acquired by libraries and museums. Beginning in 2017, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

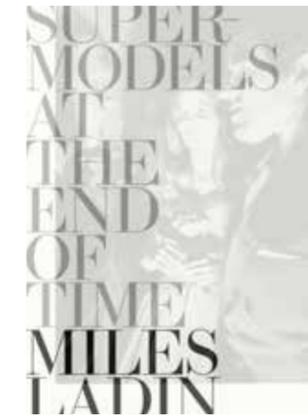
Connecticut College has historically had a unique perspective on a liberal arts education. From Frederick Sykes's vision of an education that would fit out graduates to do "useful work in the



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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

