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Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

Fall 2014

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2014 FRIENDS of the CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY *Fall Newsletter*

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

RECENT GIFTS ENHANCE THE LEAR-POTTER COLLECTION

A trio of recent acquisitions has enriched the Lear-Potter collection, a research archive on the life, writings, and natural interests of children's author Beatrix Potter. These include a first edition of *Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes*, Potter's 1922 collection of rhymes, donated by the Center's benefactor and Potter scholar, Linda Lear '62. This is joined by *Peter Rabbit's Painting Book*, given to Lear by her London friend and collector Derek Ross, and a photo album of a British Girl Guide troop, donated by Barbara Collier of Washington, D.C. Collier's great aunt, Kitty Holdsworth, had been a Guide leader in the 1930s and was befriended by Beatrix Potter.

Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes was first published in 1922, and had been one of the few Potter first editions lacking from the Lear Center's excellent collection. *Peter Rabbit's Painting Book* was first issued ca. 1911, featuring scenes from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* with identical uncolored illustrations on the opposite page for children to fill in. A second edition was published ca. 1917 and survives in only one copy, at Princeton University. Initially, we thought this was a second copy of that second edition, but we noticed subtle differences on the back cover that suggest this copy was published a few years later and must therefore be a hitherto unknown third edition of the coloring book.

The Collier photo album contains snapshots of Girl Guides from the 1930s and 1940s. The Girl Guides were a British girls' scouting organization, similar to the American Girl Scouts. Beatrix

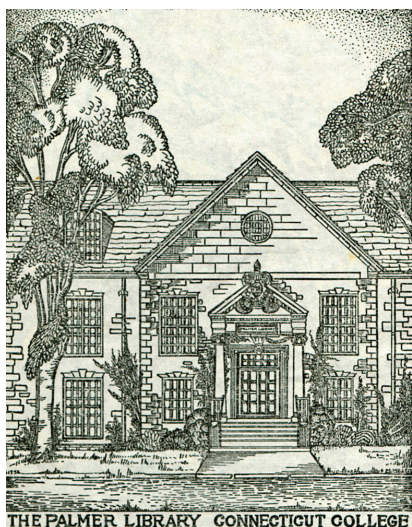


On our copy of Peter Rabbit's Painting Book most of the illustrations have been colored in.

Potter took an interest in the Guides' activities and let them camp on her land. The album contains two rare unpublished photographs of Potter, together with hundreds of photographs of the girls' activities. Collier also gave the Lear Center two signed Christmas cards from 1934 and 1935, which Potter designed to raise funds for the Invalid Children's Aid Association (ICAA). These rare treasures enhance the Lear-Potter archive and the Gildersleeve Collection of Children's Books, one of the jewels of the Connecticut College Library.



Girl Guides camping in Hawkshead in 1929



THE PALMER LIBRARY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

The Friends of the
Connecticut College Library

<http://www.conncoll.edu/information-services/friends-of-the-library/>

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may be viewed online at

<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fol/>

This newsletter was designed by Susan Lindberg

September 2014



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DIGITAL PROJECTS BRING RARE COLLECTIONS TO A WIDE AUDIENCE

In June, the Lear Center completed the digitization of the entire run of the Connecticut College student newspaper – 99 years and 2,136 issues to date! In the year the collection has been active online, users from the College community and the general public have downloaded full-text issues nearly 70,000 times, making it the College's most heavily-used digital collection. New issues will continue to be added as they're published — check back at digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews.

In addition to our growing offerings on Digital Commons, the Lear Center is expanding access to the College archives through Historypin, a user-generated online archive that enables users to engage with history through digital storytelling.

By overlaying or “pinning” photographs, documents, video, and audio recordings on Google Maps, users from around the world help create digital narratives of places and the people and events connected to them. In areas where Google Street View is available,

users can overlay historic images onto the contemporary view, and, using a slider, compare how an area has changed over time.

At Connecticut College, the Lear Center is using Historypin as a way of mapping and sharing college history across space and time. Kathy Georgian, a library science intern from Southern Connecticut State University, recently developed a virtual tour of the Connecticut College Arboretum from its inception in 1931 to the present day. With historic photographs, correspondence, maps, and documents, “The Arboretum at Connecticut College, 1931 to 2014” traces Katharine Blunt's plan to turn a few acres of windswept hill into the enduring reflection of the College's commitment to environmental education, preservation, research, and conservancy we know today. Take a (virtual) tour of the Arboretum at <http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/51577#!photos/list/>.



A picnic in what would become the Connecticut College Arboretum, ca. 1920

AN EARLY AMERICAN ACCOUNT OF ASIA

While processing the letters of Cornelius Gold, a young man from western Connecticut who served in the Civil War with the 6th Connecticut Infantry and the U.S. Navy, we made an unexpected discovery. Gold had traveled to China aboard a cargo ship in 1861-1862 and had kept a journal while on the voyage. That same journal was being offered for sale by a rare book dealer in California. We were able to purchase the journal, which will supplement the existing letter collection and provide a remarkable glimpse at the experiences of a traveler from a small 19th century town to the other side of the world.

Cornelius Gold was born in 1839 in New York City, to Job Gold, a successful businessman originally from Cornwall, Connecticut. He was raised in Washington, a town in Litchfield County whose population numbered just over 1800 in the 1850 census. Gold was among the first students educated at the Gunnery, a school whose name derives not from artillery, but from its founder Frederick Gunn. Gunn was an ardent abolitionist, so with the onset of the Civil War in 1861 it was no surprise that so many of the students and alumni of his school would volunteer. Gold was among them, but was rejected for military service due to his poor health. We do not have any record of how he spent the following months, but on December 9, 1861 he begins a journal with the words, "Cleared for Hong Kong ... Bark Oriental," an American ship that conducted trade across the South Pacific and Far East.

On this voyage the *Oriental* carried a load of coal to Hong Kong. Gold was booked as a passenger rather than as a sailor, paying a fare of \$250. However, after two and a half months he was hired on, joining a diverse crew including shipmates from Sweden, Germany, Denmark, China, Poland, and Russia. The *Oriental* sailed eastwards, making quick progress. Throughout the journey Gold provided frequent updates on the weather, his location, the sailing life, and the sayings and characteristics of his crewmates.

The *Oriental* anchored in Hong Kong in June of 1862 and Gold set about finding a posting on another ship. He quickly signed on with the vessel *Jabez*

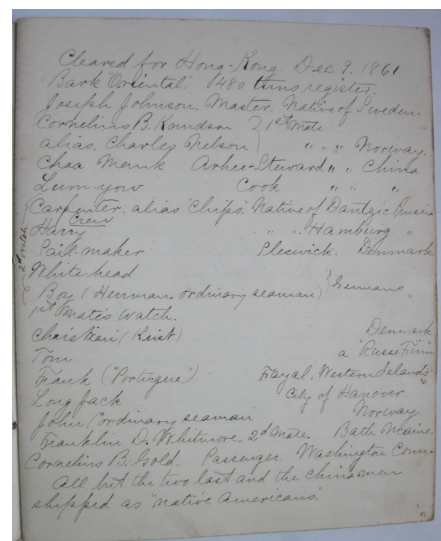
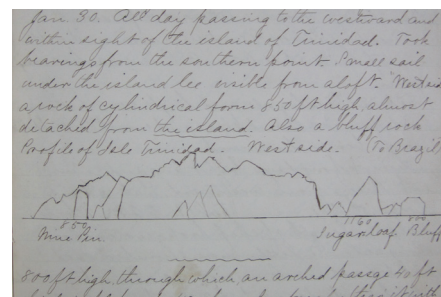


Above: *The Jabez Snow, as painted by Samuel Walters ca. 1855* **Top right:** *Gold's sketch of the profile of Trinidad*
Bottom right: *Cornelius Gold begins his journal in 1861*

Snow, but as it wasn't sailing for several weeks, he took the time to explore Hong Kong and Guangdong province on his own. He traveled through this corner of China, relying on an extensive network of Americans including consular officials, shipping agents, and religious missionaries. Several of them were from Connecticut, including a Presbyterian minister from the small village of Cornwall. Gold reports on visiting temples and markets and traveling by canal boat and litter. His tone is perfunctory and non-judgmental, but it is apparent that he spends all of his time with his European and American hosts only, and not interacting much, if at all, with the Chinese population.

In the middle of July, 1863, the *Jabez Snow* left Hong Kong for the Philippines, where it took on a cargo of hemp and sugar bound for Liverpool. Gold described in some depth his adventures in Manila, but once the *Jabez Snow* set sail for England, his description all but ceased. Once in Liverpool, he quickly made his way to Ireland, from which he set sail to New York City, arriving fifteen months after the beginning of his adventure.

Gold was home for a few months before he was drafted into the Union army, serving with the 6th Connecticut Infantry Regiment in South Carolina and Virginia



before being transferred into the U.S. Navy in the Gulf of Mexico. The Lear Center has nearly fifty letters he wrote and received during his Civil War service, which will be exhibited with other Civil War manuscripts when Shain Library reopens in 2015. The collection remains accessible to researchers and will be used in several College classes in the next academic year.

RARE SHEET MUSIC: A SPECIAL COLLECTION IN THE GREER MUSIC LIBRARY

The Greer Music Library has shelf after shelf of scores. Most of these materials are readily available for perusing in the open stacks. Out of sight to the public, however, are two special collections of sheet music: The Historic Sheet Music Collection (HSMC) and the L. Mae Stephenson MacIntosh Sheet Music Collection. The former consists of individual pieces and bound volumes of music that simply came our way over the years via gifts that people gave to the library (over 1,000 pieces). The MacIntosh collection (approx. 400 pieces) is a gift of Marian Shilstone, retired head of acquisitions/collection development. The HSMC titles span the early 19th century to the mid-20th century. The major-

ity of the MacIntosh pieces were published between 1900 and 1930.

Most of the titles are popular songs, both secular and sacred and primarily voice with piano accompaniment, while some are purely instrumental, with piano or guitar being the most common. Some songs were written for shows or movies, others for the general public. The subject matter, the cover art (many in color), the printing techniques, the lyrics, even the advertising — all offer a rich resource for scholars in fields such as music, art and art history, sociology, anthropology, history, gender studies, and psychology.

We are in the process of cataloging all of the titles, working on the HSMC first.

Already over 1100 titles are now findable through Caravan, the library's online catalog. A few years ago, a project was undertaken to scan and make available a selection of earlier music over the internet. The collection has become quite popular and may be accessed at <http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/sheetmusic/>. Patrons may access the remainder of the collection by coming to the Greer Music Library. To schedule an appointment to use the collection in-house, contact Carolyn Johnson, Music Librarian at cajoh@conncoll.edu or 860-439-2710.

Then there is the Jesse Greer Sheet Music Collection ... but that is a story for another article!

ROY MANSTAN WILL BE 2014 SOUND LAB SPEAKER

Roy Manstan, author of *Cold Warriors: The Navy's Engineering and Diving Support Unit* and coauthor of *Turtle: David Bushnell's Revolutionary Vessel* with Frederic J. Frese, will be this year's Sound Lab Foundation speaker on October 9, 2014. "Science, Technology, and the Submarine Capital of the World: 1776 – 1996" will trace the development of the submarine and our region's role in its evolution from the Revolutionary War through the Cold War. The lecture will be held at 7 PM in the 1941 Room, on the second floor of the College Center at Crozier-Williams, directly north of the Shain Library. It is free and open to the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Manstan after the lecture at a coffee reception and purchase copies of his books.



Roy Manstan and a replica of David Bushnell's Turtle

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PRESENT A PROGRAM BY RAY RICKMAN

Are you holding on to a rare first edition? A priceless signed book? A highly-sought-after collector's copy? Ray Rickman will help you find out. In his fun and revealing Value of the Book



workshop, Mr. Rickman will offer free book evaluations drawing on his many years of experience as a rare-book dealer, a former bookstore owner in Providence, and the

former host of the Rhode Island Public Television program "Bestsellers." In an Antiques Roadshow-type format, Mr. Rickman will discuss which sorts of books tend to have high market values, explain characteristics that can influence the worth of a particular book, and offer complimentary estimates of up to three books for each participant in the workshop. The workshop will take place in the Hood Dining Room on the first floor of Blaustein Hall on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 2 PM. It is free and open to the public.

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 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.