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Fall 2019

## Fall Newsletter 2019

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# 2019 FRIENDS of the CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY Fall Newsletter

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

## MARY WILLIAMS CROZIER PAPERS MADE AVAILABLE

Everybody at Connecticut College is familiar with the Crozier-Williams College Center but what about the donor who gave the building its name? Mary Williams Crozier was born in 1864 to one of New London's most prominent whaling families. That business brought the family to Europe, where Mary spent much of her youth. In 1913 she married Brigadier General William Crozier, then the Chief of Ordinance for the United States Army. They moved to Washington, D.C. where their social circle included Presidents Taft and Wilson, members of the Supreme Court, and foreign diplomats. Following Crozier's retirement in 1919, the couple traveled widely for three and a half years, particularly in Japan, China, Cambodia, India, and Egypt. Mary left a substantial sum to the College in the name of her parents and in-laws to commemorate her connection to the city of New London. That money funded the creation of a new student center. She also left the College her personal papers, which have now been processed and made available to researchers.

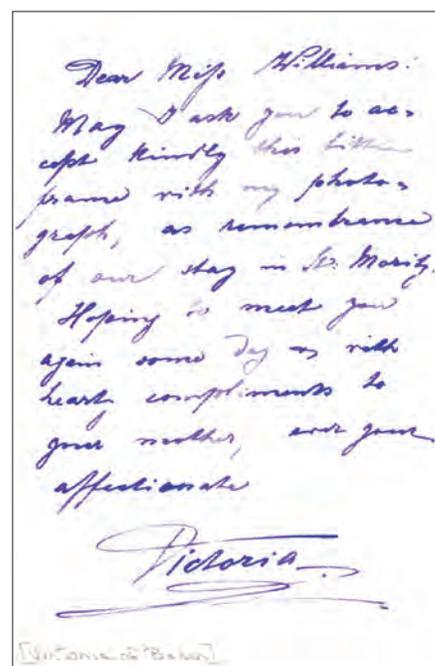
The collection of Mrs. Crozier's papers consists of several boxes of correspondence, extensive, detailed travel journals, sketchbooks, photographs, and memorabilia she gathered on her travels. They reveal the life of an American woman of privilege, interacting with the upper echelons of international society during periods of dramatic social and political change. In her youth her travels brought her into contact with German royalty, as evidenced by several years' worth of correspondence with members of the Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach family, including Duchess Elisabeth Sybille and Princess Sophie Marie Viktoria of Baden



ABOVE General and Mrs. Crozier on horseback, most likely in India in 1922; BELOW A letter from Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden

(later Queen Victoria of Sweden). During her Washington years, she and her husband corresponded with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, and US and foreign ambassadors, in particular the ambassador from the United Kingdom, Rufus Reading and his wife Alice. Reading later served as viceroy in India and hosted the Croziers on their travels there.

Mary Crozier's travel journals begin with the second volume while she is traveling in China. The first volume somehow was separated from the collection and found its way to the University of Wyoming where it is now held at the American Heritage Center. The journals show a very careful observer of peoples and cultures and an openness to novelty that one would expect from a woman who spent most of her youth abroad. They provide a fascinating perspective on a world in the twilight of European colonization.





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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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.

September 2019



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

## TWO-TERM MAYOR OF BRIDGEPORT, BILL FINCH TO BE 2019 SOUND LAB SPEAKER

This year's Sound Lab speaker is Bill Finch, who served as Mayor of Bridgeport from 2007 to 2015. As mayor, Finch pushed conservation and sustainability initiatives to promote green business and green living in the city. He devised a green plan for Bridgeport that promoted the expansion of municipal and private solar energy, supported community gardens, improved consumer recycling, and developed a facility to generate electricity from kitchen grease and other food waste and will eventually generate energy from the city's sewer sludge. The city developed an eco-technology park to advance many of these initiatives and spur the development of private businesses.



Finch also sought to create long term plans to protect the port city from rising sea levels and the increased frequency and intensity of storms.

As a result of these initiatives, Bridgeport was described by the *Connecticut Mirror* as a "nationally recognized environmental showpiece" and ranked among the top three cities in the Northeast for sustainability by *Site Selection Magazine*. Finch was co-chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Task Force and in 2015 received a Climate Leadership Award from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. He currently serves as director of the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport.

Mayor Finch's lecture will address the potential for cities, citizens, and the private sector to work together to stave off climate change. Over the past year there has been much discussion about the potential for New London to serve as a critical hub for the developing green economy in the region, in particular for its deep-water port to play a central role of the burgeoning offshore wind industry in the Northeast. With this year's Sound Lab lecture we look to advance that discussion from the perspective of a public figure who dedicated his term in office to making the green economy work for his city. This year's lecture will take place at 4:30 pm, Thursday, October 10, in the 1941 Room on the second floor of the Crozier-Williams College Center. A reception will follow the lecture.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives holds a substantial collection of books illustrated by renowned American wood engraver John DePol in addition to a collection of his drawings, proofs and prints. Many of these books were collected by his longtime admirer Charles Price, professor of Art History at the College from 1965 to 1991. To this collection, we now add DePol's illustrations to an unfinished play by Mark Twain, *The Quaker City Holy Land Excursion*, which was published by the Buttonmaker Press of Omaha, Nebraska, and a spectacular letterpress catalogue raisonné by the Book Club of California.



ABOVE *The woodcut from the opening scene of The Quaker City Holy Land Excursion*; RIGHT *John DePol self-portrait*



## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

### SHAIN LIBRARY:

*"Superior In Its Basic Learning Conditions": Making Conn Coed*  
August 23–November 21, 2019



Fifty years ago this fall, Connecticut College admitted its first male students, part of a wave of coeducation that saw mixed gender education become the norm in many private northeastern colleges. This exhibit looks at the decision-making process put in place by President Shain, reactions from students and parents, and the first few years of coeducation, including the introduction of intercollegiate athletics.

## LINDA LEAR CENTER FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

*Jarrett J. Krosoczka Art Exhibit*  
August 19–October 14, 2019

Original artwork by the author/artist Jarrett J Krosoczka, writer of the One Book One Region choice, *Hey Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt With Family Addiction*.



*Objects from the Shinbach Delft Pottery Collection*  
August 26, 2019–January 15, 2020

The Shinbach Delft Pottery Collection contains over 40 rare pieces of Dutch pottery from the 17th to the 19th century. It was given to the College by Rose Lazarus Shinbach '39 in 1991. A sampling of items from the collection is on display, including vases, jugs, tankards, bowls, and decorative objects.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS

### SHAIN LIBRARY

*The First Year Experience at Connecticut College*  
November 21, 2019–February 15, 2020

Professor Karen Gonzalez Rice and students in her First Year Seminar, Everyone's a Curator, will be searching the College Archives for photographs, documents, and memorabilia that shed light on the first year experience at Connecticut College and the ways that it has evolved.

*The Wizard of Oz after L. Frank Baum*  
February–April 2020

L. Frank Baum is remembered for the *Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, but many people don't know that in the subsequent two decades, Baum wrote sixteen best-selling sequels to the work. For many years after Baum's death, reader demand for new Oz books prompted his publisher to turn to a series of authors to produce additional novels and before long these books outnumbered the ones actually written by Baum. This exhibit will feature the work of these now forgotten authors who kept the Oz legend alive into the 1970s.

## LINDA LEAR CENTER

*Revisiting the Nut Museum: Visionary Art of Elizabeth Tashjian*  
October 21–December 6, 2019

The Linda Lear Center will be hosting a portion of this exhibition, which will also be on display in the Cummings

Arts Center. Curated by Professor Christopher Steiner and students from AHI 450, *Bad Art: Looking Beyond the Canon*, it features paintings, drawings, and sculptures from the archive of the Nut Museum, which artist Elizabeth Tashjian produced between the 1930s and 1990s. Tashjian's works were displayed in an informal museum in her Old Lyme house, which gained her national fame. When Tashjian was forced to leave her home due to illness in 2002, Professor Steiner was able to preserve her collection as an "example of late 20th-century American art and popular culture." The exhibit will open with a curator's talk in 308 Cummings at 4:15 on October 30th followed by an opening reception in the galleries at 5:00.





## CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Friends of the Library  
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### TREASURED SCROLL DONATED TO LIBRARY

On May 31, the family of Charles Chu donated their father's masterpiece, *Four Hundred Miles of the Connecticut River*, to the Library's Chu-Griffis Collection, which he had so carefully built over his two decades as curator. *Four Hundred Miles*, a handscroll measuring over 23 feet, was the centerpiece of an exhibition of Professor Chu's work which was profiled in the Fall 2018 Friends newsletter. The exhibition was mounted again for Reunion and in a formal ceremony, the Chu family presented the scroll to the



*Lee and Paula Chu begin unrolling their father's scroll.*

College and participated with friends and College officials in an unrolling of the

work so that it could be exhibited in its entirety for only the fourth time since it had been created.

Following the donation, the scroll was taken to the Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts in Philadelphia for an assessment of its conservation needs. The entire scroll will be photographed, resulting in a single, high-resolution image. A special box will also be created to mitigate some of the long-term conservation complications that are inherent to very large scrolls.

### 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 research collections in the Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives: Rachel Carson (\$2500), Eugene O'Neill (\$1000), Beatrix Potter (\$500), Chu-Griffis (\$250), Campus History (\$100), Gildersleeve Children's Books (\$50), and William Meredith (\$25). 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.