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Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

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Winter Newsletter 2005

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SPRING SEMESTER
Events and Exhibitions

All of the events and exhibitions listed below are sponsored by the Friends of the Connecticut College Library and are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise indicated, lectures will take place in the Charles Chu Reading Room and exhibitions in the display cases in the lobby of Shain Library.

LIBRARY EXHIBITION *Africa-bound: Artists Books by Mary McCarthy* (January 24 – March 11) Co-sponsored by Unity House and the Art Department. African and African-American themes in the work of Massachusetts book artist Mary McCarthy. Lecture by the artist and opening reception on Wednesday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m.

LECTURE by Wangheng Chen, Professor of Aesthetics, Department of Philosophy, and Director of Landscape Culture, Research and Design at Wuhan University, China, in late March or early April. Date and topic to be announced.

LIBRARY EXHIBITION *Exhibiting Activism* (March 28 – April 15) Co-sponsored by the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy. About Citizen Schools, an innovative program for children that fosters education and learning beyond the traditional school day. Marta Magnus '02 and Sharlene Jeanty '04 will talk about the program at the opening reception on Wednesday, March 30, at 4:30 p.m.

LIBRARY EXHIBITION *Japanese Prints at Connecticut College* (April 18 – end of May) Co-sponsored by the Department of Art History and Architectural Studies and the Department of History. Opening reception and lecture to be announced.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION *Historic Neighborhoods in New London* by Sylvia Malizia of New London Landmarks and Caitlin Greeley '05. On Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN
the Friends of the Connecticut College Library!

Your 2005 membership, new or renewed, may now be sent in with the enclosed card and envelope.

A Friends group such as ours exists essentially for two reasons. It is a vehicle whereby one may affiliate with a library in order to use its resources, and it is a source of financial support that enables the library to offer programs such as those listed in this newsletter for the Spring Semester, to enrich the collections, to mount exhibitions and to enhance its character and visibility in other ways.

The Friends of the Library at Connecticut College was founded under the presidency of the late Rosemary Park and since then it has sponsored many lectures and exhibitions and has provided funding for hundreds of book and manuscript acquisitions that have enriched the academic experience of the students and increased the visibility of the library in the world. During the past year we were especially pleased to be able to co-sponsor with the Department of Art History and Architectural Studies a series of fascinating lectures about Chinese painting and two exhibitions in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room by visiting curator Arnold Chang.

We hope that by affiliating with our library, you will feel that is yours as well, whether you use Shain Library or Greer Music Library. Membership has many benefits including borrowing privileges at Shain and Greer for those who contribute at the $50 level and above, invitations to all Friends events and receptions and a subscription to this newsletter.

Thank your for your past support!

Laurie M. Deredita

The Friends of the Connecticut College Library

2004 LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP awarded to Bridget Pupillo '98

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the members of the Friends of the Library a Library Scholarship Award of $500 was given in April 2004 to Bridget Pupillo to attend the GLIS Master of Science Program at Simmons College. Bridget worked in Interlibrary Loan in Shain Library from 1999 until October 2004, first as ILL assistant and later as supervisor. In addition to attending classes at Simmons, Bridget is now ILL supervisor at Lesley College in Boston. The Library Scholarship was established in 1993 to encourage the professional development of a Connecticut College senior or graduate in the fields of library science, book conservation or archival management.

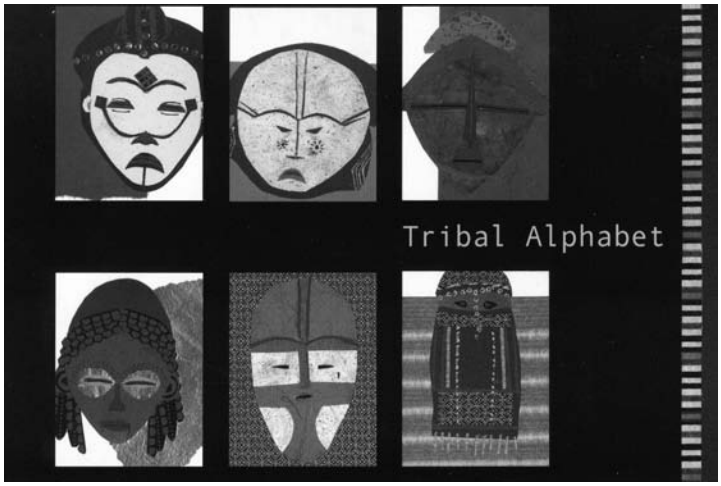
2005

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

Winter Newsletter

EXHIBITION AND LECTURE BY BOOK ARTIST MARY MCCARTHY DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Boston artist Mary McCarthy draws heavily on themes taken from African culture, its masks, rituals, music, dance and history, to create her unique and colorful artists books.



Tribal Alphabet by Mary McCarthy

In 1989-1990 she made her first trip to Africa with a grant from the Abbot Association, enabling her to travel to Senegal, West Africa and to produce a documentary video. Another grant from the Artist's Resource Trust Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation funded a second trip to Senegal in 2000-2001, which eventually resulted in the artists book *Point of Departure*. She says of her own work:

"I have always been inspired by African Art, especially masks and wooden sculptures. As a child growing up, Africa was a place run by Europeans and struggling to gain independence. As an adult, I realized how little I knew about the continent, from its 53 +/- countries, over 2,000 languages and numerous tribes, traditions, terrains, etc. The vastness of this continent is mind-boggling. I started reading books about specific peoples/tribes and their customs and I was hooked. In the early 1980s it struck me as odd that not very much was ever carried in the newspaper about Africa unless it was some horrible famine or war reported about a year too late. That is when I started making my Africa influenced books. *Africa: The Map* has current events about all 53 countries based on news published in the *New York Times* and Sunday *Boston Globe*. In order to find at least one article for each country it took me three years, 1985-1988. Was there nothing going on in this huge continent, or did we not care? Twenty years later, there is much better coverage in the press. One of the themes I like to stress is the vast beauty and culture of Africa contrasted with the harsh struggles."

The Artists Book Collection at Connecticut College includes a number of Ms. McCarthy's works. *Point of Departure* is a replica paper construction of the House of Slaves on Gorée Island that collapses and is stored in a box made of linen and cloth from Ghana. The bottom of the box has an image of the interior of a slave ship with the packed slaves lying next to each other like human ants. Ms. McCarthy made this artists book in an edition of four, symbolizing the four destinations that the African slaves were sent to: Europe, North American, South America and the West

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CHARLES E. SHAIN LIBRARY
GREER MUSIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the
Connecticut College Library

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Thanks to Susan Lindberg of College Relations for her assistance

This and other issues of the *Friends of the Library Newsletter* may be viewed online at <http:/www.conncoll.edu/is/info-resources/special-collections>

January 2005

IN MEMORY
OF ALICE JOHNSON

Thanks to a generous gift from Elizabeth Enders, two fine books have been added to Special Collections in memory of Alice Johnson, professor of English and former dean of freshmen and dean of the college. Miss Johnson wrote her doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin on Henry James and she was a collector of the books of American expatriate novelists Henry James and Edith Wharton. Over the years she gave many of her first editions of these authors to the library so it seemed appropriate to use the Enders gift to purchase some more examples of their works.

The first American edition of *Confidence* was published in 1880, the same year as his more famous *Washington Square*, and two years before the death of his father, Henry James, the well-known philosopher. The younger James was 37 and on the title page of *Confidence* he still signs his work Henry James, Jr. This is the first issue of the American edition in its original terra-cotta cloth binding, published in Boston by Houghton, Osgood and Company, and printed at the Riverside Press. A rare example of a James novel with a happy ending, we are very pleased to add *Confidence* to our collection of modern first editions.

Edith Wharton is said to have been very concerned that her work be well printed, and so it is no accident that her first book of short stories was printed at the Merrymount Press. She would no doubt have been pleased with *Quartet: Four Stories*, a beautiful book produced at the Allen Press in Kentfield, California in 1975 in a limited edition of 140 copies. Lewis and Dorothy Allen were printers in the San Francisco Bay Area who began to hand produce books in 1939 with extraordinary attention to detail. *Quartet* is bound in linen backed cloth, an orange and beige Fortuny print, hand-blocked in Venice, with four original full-page illustrations, printed in three colors on all-rag paper hand-made in England. *Quartet* is a splendid addition to our growing arts of the book collection.

Robert C. Fregosi Collection

ANOTHER WWII COLLECTION ADDED TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A very interesting collection of World War II documents, memorabilia and artifacts has been added to Special Collections during 2004. Like the Frederic Irwin Collection that was given to the library several years ago, the Robert C. Fregosi Collection is also associated with the Eighth Air Force. Captain Fregosi served with the 390th Bomb Group in England and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Distinguished Flying Cross. The Fregosi material also has an association with southeastern Connecticut since Robert Fregosi spent many summers as a child and teenager in the house that his parents built in 1928 on Shore Road in Waterford. An inveterate collector, he carefully saved and preserved all of the documents associated with his wartime experience. The Robert C. Fregosi Collection is the gift of his son, William A. Fregosi of Roslindale, Massachusetts.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

There is a lot of work in Special Collections and in the College Archives and some of the special projects would not get done without the help of our student assistants and loyal volunteers. Laurie Deredita, Director of Special Collections and Archives, and Nova Seals, Librarian for Special Collections and Archives, would like to express their gratitude to three Friends of the Library who have volunteered their time to help us: Jeanette Astrauckas, Vita Dodson and Janet Kellock.

Jeanette Astrauckas, retired Assistant to the Vice President for Information Services, returns to the library one day a week to work on the Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection. Her first assignment was to reorganize the very large Eugene O'Neill photograph collection, placing each item in a protective plastic sleeve so that the photographs can be handled without damage by researchers, and then assigning numbers to each so that they can be refiled easily after use. After three years, Mrs. Astrauckas is still working her way patiently through the rest of the collection, reorganizing and refiling, replacing ancient file folders with acid-free, removing rusty staples, generating lists and labels, and learning a lot about the life and times of Eugene O'Neill.

Former Serials Assistant Vita Dodson began to volunteer her time in Special Collections almost as soon as she retired. An avid reader who likes to come to the library anyway and a volunteer for a number of other cultural organizations in the area, Mrs. Dodson has worked on many projects over the years including organizing the New London Postcard Collection and putting each of the cards in a protective plastic sleeve. She has also worked on the historic newspaper collection. Without her assistance, mailings of newsletters and notices of events would take a lot longer to get to the post office.

When Nova Seals wrote a short article about the College Archives in the 2004 summer issue of this newsletter that mentioned that she would welcome the assistance of a volunteer, she got a quick response from Janet Kellock. A 1952 graduate of Connecticut College, she is the perfect person to ask to work on creating a computerized index to the alumni magazine, a job that requires knowledge about the history of the college as well as accuracy and precision.

We are very pleased to have their help.

MARY MCCARTHY

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Indies. The Artists Book Collection also has a copy of McCarthy's *Tribal Alphabet* as well as *Garden Facsimile* and *Journey Facsimile*, two very small accordion format works.

Ms. McCarthy is a graduate in art education of William Paterson University in New Jersey. Although most recently she has worked as a free-lance book artist/presentation specialist, she taught visual studies, photography and book making at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts for many years. Her continuing graduate education has included study at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., at the Visual Studies Workshop, in Rochester, New York, and several other notable institutions that teach graphics, illustration and photography. Exhibitions of her work have been shown at many places, from the Addison Gallery at Phillips Academy to the Clapp Library at Wellesley College, and examples of her work are held by many museums and libraries, including the Fogg Museum at Harvard, the Arts of the Book Collection at Yale, the Rhode Island School of Design Library and the Library of Congress. She is also the mother of Eli Manna, a member of the Connecticut College class of 2007.

Mary McCarthy will speak about her work at Connecticut College on Wednesday, February 23, at 4 p.m. in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room. Her exhibition, *Africa-bound: Artists Books by Mary McCarthy*, will be shown from January 24 through March 11 in Shain Library.

CHARLES T. PRICE MEMORIAL BOOK FUND

After the death of Professor Charles Price in November 2003 a fund was established to create an endowment in his memory to support the purchase of illustrated books for Special Collections. During the past year many of his friends and colleagues have contributed to this endowed fund and it was enhanced by a generous gift to Special Collections by Charles Price himself, as a bequest in his will. In the meanwhile, Laurie Deredita and Brian Rogers have been editing a booklet of the talks that were given by his colleagues and former students at the memorial service on April 3 and illustrated with some of the drawings that were shown in the exhibition of his artwork. The memorial book will be printed by the Friends of the Library in early 2005 and sent to contributors to the Price Fund.