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Friends of the Connecticut College Library

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Summer Newsletter 2004

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

Nova M. Seals was appointed to the position of Librarian for Special Collections and Archives, also known as the College Archivist, in February. A graduate of the Coast Guard Academy with a major in government, she has an M.A. in American and New England Studies from the University of Southern Maine and a 2004 M.L.S. with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from Simmons College. She works closely with Laurie Deredita, the Director of Special Collections and Archives. Here is what Nova has to say about her new job.

COLLEGE HISTORY TREASURE TROVE ON THE THIRD FLOOR

By Nova M. Seals

Connecticut College has a very exciting and interesting past. The history of the campus community, the College and its interaction with outside organizations, and the history of the campus itself, is fascinating. It is this intriguing past that makes the College Archives, located on the third floor of the Charles E. Shain Library, an incredible resource for studying the institutional history of Connecticut College. But when students, alumni and researchers from the general public come in for a visit, the breadth of information available in the archival holdings often surprises them. The collections in the College Archives do more than simply document the history of Connecticut College; the Archives open a portal to the activities and the life of the College in years past which can help us to understand how and why the College functions the way it does today, and perhaps how it might in the future.

There is rarely a dull day working in the Archives at Connecticut College. During the academic year I spent a great deal of time with researchers, primarily students, who were researching the architectural history of the College or inquiring about honors papers and theses. With the arrival of summer, I am occupying my time creating a records management plan for the records of the College and with various inventorying and preservation projects. Other projects for the summer include: developing a new website for the Archives to include finding aids for the most requested collections (such as the Arboretum and American Dance Festival Collections), and cataloging and digitizing the campus and campus life collec-

tions so that the materials are more accessible for researchers.

I am always looking for donations from alumni, faculty, staff as well as the general public. Anything that provides historical insight into the life of Connecticut College, its students, faculty and staff is welcome. If you are interested in donating materials, volunteering, or if you'd just like to visit and have a look around, don't hesitate to contact me. The College Archives is open Monday through Friday, 9:30-12:30 and 1:30-5:00 (closes at 4:00 during the summer). Appointments are preferred, to allow time for research/visit preparation. My phone number is 439-2686 and email is nmsea@conncoll.edu.



*A performance of Aladdin from the twenties
(College Archives)*

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership in the Friends of the Library for 2004. Membership, new or renewed, is welcomed at any time of year. The dues from the Friends are used to support the preservation of the collections, to purchase books, to sponsor lectures, exhibitions and receptions, to print the newsletter, and to fund the library scholarship.

If you wish to join at this time, or know of someone who is interested, a check payable to "Connecticut College" may be mailed to the Friends of the Library, Charles E. Shain Library, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320. Membership has the following categories: contributing (\$30), associate (\$50), patron (\$100), and benefactor (\$300 or more). All members receive the newsletter and invitations to lectures and other events but dues in the associate, patron and benefactor categories include library-borrowing privileges.

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GENERAL DIRECTOR OF NEWPORT MUSIC FESTIVAL TO GIVE SOUND LAB LECTURE

Although Dr. Mark P. Malkovich, III is best known as the General Director of the world renowned Newport Music Festival, he is a man of many other talents. An undergraduate chemistry major at Columbia University, he later went on to study literature and languages in graduate school. He is also a well-known pianist, an expert in the field of chamber music, and a sports agent. For his many achievements he has been awarded honorary degrees by a number of American colleges and universities, and in the United States and abroad he is respected for his knowledge of the international music scene. Many talented young international musicians and singers have made their American debuts at the Newport Music Festival.

The Newport Music Festival is now in its 36th season and Dr. Malkovich has been the general director for most of that time. The Festival was founded in 1969 as an attempt to establish a summer season for the Metropolitan Opera but outdoor opera did not work well in humid, fog-bound Newport, Rhode Island. But Newport is home to many Gilded Age "cottages" and the Festival evolved into a venue for celebrating chamber music of the Romantic period in the beautiful and grand rooms of the mansions. In recent years the Festival has expanded its repertoire to include the works of contemporary composers and the occasional rediscovery of forgotten masterpieces. The 2004 Festival program runs from July 9 to the 25th and includes no fewer than sixty-four concerts with as many as five in one day.

Dr. Malkovich will give the Sound Lab Foundation Lecture on Thursday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ernst Room of the Blaustein Humanities Center. It is the seventh in this endowed annual lecture series that is co-sponsored by the Sound Lab Foundation and the Friends of the Connecticut College Library. The title of his lecture is "Behind the Scenes at the Newport Music Festival."



*Dr. Mark P. Malkovich, III, General Director of the
Newport Music Festival.*



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June 2004



Eugene O'Neill in Bermuda (Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection)

“O’NEILL AT SEA”, A LECTURE BY ROB RICHTER ’82

Robert A. Richter is the Director of Arts Programming at Connecticut College but he is also a scholar of the work of playwright Eugene O’Neill. He became interested in O’Neill’s maritime plays when he directed *Bound East for Cardiff* and *Long Voyage Home* in 1988 in connection with the O’Neill Centennial celebration and, in 1997, he wrote a thesis on “The Influence of the Maritime Experience on the Life and Work of Eugene O’Neill” for his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University. With a lot of new research, this work has been expanded into a book, *Eugene O’Neill & Dat Ole Davil Sea* soon to be published by Mystic Seaport.

Rob Richter’s lecture will take place on Friday, October 15, at 4 p.m. in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room on the weekend of the Eugene O’Neill Celebration organized by the O’Neill Theater Center. Other speakers in this informal lectureseries held in Shain Library were Dr. Harley Hammerman of eO'Neill.com and retired special collections librarian Brian Rogers. A reception and book signing will follow the lecture.

The Fall Library exhibition, “Eugene O’Neill and the Sea,” curated by Rob Richter and Laurie Deredita, will use photographs, books and documents from the library’s Sheaffer-O’Neill Collection. It will run from October through December.

TAKE A LOOK AT “LOOK AT ART”

For those of you who have not had a chance to see it or who want to see it again, Elizabeth Enders’ exhibition “Look at Art” will continue on display in the lobby of Shain Library until September 30. This exhibition of drawings, notebooks and framed works featuring over thirty years of her artistic efforts opened on May 8. In the exhibition catalogue, Professor Barbara Zabel wrote, “What Elizabeth Enders’ art gives us is a way of looking at the world, a means of gaining perspective on events over which we may have no control, and a new understanding of the

vital role of art in our life, as well as her own.”

As this newsletter goes to press, we are making arrangements for a “closing” lecture by noted expert on post-war art Irving Sandler. The lecture has been scheduled tentatively for Thursday, September 30, the final day of the Enders show. Irving Sandler is Professor Emeritus of Art History at Purchase College and the author of a memoir, *A Sweeper-Up After Artist*, published by Thames & Hudson in 2003. A reminder about this lecture will be sent out in September.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CHU ROOM

LECTURE BY ARNOLD CHANG

Since it opened in December 2000, the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room has been a popular venue for dozens of library and college events, including lectures, symposia, tea ceremonies, poetry readings, awards ceremonies and receptions. But it was especially appropriate that on April 6, the Chu Room hosted a lecture by Arnold Chang, an art historian who is currently

employed as an expert in Chinese art at Kaikodo, a commercial gallery in Manhattan specializing in Asian art. Under the name Zhang Hong, he is also painter of landscapes in the traditional Chinese style of ink on paper. The Chu-Griffis Collection recently acquired one of his landscape paintings, which is currently on display in the Chu Room.

As an art historian and as a practitioner and teacher of traditional Chinese painting Chang was particularly qualified to present his lecture topic, "Bridging the Past and Future: Reassessing Traditional Style Chinese Painting." According to Chang, "the idea that a work of art can be both "traditional" and "original" may seem strange to young artists working today (even in China!) But historically the Chinese tradition offers a positive alternative to the cynical and ironic uses of the past evident in much postmodern art." He will teach a course in Chinese art during the 2004-2005 academic year at Connecticut College in the Art History department.

TAIZAN SCREENS

Since January, the twelve-foot wide display case outside the Chu Room has been the temporary home of a pair of screens painted by the Japanese artist Hine no Taizan (1813-1869), a painter in the late Nanga

style, which was heavily influenced by Chinese painting. The screens, painted in ink on paper, show a mountain landscape with a small human figure sitting on a bridge in the foreground looking at a waterfall. The screens were formerly on display in the Detroit Institute of Art. They are on loan to the Chu-Griffis Art Collection from the family of Peter Taylor '06.

HORIZONTAL DISPLAY CASE GIVEN BY KATHERINE PHELAN WILLIS '69

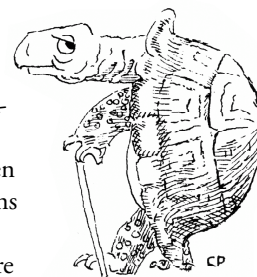
Built primarily as a place to show the paintings in the Chu-Griffis collection, the Chu Room has seven tall double-sided cases designed specifically for the display of vertical scrolls. The room has other cases for the display of small objects and plenty of wall space to hang framed works, but what was lacking was a suitable table height case to show the collection's horizontal or "hand" scrolls. With the arrival last year of a beautiful new display case, custom-made by Thomas Moser Cabinetmakers of Auburn, Maine in collaboration with Caseworks, a company that makes museum display cases, this problem was solved. In fact, the new case will also be suitable for exhibitions of books from the Chu-Griffis collection. Charles Chu's twenty-four feet long painting of the Connecticut River is currently on view.

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE TRIP TO VIETNAM AND CHINA

The readers of this newsletter will be interested to have advance notice of the tour to Northern Vietnam and Yunnan, China for Connecticut College trustees, alumni, parents, faculty and friends that is planned for March 11-23, 2005. The tour, with an optional extension to Shanghai, will be escorted by President Norman Fainstein and Professor Susan Fainstein, both of whom are experts in the field of urban studies, and three Connecticut College scholars in Asian history, culture and transformation as our guides: professor of government William Frasure, professor of economics Donald Peppard, and assistant professor of government John Qunjian Tian, who is a native of China. This unusual tour will go to large cities, Hanoi and Shanghai, to mountain villages and natural areas, and its 30 participants will learn and share knowledge about the history, culture and traditions as well as the economic, social and political changes taking place in this part of Asia. A brochure describing the trip in more detail will be sent out later but you may call Nell Bourgoin in the Office of College Advancement for more information at 800-888-7549.

CHARLES PRICE ART COLLECTION

When the memorial service for Charles T. Price was held in Harkness Chapel on Saturday, April 3, there was a reception in Shain Library where the guests were able to admire an exhibition, curated by professor of art history Maureen McCabe, featuring Charles' famous illustrated postcards and some of his beautiful watercolor landscapes. We are pleased to announce that most of his artwork and his personal library were given to the library, including some interesting and valuable books that will be added to Special Collections. In the meanwhile the Charles T. Price Memorial Book Fund has been established to purchase illustrated books for Special Collections in his memory. Many of Charles' friends and colleagues have contributed to this endowed fund but additional donations are very welcome and may be sent to the library.



Drawing by Charles Price