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Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

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Winter Newsletter 2007

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2007 Winter Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

SPRING SEMESTER Events and Exhibitions

A number of exhibitions, lectures and openings are planned for the library during the spring semester although not all of the details are available for publication at this time.

- *The Painted Word: Calligraphy in the Chu-Griffis Art Collection* will continue in the Chu Room until the end of February 2007.
- *A TRIP to China: Photographs by George Fernandez '09* will continue in the display cases in the lobby of Shain Library until the end of January.
- The Paul Revere Awards of the Music Publishers' Association of the United States will be shown in the Shain display cases during the month of February and Music Librarian Carolyn Johnson will give a presentation about music publishing on Thursday, February 8, at 4 p.m. in the Chu Room.
- The library will again host the Holleran Center for Community Action's annual *Exhibiting Activism* exhibit from March 26 through April 27. This year the focus will be on responses to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.
- *Photographs of the Silk Road by Wu Jian* will be the spring exhibition in the Chu Room beginning in March. The date of the gallery talk and reception will be announced later.
- To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Shain Library there will be an exhibition of library photographs and documents from the College Archives. Other celebration events will be announced later.

2006 LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP
awarded to Amy Danna McCue '00

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends a Library Scholarship Award of $500 was presented in April 2006 to Amy McCue at the Honors and Awards ceremony. Amy is a recent alumna of Connecticut College who graduated cum laude with honors in psychology and distinction in sociology. She is matriculated in the Masters in Library and Information Science Program at Southern Connecticut State University with a children/young adult concentration and she expects to get her MLS in December of 2007. The Library Scholarship was established to encourage the professional development of a Connecticut College senior or graduate in the fields of library science, book conservation or archival management. Since 1993 the scholarship has been awarded eleven times.

IT IS TIME
to renew your membership in the Friends of the Connecticut College Library!

Your membership for 2007, new or renewed, may now be sent in with enclosed remittance envelope.

Membership contributions to the Friends of the Connecticut College Library are the primary source of financial support for the events and exhibitions that are held at the library. In 2006 that included the very successful Sound Lab Lecture on his film about Eugene O'Neill given in October by filmmaker Ric Burns who also met with students in the documentary film course; an exhibition of small works by artist Elizabeth Enders; and several Chu-Griffis Art Collection lectures and openings. Over the years support from the Friends has provided funding for hundreds of book and manuscript acquisitions. In recent years, contributions from the Friends support a Library Scholarship that is awarded each year to a Connecticut College senior or alumnus who is pursuing a graduate degree in library science, book conservation or archival management. They also underwrite the printing and mailing costs of this newsletter and the postcard announcements of openings and lectures.

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

TRISKELE PRESS imprint purchased by Charles Price fund

Inspired by the work in England of William Morris and his American followers in places like New York, Chicago and Boston, many private presses sprang up all over the United States during the early decades of the 20th century. The Triskele Press in Minneapolis, Minnesota is one such example although its birth in 1928 was followed by its swift demise.

Special Collections has acquired a copy of the first and only book printed at the Triskele Press, *Cwn Annwn = The Hounds of Hell*. It is a small, handsome edition, limited to 375 copies, printed in red and black throughout. *Cwn Annwn* is a one-act tragedy by playwright Thomas Job (1900-1947). The setting is a farmhouse in Wales in 1860 where, after a grand funeral, the hounds of hell come to claim the dead man whose life was not as blameless as his survivors would like to believe. Job writes in the preface: "My main concern was the expression of an elemental passion. Wales with its vivid folklore, strong traditions, strange customs & passionate people provide a background that I thought suitable." And capture the small dramas and the large hypocrisies of village life he does in strong, simple English dialogue written with the inflections of the Welsh language. The narrative is illustrated by the bold full page woodcut illustrations of Dorothy Kurtzman.

Cwn Annwn is bound in black morocco with gold lettering on the spine and comes in a black slipcase. The types are Barnhardt's version of Morris Chaucer, a choice that supports the Gothic character of the story. It was printed by hand on dampened sheets of Papier Ancien from the mills of Canson et Montgolfier "at the sign of the Triskelion." The colophon is signed only by Fred Phelps and Dorothy Kurtzman Phelps although B. Buel Halleck, W. Kendall Jeffrey and Francis E. Chenevert are also credited.

Woodcut by Dorothy Kurtzman

This was the first and only edition of *Cwn Annwn* although Job went on to write other plays. Dorothy Kurtzman Phelps illustrated other private press books. Mr. Phelps printed 28 other books and pamphlets, including several for the commercial Voyageur Press, also in Minneapolis. It is unfortunate that the life of the Triskele Press was so short. Will Ransom wrote in *Private Presses and Their Work*, "This first book indicates something much more than a casual purpose; all the work is personal handicraft and serious intent is evident."

CHARLES E. SHAIN LIBRARY
GREER MUSIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the
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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/

January 2007

RECENT VISITORS
to the Palmer Room and the College Archives

Throughout the year the Director of Special Collections and the College Archivist respond to a wide variety of inquiries from the campus, members of the southeastern Connecticut community, and the world beyond. Here are a few examples from recent months:

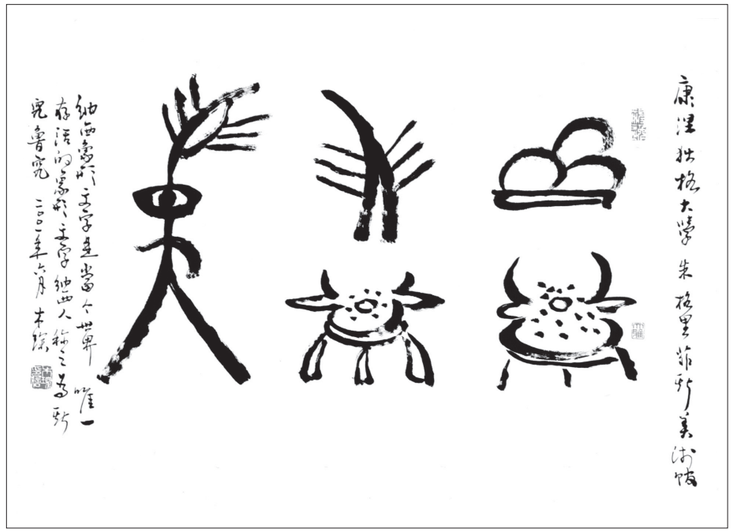
- "Eugene O'Neill and His America", a Theater Studies course taught by Professors Linda Herr and J Ranelli, was taught again at Connecticut College in the fall semester. Many of the classes meet at the Monte Cristo Cottage but the first class is held in the Palmer Room of Special Collections where the students are introduced to the Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection. They are expected to write their term papers using the primary source material in the collection and in December the students come back to the Palmer Room to present their work to the entire class.
- Professor Lori Harrison-Kahan brought her students from the English department's "Survey of English Literatures: 19th and 20th Century American Literature" to the Palmer Room to look at photos, playbills, and other material relating to Eugene O'Neill's play, *The Hairy Ape*.
- The students from Professor Ning Qiang's "Introduction to Asian Art" course came to the Palmer Room to hear a talk by Charles Chu about the history of the Chu-Griffis Collection and to examine the collection's two anonymous ancestor portraits on which they were asked to write a short paper. Most of the students returned later to examine the scroll paintings up close.
- Some of the more unusual artists books in Special Collections were shown to Professor Rhea Nowak's "Design Studies II" class. After a brief introduction to the artists books collection, the students were allowed to handle and examine the books in order to study their design and construction.
- The College Archives was the host to as many students from Professor Eric Kramer's art history course, "Introduction to Landscape Architecture", as could fit into its tiny space on the third floor of the library. There College Archivist Nova Seals introduced them to the photographs and documents that they would reference in their assignment to study aspects of the cultural and ecological significance of the Connecticut College campus landscape.
- A graduate student in the Music department found some of the books in the Wyman Collection extremely useful, especially the library's rare edition of George Thomson's 1822 multi-volume collection of the songs of Burns and other Scottish poets set to music for the piano by Haydn, Beethoven, and other composers. The piano scores from the Thomson books will be used in her MA thesis and some of the pieces will be performed at a vocal recital in the spring.
- An independent researcher studying issues concerning environmental pollution and human health came from Kansas to spend two days consulting the papers in the Lear/Carson Collection.
- The Sheaffer-O'Neill Collection was the destination for one week of a researcher from Tokyo, and there were shorter visits from two O'Neill scholars from American universities.
- There were dozens of requests, usually by email, for information or permission to use images from the Lear/Carson and the Sheaffer-O'Neill collections.

WHAT'S NEW in the Chu Room

The Painted Word: Calligraphy in the Chu-Griffis Art Collection is the name of the current exhibition in the Chu Room. The 44 pieces on display are drawn entirely from the Chu-Griffis Collection. In traditional Chinese ink and brush painting calligraphy is considered to be the highest artistic expression and, to look at the many beautiful scrolls displayed in the cases and along the walls, you can see why. There are many styles of Chinese calligraphy and this exhibit shows examples of nearly all of them: seal, official, regular, running and cursive. An unusual example of calligraphic writing in the Naxi language is on display in the Palmer Room. The Naxi people are an ethnic minority that lives mostly in Yunnan Province.

The opening of the exhibition took place on November 8, with a fascinating illustrated lecture by Bai Qianshen, Associate Professor of Art History at Boston University. The subject of his talk was the cultural context of calligraphy in contemporary China. At the conclusion of his presentation, Professor Bai gave a calligraphy demonstration before turning the brush over to Charles Chu, another master of this ancient art form. In fact, several years ago Charles Chu consulted Professor Bai before he purchased some of the pieces that are in the collection.

Our exhibit shows the work of many contemporary masters including Bai Qianshen and C. C. Wang. *The Painted Word* will be on display in the Chu Room through the end of February.



Mu Shen's painting in Naxi language

In March 2007, the Chu Room will display a modern art form: the stunning color photographs of Wu Jian, the official photographer of the Dunhuang Research Institute in China. Mr. Wu himself will be in New London to give a slide lecture, interpreted by Professor Ning Qiang, at the opening of the exhibition. The show is intended to complement Professor Ning's upper-level spring semester course, "Art and Archaeology Along the Silk Road." An invitation to the opening will be mailed before the event.

CAROLYN JOHNSON to talk about Paul Revere Awards

Every year the Music Publishers' Association of the United States presents the Paul Revere Awards to recognize outstanding examples of graphic design in the field of music publishing. From these awards a touring exhibit is created and in 2007 it will be on display in Shain Library in the month of February. The awards have different categories and they cover all types of printed music, from classical to popular. Among the pieces that will be exhibited is Tan Dun's *Elegy: Snow in June* and John Legend's *Get Lifted*. But what they all have in common is that they are really good-looking examples of contemporary printing and design.

Music Librarian Carolyn Johnson arranged for Connecticut College to be on the touring schedule but, since Greer Music Library has very limited display space, the Paul Revere Awards exhibit will be shown in Shain Library. At the opening of the exhibition on February 8, Mrs. Johnson will give an illustrated lecture about music publishing.