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Friends of the Connecticut College Library

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Fall Newsletter 2012

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

With the acquisition this month of *On Seats of Learning – Carmen Less Miserable Making El Figaro Cigars*, the Lear Center has completed its collection of Angela Lorenz’s five *Light Verse Magazines*. These five “magazines” contain four poems and a music box, whose unique forms relate to their content. *On Seats of Learning* celebrates the cigar rollers of the El Figaro company who paid for a lector to read to them from books or newspapers to relieve the tedium of the work. The poem is written on a fan, which can be folded into a cigar tube, a common method of concealment for gentlemen who did not want to be seen carrying such a ladylike accouterment as a fan.



Angela Lorenz’s *On Seats of Learning*, open and closed.

NOW AVAILABLE

Connecticut College has long had a strong program in Environmental Studies. More recently, the Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives has been making research collections available that document the history and progress of environmental and conservation movements in the United States.

In addition to our well-known research archive of the life and work of Rachel Carson, the Lear Center also has other environmental research resources, such as the papers of Connecticut College professor William Niering and of explorer and conservationist Mary Jobe Akeley and the archives of the Conservation and Research Foundation. To these collections we can now add the papers of Roland Clement, staff biologist of the National Audubon Society for nearly two decades. Clement worked at the Audubon Society during some of the most important years of the environmental movement, collaborating with Rachel Carson in her research on the harmful effects of

pesticides on birdlife.

Mr. Clement donated his papers to Connecticut College in 2006 and they have recently been completely processed so that they can be used by researchers. The collection, which comprises about ten linear feet, contains photographs, notes, and correspondence of Clement’s field work, articles and lectures, his work with the Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board, his collaboration with the biologist Frank Egler, unpublished essays and memoirs,

and fifty years of journals and sketchbooks. Most importantly, the collection contains documentation from Clement’s work with the National Audubon Society, including court papers from a defamation suit filed against him by defenders of the pesticide DDT.

A description of the collection and a finding aid to the papers is now online at <http://collections.conncoll.edu/clement/index.html>.



Roland Clement at Hawk Mountain, Penn. in 1935 or 1936.

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/is/join-the-friends.htm> 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: Bolles (\$500), Palmer (\$250), Plant (\$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.

2012 Friends of the Connecticut College Library Fall Newsletter

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

FIVE DECADES AFTER SILENT SPRING

On September 27, 1962, Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* was published by Houghton Mifflin, an event that was highly anticipated because of a series of excerpts that ran in *The New Yorker* the previous June. Those excerpts caused a sensation that



VINCENT FINNIGAN

built throughout the summer. When the complete book was published, it ignited a debate in the United States and around the world not only over synthetic pesticides, but also over how far people should go in altering the balance

of nature. In the decade that followed the publication of *Silent Spring*, the U.S. Congress passed landmark legislation safeguarding the air, water, and endangered species and established a federal agency to advocate for environmental protection. For these reasons, many people claim that *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement.

The Friends of the Connecticut College Library, together with the Sound Lab Foundation, the Goodwin-Niering Center, and Rachel Carson biographer Linda Lear (’62), is supporting a day of events on Thursday, October 18th to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*. The national environmental magazine *Orion* is serving as media sponsor.

From 3:30 to 5:00 there will be a panel discussion in the Ernst Common Room in Blaustein Hall on the theme of five decades after *Silent Spring*, reflecting on the book, its impact, and the ways in which contemporary environmental debates compare to the pesticide controversy of the early 1960s about which Carson wrote. The panel will be chaired by Linda Lear and will include speakers from academia and government. The featured panelist will be Naomi Oreskes, professor of history at the University of California at San Diego, where she teaches the

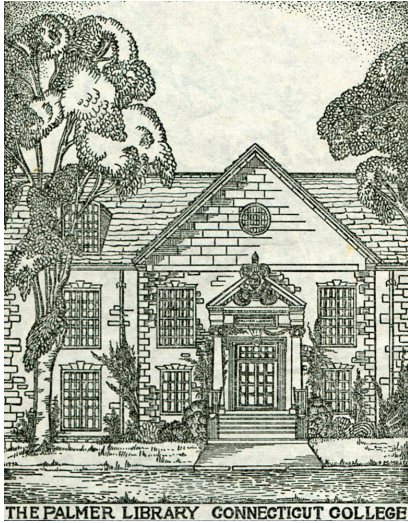
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SHIRLEY BRIGGS

LEFT: Rachel Carson testifying before Congress in 1963.

ABOVE: Watching raptors at Hawk Mountain, Penn. in 1946.



The Friends of the
Connecticut College Library
<http://www.conncoll.edu/is/friends-of-the-library.htm>
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October 2012



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AFTER SILENT SPRING

continued from page 1

history of science. Oreskes' research into the nature of scientific consensus and dissent led her to explore the development of scientific controversies, such as climate change, an area with parallels to arguments of the past. Joining Professor Oreskes on the panel will be Peter Siver, professor of botany and director of the Environmental Studies Program at Connecticut College, Helen Rozwadowski, professor of the history of science at the University of Connecticut, and Wendy Blake-Coleman, a 1975 graduate in Environmental Studies from Connecticut College and now at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Following the panel there will be a reception from 5:00 to 6:00 PM on the first floor of the Charles E. Shain Library, which is currently hosting an exhibit on the research, publication, and reaction to *Silent Spring* (details on p. 3). The exhibit is drawn from Connecticut College's holdings of books and archival materials documenting the life and career of Rachel Carson.

The evening will conclude with a lecture in the Ernst Common Room by Sandra Steingraber at 7:30 PM entitled "The Fracking of Rachel Carson: *Silent*

Spring in an Age of Environmental Crisis." Sandra Steingraber is an ecologist and author whose writing focuses on the connection between the environment and human health. Her 1997 book *Living Downstream: An Ecologist's Personal Inves-*



Sandra Steingraber

tigation of Cancer and the Environment intermingled personal memoir with scientific research into toxicity and cancer and stories of industrial and agricultural pollution. A second edition with updated data from recent studies was released in 2010. In 2001, Steingraber continued on this theme with *Hav-*

ing Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood, a memoir of pregnancy interwoven with information on the environmental threats to fetal health. Steingraber's most recent book, *Raising Elijah: Protecting Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*, discusses the difficulty of raising children in a world whose environment is compromised. These three books have drawn comparisons to *Silent Spring* for their ability to bring current scientific research to the public and their strong defense of the environment written in engaging prose. Sandra Steingraber will field questions following her lecture.

The panel, reception, and lecture are free and open to the public.

HOLDING MY HEART IN YOUR HANDS

The Greer Music Library recently made a unique purchase of an unusual manuscript facsimile. This facsimile of a fifteenth-century illuminated book contains French and Italian love songs. It is named for Jean de Montchenu, the nobleman and later bishop, who commissioned the work. The manuscript was not only richly decorated, it was also written on pages cut so that when closed the book resembled a heart and when opened it resembled two hearts joined together. The original manuscript is housed in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, but students and researchers can consult this extraordinarily realistic copy in our own library.



EXHIBITS

IN THE SHAIN LIBRARY EXHIBIT AREA

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring: Rumblings of an Avalanche



This exhibit commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of Rachel Carson's classic warning of the dangers that overuse of synthetic pesticides posed to the balance of nature. The exhibit displays reports documenting the early optimism and warnings about DDT, Rachel Carson's early proposals for a book to investigate the growing concern over pesticides, the original New Yorker excerpts and first editions of *Silent Spring*, the furious response from the chemical industry, and the public and political embrace of the book and its arguments. Featuring books, magazines, photographs, and documents, it traces the development and reception of one of the most influential books of the 20th century.

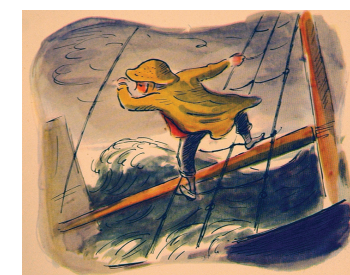
August 20-November 9

IN THE CHARLES CHU ROOM AND LEAR CENTER EXHIBIT AREA



To complement our exhibit honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*, we are featuring illustrations of birds in the Chu Room and in the Lear Center. Whether it's birds in literature, art, or science, the Lear Center holds a wide array of woodcuts, engravings, and paintings featuring birds of all sorts. The illustrations and paintings in this exhibit date from the 18th century to the present day and depict birds in settings ranging from highly realistic to utterly fanciful.

August 20-December 20



UPCOMING IN THE SHAIN LIBRARY EXHIBIT AREA

The Art and Imagination of Edward Ardizzone

Edward Ardizzone is one of the most popular illustrators of children's books and the Gilder-sleeve Collection of children's literature holds a wide variety of his work. This exhibit will display illustrations from throughout Ardizzone's career,

including classic and contemporary works, as well as illustrations to books written by Ardizzone himself. Though an immigrant to England, Ardizzone's work fits firmly in the mold of traditional English illustrators like George Cruikshank. Like Cruikshank's work, Ardizzone's illustrations display an intimate familiarity with English city and country life, along with a deep knowledge of ocean travel, a subject that features in Ardizzone's most popular series, the Little Tim books.

November 11-December 20

ARCHIVING THE WEB

From its founding, the College Archives has been charged with preserving the memory of Connecticut College. Traditionally, that has meant keeping and maintaining the records, photographs, and ephemera that document our history. Increasingly, some of the most important artifacts of the College aren't the type of materials that can be placed in acid-free envelopes and filed away in boxes. Rather, they comprise the video, audio, photographs, and documents we put up on our website and this material must be preserved for future researchers as well.

To this end, Connecticut College has joined dozens of other institutions in having a regular snapshot made of the complete contents of our website, so that the way that the College presents itself to the world will be maintained in perpetuity even as the website undergoes constant revisions. The service Archive-IT, will make copies of all levels of the website quarterly, ensuring that every page and every document is not only preserved, but indexed for the convenience of future researchers.

Because there is a wealth of information about the College on sources other than our own official website, we are also building an archive of many publicly accessible social media pages maintained by a campus department or organization. These include Facebook pages and Twitter feeds of everything from academic departments, to student groups, to the pages of the College and Library themselves. In this way we hope to provide students of the future a glimpse of what the College once was, in much the same way that a scrapbook from the 1940s serves as an important insight into our history today. The archived sites can be found at <http://archive-it.org/organizations/629>.