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Friends of the Connecticut College Library
Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

Spring 2019

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2019 FRIENDS of the CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY Spring Newsletter

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

A FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP

In 1998 Steven Albahari teamed up with John Wood to found 21st Editions. Albahari, a photographer, and Wood, a poet and historian of photography, were inspired by the Kelmscott Press and its goal of elevating the book as an art form. In contrast to Kelmscott, which sought beauty in its imitation of medieval subjects, methods, and styles, 21st Editions was unabashedly modern in subject and design. These books of art photography were often challenging, but always exquisitely executed. Connecticut College began its association with 21st Editions in 2002 with the purchase of five volumes of the *Journal of Contemporary Photography*. Following this initial acquisition, the College acquired a number of additional titles, including the sixth and final volume of the *Journal*; *Cante Jondo*, featuring platinum prints by Josephine Sacabo paired with poetry by Ana Cristina Rudholm y Balmaceda; *Shining Path*, with Brigitte Carnochan's silver gelatin prints of flowers and female figures and the poetry of Raúl Peschiera; the *Sonnets of Shakespeare* with Flor Garduño's platinum press nudes; *To the Wheatlight of June* featuring wet collodion silver gelatin landscape prints by Ben Nixon and the poetry of Steven Brown; and the deeply challenging work of Joel-Peter Witkin in his *Journal*.

For nearly two decades, 21st Editions produced some of the finest artists' books available, but publisher Albahari recently turned his attention toward making one-of-a-kind museum pieces outside of the collecting scope of college and university libraries. Their remaining stock was offered at discount



and so we couldn't pass up the opportunity to add one final title to the collection. John Metoyer's *Blood Migration* is a collection of 18 bound platinum, palladium, kallitype, and cyanotype prints. This collection of autobiographical prints and poems explores the artist's heritage as a descendent of one of the wealthiest African-American families of the antebellum South, which owned a Louisiana plantation of some 13,000 to 15,000 acres. According to Professor Tim McDowell of the Art Department, the acquisition is significant in several ways. John Metoyer is an important artist of color and the purchase of this volume represents a commitment by the library to collecting and showcasing under-represented artists. The cyano-



LEFT "At the Hand of Persons Unknown" (Kallitype)
RIGHT "Victor Emmanuel Monument" (Cyanotype)

type photographic process is taught in studio art and printmaking courses and the library is lacking in prime examples of this type. And finally, the work is of such accomplishment that it gives our studio art students a work worth emulating in their own printmaking projects.

The addition of this volume brings our total collection of 21st Editions books to twelve, nearly 20% of their catalog and one of the larger collections of their work in the country. These volumes have been consistently used in exhibitions and classes on photography and book design. We couldn't be more pleased to have been associated with this wonderful publisher.



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/fo/>
This newsletter was designed by
Susan Lindberg.

May 2019



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE

LINDA LEAR CENTER SELECTED FOR PUBLIC HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

Connecticut College is among 25 Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) member institutions selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of Humanities Research for the Public Good, an initiative to promote student research at private colleges and universities, address issues of public significance, and showcase the rich archival, library, and museum collections held by participating institutions. Participants were selected through a highly competitive application process, with nearly four applications for every available spot in the program. Each college will partner with a community-based organization to engage members of the public on a topic of local importance.

Connecticut College's project team consists of Rose Oliveira, Linda Lear Special Collection Librarian, Dr. Anna Vallye, Assistant Professor of Art History and Architectural Studies, and Kim Sanchez, Director of Community Partnerships. We will partner with the local community organization New London Landmarks (NLL), a non-profit historic preservation organization.

Like many American cities, New London experienced profound ruptures in its social and physical fabric following a series of urban renewal campaigns during the 1960s and 1970s. These projects cut a swath through the city's historic neighborhoods, displacing their residents and erasing a number of underprivileged and minority communities. This history is concealed in the urban fabric, but alive in the memories of the city's long-time residents.

The proposed project will reveal the impact of urban renewal in New London through a digital mapping project. This project, tentatively titled *Mapping the History of Urban Renewal in New London, CT*, will build upon and extend the current programming of New London Landmarks (NLL), as well as draw on its rich collection of archival documents and oral history interviews. The project team will employ current tools in data visualization and interactive mapping to bring to life the material and testimonial evidence of urban renewal, providing a compelling and accessible way to share this history with the New London community. The focus will be on an east New London neighborhood adjacent to Connecticut College, which has been identified as a primary area of focus by NLL.

This project will be completed in two stages over the course of the 2019-2020 academic year. Working with groups of students in a seminar or independent study format, the fall 2019 semester will be dedicated to researching the history of urban renewal in New London in the broader social context of the United States. Students will learn how to conduct primary source research using materials held by the Linda Lear Center as well as NLL and other local organizations. The research created during this phase will be the basis for the next stage of the project. In spring 2020, a smaller group of students will build the interactive digital map, website, and guided tour. We will also plan a public program that allows students to present their work to the larger New London community, in conjunction with NLL.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The Friends of the Library sponsor the Library Research Prize for the best example of student research using library resources in completion of a course. This year the prize was awarded to Mimi Crawford for her paper, "The Cause of the Guatemalan Civil War." Because of the high quality of submissions this year, the prize committee also voted to recognize for honorable mention the submissions of Isabelle Smith, "Ophelia and the Queen: Women's Botanical Knowledge Leads to Murder" and Allie Girouard, "Transit-Induced Gentrification in Somerville, Massachusetts."

EXHIBITIONS

SHAIN LIBRARY EXHIBITION AREA



True Pioneers: The Class of 1919
May 2-July 2 2019

This year sees the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Connecticut College's first graduating class. The 68 women who graduated on that June day in 1919 had arrived on a campus still partly under construction, with a faculty newly assembled, and a school that was perhaps still more vision than reality. When they left New London they joined the professions in surprisingly large numbers and earned distinction in the fields of medicine, education, social work, and journalism. They remained devoted to the College after they left, founding the Alumnae Association, starting the Sykes Lecture Series, serving on the Board of Trustees, and winning the College Medal. The Oldest Living Graduates, as they were forever known, left their mark on their College and the world.

CHARLES CHU ASIAN ART READING ROOM

April 30-June 3, 2019
Four Hundred Miles of the Connecticut River

For those who did not get the opportunity to see this exhibit in the fall, the Charles Chu Reading Room will again host 23 paintings by Charles Chu from the Chu-Griffis Collection and the Chu family's private collection. The centerpiece of the exhibition is a 23-foot-long handscroll depicting the length of the Connecticut River from its headwaters in Vermont to Long Island Sound. The scroll is to be donated to the College in a ceremony during Reunion Weekend.

LINDA LEAR CENTER FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

New London Time Capsule
May 9-August 15, 2019

How do we understand the identity of a city? In this exhibit the spirit of New London is explored through a group of sites that connect its past to its present and imagined future.



These sites shape the city's distinctive built fabric and reflect its diverse communities. The exhibit was curated by students from Professor Anna Vallye's class, ARC 471: New London Time Capsule and was inspired by a 1912 time capsule discovered in a cornerstone in New London's City Hall. It will be followed by a proposed future time capsule. Consider this exhibit as a historical time capsule for the present.

Humour and Illusion in the History of Photography
April 3-June 3, 2019

This exhibit, curated by students in Professor Christopher Steiner's and Professor Karen Gonzalez-Rice's AHI 250: Perspectives on Photography, brings together a range of popular photography from the late 19th to the late 20th century. The exhibit examines vernacular photographs from the perspectives of gender and social class, various kinds of trick photography, and the interaction of text and image in photographs.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Fall exhibits in the library will recognize the 50th anniversary of Connecticut College's implementation of coeducation, the development of the Wizard of Oz series after the death of L. Frank Baum, the work of the graphic novelist Jarrett Krosoczka, and the evolution of the first-year experience at Connecticut College.



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Friends of the Library
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 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.