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Friends of the Connecticut College Library  
Newsletter

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## Summer Newsletter 2008

Laurie Deredita  
*Connecticut College*, [lmder@conncoll.edu](mailto:lmder@conncoll.edu)

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

## TREE, PATH, AND RIVER: FALL EXHIBITION IN THE CHU ROOM

A series of unusual visual and literary performance events celebrating Chinese art and culture in New London will take place at Connecticut College in the fall. The events are connected by the themes of "Tree, Path, and River."

The main event of this performance will happen in the Chu Room featuring Professor Yibing Huang's poems on the themes of tree, path, and river interpreted by Lori Blados in watercolor and mixed media paintings. Chinese characters and English translations written with ink-brush on white fabric laid on the floor will form a zig-zag path to link the paintings in the display cases. The viewers will

become part of the performance as they walk through the path of poems while looking at the paintings. The plans for other parts of this event, which will take place outside the library, call for the wrapping of trees by Connecticut College students with ink-brush poems written on white banners; a concert and fireworks show on the college green with Chinese musical pieces; and a parade into downtown New London.

The dates for "Tree, Path, and River" have not been announced yet but will probably take place in the middle of October.

## HOWARD FRENCH WILL GIVE THE 2008 SOUND LAB FOUNDATION LECTURE

The Sound Lab Foundation Lecture selection committee is pleased to announce that Howard W. French, a senior writer for *The New York Times* and the Shanghai Bureau Chief since August 2003, has agreed to give the 11th annual Sound Lab Lecture.

Previously, Mr. French was the Tokyo Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*, with responsibility for Japan, the Koreas and the Russian Far East. Mr. French covered West and Central Africa for *The Times* from 1994 to 1998. In particular his work in Zaire (Congo) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and won the Overseas Press Coverage Award for best interpretation of foreign affairs. Before coming to *The Times*, Mr. French was a freelance reporter in West Africa, writing for publications such as *Africa News*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist* publications, *African Business*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Earlier he taught English at the University of Ivory Coast in Abidjan and worked as a French-English translator. He is also the author of *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa*, published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2004. Mr. French is a talented documentary photographer whose work has been shown and published in Africa, Europe and the United States and, as if that were not enough, he is currently at work completing his first novel.

Howard French will speak at Connecticut College on Monday, October 6, at 8 p.m. in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room. The topic of his lecture will be announced later.

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY!

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 to renew your membership. 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 pay for mailings, 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 including Greer Music Library.

# 2008 Friends of the Connecticut College Library Summer Newsletter

## DUST, DEBRIS, DEMOLITION AND RENOVATION

There is a major building project going on in Shain Library this summer! Thanks to a very generous gift from Linda Lear, member of the Board of Trustees and of the Class of 1962, the dream of creating an expanded Special Collections and Archives that will integrate the functions of Special Collections and the College Archives into one unit is about to be realized.

The new Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives will have a large and beautiful new reading room for researchers with exhibition space around the walls for books and artworks. The old Palmer Room will be refurbished as an improved seminar room with audiovisual facilities for classes using material from Special Collections and Archives. This particular feature is very valuable since in recent years a greater number of classes and students than ever before is using historical and archival material. There will be two staff offices and an ample work space for processing collections and working on projects. Finally, the stack area, including compact shelving, will be doubled.

By merging their locations, the new Lear Center will improve the efficiency of Special Collections and the College Archives, formerly on two different floors of the library. It will make it possible to support scheduled classes in the Palmer Room and to take care of researchers in the new reading room at the same time. The new facility will provide enhanced security as well as improved climate control and better conditions for the preservation of materials.



*Architectural rendering of the Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives. Courtesy of Einhorn, Yaffee, Prescott.*

The project was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Einhorn, Yaffee, Prescott and the Konover Construction Company is carrying out the work. Work on the project began on the day after Commencement and will continue over the summer. It is expected that it will be completed in time for the beginning of fall semester classes, thus creating minimal disruption of the academic schedule. The official opening of the Lear Center will take place in October. To celebrate the renovation there will be an exhibition of interesting books and material drawn from Special Collections and the College Archives.



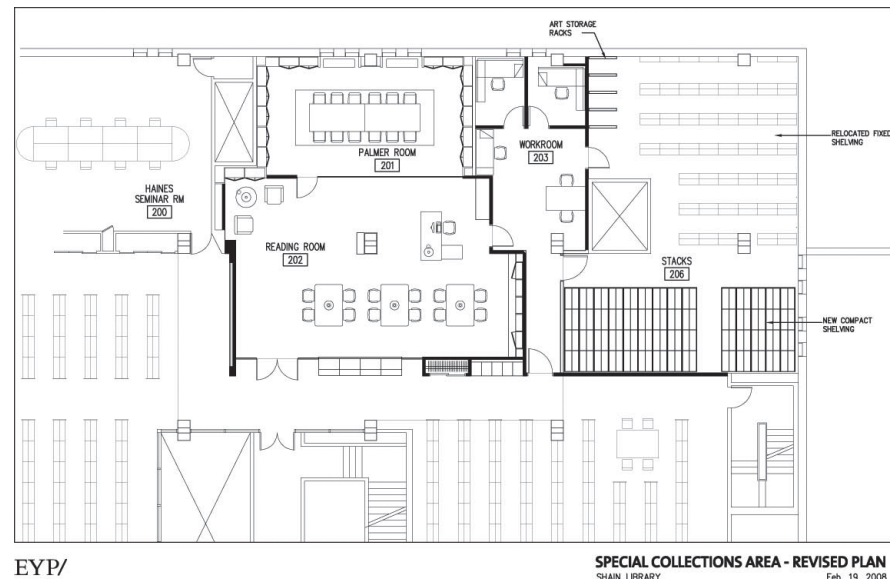
## ABOUT LINDA LEAR

Linda Lear is the author of two important biographies, *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* published by Henry Holt and Company in 1997, which has been translated into eight foreign languages, and *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature* published by Penguin, UK and St. Martin's Press in 2007.

After she finished writing the Carson biography, Ms. Lear gave her research materials on Rachel Carson to Special Collections and Archives where they now form two collections. The Lear/Carson Collection is the extensive archive of documents, photographs and other papers associated with her research for the Carson biography. The Lear Book Collection consists of books concerning Rachel Carson and the early environmental movement. It includes first editions of *Silent Spring* and other books by Carson. The Lear/Carson Collection is known throughout the world as one of the primary sources for information about Rachel Carson and her work.

Linda Lear '62 is an environmental historian with an MA from Columbia University and PhD from George Washington University. For many years she has taken a deep interest in Connecticut College's special collections. She is a strong believer in the value of research in the liberal arts education experience and thinks that undergraduates benefit from learning how to use primary source material. That is one of the reasons why she gave her Rachel Carson archive to Special Collections and Archives and why she also plans to give her research papers and books from the Potter biography to her alma mater.

We are grateful for her generous gift that will provide the physical facilities to support the library's efforts to find ways to incorporate the use of special collections and archival materials in the curriculum.



Floor plan of the Lear Center. Courtesy of Einhorn, Yaffee, Prescott

### Special Collections and Archives renovation blog

To learn more about the project and to see some pictures, take a look at Laurie's blog at <http://scarenovation.blogspot.com/> New content is added to the blog every week.

## SUMMER EXHIBITIONS IN SHAIN LIBRARY

Shain Library is open for business even though the approach to the building has been obscured temporarily by construction fences and earthmoving equipment. There are two exhibitions on display through the end of the summer.

WATERCOLORS THROUGH  
EASTERN AND WESTERN  
EYES: PAINTINGS BY CHIANG  
CHIEN-FEI

This exhibition in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room is a display of the work of Chiang Chien-fei, a long time resident of Old Saybrook who has exhibited widely in the United States and is well-known for his unique style of watercolor painting that meshes traditional Chinese and Western styles.

THE SHINBACH DELFT  
COLLECTION

The objects on display in this exhibition on the main floor of the library were given to the college by Rose Lazarus Shinbach '39. The Dutch city of Delft is famous as the birthplace of the painter Vermeer but it also achieved great renown as the center for the production of the hand-painted, tin-glazed pottery known as Delftware. Mrs. Shinbach's collection contains nearly forty pieces illustrative of the history of Delftware from its golden age in the 17th century through the end of the 19th century. Many of the pieces are signed with potter's marks on the bottom.



Photograph by Brigitte Carnochan from *The Shining Path*. Courtesy of 21st Editions.

## THE SHINING PATH PURCHASED FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special Collections has acquired a copy of *The Shining Path*, published by 21st Editions in 2006. 21st Editions can always be counted on to produce books that are beautifully made and that often have unusual themes. In this case an epic poem set in Peru written by the Peruvian/British poet Raúl Peschiera about the revolutionary group called the Shining Path is accompanied by photographs of great beauty by Brigitte Carnochan. This finely crafted limited edition features ten luminous silver gelatin photographs plus an additional, freestanding hand-colored print of "Purple Grapes" mounted in a folder. Carnochan is considered a master among contemporary photographers in the hand-coloring of photographs.

*The Shining Path* is only the most recent of the publications of 21st Editions acquired by Special Collections. 21st creates some of the most elegant photographic art books that are made today. Every detail is important. The books are handmade and letterpress printed, using the finest paper and binding available. The binding for *The Shining Path* was chosen to suggest a Peruvian fabric and the typographical layout recalls the Andes mountains. The books are signed and numbered by the poet, artist, editor and publisher.

## VISUALIZING: AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX ROBERTO HYBEL

Alex Hybel, the Susan Eckert Lynch '62 Professor of Government at Connecticut College since 1991, is known on campus and in the larger academic world for his expertise in the field of international relations. Less known is his skill as a photographer but this lapse will be remedied by a solo exhibition of some of his recent work that will be shown in the library during the fall semester.

Professor Hybel was a photographer for the U.S. Army in Vietnam before he chose to follow another professional path. His passion for photography was reawakened in recent years by his travels throughout the world, especially to Spain. The photographs in the exhibition were shot in Spain, China, Malaysia and Thailand during the past year and a half.

The exhibition of Professor Hybel's work will be shown in the Hanes Room. There will be a reception in September and a gallery talk by the photographer at a date to be announced.