



HIDDEN TREASURE: THE PRESS AT COLORADO COLLEGE

One of the few fine letterpresses associated with a liberal arts college, The Press at Colorado College is a hidden treasure both literally and figuratively. The Press is tucked away in the basement of CC's Jackson House, a beautiful turn-of-the-century mansion listed on Colorado's State Register of Historic Properties. There, those with a love of the printed word congregate to produce beautiful handmade books, broadsides, posters, and keepsakes. The Press at Colorado College was built and nurtured by James Trissel, a member of the art department faculty from 1964 until his death in 1999.

The son and grandson of printers, Trissel was a painter by training — until an awareness of printing and its immense pedagogical, aesthetic, and social potential struck him. Thereafter, he remained devoted to exploring the power of the fine letterpress.

Trissel began the Press in 1978 with the encouragement of then-provost Jim Stauss, who had received the first press, a Chandler & Price, as a gift. Subsequent presses were either donated or purchased at minimal cost as commercial printing companies decommissioned the fine letterpress as a production method. The Press was originally located in borrowed space at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and moved to Jackson House in 1981. Equipment at the Press now includes five presses — three Vandercooks, one Asbern, and one Chandler & Price — and other equipment such as paper and type cutters, a polymer plate maker, and more than 400 drawers of lead and wooden type.

The Press's first major project was a broadside series of works by major living American poets, selected by members of *The New Yorker's* editorial staff. Many of these literary artists came to campus to work with Trissel and his students, as well as to

do readings of their works. The Press was launched as a highly visible and influential center of artistic production. Students from many departments came together, under Trissel's direction, to meld words and images according to an exacting aesthetic standard. Printmakers, papermakers, bookbinders, writers, and students of cultural history have all found the Press to be a natural home and a stimulating environment in which to share ideas and a common aesthetic.

Under Trissel's direction, the Press produced many superb works of art that are now featured in collections at Yale university, Harvard University, the Newberry Library, the Rijksmuseum, to name a few. All told, the Press has published more than 40 books and 50 broadsides. Following Trissel's death in 1999, a number of faculty members stepped forward to ensure that the college maintained activity at the Press. It was kept alive on a modest budget and with the part-time work of recent CC graduates Brian Molanphy and Chris Forsythe. After his arrival at Colorado College in 2002, President Richard F. Celeste engaged the campus in a strategic mapping process that led to a long-term vision for the college. As part of Vision 2010, the Press was identified

as one of the signature programs at the college. While a relatively small program in comparison to other campus initiatives, the Press was recognized because it models the college's unique approach to teaching the liberal arts: intensive, hands-on learning that is both contemplative and dynamic. It also offers the potential for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration among many campus departments.

The Press has been reinvigorated in several ways in the last two years. A volunteer committee of college faculty and staff recruited and hired a new letterpress printer, Colin Frazer (see story page 2), and helped



Photo by Ben Benschneider

Jim Trissel at the Press, circa 1980.

PROFILE: COLIN FRAZER, LETTERPRESS PRINTER at the Press at Colorado College

—Amy Brooks, Special Collections Coordinator



Photo by Mike McEvers

Colin Frazer is not prepared for or capable of one single thing. With a degree from Colorado College in physics (specializing in the thermal physics of passive solar design and ocean thermal energy conversion); a burgeoning set of book arts, letterpress, and design skills; a predisposition for taking things apart and putting them back together again; as well as high-level outdoor technical skills, Frazer is

prepared for and capable of *many, many* things. He is, in short, a shining example of what a liberal arts education can do for you.

Originally from Eugene, Oregon, Frazer was drawn to CC and Colorado by the outdoor benefits, the climate, and the rigors and pleasures of the Block Plan. While majoring in physics, his interest in book arts took hold after a printmaking class from Professor Kate Leonard; and through a series of events he ended up spending time at the Press helping with print jobs, and teaching himself about the presses, typesetting, and design, developing his letterpress skills. His first work was a broadside of Oregon poet William Stafford's poem, "Ask Me." Press work became a hobby, even a creative passion.

After college, he continued along the paths he had begun to forge at CC: he was a residential outdoor educator; he had a go at environmental nonprofit work; he was a raft-trip guide. While keeping his feet firmly planted in the outdoors, he wanted to use and expand his letterpress skills. He sent a proposal to work as an apprentice to letterpresses around the nation, which led to an offer from the Blue Barnhouse letterpress and design studio in Asheville, N.C. There, he quickly ascended to co-owner. His work at Blue Barnhouse (www.bluebarnhouse.org) helped hone his knowledge of fixing and maintaining press machines, as well as his artistic, design, teaching, and mentoring skills.

When the letterpress printer job opened up at CC, Frazer applied and was hired. The confluence

of Colorado's outdoor opportunities, returning to a place he loved, the possibility of pursuing his vocational and avocational passion, and the chance to help revive a thing he loved — the Press at Colorado College — lured him back.

Inspired by the work and vision of the past, Frazer is very mindful of preserving the history of the Press and its machines. His experience dismantling and reassembling things has certainly served him. Frazer calls himself a "hands-off" teacher, and he loves the "crazy" ideas students come up with for designs and tools; but he is concerned about safety and ensuring that the equipment is working properly. The presses are, after all, well-worn and increasingly obsolete; spare parts are hard to come by.

Frazer enjoys being able to "make beautiful things in a unique way": he prefers the painstaking methods of hand-setting type, hand (not computer) design, and creating images with woodcuts and linoleum cuts. He revels in the hands-on, mechanical nature of press work.

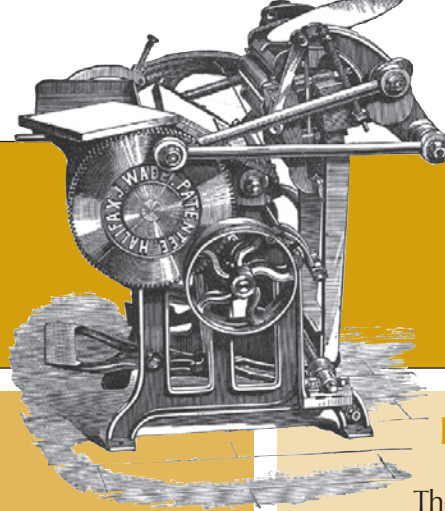
When asked about his hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the Press, Frazer quickly lists off a litany of ideas: a book arts minor, a History of the Book course, more classes in general; the addition of papermaking and book production; money enough for the Press to thrive and grow; more student involvement; a restored national reputation...

And in his spare time, which is increasingly hard to come by? Frazer loves chess; rock and roll; building and designing furniture; two- and three-dimensional design in general; and he continues to spend time at outdoor adventures whenever he can. A man not prepared for one single thing — but rather, any and all things.

View an example of Frazer's
letterpress work at the
Smokebrush Gallery Chapel
of Art exhibit, *The Nature of
Design*. 444-1012;
www.smokebrush.org

THE

PRESS



PRESS CURRICULUM 2007–2008

Block 1

AS 210 Topics in Studio Art: Cover to Cover
Professor Eric Saline and Instructor Colin Frazer

Block 2

Arts and Crafts Adjunct: Book Structures
Instructor Colin Frazer

Block 3

Typography Lecture: From Reed Pen to XML
Lecturer Ben Trissel
November 12, 2007, 7:30 p.m., WES Room

Block 4

Arts and Crafts Adjunct: Intro to Letterpress Printing
Instructor Colin Frazer

Half-Block

AS 110 Topics in Studio Art: Book Arts and Letterpress
Instructor Robin Price
January 7–17, 2007

Blocks 5–8

AS 313 Special Studio Problems: Book Art
Instructor Colin Frazer

Block 6

Community and Student Binding Workshop
Instructor Pamela Leutz
Date/Time TBA

Image and Word Workshop
Instructor Charles Hobson
February 20, 21, 22

Block 8

Papermaking Workshop
Instructor Colin Frazer
Date/Time TBA



PRESS ADVISORY BOARD

The Press Advisory Board will counsel the staff of the Press at Colorado College, the campus-based Press Committee, and the college's administration concerning the Press's artistic agenda, engagement with students, and outreach to the wider fine-printing community.

Betty Bright

Independent curator and art historian, curator of the traveling exhibition "The Press at Colorado College: The Pressroom as Classroom"

Laura Johnson Edwards, CC Alumnus

Former student worker at the Press, artist, and letterpress printer

Paul F. Gehl

Custodian, John M. Wing Foundation on the History of Printing
The Newberry Library, Chicago

Tom Leech

Curator of the Press
New Mexico History Museum

Ben Trissel, CC Alumnus

Worked for the Press from age 10–22, Senior Quality Engineer, InDesign

Kathryn "Kat" Johnston Tudor, CC Alumnus

Founder Smokebrush Foundation, Colorado Springs

Jane Hilberry, Professor of English, Facilitator of the Press Committee, *ex officio*

Tess Powers, Assistant Director Foundation & Agency Relations, *ex officio*

Carol Dickerson, Director of Tutt Library, *ex officio*

PRESS COMMITTEE 2007–2008

Jane Hilberry, Professor of English, Facilitator

David Mason, Associate Professor of English

Kate Leonard, Associate Professor of Art

Scott Johnson, Assistant Professor of Art

Rebecca Tucker, Assistant Professor of Art

Tess Powers, Associate Director of Foundation and Agency Relations

Jessica Larsen, Curator

Jessy Randall, Archivist/Curator of Special Collections

Colin Frazer, Letterpress Printer (*ex officio*)

Carol Dickerson, Director of Tutt Library (*ex officio*)

NEW TO US: Marianne Aldrich

— Lisa Lister, Reference Services Librarian

Tutt Library welcomes Marianne Aldrich, our new circulation services coordinator. Aldrich is an important part of our circulation team, taking specific responsibility for hiring and training our legions of circulation student assistants, and for handling electronic reserves. Hailing originally from Prince Edward Island, Aldrich lives in the CC neighborhood with her husband and cat. In her spare time (besides being an avid reader), she does needlework and plays the saxophone. Bibliophiles may recognize her from her many years at the Book Broker.



Photo by Mike McEvers

Marianne Aldrich, Circulation Services Coordinator.

HIDDEN TREASURE *continued from front page*

coordinate a series of workshops, visiting book artists, and for-credit courses on book arts offered through the Press and the art department. These activities are supported by an infusion of new funding from The Britton Fund and The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations for support of the Press. Last year the Press Committee, under the leadership of facilitator Carol Neel, also worked to create more stability for the Press by upgrading the position of the letterpress printer, and working out a new administrative and advisory structure for the Press. The Press was moved under the umbrella of Tutt Library, with administrative oversight and support provided by the library director and staff. The Press Committee will continue its role in directing the artistic and pedagogical program of the Press. A Press Advisory Board composed of

individuals outside the Colorado College community with professional expertise in the book arts has also been invited by President Celeste to offer advice to the Press and the Press Committee on advancing the position of the Press within the contemporary American book arts community.

This article originates from proposals prepared by the college's grant writers, Tess Powers and Nicole Rivet.



A PRIZE: ROBIN SATTERWHITE

—Mark Smith, Department of Economics and Business



Photo by Mike McEvers

Robin Satterwhite with economics students.

Last year the economics and business department received funding to permanently endow the prize awarded at graduation to the senior who writes “the most innovative thesis.” When it came to naming the prize, the choice was clear — The Robin Satterwhite Prize. For almost 30 years, no one has contributed more to the success of our senior thesis students, every class and every student, than Satterwhite. Whether working with groups or students as individuals, her boundless energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge have helped countless students explore the literature, find data, and identify relevant organizations and contacts. It is most telling that the students, more than anyone, understand why this award is named for her.

CAROL OU AND JON DRISCOLL: Systems Wizards

—Steve Lawson, Humanities Librarian

“We like to operate in the shadows,” jokes Jon Driscoll, the library technology specialist at Tutt Library. He’s talking about the work that he and Carol Ou, systems librarian, do behind the scenes to create useful, robust, and easy-to-use computer systems for the patrons and staff of the library.

Library patrons may not see Ou and Driscoll very often at our front desks, but we take advantage of their work every time we look up a book in the TIGER catalog, or use the library Web site.

Carol Ou began her library career as electronic resources cataloger for Emory University. She came to Colorado College this spring from Ex Libris, a major library technology company, where she served as an implementation librarian for their SFX product.

Jon Driscoll has a decade of library experience, if you include the time he spent as a student assistant at the Tutt Library circulation desk. Driscoll graduated from CC in 1995 with a degree in psychology. More recently, he has worked in the libraries of Cornell University and Colorado State University – Pueblo. He returned to Tutt in his current position this summer.

According to Ou, library systems are all the technological underpinnings that support library functions — things like the TIGER catalog, the library Web site, library acquisitions and cataloging operations, public-use computers, and the like. Library systems also encompass all the computer-based subscriptions the library has for databases like JSTOR and EBSCO, and the multitude of online journals. And the library systems environment is constantly changing as new collections and services come online. Ou specifically mentions the Alliance Digital Repository, a project of the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries to put more digital content online from libraries across the state.

The challenge in library systems comes from integrating all those different pieces. “We want to get around systems ‘silos’ so all those different systems talk to each other in effective and elegant ways,” says Ou. “That’s the ideal and the goal.”

As Driscoll points out, these library systems more and more frequently underlie the way people use the library. At Colorado College, students and faculty frequently use library services and collections via the library Web site from their offices, dorms, or homes off-campus.

When a student or professor uses those library systems, the experience should be simple and enjoyable, with the computer systems transparently assisting him or her with the hard work of research. “An ideal setup helps users navigate the library without having to think too much about it,” says Ou. “The systems should help people do the work of getting research materials so they can focus on more intellectual pursuits.”

Ou says she was attracted to Colorado College because of the small college environment which allows her to be involved in all aspects of running the library systems. “There are a lot of opportunities here, and lots of work to be done.”

Some of that work will involve continuing to make that technology work harder for Tutt Library users. Driscoll says that the trend is “toward a single point of access for library research” rather than the current environment that makes it necessary for users to navigate many different interfaces for library catalogs, databases, and other systems.

Ou agrees, pointing out that a more seamless interface may be simpler for the library user, but is likely to be more complicated behind the scenes as it works hard to make disparate systems work as one.

Happily, at Tutt Library we have Carol Ou and Jon Driscoll operating in the shadows so the rest of us can use those library systems without worrying too much about exactly how it all fits together.



Carol Ou and Jon Driscoll.



*The Chronicle is an occasional publication
of the Charles Leaming Tutt Library at Colorado College,
1021 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903*

*Editor, Carol Dickerson
Associate Editor, Amy Brooks
Publications Director, Jennifer Kulier
Designer, Keith Emmons*

*Address comments to
Carol Dickerson
719-389-6671
cdickerson@ColoradoCollege.edu*



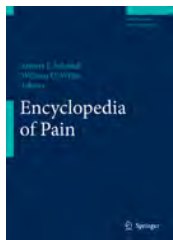
EXPANDING ACCESS TO SCHOLARLY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS: New E-Journal Collections, Online Encyclopedias and Databases

(Find links to these online resources on the Tutt Library home page under Article/Information Databases)



Coverage: 1888 – An online resource for core journals in the field of anthropology, developed by the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the

University of California Press. Access complete archives of all AAA journals and current issues of 15 of the AAA's peer-reviewed journals, including *American Anthropologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, and *American Ethnologist*.



Encyclopedia of Pain

A comprehensive overview of the broad, multifaceted, and complex topic of pain — and the rapidly evolving scientific and medical disciplines that seek to understand, assess, and treat pain.



Up-to-date prices for stocks, mutual funds, and ETFs (exchange traded funds). Analyst reports. Morningstar's strength lies in its analysis of mutual funds. The Portfolio X-Ray tool lets you choose a group of stocks and funds to judge the balance of investments in a portfolio.



Indexes literature on Islam, the Middle East, and the Muslim world. Produced by an editorial team working at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Records included in the database cover almost 100 years of publications on the world of Islam.

Material cited includes not only work written about the Middle East, but also about the other main Muslim areas of Asia and Africa, plus Muslim minorities elsewhere. Over 3,000 journals are monitored for inclusion in the database, together with conference proceedings, monographs, multi-authored works, and book reviews. Journals and books are indexed down to the article and chapter level.



Encyclopaedia of Islam

Covers the present state of our knowledge of the Islamic World. Includes articles on distinguished Muslims of every era and origin, on tribes and dynasties, on crafts and sciences, on political and religious

institutions, on the geography, ethnography, flora, and fauna of the various countries and on the history, topography, and monuments of the major towns and cities. Encompasses the old Arabo-Islamic empire, the Islamic countries of Iran, Central Asia, the Indian subcontinent and Indonesia, as well as the Ottoman Empire and all other Islamic countries.



Through a joint purchase with other libraries in the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries, **Colorado College now offers access to the complete archives of most Elsevier and Academic Press journals.**

Researchers may search across the entire database of some 2,000 journal titles on the Science Direct platform, or locate specific journal titles or articles. Coverage includes the sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

PRESS BOOKS AND MORE IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

—Jessy Randall, Curator of Special Collections



Photos by Mike McEvers

Through gifts from the Friends of the Library, Carol Neel, and the Press itself, CC Special Collections has come to acquire examples of all the Press at Colorado College books, from Joan Stone's "Seven Poems" (done in 1978 in an edition of 150 copies) to Jim Moore's "Writing with Tagore" (done in 2003 in an edition of 60 copies). The Press books range in original price from \$15 ("Reverdure") to \$2,000 ("Mercredi"), and were done in editions as small as eight copies ("The Drunken Boat," none offered for sale) and as large as 230 ("A Perfect Prodigy"). Press books are now extremely hard to find for sale and their value has increased greatly.

We also have examples of most, if not all, of the books and broadsides students have made at the Press (sometimes under the "Penny Press" imprint), and a complete set of the keepsakes done at the Press for CC's Visiting Writers Series.

Last but certainly not least, we have the papers of the Press: correspondence, manuscripts, and other materials from the first years of the Press to the present day. We welcome visitors to Special Collections to view these materials.

For more information, see "The Press at Colorado College: The Pressroom as Classroom" (2004), a catalog of a traveling exhibition on the Press, available at Tutt Library and elsewhere.

DINING HALL RECIPES DISCOVERED

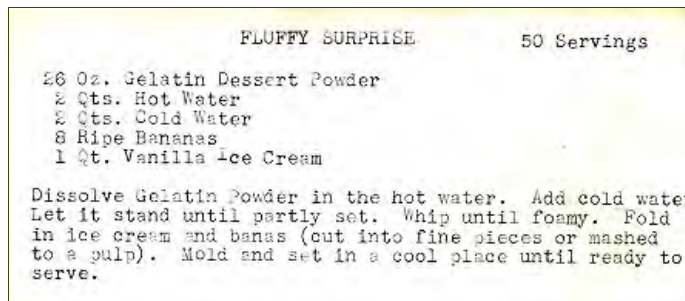
—*Jessy Randall, Curator of Special Collections*

Special Collections has been building its culinary history collections for five years or so, and we now have Colorado cookbooks and menus from the 1880s to the present day. From these materials, researchers can find out how people prepared food in the late 19th century, what kinds of products sat on grocery shelves in the 1950s, and the general “foodways” of Coloradans over time.

But we were missing something. We could tell you what wealthy people ate for dinner at fancy hotels in the 1890s (mostly “larded beef”), but we couldn’t tell you much about what pre-2001 Colorado College students were served in their dining halls. We wanted very much to know how and what CC students ate in the early years of the college’s history.

In August 2007, Sandy Yowell from CC’s residential life office contacted Special Collections asking if we’d be interested in some “old stuff” from the basement of Bemis, a women’s dormitory built in 1908. The more

we learned about this stuff, the more excited we got. During a big clean-up, Yowell had found a recipe box and a scrapbook of menus and clippings. We knew Bemis had its own dining hall until 2001, and couldn’t wait to see what time period these recipes covered. We dared to hope for the 1980s.



Fluffy surprise recipe card.

Photo by Jessy Randall

Instead, the new acquisition gave us a taste (so to speak) of what CC women students might have eaten around 1920. Index cards from the recipe box show recipes for dishes such as Ham Balls, Raw Parsnip Salad, and “Fluffy Surprise” (pictured).

The scrapbook contains handwritten breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus for 1919–1920, along with a number of domestic-interest materials such as recipes clipped from newspapers, an advertisement for a “Marian Martin Model for the Larger Figure,” and a list of dormitory rules such as “Always wash the tub after using.”