

The JOURNAL

OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

VOLUME XX

DECEMBER 1956

NUMBER I

DEDICATION OF THE RUTGERS LIBRARY

FOLLOWING the spectacular moving of some hundreds of thousands of volumes during the summer, mostly after the summer session in August, the new Rutgers Library was open to students and faculty when fall term began in September. But the official Dedication ceremonies took place on November 16 and 17. On the evening of the 16th several hundred invited guests heard the speeches reproduced in this number of the *Journal* while sitting in some of the Library's new chairs in the main reading room. Afterward refreshments were served in the New Jersey Room between displays of rare books and manuscripts.

The ceremonies ended with a special convocation in the University Gymnasium Saturday morning, November 17, when Governor Robert B. Meyner, ex officio chairman of the University's Board of Governors, and former Governor Alfred E. Driscoll, during whose administration four million dollars in appropriations for the new library were recommended and voted, addressed a gathering of university officials, faculty, and honored guests. Dr. Mason W. Gross, Provost of the University and acting President in the absence of Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, who was then in the Far East on a mission for a Senate investigating committee, conferred honorary degrees on the University Librarian, Professor Donald F. Cameron, and on three honored guests and friends of the Library who had participated in the ceremonies: Julian P. Boyd, Professor of History and former librarian at Princeton University; Thomas H. Johnson, head of the English department at Lawrenceville School and distinguished scholar in American literature; and Roger H. McDonough, former reference librarian at Rutgers and now State Librarian. And finally Dr. Roy F. Nichols, Chairman of the Library Committee of the Board



The new library from College Avenue

of Trustees, gave an address dedicating the new Library building. Music was furnished for the occasion by the University Band and the Rutgers Glee Club.

In his speech Governor Meyner said the new library is a "monument to our enduring belief that freedom of thought and inquiry constitute the essential foundations of the good society." And he made a special plea for the maintaining of the quality of public higher education in New Jersey even in the face of the unprecedented numbers of students who are expected to seek college educations in the next few years.

Former Governor Driscoll said the new building was the "realization of a dream that I have had for a long time for the State University." He said he had been impressed with the need for a new library when he first became associated with the University as Governor and ex officio member of the Board of Trustees. "It is my considered judgment," he added, "that a university without an adequate library is like a book without an index or a body without a soul."

Dr. Nichols in his dedication talk told of the early beginnings of the Library and paid tribute to those who contributed money and efforts to its development. His speech is given in full in this number of the *Journal*.

L.A.M.