

## PREFACE

BY ROBERT G. SEWELL, EDITOR

This volume features library and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, history in the lead article and, in five other articles, profiles three special collections in the Rutgers University Libraries: a historical dictionary collection; an almost complete inventory of the British feminist publisher Virago Press; and materials documenting the history of temperance and alcohol.

Fernanda Perrone, an archivist and head of the Exhibitions Program in Special Collections and University Archives, prepared an exhibition in 2003 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the opening of Voorhees Hall, the first Rutgers building specifically designed to house the college library. Expanding on annotations prepared for the exhibit, Perrone has produced a meticulously researched article shedding light on the broad context of the building in the history of academic libraries and higher education in the United States in general, as well as Rutgers in particular.

Lori and Elise Bloustein donated their father's historical dictionary collection to Rutgers' Special Collections and University Archives in the fall of 2003. Their father was Rutgers' seventeenth president, Edward J. Bloustein. Few people knew that Bloustein had a passion for collecting historical dictionaries during his lifetime. His daughters' donation has added a very significant scholarly collection to Rutgers' holdings. Jeffery A. Triggs, the author of the article describing the collection, "Exploring the Edward J. Bloustein Dictionary Collection," is well suited to understanding the significance of the collection. Triggs, an applications developer in the Libraries' Scholarly Communication Center, was director of the North American Reading Program for the Oxford English Dictionary from 1989 to 1999. He has also been involved in the digitization of historical dictionaries, including the Dictionary of the Scots Language (<http://www.dsl.ac.uk/dsl/>) and the Century Dictionary (<http://www.global-language.com/CENTURY/>). Complementing this article is a detailed bibliography of the Bloustein Dictionary Collection prepared by Christine Becker, a librarian and volunteer in Special Collections and University Archives.

The article on Virago Press began as a class project in Ellen Gilbert's Douglass College honors seminar, "The History of the Book." Gilbert

subsequently collaborated with two of her students, Crystal DeCotiis and Teresa Schartel, to compose “‘What Women Can Do When they Put Their Minds to It’: Elaine Showalter and Virago Press.” The collection represents Elaine Showalter’s second donation to the Libraries.

The last two articles investigate the abundant resources documenting the history of temperance and alcohol that are located in Rutgers’ Center for Alcohol Studies Library and Special Collections and University Archives. The article by the director of information services at the Center for Alcohol Studies Penny Page not only describes special collections materials in her library, but also sketches the history of alcohol and temperance in the United States, along with the development of alcohol studies as a distinct field of study. In the other article, Ronald L. Becker, head of Special Collections, surveys related materials from New Jersey in his collection. These materials were not specifically acquired to support alcohol studies; they were collected to support the Special Collection’s mission to collect New Jerseyana comprehensively.

I would also like to mention that two faculty members have joined the journal’s editorial board. Meredith McGill is an associate professor of English at Rutgers and active in the history of the book community. She is the author of *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting, 1834–1853* (2003). Suzanne Lebsack is a professor in Rutgers’ history department and the author of several books, including *The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784–1860* (1984), which won the Bancroft Award, and, most recently, *A Murder in Virginia: Southern Justice on Trial* (2003). We appreciate their service.

### *Important Editorial Note:*

The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries will be available as a free, Open Access e-journal at: <http://jrul.libraries.rutgers.edu>, probably by the time you see this note. Initially, only three volumes will be available, this volume (61), and volumes 60 and 59. We plan to digitize selectively other back issues and to create an online index to the entire run of the journal, which began in 1937. Both the journal and the index will be searchable through Google and other Internet search engines. We are seeking broader indexing in disciplinary indexes to expand the accessibility to the journal. We will continue to print a number of copies as presentation copies and for exchange but cease offering paid subscriptions.