

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

EXHIBITIONS 1988-1989

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In the past year a great variety of exhibitions were shown in Gallery '50, the New Jersey Room and the Alexander Library lobby cases. Most displayed items from the holdings of Special Collections & Archives; however, some incorporated items from other libraries and repositories.

America: the Age of Enterprise 1865-1914 showed the effect of the burgeoning of American industry from the Civil War era until the beginning of the First World War, illustrating this change in society through items such as trade cards, broadsides with advertising, realia such as an early sewing machine, a chicken-waterer and a corn-sheller (loaned by the New Jersey Agricultural Museum). These items illustrated the growing mechanization of America. The artistry of the advertising of the age, chiefly on broadsides selling everything from farm implements to household appliances to clothing, was typical of the nineteenth century, as was the florid prose.

The Department of Geography, Rutgers University, once again installed an exhibition, to make people more aware of their geography and effects on it.

World War II at Rutgers Remembered was exhibited to coincide with the honoring of a gift of the Class of 1948 to Alexander Library. The Class funded the purchase of materials relating to World War II on microfilm. For the exhibition, items from Special Collections & Archives (newspapers from military bases, a letter from a G.I., ration booklets, a helmet, among other items) were used.

Challenge '69 celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the demand by the Black Organization of Students (BOG) at Rutgers University for representation and an acknowledgement of their importance to the University. Their demands included measures for increasing the number of black students, faculty and staff at Rutgers, and participation in decisions made in the University, one notable area being the curriculum. They also desired an environment in which they would feel emotionally and physically secure and where their cultural values would be respected and legitimized. The exhibition began by noting the arrest of Donald Harris (Rut-

gers '63) in 1963 for civil rights activities in Georgia and the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as preludes to the Black Power tactics of the 1969 demonstrations. One case focused on three noteworthy alumni: James Dickson Carr '92, the first black graduate of Rutgers, Paul Robeson '19, the singer and civil rights activist, and Dr. John Howard Morrow '31, a diplomat, scholar and educator. The core of the exhibition was on the coordinated activities on the Newark, New Brunswick and Camden campuses. Student newspapers, university files, correspondence, yearbooks, broadsides, leaflets and photographs helped to trace the history of this brief, but successful movement by Black students.

Testaments of Adventure was mounted to complement the kick-off of the Friends of the Library organization. Using items taken from Special Collections & Archives, it showed the adventures of travellers all over the world, illustrated through maps, books and diaries.

In Appreciation of Class Gifts was installed to coincide with Alumni Reunion Weekend. A number of classes were highlighted, each illustrated with a specific book or other item given to the University Libraries. A *Welcome Alumni* exhibition was also mounted at the same time.

The annual *Welcome Students* exhibition was installed in September, especially for freshmen.

Thirty Stripes, One Hundred Dollars or Six Months Imprisonment: Federal Courts in New Jersey, 1789-1989 is currently on display and serves to acknowledge the bicentennial of the Federal Judiciary Act of 1789. For the most part the items on exhibit are drawn from the holdings of the National Archives—Northeast Region and from the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Special Collections & Archives was also able to contribute items for this exhibition. Among the items on display are the parchment rolls with the register of attorneys of the Middle Circuit Court, New Jersey District (1790-1796), portraits of some of the early attorneys, and objects illustrating the cases covered by the Federal Courts, among them, light bulbs and an early phonograph involved in two cases relating to Thomas Edison (these were loaned by the Edison National Historic Site), briefs and photographs showing the small stores and restaurants affected by the directive enforcing prohibition, material illustrating the progress of cases involving parachutes, the Schultz Brewing Company, the trademark rights of the manufacturer of the French liqueur Benedictine, the infringement of civil rights by Jersey City's Boss Hague and other topics.

Isaac S. Van Derveer's New Brunswick 1890-1940 is an exhibition made possible as part of a block grant through the Middlesex County

Cultural and Heritage Commission. By virtue of this grant, it was possible to obtain prints from four hundred of Van Derveer's glass-plate and film negatives (donated to Special Collections & Archives in 1988) and thus preserve his views of New Brunswick. Van Derveer, a prolific photographer, created an extensive photographic record of the physical environment and cultural landscape of New Brunswick as it appeared over a period of several decades.

Two exhibitions in Japan are making use of materials from the Griffis Collection, Special Collections & Archives. The first, *The Old Matsukata Collection* (Impressionist and early Post-Impressionist), is at the Kobe City Museum. Matsukata Kojiro came from Japan as a young man to New Brunswick and attended Rutgers Grammar School and Rutgers College. He was the son of Masayoshi Matsukata, twice prime minister of Japan. Documents and photographs were lent by Special Collections & Archives for this exhibition; they reflect Matsukata's time at Rutgers and afterwards.

Rutgers and Fukui: Selections from the Griffis Collection has as its focus the relationship, now over a century old, between Rutgers and the city of Fukui, Japan. William Elliott Griffis (1843-1928), a Rutgers professor, taught Kusakabe Taro, one of many Japanese youth who came to study in America in the later nineteenth century as Japan sought to reestablish ties with the West. In 1874, Griffis went to Fukui to teach and thus cemented the bonds with Rutgers which have continued. The Griffis Collection, built between 1870 and 1928, is an internationally-recognized source, particularly for the relationship of Meiji Japan with its overseas students and foreign employees (*Oyatoi*). Original manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, printed materials and artworks are among the items documenting this relationship. The exhibition is sponsored by the Rutgers University Libraries, the Rutgers International Center for the Study of Japonisme, and the City of Fukui.

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- October 1988-February 1989 *America: the Age of Enterprise, 1865-1914.* Gallery '50. Curator: Bonita C. Grant
- November 1988-January 1989 Geography Awareness. Alexander Library Lobby Cases. Curated & installed by members of the Department of Geography, Rutgers University
- February-March 1989 *World War II at Rutgers Remembered.* Alexander Library Lobby Cases. Curator: Janice A. Kraus
- March-August 1989 *Challenge '69.* Gallery '50. Curator: Ruth J. Simmons
- April-May 1989 *Testaments of Adventure.* New Jersey Room & Alexander Library Lobby Cases. Curator: Janice A. Kraus
- May 1989 *In Appreciation of Class Gifts.* Alexander Library Lobby Cases. Curator: Janice A. Kraus
- September 1989 *Welcome Alumni.* New Jersey Room. Curator: Janice Levin
Welcome Students. Alexander Library Lobby Cases. Curator: Janice Levin
- September 1989-January 1990 *Thirty Stripes, One Hundred Dollars or Six Months Imprisonment: Federal Courts in New Jersey, 1789-1989.* Gallery '50 & The New Jersey Room. Curators: Dr. Robert C. Morris, Anthony J. Fantozzi; designed & installed by Janice A. Kraus & Ruth J. Simmons, with the assistance of members of Special Collections & Archives

October-November 1989

Isaac S. Van Derveer's New Brunswick, 1890-1940. Alexander Library Lobby Cases. Curator: Albert C. King

Fall & Winter 1989-1990

The Old Matsukata Collection. Kobe City Museum, Kobe, Japan. Curator: Yujiro Ochi, Kobe City Museum.

Rutgers and Fukui: Selections From the Griffis Collection. Fukui Prefectural Industrial Hall, for an international fair & the Fukui Historical Museum. Curator: Ruth J. Simmons