

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

IT IS MORE than a pleasant coincidence that the celebration of the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary issue of *The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries* coincides with the University's great successes in moving rapidly toward the achievement of our goal for the 1980s of placing Rutgers firmly in the top rank of the nation's most distinguished state universities. In his Annual Message to the New Jersey State Legislature on January 8, 1985, Governor Thomas H. Kean challenged Rutgers to this great thrust upward, promising the necessary state support, and he has emphasized that an outstanding, comprehensive research library is a necessary keystone for accomplishing this goal.

That recognition of the need for significant and continuing efforts to develop the University's research library resources was emphasized fifty years ago at the beginning of the publication of this journal. In his greeting to the readers of the *Journal's* first issue, President Robert C. Clothier reflected upon the University's pride in the library and its importance by stating that ". . . we have confidence that its future is to be one of steadily increasing enrichment and usefulness." President Clothier clearly articulated his vision for the University's libraries when he stated that "a library is never completed. It must grow with the university of which it is a part, with the society which it continues to serve. It must keep abreast of educational and scientific progress."

The University library's response to President Clothier's charge of a half century ago undoubtedly exceeded his dreams during the ensuing years. Its growth from 300,000 to over 2,400,000 volumes provides our faculty and students with enormously extended resources for study and research. And the development of archival and manuscript holdings will attract international scholars in increasing numbers in future years.

As Rutgers University moves rapidly to become one of the nation's—and the world's—leading research universities, its libraries, a critical intellectual resource in the achievement of that goal, will be in a central priority in our allocation of university resources. We must quickly develop facilities and collections commensurate with those in the first rank of great research libraries. I personally pledge that we will redouble our efforts to meet that challenge.

Sincerely,  
Edward J. Bloustein