

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES:

Exhibitions 1990

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Ms. Simmons was formerly Director of Special Collections & Archives, and is now Senior Archivist and Curator of the Griffis Collection.

A diverse program of exhibitions was presented this past year in Gallery '50, the Alexander Library Lobby, and The New Jersey Room. Many of the items displayed were from the holdings of Special Collections & Archives, but this year an unusual number of items were on loan from private collectors.

The Struggle Continues: The Rutgers University Lesbian and Gay Alliance described the founding of RULGA in 1969 and its fight for the recognition of gay rights. A statement of goals, minutes, publications, photographs, political buttons, and memorabilia documented these activities. Also displayed was a copy of *In Every Classroom*, the Rutgers report issued in 1989 by the President's Select Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. Materials in the exhibit came from the University Archives and from the private collection of Dave Nichols.

Edward J. Bloustein, 1925-1989 presented a memorial tribute to Rutgers' seventeenth president (1971-1989). The exhibit recorded some of the President's achievements, and included photographs, books authored by Dr. Bloustein, and other memorabilia from the University Archives and the Bloustein family.

The Ages of Shakespeare: Examples from Popular Culture celebrated the continuing appeal of Shakespeare to the highbrow or academician and to people in all walks of life. This exhibit revealed the imprint he left on literature and theater, and on more temporal objects such as: statuary, prints, souvenirs, relics, and games. The popularity of Shakespeare was the theme of this exhibition, and his popularity was of the most widespread sort. An extravagance of memorabilia, to say nothing of a tourist industry, depends on Shakespeare. Scenes from his plays, images from his characters, pictures of actors who performed in the plays, Shakespeare's own portrait, all are treasured items in many personal collections. We are not intimidated by him; he is present everywhere, whether in performances, however bowdlerized, in the Old West, in texts for children, in grand opera, in a

quotation realized unconsciously as coming from his work, in trinkets, or in representations by artists of significance.

This exhibition was dedicated to Sebastian Gaeta, Class of 1928, and displayed books, documents, and objects from his collection, as well as from the collection of Leonard Hansen, Class of 1943, along with selected items from the Rare Book Collection, Special Collections & Archives, and the collection of Dr. Seymour Isenberg.

The exhibition was opened by a Shakespearean Fete, a Friends of the Rutgers University Libraries event, which included a lecture given by Dr. Seymour Isenberg, *William Shakespeare: Fancies and Good Nights*, for the fifth Louis Faugeres Bishop III series, as well as readings by actor and Rutgers teacher Steven Dennis, and Renaissance music by the Rutgers Glee Club. A reception followed in Gallery '50. A catalog is available.

The *Contemporary Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition* presented the graphic art of calligraphy, the foremost graphic art in Chinese culture. Calligraphy as a fine art arose in China about the second century A.D. when writing began to be practiced with a primary focus on its aesthetic features. This development was the culmination of a 2000-year-old writing tradition which had as its primary purpose the recording of information. The historical part of the exhibition displayed a variety of script types and brush strokes, and discussed composition within and through scrolls and printed works. The contemporary aspect of the show focused on the work of the internationally known artist-calligrapher Fangyu Wang. Also displayed were seals, brushes, inks, and other implements of the art on loan from Professor Wang and other private collectors. Fangyu Wang opened the exhibition with a lecture, *The Art of Chinese Calligraphy: Innovations and Appreciation*, and a demonstration. This Friends event closed with a reception in Gallery '50.

The annual *Welcome Students* exhibit was ready for the opening of the academic year and included photographs, T-shirts, programs, and other memorabilia from the University Archives.

The *Queens Guard Trick Drill Team* display explained to the Rutgers community the history and accomplishment of this world-renowned undergraduate organization. The exhibit included a 1903 A3 Springfield rifle, the rifle the competitive drill team uses, as well as trophies, photographs, and other memorabilia.

A significant group of items from the William Elliot Griffis Collection was loaned to the Zimmerli Art Museum to provide some historical context for the exhibition, *Echizen Washi: The Art of Traditional Japanese Handmade Paper from Fukui*. The Special Collections & Archives items celebrated the

initiation of the relationship between Rutgers and Fukui. This bond developed in 1867 when the young samurai Kusakabe Taro came from Echizen (modern Fukui) to study at Rutgers College, and the young teacher William Elliot Griffis, Class of 1869, was invited to establish a scientific school in Echizen-han. Among the items shown from the 1870s were Griffis' diary, Fukui photographs, and documents and ephemeral items which record Griffis' visit to an Echizen village where he saw handmade paper being made. Additional items included were from Griffis' return to Fukui in 1926-27.

Music of Eight Centuries: Musical Documents c. 1000–c. 1800 was designed to illustrate the evolution of music as a graphic language as well as an art from the beginnings of musical notation in the West to the end of the 18th century. This development was traced from staffless neumes and early staff notation of the Middle Ages, through the mensural notation of the Renaissance, and the baroque examples of the *basso continuo* and ornamentation, to vocal and orchestral scores of the Classical period. Examples of almost every musical genre were included, as well as every format for presenting music: important printing process, decorative title-pages, pictorial illustrations, and notational and scribal styles. A full range of musical documentation was exhibited from Bach to Zarlino. Some examples included scores in the hand of the composer (Mozart), written under his supervision (Hyden), emanating from his circle (Handel) or published by him (Praetorius, Couperin). Many items were beautiful, rare or unique, and each told something of the music, the creator, and the age in which he lived. The materials were on loan from private collectors and the holdings of Special Collections and Archives.

This Friends of the Libraries event was opened by the sixth annual Louis Faugeres Bishop III lecture given by Professor Martin Picker and titled *Music Seen and Heard*. On the program were musical illustrations by Professor Frederick Urrey, tenor, and Professor Charlotte Mattax, harpsichordist, and the members of the Faculty and Collegium Musicum. A reception followed in Gallery '50.

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| December 1989 | <i>The Struggle Continues: The Rutgers University Lesbian and Gay Alliance.</i> Alexander Library Lobby. Curator: Dave Nichols. Installed by Janice A. Kraus. |
| January-February | <i>President Edward J. Bloustein, 1925-1989: A Memorial Tribute.</i> Alexander Lobby. Curator: Janice Levin. |
| February-March | <i>The Ages of Shakespeare: Examples from Popular Culture.</i> Gallery '50, Alexander Library Lobby, The New Jersey Room. Curator: Janice A. Kraus. |
| April-May | <i>Contemporary Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition.</i> Gallery '50, Alexander Lobby, The New Jersey Room. Curators: Marjorie H. Li and Janice A. Kraus. |
| September | <i>Welcome Students.</i> Alexander Library Lobby. Curator: Janice Levin.

<i>The Queens Guard Trick Drill Team.</i> Alexander Library Lobby. Curator: Kevin Deuschle. Installed by Janice Levin. |
| September-December | <i>Music of Eight Centuries: Musical Documents c.1000-c.1800.</i> Curator: Professor Martin Picker. Installed by Ruth J. Simmons and Janice Levin. |