

PREFACE TO VOLUME 67:
EDITING *THE JOURNAL OF THE RUTGERS*
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES FOR TWENTY YEARS

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This year represents the twentieth anniversary of my editorship of *The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries*. I have had the longest tenure as editor in the now 78 year history of this publication. I was on the editorial board for three years prior to becoming editor. My long association with this journal has taught me a great deal about scholarly communication in general, the difficult but continuing important role of library involvement in scholarly publication, and the joys and frustrations of coming out with new issues.

When I agreed to take over the editorship of the journal in 1995, I had a varied academic background with a master's in Japanese from Columbia, and a Ph.D. in comparative literature and a master's in library science, both from the University of Illinois. I had also published many scholarly articles on several different topics: Japanese studies (classical poetry, comparative Japanese and western aesthetics, history of printing and the book in Japan), pop lit, and library science (collection development and management, library acquisitions, and library labor-management studies). So I knew something about editing but not really the detailed work and vision it takes to edit a scholarly journal. Unfortunately, my immediate predecessor and friend, Pamela Richards, was unable to school me in the work because of an illness to which she succumbed a few years later. I was very busy with my day job as associate university librarian for collection development and management in the Libraries administration, trying to bring a more systematic approach to collection development in an extremely complex library system at Rutgers. But I enjoyed the challenge and the break from my other duties which editing the journal afforded me.

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As I have written before, this publication nearly ceased, as many other library publications of this type did, during my first decade as editor, as paid subscriptions and the elaborate, international exchange programs for printed publications among libraries and other scholarly institutions largely dried up. In addition, the University Publications department, which had provided copy editing and printing services, stopped supporting the journal in the late 1990s. We had a variety of part-time copy editors, some hired and some volunteers, and hired off-site printers. The one constant for me throughout my tenure is our Layout Editor, Kenneth Kuehl. His expertise in formatting and the presentation of illustrations has been invaluable. (Not to mention his famous humor.) He has made important contributions to the physical appearance of the journal. The journal now has a stable editorial team. In addition to Kuehl, it consists of Caryn Radick and Jeffery Triggs. Radick, who works in Special Collections and University Archives, is the associate editor. She has had experience editing in a large, commercial publishing house and other scholarly journals. Her expertise in copying editing, knowledge of appropriate style manuals, and fact checking in some esoteric academic fields has been invaluable. Our Online Editor, Jeffery Triggs, a Ph.D. in English who works as a programmer in the Libraries' Scholarly Communication Center, is an expert on the journal platform, Open Journal System, used for our online, open access presence on the Internet.

Our decision to make the journal an online, open access journal in 2005 was what saved it and was in keeping with other Rutgers University Libraries' decisions to play a role in the evolving world of scholarly communication. For instance, the Libraries now host six open access journals and have developed an electronic institutional repository (RUcore), supporting a variety of digital collections; (<https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/search/?key=digitalcoll>) Rutgers faculty open access works or SOAR (<http://soar.libraries.rutgers.edu/>), Rutgers electronic theses and dissertations (<https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/etd/>), and research data and supplemental resources <https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/research/>.

Admittedly, the *Journal* is a modest contribution primarily to humanities scholarship. It has published articles from 1937 to the present generally dealing with British and American history and literature, the book arts, the history of publication, libraries, and Rutgers. Authors writing these articles frequently use materials from Rutgers Special Collections and University Archives. The value of

the scholarly content and interest of the general public have been shown since we have been able to generate statistics on online use. Statistics of article usage (downloads) began in 2005 with the then current issue (volume 61, 2005) and volumes 60 and 59, for which we still had electronic versions. The rest were all loaded into the journal platform, Open Journal System or OJS, as they were published.

The project to scan and make available all other back issues of the journal took place in spring 2012. By inputting these scanned articles and creating metadata for each of the over 400 articles, I gained knowledge of the span and legacy of the journal. That action proved to be very successful and demonstrated the vitality of this publication, as evidenced by 350,000 downloads of all 500 articles as of April 15, 2015. (The average download per article for the whole range of the journal is currently 700. Over seventy percent of these are downloaded from the backfiles going back the first issue in 1937, which were made available in spring 2012. Of this group the average download per article is 581. This technological boost and the adoption of an open access policy while maintaining the traditional focus of the journal are what revived and kept the journal alive. This is certainly an example of keeping the best of tradition and embracing innovation.

The statistics for online usage that are available to us since 2005 offer some interesting findings about what articles are being downloaded. I have taken a snap shot of the top ten most downloaded articles as of April 15, 2015. There is volatility in these rankings because the statistics are updated constantly in real time. All but three were available since 2005 and 2006, issues that have been available for the longest time, as you would expect. The one that has been downloaded most extensively and held the number one ranking since statistics have been available is "Elaine Showalter Collection Bibliography," (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v60i1.6>) compiled by Robert Warwick and edited by Robert Sewell and Michael Joseph, volume 60 (2003). It is a simple bibliography of Showalter's personal book collection donated to the Rutgers Libraries of 500 books by and about Victorian British women authors which were the basis for her groundbreaking research for her book, *A Literature of Their Own* (1977). It was been downloaded nearly 5,500 times. All others in the top ten have changed their positions over the years. Another bibliography of a donated collection has also been among top ten

from the beginning, "Edward J. Bloustein Dictionary Collection Bibliography" (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v61i0.18>) (currently in fifth place) compiled by Christine Becker, volume 61 (2005). It is a bibliography of the collection of a former Rutgers president, who was also an amateur scholar of lexicography as well as legal scholar. An article about this collection, "Exploring the Edward J. Bloustein Dictionary Collection" (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v61i0.17>) by Jeffery Triggs, volume 61 (2005), has also been among the top ten (currently in tenth place). These examples are illustrative of the interest in scholarly bibliographies and descriptions of books within their historical context. Others in the top ten that have been available for the longest time reflect a variety of topics and include Otto Ege: His Manuscript Fragment Collection and the Opportunities Presented by Electronic Technology (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v60i1.4>) by Barbara A. Shailor, volume 60 (2003), Robert Blatchford: Neglected Socialist (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v58i0.26>) by John W. Osborne, a former editor of the *Journal* from 1976–79, volume 58 (1997), New Jersey's Three Constitutions: 1776, 1844, 1947, (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v59i1.10>) volume 59 (2001) by Maxine Lurie, and The Rutgers Oral History Archives Of World War II, (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v58i0.24>) volume 58 (1997) by G. Kurt Piehler, Rekha Gandhi, and David Tsang Hou.

Among the backfiles available since spring 2012, three articles have leapt into the top five: The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Bulletin Board (RCEBBS), (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v55i1.1745>) volume 55, no. 1 (1993) by Bruce Barbour, Some Notes Toward a Life of Beryl De Zoete, (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v48i1.1655>) volume 48, no. 1 (1986) by Mariam Ury, and Uncommon Gentlemen and Outstanding Ladies: The J. A. Symington Collection in Rutgers' Special Collections and Archives (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v52i2.1702>) volume 52, no. 2 (1990) by Margaret Meyer Sherry. They are currently ranked second, fourth, and fifth in number of downloads respectively. The Ury and Sherry articles are in keeping with the other types of articles in the top ten, in the realm of humanities research. The Ury article that utilizes Special Collections archives on Beryl de Zoete and Arthur Waley of books, manuscripts, letters, and cards, is a series of notes or vignettes which Ury had hoped to develop into a full-fledged biography, which she was never able to complete. It remains, however, an extremely important source for the life of

de Zoete. Sherry's article describes and puts into historical context Rutgers J. A. Symington collection, which was purchased in 1948 and is certainly the largest literary manuscript collection in Special Collections. It consists of manuscripts and letters of the poet Algernon Charles Swinburne and his circle as well as the papers of other English literary figures of the late nineteenth century. The collection was not fully cataloged for a long time. A finding aid encoded in EAD was completed in 2013. (see: <http://www2.scc.rutgers.edu/ead/manuscripts/symington01f.html>). Sherry's article and this finding aid provide excellent, complementary guides to this extremely important resource.

Barbour's article is a bit of an anomaly in this grouping. It describes a computer bulletin board for the Rutgers Agriculture Extension Service, which made innovative use of information technology of early 1990s. It contains useful historical information about the Extension Service in general and the technology available at the time. The bulletin board no longer exists. I asked Barbour, who created the bulletin, about this and he said in an email:

"On . . . reflection I wonder if the article might be being used as an illustration of the evolution of on-line information retrieval activity. Maybe it is being used by someone who is teaching a course on the history of electronic communications. As a historical piece it does offer a glimpse into the rather quaint world we inhabited then...and it was a fairly creative use of off the shelf technologies, if I do say so myself."

I know of other articles that have been used in course readings and this does increase the number of downloads. Other journal articles from the older backfiles that are rapidly rising and may soon replace some of the articles in the top ten are: Science, Industry and Art: Gottfried Semper's Search for Juste Milieu (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v40i1.1572>) by David J. Diephouse in volume 40, no. 1 (1970), James McHenry: A Minor American Poet (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v8i2.1224>) by Oral Sumner Coad in volume 8, no. 2 (1945), The Hall-Mills Murder Case: The Most Fascinating Unsolved Homicide in America (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v46i1.1633>) by Mary S. Hartman volume 46, no. 1 (1984), and An Account of Queen Victoria (<http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/jrul.v21i1.1363>) by Paul F. Mattherson volume 21, no. 1 (1957). They have all been downloaded well over 2,000 times. It is impressive to see how old humanities research can have such a long half-life when it is accessible.

So how do our journal articles get found and downloaded from the Internet? Traditional indexes like *MLA International Bibliography* and *Library and Information Sciences* have indexed the journal for decades. Some of the libraries that used to receive the printed copies through exchange have now cataloged the journal in their OPACs with links to the online version. Furthermore, a number of journal articles are linked in Wikipedia entries and some are linked from specialized, subject specific webpages. But of course the main way people find and download the articles is through Google. Google and Google Scholar recognize publications from the Open Journal System platform, so whenever a new issue is available, Google swiftly indexes the articles' authors, titles, keywords well as the full-text of the articles. But what makes these articles sought after is their informational and scholarly content.



The four articles of this current issue reflect the traditional strength and variety of the *Journal*. We begin with film critic Stephen Whitty's article based on his lecture, the twenty-eighth annual Louis Faugères Bishop III Lecture, given in April, 2014 in the Alexander Library in New Brunswick. These lectures are given in connection with the opening of major exhibition and frequently are published in the journal. Mr. Whitty is widely known to New Jersey readers for his film criticism appearing in Newark's *Star Ledger* for nearly twenty years, but he publishes in many other outlets. He is also the current chair of the New York Film Critics Circle.

In his essay "Forbidden Words: Taboo Texts in Popular Literature and Film," Whitty investigates the occult in popular fiction beginning in the nineteenth century and in film since the twentieth century. He discovers a recurring theme in these works: the discovery of an esoteric text containing "forbidden words," that reveal knowledge of secrets that unleash powerful evil. His broad survey of forbidden words ranges from the Garden of Eden, the Kabala, to the Victorian penny dreadful, to the "Weird Tales" magazine, and the vampire novels of Anne Rice, to name a few. He takes us through myriad films including *Nosferatu* (1920) *The Mummy* (1932), *The Seventh Victim* (1943), *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), *The Exorcist* (1973), and *Ruby Sparks* (2012) to demonstrate this same phenomenon. At the lecture, a member of the audience remarked that he was not expecting such a "scholarly" lecture

as he was only familiar with Whitty's shorter but illuminating newspaper critiques of contemporary films. Whitty's good writing and erudition are in full display in this article.

The exhibition that occasioned Whitty's Bishop Lecture was curated by the author of the next article, "Occult Books and Documents, and Mysterious Coincidences at Rutgers." She is Erika Gorder, associate university archivist. She wrote the exhibition catalog, "Unheard of Curiosities: An Exhibition of Rare Books on the Occult and Esoteric Science." (To view online: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.7282/T3NS0T53>) The exhibition consisted primarily of the collection of Clement W. Fairweather, a retired Rutgers professor of English, who amassed a huge collection primarily devoted to what we call the occult and the esoteric sciences. While known as an inspiring teacher, Fairweather was pretty much unknown outside of the classroom. It seems unlikely that anyone, other than the book dealers who sold him the books, knew about his collecting habits. That is, until his Metuchen, New Jersey property was purchased by some neighbors after his death in 2000. When they discovered the collection, they contacted Ronald Becker, also a neighbor and the head of Rutgers' Special Collections.

Mr. Becker and I, in my capacity as the associate university librarian for collection development, were the first librarians to enter the house and see the collection. We were totally astonished with what we saw. It was as if Fairweather viewed his house a storage place for his books. It was certainly not a place to live out one's final years in comfort. Books filled every room, some on collapsing bookshelves, others piled up on the floor and on top of furniture, some still in large, unopened burlap bags with shipping labels from English book dealers. The condition of the house was frightful: a thick layer of dust everywhere and apparently there was no electricity or water service for some period of time. What seemed to sustain him were his books. He was a bibliomaniac, if ever there was one. After our initial viewing of the collection, we returned with Michael Joseph, Rutgers rare book librarian, and selected the most valuable books, just a small fraction of the total, which were subsequently donated to the Libraries. The rest were sold to a Philadelphia book dealer.

Gorder's article is based on her experience as the curator of the exhibition and as a participant in the June 23, 2014 international colloquium held in the Alexander Library, "The Soldier and the Seer: J. F. C. Fuller, Aleister Crowley, and the British Occult Revival"

related to the occult collections at Rutgers. The conference was appropriately held in the Alexander Library, the home of Special Collections and University Archives. Her article also reflects her keen knowledge of the archives at Rutgers from which she unearthed information about Fairweather, J. F. C. Fuller, and John Hammond, who was an assistant dean at Rutgers, a contemporary of Fairweather, and a notorious wild child of a famous occult commune. Gorder speculates on a series of mysterious coincidences that has made Rutgers an inadvertent source for occult studies.

"Lempriere's *Classical Dictionary* and the Development of Scholarly Publishing in America—A Bibliographic Essay" by Hendrik Edelman charts the course of a publishing enterprise that began in 1788 in England and continued in various forms for 200 years. According to Edelman, "the publication history of the book ... parallels that of a considerable number of British books that were used in post-revolutionary America as vessels for the introduction of new knowledge and scholarship in the time that the indigenous book industry evolved from a cottage industry to a truly national enterprise." The 1788 work, *Bibliotheca Classica; or, a classical dictionary containing a full account of all the proper names mentioned in the antient authors. To which are subjoined, tables of coins, weights, and measures, in use among the Greeks and Romans* by Lempriere (1765–1824) is the first attempt to provide a comprehensive guide or encyclopedic dictionary to classical studies in English. It has undergone numerous editions and revisions in England and in the United States, by numerous scholars, most notably by the American classic scholar associated with Columbia University, Charles Anthon (1797–1867). Edelman illuminates the differing understandings of copyright in England and America in connection with the various editions and revisions. Professor Edelman has generously donated six editions of this work to the Libraries.

Professor Edelman has had a long association with books and libraries. His first professional employment was with the Dutch publishers and booksellers Martinus Nihoff as export manager (1958–65). After a brief period with another Dutch publishing company, D. Reidel, he decided to shift his profession and become a librarian. He received his MLS in 1969 from George Peabody College and rapidly rose in the library world beginning as assistant director, collection development in Cornell (1969–1979), and next as university librarian at Rutgers (1979–1985). After stepping

down from that position, he became a professor in School of Communication, Library and Information Studies (now School of Information and Communications) at Rutgers until his retirement in 2000. He has been very active since his retirement holding positions as library consultant and in teaching. Throughout his whole career he has published extensively, primarily in the areas of scholarly publishing and immigrant publishing in America. His current article reflects his prodigious knowledge of those fields.

An article by Maxine Lurie, history professor emerita of Seton Hall University, concludes this issue. "Who Was Elizabeth Dodderidge Thorp Powell and Why is the Fact She Took her Former Father-in-law to Court in 1698 Important?" is especially interesting not only for what it reveals about colonial courts of East New Jersey. It also demonstrates the process the historian goes through, working from original sources and following the evidence to decipher what the historical record tells us.

This scholarly endeavor began with a retirement gift from her department in 2010. Knowing of her special interest in New Jersey colonial history, the department gave her a 1693 court writ from the East Jersey colony. Lurie found this an intriguing but challenging document. Who were the people involved in this suit? Why was a woman suing a man over a property dispute? The article reveals much about equity and fairness in the colonial courts and social matters of inheritance and property during colonial times. Lurie takes us along on a historical journey that shows us how initial questions lead to dead-ends because of lack of documentation and how new lines of research developed as she uncovered new, unfamiliar evidence. This article is just one of many research undertakings since her retirement. I suspect some of it will be published in future issues of the *Journal*.

After twenty years of editing this journal, I look to the future, at least to the next issue which will be a two-part special issue, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Rutgers. There will be a lengthy article spread over into two special issues about the early years of Henry Rutgers, the namesake of the university. David Fowler, an independent scholar who helped prepare the exhibit, "Benevolent Patriot: The Life and Times of Henry Rutgers" (on display February 15, 2010–October 2011), has done extensive research in this period of Rutgers' life, not yet well documented. Other articles will include new research on Rutgers' Charter, the history of medical education and the libraries that have supported

it, and the history of Livingston College. What happens after that volume? More articles are on the way (or have been promised as such) leading me to consider that perhaps I should seek out a co-editor to smooth the way to a new editor.