ANCIENT COINS TAKING LEAP INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION AT RUTGERS LIBRARY GOES DIGITAL

Though the unimpressive hunk of bronze would fit easily into the palm of a child's hand, it carries a significance that far belies its size.

Since 2001, the basement of Rutgers' Archibald S. Alexander Library has been home to a collection of coins dating from the Roman Republic. This mottled green and brown rock, first used as currency some 270 years before the Common Era began, represents the oldest in the array.

"It's pretty primitive," says Thomas Izbicki, nodding toward the battered-looking antiquity.

Izbicki, the Interim Associate University Librarian for Collection Development, is curator of the Ernst Badian Collection, which includes some 1,200 coins spanning the period from ancient Rome to the end of the Roman Republic and the early Empire. The collection documents the emergence of coinage and the money economy that developed between 260 and 31 BCE.

"This is an extraordinary collection, assembled over a 60-year period by one of the greatest ancient historians of our age," says T. Corey Brennan, associate professor of classics at Rutgers, whose relationship with a professor at Harvard played a key role in bringing the artifacts to the Alexander Library.

Now these pieces of antiquity are entering the 21st century—symbolically, anyway—as a team of librarians and students works to digitize the entire collection. A grant from Loeb Classical Library Foundation at Harvard is underwriting creation of a web-based public photo portal and archive, making the images accessible to students, scholars of ancient history, classicists and coin collectors worldwide.

Kabir Golphin, a sophomore in the School of Engineering, spent the better part of summer 2013 photographing the coins from seven different angles, making it possible for a viewer to sit at his screen and "rotate" the coin he's examining, even to examine the edges.

Scott Goldstein, a graduate student in library science at Rutgers' School of Communication and Information (SC&I), painstakingly recorded details of each coin—year of origin, manufacturer, composition, images on both sides—based on handwritten notes Badian kept.

And classics graduate student Rick Hale designed the portal while he was completing his degree at SC&I.

"When the project is finished, people will be able to do a robust, faceted search for every coin by weight, denomination, diameter, metal and other specifications," Izbicki says. "You'll also be able to search with questions—for example, how many coins carry the image of Mercury?"

Adorned with images of helmeted warriors, thunderbolts, chariots, cornucopias and Roman gods, the coins offer insight into the daily lives of the citizens who used them and the rulers who designed them.

Izbicki says that in ancient times, coins represented more than vehicles for economic commerce. They were a form of mass media that allowed a government to communicate with its own people and with other states.

"Every year you had new young magistrates who would put their own messages on coins," the curator says. "For example, in periods of the most intense expansion, you find a lot of pictures of victories, images of military trophies. If your relative conquered a country, you would commemorate him with a coin."

How the coins made their way to Rutgers in the first place is a story worthy of an Edward Gibbon treatise.

It begins with a gift from classics professor Badian, one-time John Morris Cabot Professor of History at Harvard, who oversaw Corey Brennan's dissertation in Cambridge, then kept up with his former student as he began his own academic career—ultimately turning over to Brennan the editorship of the American Journal of Ancient History, which Badian founded at Harvard in 1976.

As Brennan tells it, the collection Badian donated to Rutgers in annual installments is notable for its comprehensive nature, its historical value, and the fine condition of most of its pieces.

"The gift of this collection made Rutgers an important center for teaching and research in this area," he says. Especially significant, he adds, is that Badian shared with Rutgers his own scholarship about each coin, casting a fresh eye on longstanding reference works in the field.

When Badian died in 2011, his wife Nathalie donated the remainder of his collection to Rutgers. As a result, the university now houses examples from almost every significant coin issue of the Republic period, says Izbicki, who remembers carting the coins to Rutgers in a locked black leather valise after meetings with Badian.

Stored in the Special Collections and University Archives in the Alexander Library in New Brunswick, the collection draws visitors—by appointment—from various segments of the community.

Gary Farney, chair of the Department of History at Rutgers University-Newark and a specialist in Roman Republican numismatics, has brought classes to view the coins, for example, as has Serena Connolly of the Classics Department. Latin students from Montgomery High School in Stillman, NJ, also enjoyed a field trip to library's lower floor, where the coins are kept for security reasons.

The new portal is expected to give scholars and students worldwide a taste of the collection's value as a teaching tool and a cultural resource. The digital copy of each coin will be preserved in RU Core, Rutgers' institutional repository, and the tools created for the Badian collection will be made available for other numismatic collections to enable searches across collections.

For more information on the Badian Collection of roman coins, please contact Curator Thomas Izbicki at 848-932-6109 or tizbicki@rci.rutgers.edu.
The Institute of Jazz Studies at the Rutgers-Newark John Cotton Dana Library, the world’s largest jazz archive, was honored last fall when it was named a New Jersey Literary Landmark by the New Jersey Center for the Book. As the fifth landmark of its kind, the Institute joins fellow Literary Landmark sites—Newark Public Library, Paterson Public Library, the Walt Whitman House in Camden, NJ and the Joyce Kilmer Tree—with the distinction.

The award was presented by Renee Swartz, chair and director of the New Jersey Center for the Book which seeks to “celebrate books, libraries and the diverse literary heritage of New Jersey” and is affiliated with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. The national Literary Landmark program was developed to bring recognition to a unique resource by a larger audience.

Founded in 1952 by Marshall Sterns, an early jazz scholar, the Institute houses collections of personal papers, oral histories, and records of recording companies and jazz-related organizations, as well as traditional library materials. Users of the collections include musicians, authors, scholars from around the world, students in the Rutgers University-Newark masters’ program in jazz history and research, students in jazz programs at nearby colleges and universities, and aficionados. The collections were moved to Rutgers in 1966 and to their present location in 1994.

Recorded music from the studio and the performance stage are the fundamental means of learning about a musical form based heavily on improvisation, and these recordings represent the major portion of the Institute’s collections. To promote an appreciation of the jazz musical form, the Institute sponsors an annual concert series and a monthly Jazz Research Roundtable, which includes performance and discussion.

Staff members develop and present shows for Jazz from the Archives, a weekly program broadcast by Newark’s jazz radio station, WBGO.

The ceremony was followed by a concert featuring pianist and vocalist Daryl Sherman, a highly accomplished jazz musician who is well known for her fourteen-year engagement at the Waldorf Astoria, annual tours of the UK, numerous appearances at jazz festivals and frequent guest spots on NPR’s Piano Jazz. Selections from Sherman’s fourteen recordings are aired routinely on Cable TV’s Music Choice, Sirius/XM Radio, BBC Radio, and Jazz FM Berlin.

The Institute of Jazz Studies is open weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and appointments are suggested. For more information, please call 973-353-5955 or visit newarkwww.rutgers.edu/JS.
A HEALTHIER NEW JERSEY
WEBSITE CONNECTS THE COMMUNITY TO RELIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION

With the recent signing of the Affordable Care Act, access to quality, reliable health information is more valuable than ever before. Rutgers University Libraries are at the forefront of providing critical healthcare information to New Jersey consumers, policy makers and health care professionals through Healthynj.org.

The website, which now operates under the direction of the libraries following the university's merger with the health sciences libraries of the former University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, was launched in 2001 and reflects the role of librarians as trusted agents engaged with the community to help consumers identify trustworthy health information.

"Finding reliable health information on the web can be daunting, depending on the consumer's knowledge about how to recognize authoritative, as opposed to anecdotal, information," says Judith Cohn, director of the Health Sciences Libraries. "Academic health sciences libraries have a long tradition of community outreach. In the transition from print to digital, our librarians have become the creation of this site as a real community to provide outreach on a much larger scale than we were ever able to do in the print world."

With information on more than 500 topics ranging from anxiety and childhood obesity to asthma and nutrition, HealthynJ.org, which is published in both English and Spanish, received more than 10,000 unique visitors in March, 96 percent of whom were new users.

While the Affordable Care Act continues to be the most searched topic, HealthynJ.org also attracts teens and pre-teens, many of whom learn about the website through public or school libraries. The customized "Just for Kids and Teens" portal provides resources for homework as well as information on topics relevant to adolescents—everything from substance abuse to relationships.

"Teens and pre-teens can often be pretty sensitive about maturity issues and bullying," says Cohn, "and we're able to provide bona fide information that is supportive of them."

The website receives a full update annually, both to remove dead links and update content, though heavily searched topics and those with changing deadlines or requirements are updated more often. Led by information and education librarian Margaret Dreker, the team reviews medical journals weekly for relevant information then screens it to determine the most reliable content.

"We try to make sure that the material is updated with the latest articles so that consumers can make an informed decision," says Dreker. "And the fact that the most visited health topics—asthma, hypertension and diabetes—align with the most common admitting diagnoses that hospitals tell us that we have a strong understanding of what the New Jersey consumer needs."

HealthynJ.org was initially supported through grants from the New Jersey Library Association, Verizon Communications, Inc., and the New Jersey State Library, but is now self-supporting. Visit HealthynJ.org online at HealthynJ.org.

A TRUE BIBLIOPHILE
ALUMNUS RICHARD SEIDEL DONATES SIGNIFICANT COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTING CHICAGO PUBLISHING HISTORY

Rutgers University Libraries, like many other academic libraries, was built in part through the generosity of donors who have gifted items from their personal collections as a way of ensuring that the material would be preserved and made accessible to future generations. Most recently, the Special Collections and University Archives, housed at the Archibald S. Alexander Library, was the benefactor of the estate of Richard R. Seidel (RC'59, MLS'66), a longstanding friend and noted archivist, who left his personal library documenting the history of publishing, particularly in Chicago.

As reflected in his collection, Seidel had a keen interest in the history of his adopted hometown of Chicago and spent his career building national archival collections for institutions such as the Chicago Public Schools, the University of Illinois-Chicago, and the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Seidel earned his bachelor's degree in history and an MLS degree at Rutgers, as well as an MTS from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. In addition, through a generous provision in his estate, Seidel established a named acquisition fund that will provide much-needed funds to continue to build upon our special collections holdings.

Most significant in the Seidel gift is a collection of books published by Stone & Kimball and Herbert S. Stone & Co., sister publishing firms based in Chicago and active in the last decade of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The firm of Stone & Kimball was founded in 1893 as the dorm-room enterprise of Herbert Stuart Stone and Hannibal Ingalls Kimball, two precocious Harvard undergraduates who met through a mutual affiliation with the Harvard daily Crimson in 1896. In 1899, Herbert S. Stone & Co. was formed to assume responsibility for The Chap-Book, one of the earliest "little"—i.e., literary, noncommercial—magazines published in America and a direct influence on the poster and pamphlet advertising movements that developed within turn-of-the-century print culture. By this time, Stone and Kimball were well on their way to cementing their legacies as two of the most significant figures in the publishing of belles-lettres in the U.S., establishing Chicago as a major publishing center and forever redefining the standards for high-quality book design and typography.

Seidel's collection contains many of the firms' 300+ publications, which boast writings from the likes of Edgar Allen Poe, Kate Chopin, George Bernard Shaw, Robert Louis Stevenson and William Butler Yeats; unsurpassed craftsmanship and design from Aubrey Beardsley, Will H. Bradley, and Frank Hazenplug, among others; and promotional Stone & Kimball posters, which helped develop the cult of the artistic poster in the U.S., simultaneously spurring a collector culture and giving the Stone & Kimball brand a more unified, broader-reaching image.

In addition to the bequest of the Stone & Kimball collection, Seidel has gifted a collection of books published by Way & Williams, another 1890s Chicago house with a similar investment in book design. Though often overshadowed by their forebears, Stone & Kimball, W. Irving Way and Chauncey L. Williams contributed significantly with their firm to the culture of fine printing in Chicago from 1895-1898, producing a rich, albeit small, booklist representing a host of regional and national authors that included Frank Baum, Kate Chopin, and Laurence Houseman.

The third component of Seidel's library is a collection of the American Guide Series, a book series of state travel guides produced by the Federal Writers Project between 1935 and 1943 under the Depression-era Works Progress Administration. Though it lacks several first editions, the collection comprises all of the published state guides, often with their original dust jackets intact, as well as many of the local and regional pamphlets produced in addition to them. These materials were produced by over 6,000 writers, including John Cheever, Saul Bellow, Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, and continue to become increasingly valuable and collectible artifacts of American history.

With the acquisition of these invaluable materials, the Libraries will become an even richer resource for students, scholars, and members of the public interested in the history of the book and of publishing in America.
How did an undergraduate student go from feeling overwhelmed by the size of Rutgers' Archibald S. Alexander Library to becoming, less than three years later, a staunch advocate and impressive financial supporter?

For Tashir Hampton, a School of Arts and Sciences senior, the path was paved by his positive experience as a libraries student worker, a strong family responsibility to giving back, and a commitment to Rutgers.

Having grown up in Atlantic City, NJ, Hampton selected Rutgers because it was close to home and the in-state tuition costs were affordable. He admits that having an aunt who is a Rutgers alumna played some part in the decision as well. During a bus tour he took in his senior year in high school, Hampton found Rutgers a bit big and overwhelming, but as a first-year student, he quickly mastered the bus system and learned to navigate same-day classes on multiple campuses.

As a sophomore, Hampton, a psychology major and social justice minor, landed a position in the Alexander Library and was impressed with both the pleasant atmosphere and thoughtful training program. He, in turn, impressed his supervisor, Rosalba Barbalace, with his gracious manner and strong work ethic. Three years later, his role at the libraries continues to be a good fit for Hampton, who has also interned in the alumni relations office and was selected to be a 2013-2014 residence assistant to the Metzger dorm on the Busch campus.

In early summer 2013, Hampton received a call at home from the Rutgers annual fund office, asking if he would consider making a pledge to the university. Perhaps another student might have turned down the opportunity or, if a generous mood took hold, pledged a small token amount. Hampton, though, was already an experienced giver. During high school he volunteered in a local after-school program and, with encouragement from his mother, periodically donated clothing he had outgrown to area charities. He understood deeply the value of giving back so he pledged $150 to the Rutgers University Libraries. He didn't think too much of the gesture until his family members pointed out to him that, for a college student, $150 is a very generous donation. This impression was reinforced when Hampton received an email a few days later from Tara McDonnell, the libraries' development director, to thank him for his kind gift.

Hampton has already developed an impressive plan for his post-undergraduate life. He intends to apply to the College Student Affairs program in the Graduate School of Education that, if he is accepted, will include an internship in the Rutgers Student Affairs office and a possible post at the university after he graduates. He sees this as a logical progression from his psychology training, and his work at the libraries and as a resident assistant.

"We are very proud of Tashir and are confident that he can achieve great things wherever life will take him," says McDonnell. "And we know that his gracious nature and giving spirit will continue to impress those who have the privilege of working with him."
CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

INSPIRATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROVE A WINNING COMBINATION

Demonstrating creative use of university library collections and resources in the production of a multimedia-based project focused on women’s or gender issues, six undergraduate students were recently honored with the 2014 Margery Somers Foster Center Undergraduate Multimedia Award. The award represents the Libraries’ commitment to utilizing digital technology in education, and developing communications and multimedia opportunities for students.

“Integrating technology and experiencing new modalities is critical to the success of Rutgers students,” says Kayo Denda, who leads the Margery Somers Foster Center and serves as a women’s studies librarian. “One of the ways we encourage students, especially those coming from non-tech majors, is through this award, which allows students to gain technology skills and become more appealing to potential employers.”

Organized in conjunction with Undergraduate Research Month, awards were presented at a Celebrating Creativity event, held in April 2014 at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library. All submissions, which were reviewed by a committee comprising librarians and students, had to meet three criteria: articulation of a women’s or gender issue; strong creative expression using technology; and an explanation of which library resources were used in their project.

The co-winning projects, both documentaries, explore feminist themes and reflect students’ engagement with culture and history. The Project of Transformation by Mariah Eppes, a journalism and media studies major who is expected to graduate in May 2015, focuses on Cheryl Clark, a poet and former dean of students at Rutgers, who discusses her upbringing in Washington, D.C. during the Civil Rights Movement. Jamie Deradarian-Della, an English major who graduated in May 2014, explores the pressures that one woman feels to conform to the societal standards of beauty in Home, a short documentary/video art hybrid piece.

Projects receiving honorable mention include documentaries with subjects ranging from a non-profit aimed at improving water quality, health care and poverty in Swat Valley, Pakistan to Jill Tice, a New Brunswick, NJ homeless woman; an online book bringing awareness to women’s clothing and unwanted sexual attention, and a blog exploring societal expectations and norms in fashion and consumerism. Students receiving honorable mention come from a variety of majors including business, public health, visual arts, cell biology and neuroscience, and journalism and media studies.

“The range of projects really highlights the diversity of students’ interests and the ways in which the library resources helped in their projects,” says Denda, who noted that most students used software and resources at the

HISTORIC YEARBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

A yearbook does more than memorialize awkward haircuts and changing fashions. It provides insight into the social, political, and cultural landscape that surrounded and shaped the students remembered in its pages. With Rutgers’ rich history, ranging from a small colonial college to a leading public research institution, its yearbooks reflect the changes that have influenced both individual schools and the broader university community.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the university, which will be celebrated in 2016, Rutgers University Libraries are working to digitize the yearbooks of all Rutgers’ schools and campuses. This massive project will honor the university’s unique history and its distinguished faculty, staff, alumni, and students. An initial selection is on view at yearbooks.libraries.rutgers.edu. The sophisticated website allows users to browse through the digitized yearbooks using a computer or mobile device, turning the “pages” as they go through the book. Users can search for names and terms across and inside the yearbooks, and leave comments using the website’s “Share Your Memories” feature.

The Libraries are currently seeking funding to complete this massive digitization effort. Please contact Tara McDonnell at 848-932-5968 or taramcd@rulmail.rutgers.edu for more information on this initiative.
DIGITAL HUMANITIES TAKE SHAPE

LIBRARIES RESPOND TO GROWING AREA OF SCHOLARSHIP

Rutgers' librarians are applying computational tools and methodologies in dramatic new ways as they lead the way in digital humanities by drawing on their strengths as advisers, educators, preservationists and archivists.

Digital humanities is the broad term used to describe efforts to advance four goals—research and development for analyzing humanities data; the use of technology in humanities pedagogy; theory and critical inquiry related to the ways in which technology is changing the way we understand ourselves, cultures and societies; and preservation and access of materials and scholarly works.

"Historically, much of our work has been behind the scenes in the form of metadata," says Krista White, digital humanities librarian at the John Cotton Dana Library of Rutgers University-Newark. "But one of the opportunities that the digital humanities offer is that, as librarians, we can teach technology skills workshops and showcase our skills alongside other digital humanities scholars in projects that are exciting and engaging."

Responding in part to the work of the School of Arts and Sciences' Digital Humanities Steering Committee and building on existing library services and resources, the Rutgers University Libraries have taken a number of steps to support digital humanities efforts at Rutgers, including creating a digital humanities lab in the Archibald S. Alexander Library and appointing a digital humanities librarian on the New Brunswick campus.

Hired in the spring 2014, Francesca Giannetti supports faculty and staff engaged in the digital humanities in New Brunswick. She joins White, who arrived in the spring 2012 and has already forged a number of strong connections with Rutgers faculty and community partners engaged in digital humanities work.

Current digital humanities projects include the Warren Lehrer in Residence at Rutgers, Newark, a multi-disciplinary program for which White is a library partner overseeing an exhibition at Dana Library, and the Jazz Oral History Project at the Institute of Jazz Studies, which requires digitization of more than 22,000 pages of interview transcripts from swing-era jazz musicians.

"Scholars travel from all over the world to the Institute of Jazz Studies to use these oral histories in their research," says White. "By digitizing them and putting them into the institutional repository, they become much more widely available and accessible, which means that many more scholars will be utilizing them."

Moving forward, White and Giannetti are eager to explore projects that move beyond digitization to data modeling, text mining, analysis and interpretation, and ensure that students are competitive upon graduation.

"There is a very strong need, especially among graduate students, for more training opportunities and exposure to digital tools and projects," says Giannetti. "They are curious about what their peers are doing at other schools and about digital applications that will help them in their research and teaching."

"One of our goals is for students to understand the full range of digital possibilities open to them," adds White. "They have the very important critical thinking skills that a humanities background provides, but then they will also have technical skills that will enable them to do incredible things."

GIFT TO LIBRARIES’ RARE BOOKS COLLECTION

Dennis Fox (RC’62) donated a valuable limited reproduction by Spanish publisher M. Moliero of Tractatus de Herbis, a 1440 treatise illustrating medicinal plants, along with a full-color commentary by Dr. Alain Touwaide, Director of the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions at the Smithsonian Institution. The Tractatus de Herbis will complement Special Collections’ already impressive holdings of medieval herbals.
BE PART OF THIS MOMENT

From e-books to multimedia presentation rooms, the Rutgers University Libraries are changing to meet the needs of today’s students. The University Librarian’s Academic Excellence Fund provides critical funding to create new spaces that encourage student learning, enhance our technology, and develop robust information services and collections that serve the entire Rutgers community.

Your donations are critical to this effort and our ability to continue to advance as one of the top academic library systems in the nation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES’ MISSION, CONTACT:

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