



# PARTNERSHIP

A NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

## 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 280 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.



Associate Professor of Classics Corey Brennan, left, and Thomas Izbicki, Interim Associate University Librarian for Collection Development and Curator of the Ernst Badian Collection, with some of the collection's treasures. Brennan holds a Roman *aes rude* dated from 270 BCE, while Izbicki holds a Roman *aes grave* from 275-270 BCE depicting an image of Pegasus.

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 RUCore, 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](mailto:tizbicki@rci.rutgers.edu).

Article by Fredda Sachow originally appeared in *Rutgers Today*.

# HONORING THE JAZZ LEGACY

## INSTITUTE OF JAZZ STUDIES RECEIVES LITERARY LANDMARK DISTINCTION FROM THE NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR THE BOOK

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/IJS](http://newarkwww.rutgers.edu/IJS).*



Pictured are Dr. Betty Turock, member of the New Jersey Center for the Book Board of Directors; Renee Swartz, Board Chair; and Jeanne Boyle, Interim Director of the John Cotton Dana Library.

# 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 science 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 had a long tradition of community outreach. In the transition from print to digital, our health sciences librarians saw the creation of this site as a real opportunity to provide outreach on a much larger level 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 2,700 unique visitors in March, 86 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 reference 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 in hospitals tells 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 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 beneficiary of the estate of Richard R. Seidel (RC'59, MLS'65), 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 notable 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, 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 craftwork 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 Housman.

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.





## GIVING BACK

### LIBRARIES' STUDENT WORKER, NOW NOTEWORTHY DONOR TOO

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 Deradorian-Delia,



Pictured is Kayo Denda, Head of the Margery Somers Foster Center.

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 honorary 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 honorary 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

Sharon A. Fordham Multimedia Lab, which was established through a gift from Sharon A. Fordham (DC'75).

The multimedia Fordham lab, which is an uncommon feature at state university libraries, is housed in the Douglass Library and demonstrates how information technology and media are offering new ways to transform how research is done and how students learn and work.

"The infrastructure we have at the Rutgers libraries is what inspired me to develop this award framework," says Denda. "It allows us to capitalize on the Fordham lab and, through multimedia technology, encourage students to make their voices heard."

# 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](http://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](mailto:taramcd@rulmail.rutgers.edu) for more information on this initiative.*

