

Faculty

OF AND ABOUT RUTGERS

THIS month, the Faculty page is departing from a strictly faculty feature. Instead of a story about teaching or research, the focus is a department of the University's administration, which, except for the Alumni Office, is more directly concerned with alumni than any other section.

The department is named Rutgersensia. It is a part of the University Library. Mrs. Elizabeth R. Boyd, the curator, is a staff member rather than a faculty member. Without her wide knowledge of Rutgers affairs and the services her department provides, much information for the RUTGERS ALUMNI MONTHLY would be a great deal more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Rutgersensia is being presented in these pages so that alumni readers may know how the department contributes to the publishing of their magazine.

Rutgersensia is a collection. It has two major divisions which might be called "the objective" and "the subjective" in a very literal sense. There is a collection of objects, all kinds of quaint, curious, and interesting things which are of and about Rutgers. A great deal of this material was gathered by former librarian George A. Osborn '97, a tireless collector who appreciated the historical possibilities of many pieces that others might have thought valueless. When the Rutgersensia section was opened in 1934, in the second floor rooms of the Library which were formerly the offices of the President, the Osborn collection was turned over to it.

Mrs. Boyd is the first curator of Rutgersensia. In addition to cataloguing the collected materials, she has steadily added to them in the fifteen years of the department's operation. She does a great deal of

her work by perusing all kinds of publications.

"My aim is to collect every piece of printed material which has been put out by or about this college from 1766 to the present," she says, and adds that the present, of course, advances every day. She also gathers the published works of everybody who has had any connection with the Colleges for Men—everyone who has matriculated, graduate students, honorary degree recipients, and members of the faculty and staff during their affiliation with the University.

Among the objects in Rutgersensia are two old leather water buckets with shoulder straps, which came from Old Queen's and are dated 1828. They were used for fighting fires. Several small balls with which students played, found when the fireplaces in Queen's were reopened after having been bricked up for many years, provide a quaint note. A pink rosette, emblem of one of the literary societies, is here. Carefully treasured are some old diplomas, four very early ones including that of Simeon DeWitt, 1776. There is also an old account book, kept while Queen's College was being built. Mrs. Boyd is gradually building up a collection of books of the old Queen's College library so that later generations may see what books were available to students in that day. The second Charter of Queen's College is kept in Rutgersensia.

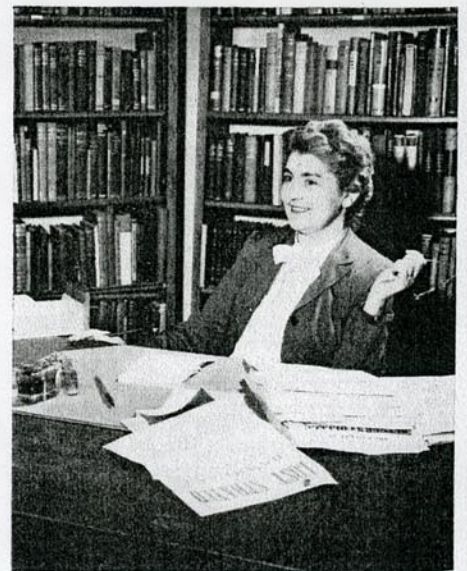
Invaluable "finds" often come from alumni attics. The manuscript minutes of the first Alumni Association meeting July 19, 1831, were discovered among the papers of Richard Ludlow Schoonmaker, 1829, by his grandchildren and presented to Rutgersensia in 1939. Another attic

discovery was a manuscript minute book of the Athenian Society, a literary and oratorical association, covering the entire decade of its existence from 1776 to 1786. The members met for speaking, debate, reading and reciting of original work. The book was sent to the librarian in 1936.

A less valuable but interesting group includes a number of beer mugs, some commemorating alumni class reunions, others from fraternity or personal collections. Two were willed to Rutgersensia by Harry J. March, 1887.

Printed materials include the college catalogues from the earliest days, reports of the Presidents, alumni publications, all the books published by the Rutgers Press, undergraduate publications, agricultural reports, bound copies of the prize essays which were formerly read at Commencements, unbound publications of Rutgers men and faculty, a set of mathematics textbooks written by Edward A. Bowser, 1868, who turned his copyright over to the University, and a small group of students' notebooks and expense books from the last century.

How do these contribute to the publishing of the MONTHLY? The background information they provide for anyone writing on subjects having roots in the University's past is, of course, a large factor. But even more important is the excellent file of biographical material, which originally comprised the files set up by Alexander Stuart Graham, who had custody of them from 1927 to 1937, when he retired. These have been increased until there is now a folder on everyone who has matriculated in the Colleges for Men, and on each faculty member. If news about an alumnus comes to the attention of editor or class correspondent, details to give added interest to



Curator ELIZABETH R. BOYD looks up from a collection of proclamations, burlesques and rakes on the faculty she is recording. These were printed at Commencement time or on holidays usually as burlesques of the regular program for the occasion.

the story are immediately available under his name in Rutgersensia. Not every envelope will yield a long list of items because many alumni do not realize the importance of keeping their college informed about their activities. Mrs. Boyd is anxious to receive any material of a biographical nature about every alumnus, and she thinks a most satisfactory way is for each man to take the responsibility of sending his own.

Alumni may wonder what to send. Pictures, announcements of marriage and the births of children, clippings from publications describing any achievements, information of whatever sort about business, professional, or military careers or service, additional education, and published works, are sought. These should be sent even if their importance is doubtful, as small things often fill out the large story.

There is also need for mementoes of particular events of their college years, especially among the older alumni—such as diplomas, programs of Rutgers Dramatic Club and Queen's Players, Glee Club concerts, and other campus occurrences, and any of the printings connected with Commencements. These, "the more elusive items," Mrs. Boyd is anxious to obtain because they all contribute to the continuing history of Rutgers.

How is a department with such a variety of items kept in order? Many questions about Rutgers can be answered by Mrs. Boyd within a few minutes. The clue is in the thorough indexes the department maintains. If the question is about a book or other publication by an alumnus or faculty member or by a University department, the answer is obtained from a set of index cards on authors. If it is about some event or piece of news concerning the University, a card on that subject tells in what newspaper or other publication the information appeared and when. Since 1937, each issue of the *Targum* has been indexed completely by the subjects it contains, and all Rutgers items in the New Brunswick *Daily Home News* have been indexed likewise, as well as the RUTGERS ALUMNI MONTHLY and any items found in the New York *Times* and *Herald-Tribune*. In addition to these ready references to happenings of the last dozen years, any information that has been gathered in response to queries about events which antedate the index is filed by subject for easy accessibility if that question comes up again.

Information is also available on the portrait collection in Kirkpatrick Chapel through the work of Mrs. Boyd who has been responsible for the research.

The books and pamphlets of Rutgers authors and the publications pertaining to Rutgers are catalogued under the usual library system and are available in the stacks of the Rutgersensia department. In some instances, Mrs. Boyd may not have been able to get a copy of the publication, so she encourages Rutgers authors to send

her copies of their works—autographed, of course.

Up to the present time, the material has been confined to that of the Men's Colleges. A similar collection is maintained by N.J.C. Space is a problem in all parts of the Library, and Rutgersensia is no exception, but Mrs. Boyd believes that historical materials and biographies should be the concern of every branch of the University, for a collection of the sort she maintains becomes immeasurably valuable in future years.

Rutgersensia is under the administration of Donald F. Cameron, University librarian. The work is done by Mrs. Boyd and her assistant, Mrs. Martha Hallenbeck, who has been with the department for four years.

Mrs. Boyd came to Rutgers in 1932 from

the Princeton library. She became very much interested in the possibilities of a historical section, and when the department was developed, she was given the post of curator. In 1936 she married William M. Boyd '32, entomologist and artist who painted the historic scene of the first intercollegiate football game between Rutgers and Princeton on College Field in 1869.

While Rutgersensia items are displayed from time to time in the museum section of the Library, there are many things of interest to be seen, read, or talked about in the department itself. Rutgersensia exists to serve the University, as well as to preserve the things of its history. Alumni who return to the campus are cordially invited to visit Rutgersensia and get acquainted with its collections.