

Archives and Manuscripts at the Rutgers University Center of Alcohol Studies

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The Center of Alcohol Studies began in the wake of the repeal of National Prohibition. Although alcohol problems remained, Americans no longer had a national legislative policy to deal with them. Gradually, the scientific community moved into this void, focusing on alcohol's effects on the body and behavior. Noted physiologist Yandell Henderson, director of the Laboratory of Applied Physiology at Yale University, began research on alcohol metabolism in the early 1930s. His colleague and successor, Howard W. Haggard, continued his work and established the Section of Alcohol Studies at the laboratory in 1943, with E. M. Jellinek as the first director. A biometrician, Jellinek had directed a review for the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol that analyzed the existing literature on the effects of alcohol on the individual. This was the beginning of an extensive and continuing interdisciplinary effort to investigate and document the role of alcohol in society.

In the next decades, the Center of Alcohol Studies, so named in 1950, became a leading authority on alcohol problems as its staff pursued basic and applied research on all aspects of beverage alcohol and its use. In 1940, Haggard established the *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol* (later the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*), and soon thereafter the center began issuing the Classified Abstract Archive of the Alcohol Literature (CAAAL)—abstracts of alcohol-related literature printed on punched cards for manual subject retrieval. CAAAL was a continuation of Jellinek's literature review. In

1943 the center set up the Summer School of Alcohol Studies to train counselors, program administrators, educators, and others active in the field.

The center's information services began in 1941 as materials collected to support documentation and education efforts. Collection development was haphazard—an outgrowth of the center's other documentation efforts rather than an attempt to build a sharply focused research collection.

After 1962, when the center was moved to Rutgers University, information services received increased attention. A separate library was designed as part of the new center headquarters built in 1964. Although still tied closely to the *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol* (abstracted materials for the journal became part of the library's collections), library efforts focused on building a strong international collection of research materials dealing with all aspects of alcohol use.

Until the mid 1980s the center benefited from expanding federal funding to deal with social problems. Because the library held the most significant alcohol research collection in the United States, it received comparatively generous public funding, enabling the expansion and servicing of the collections. Whether by design or default, the center's library became the repository of research and institutional records from around the world.

In addition to CAAAL, 7,000 cataloged volumes, and 200 current journal subscriptions, the center has developed several unique research collections. The full texts of all items abstracted for

CAAAL, as well as all items abstracted in the center's *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, are placed in the McCarthy Memorial Collection, the largest and most heavily used collection in the library with nearly fifty thousand documents (published studies, reviews, dissertations, books). It is accessed by an author catalog, CAAAL, the indexes of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, or a series of subject bibliographies. The center also holds the Connor Alcohol Research Reference Files of 500 questionnaires and survey instruments used in alcohol-related research.

The first archival and manuscript collections at the center developed unintentionally as many ephemeral and miscellaneous items were given to the center: descriptive flyers of treatment centers, newspaper clippings about important researchers or educators in the area of alcohol, and miscellaneous printed records of public and private agencies. Dating from 1789 to 1981, these materials represent a wide range of early alcohol studies and help document the origins, growth, and development of the field. They comprise approximately 47.5 linear feet. The materials were formally arranged in 1982, prompted by an increasing number of research requests from scholars interested in the history of alcohol-related issues. Because of their haphazard accumulation, they are grouped into three artificial collections: 1) records organized by state or county of origin; 2) records organized by public or private organization or institution; and 3) records organized by subject. The records organized by state or national origin are arranged in chronological order for each state or foreign country. The materials include alcohol-related legislation, printed reports and regulations of state and national agen-

cies, local and international conference literature, promotional materials and brochures from public and private treatment centers and agencies, and state and local planning documents for alcohol education and treatment services. The records organized by subject are arranged chronologically for each subject (e.g., temperance, industry, alcohol education) and include numerous temperance and prohibition materials—tracts, newspaper clippings, periodical issues, and minutes of groups such as the Sons of Temperance and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The records of public and private organizations, including records of the Center of Alcohol Studies, are arranged by series for each organization.

The documentation efforts of the center have attracted several significant special collections. In 1981 the Ohio Historical Society donated a large collection of foreign-language temperance materials originally collected by the Anti-Saloon League of America, including tracts, monographs, periodicals, and yearbooks of foreign-language temperance groups in the United States between 1900 and 1960. The authors of *Drinking in America*¹ donated to the center copies of all photographs, engravings, and paintings collected while researching the history of alcohol use in the United States. This is one of the largest single sources of illustrated material on the topic. The National Association of Lesbian and Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP) has donated its collection of more than 900 published and unpublished materials on alcohol use and homosexuality; this collection will be updated and maintained through joint efforts of the library and NALGAP. In addition, the library has agreed to collect and arrange the archives of the Substance Abuse Librarians and

¹Mark Edward Lender and James Kirby Martin, *Drinking in America: A History* (New York: Free Press, 1982).

Information Specialists (SALIS), an international association of professionals involved in the organization and dissemination of alcohol and drug information.

The center's collections are housed at the library and are open to the public. Beginning as an outgrowth of research and documentation efforts on alcohol use, the library has always been shaped by developments in the field as well as by public demand for information. Its materials represent more than the evolution of alcohol studies; they shed light on a num-

ber of critical social issues including alcohol consumption and temperance, public health, medicine, economic history, education, and the changing attitudes of Americans. With the organization of the archives and manuscript collections, the library has broadened its scope beyond scientific research to serve historians and social scientists researching the history and development of alcohol-related issues. Use of these materials further enhances the value of the center's collections on all aspects of alcohol use.