

# **The Alcohol History Collection Center of Alcohol Studies Rutgers University**

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## **Introduction**

Americans have had a long and varied history with beverage alcohol. In colonial times alcohol was an accepted part of community and daily life, although drunkenness was generally frowned upon and controlled through community sanctions. As the new republic expanded, community pressure became less effective, and drunkenness grew to alarming proportions by the early 19th century. Temperance societies that initially espoused moderation gave way to “teetotaling” abstinence groups by the latter half of that century, as moral suasion yielded to political action and the movement for legal prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

The Temperance and Prohibition Movements were clear examples of grassroots efforts culminating in national policy, and literature was a powerful weapon in this crusade. Essays, speeches, sermons, stories, songs, poetry, plays, posters, engravings, and broadsides were all used to bring the anti-alcohol message to the public. Much of this material survives today, although organized collections are few. This finding aid provides access to those historical materials located at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies. It serves as a guide to the printed literature and illustrations representing some of the more significant work of the Temperance and Prohibition Eras.

## **The Rutgers University Center of Alcohol Studies**

The Center of Alcohol Studies had its roots in the decade following repeal of National Prohibition. A group of scientists and physicians who were concerned about the rise in alcohol consumption and related consequences formed the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol in 1938. Their goal was to foster research about alcohol and its effects in order to provide a scientific basis for a new alcohol policy. One of the members of that group, Howard W. Haggard from Yale University, began the *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol* in 1940 to serve as the official organ of the Research Council and to provide an outlet for publication of other significant alcohol research. By 1944 Haggard had established a Section of Alcohol Studies within his Laboratory of Applied Physiology at Yale. This Section, under the directorship of E.M. Jellinek, continued to grow through the 1940s, adding researchers from a wide range of disciplines to study the biomedical and psychosocial effects of alcohol use. In 1950 the Section was renamed the Center of Alcohol Studies.

In 1962 the Center relocated to Rutgers University, and with help from a donation by R. Brinkley Smithers, staff moved into new quarters in Christopher D. Smithers Hall in 1964. In 1992 the library, Journal office, and clinical offices moved into the new Brinkley and Adele

Smithers Hall. Today the library holds over 130,000 documents--books, journals, reprints, conference papers, government documents, dissertations, and unpublished reports--covering all aspects of alcohol use and related problems. Much of this material may be accessed online via IRIS, the Rutgers University web-based catalog ([www.libraries.rutgers.edu](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu)). However, some items are located in special collections not cataloged by the university at this time. Such is the case with the Alcohol History Collection. Some of these materials came from the headquarters of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, which donated its library in 1988. In 1989 the Center received a gift collection from Moravian College in Pennsylvania of 100 titles accumulated in a research project by a former faculty member. Other materials were collected by Center researchers or were donated by interested scholars and laypersons over the years. Most of this material will need retrospective cataloging before it can be accessed through the Rutgers online catalog. Until then, this finding aid will serve as the guide to the collection.

### **Scope of the Collection**

Most of the materials in the Alcohol History Collection date from the 1830s to the early 1960s, although a few works are translations or revisions of originals dating back to the 1600s. The oldest monograph in the collection is dated 1707. The collection contains works written for the general public, students, educators, physicians, and researchers in alcohol studies. Formats include biographical sketches and personal testimonies, fiction, religious and ethical treatments, scientific or medical essays, and retrospective accounts of influential organizations. Many of these materials are accompanied by bibliographies, charts, graphs, illustrations, maps, and statistical tables.

The subject content encompasses a wide range of topics relating to the American Temperance and Prohibition Movements. Themes that appear frequently include social and domestic problems caused by inebriety, legislation and enforcement of laws, physiological and psychological effects of alcohol, moral and ethical discussions, and the alcohol beverage industry. Most items in the collection are English-language, printed in North America or parts of the United Kingdom, but there are occasional foreign-language items from Europe.

Monographs comprise the bulk of the indexed collection, although the Center has acquired some periodicals and pamphlets that will be processed and added to a future edition of the finding aid. To facilitate scholarly research, a number of photographs and other illustrations contained in these monographs have been indexed for this finding aid. More illustrations (posters, prints, broadsides) will be added to a later edition.

### **The Alcohol History Database**

The Center of Alcohol Studies maintains an electronic database with bibliographic records and (selected) graphic images for the items in the Alcohol History Collection. The Alcohol History Database was created in 1998 by Meagan Toohey, a graduate student at the Rutgers University School for Library and Information Studies, using DBTextworks software from the Inmagic Corporation. Currently there are over 250 monographic records, many of which contain illustrations. Records for additional monographs, serials, pamphlets, and

illustrations will continue to be added, and the finding aid will be updated periodically to reflect new entries.

The Alcohol History Database provides access to materials by author, title, series title, format, date, publisher, and subject content. Subject headings are based primarily on Library of Congress headings, with some additions from the Center's subject list where needed to fill gaps or for clarification. Many records also contain a keyword-searchable note field with other descriptive information. In addition to the above, some records include an illustration field that may be searched by type of illustration and by subject content. At this time, the database is only available on the Center library's local area network. Scholars wishing to use the database and the collection may contact the library for further information. The materials in the Alcohol History Collection are not available for interlibrary loan, although selected photocopying may be allowed, at the discretion of library staff, in accordance with copyright restrictions. The library staff will perform searches of the History Database in response to requests by phone, mail, fax, or email. There may be a small cost-recovery fee for mailing search results.

### **Arrangement of the Finding Aid**

The finding aid has been organized by broad subject categories:

- Alcoholism and alcoholics - people, relationships, disease aspects, treatment
- Alcoholic beverages - history, law, use, production
- Effects of alcohol on the body - physiological effects, medical complications
- Other addictions - addictive substances, smoking, gambling
- Social aspects - social values and conditions, religion, groups and movements, law, retrospective materials
- Prohibition - Prohibition Movement, legal aspects
- Temperance - Temperance Movement, leaders, groups, propaganda

Within the categories, entries are arranged alphabetically by main entry (first author or title). There are indexes for all authors, titles (including illustrations), and subject headings. To aid scholars in locating further materials, the annotated appendix lists additional resources--websites, groups/organizations, guides and other publications--for print and graphic materials on alcohol use in American history.

For further information about the Alcohol History Collection, or to order additional copies of this finding aid, contact:

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