Since the new articles of the CAS Newsletter were well-accepted in the CAS community, we will continue to highlight our treasures. In the last issue we introduced a section entitled From the CAS Archives featuring an article on one important CAS-related item.

In addition, now we are adding another, somewhat similar part called Treasures in the CAS Archive. The short paragraphs will present a few objects we recently discovered and digitized. Trying to interpret them from a broader perspective is difficult but not impossible. Placing these images and documents in the larger context of CAS history might also help us assess who we are and where we are at in the present.

We encourage you to send us your comments and thoughts, since we expect that these images may jog the memory of CAS members.

Stay tuned for more unforeseen and startling findings!

1. From the CAS Archives
   “Measuring Drunkenness: Greenberg’s Alcometer”

This spring, the United States Supreme Court will decide, in Missouri v. McNeely, whether police can forcibly draw a blood sample from a suspected drunk driver without first obtaining a warrant. As it turns out, the history of testing for alcohol intoxication in the United States can be traced back to the Center’s Yale days. Constitutional safeguards were partly responsible for shaping the research trajectory in the early years of the alcohol studies movement.
The first person to measure alcohol concentration from body fluids was Erik M. P. Widmark, a Swedish chemist, in 1914. While the “Widmark Micromethod” spread through much of Europe in the 1920s and 1930s and became an established forensic test, the United States still relied exclusively on behavioral evidence, which, while frequently compelling, was not dispositive. This is explained in part by the Prohibition-era disinterest in alcohol science. Even so, a major reason the United States lagged behind Europe in forensic alcohol testing was its unique, constitutionally enshrined protections, in particular the Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches and the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

It wouldn’t be until the late 1930s when Americans, waking up to the treacherous combination of intoxication and driving, began seriously experimenting with breath-alcohol analysis, which was seen as less intrusive than testing blood. The Center’s own Leon Greenberg (1907–1985) was primarily responsible for inventing the Alcometer in 1941. The portable machine was one of three “first generation” breath-alcohol analysis devices that was introduced at the time, along with the Drunkometer and the Intoximeter. (Unfortunately for Greenberg, the Drunkometer, invented in 1931 by Indiana University’s Rolla N. Harger, lays claim to the first breath-test instrument used in the field by police.) The Alcometer worked by mixing the alveolar air in one’s deep breath with iodine pentoxide. If there was alcohol in one’s system, the reaction released iodine, which when absorbed in a starch solution caused its color to change in proportion to the amount of alcohol present.

Despite being touted as a breakthrough, neither the Alcometer nor its two close competitors were used for very long. (Apart from concerns over accuracy and convenience, the Alcometer suffered from relying on an unstable reagent, iodine pentoxide.) All three devices would be quickly supplanted by the introduction of the Breathalyzer in 1954.

2. Treasures in the CAS Archives

Librarians have never been working on more exciting assignments than the staff at the CAS Library for two years. Digitizing the wealth of material entails sifting through yellowed documents and black-and-white photos, but it also leads to unexpected discoveries in any archival project. However, with a strong interest to reconnect with our past to explore future options and prospective new paths, this project never ceases to surprise us in the library. We wish to present our heuristic moments by means of sharing a few resources recently and inadvertently unearthed. See a few examples below.
2.1. The mission of the Yale Center of Alcohol Studies

The original 32×25-inch poster, calligraphed in a delicate hand (date unknown) lists the five divisions of the Yale Center of Alcohol Studies as research, publication, education, therapy, and special services. The multidisciplinary fields of research include physiological, psychological, cultural, legal, educational, economic, and medical aspects of alcohol. However, reading further suggests that the extent of the divisions were inseparable, e.g., even if the Education Division was in charge of the Summer School of Alcohol Studies, the Treatment Division, called Therapy, also conducted training as well as research. The Research, Therapy and Education divisions were also supported largely by the Publication Division and Special Services, including help with information and consultation.

The poster is not in a very good shape and needs to undergo some preservation. Having weathered several moves, it’s still amazing that it has managed to withstand the lack of care and survive as is.

2.2. A bookplate from E.M. Jellinek

Discovered accidentally among a stack of unrelated documents in the Mark Keller Collection, this image symbolizes the big EMJ-mystery, as we call it in the library. An unorthodox 4×5-inch ex libris marked with the initials E.M.J. features a perplexed ape contemplating a human skull while sitting on a book entitled “Darwin.”

The original sculpture, often attributed to Francisco Ramo, reflecting on Rodin’s Thinker and Darwin’s evolution theory, was very popular in the 20th century, and replicas show up for sale all over the Internet.

However, the “Philosophizing Monkey Statuette”, as it’s also known, was actually created by a late-19th-century German sculptor Wolfgang Hugo Rheinhold. This bronze statuette, entitled Affe, einen Schädel betrachtend (“Monkey contemplating a skull”), was first exhibited at the Große Berliner Kunstaustellung (Great Berlin Art Exhibition) in 1893. (For more information, see http://library.uwsp.edu/aschmetz/rheinhold%27s_monkey/rheinhold%27s_monkey_page.htm)

The bookplate replaces the word “Evolution” with “Darwin,” and the book in the front reads “EX LIBRIS E.M.J.” in block capitals. The sketch might have been made by a talented Yale CAS member whose artwork shows up in various formats. The controversial original sculpture and this rendition raise a few questions, and we are looking forward to finding out more about the EMJ bookplate. Suggestions are welcome.
2.3. The 12 Yale Plan Posters on Alcoholism

Another great finding is a letter-size flyer advertising a collection of twelve posters on alcoholism prepared by the Section of Studies on Alcohol, Yale University in 1950 according to the copyright statement. The individual posters were available for purchase, as seen in the Publication Catalog. The first catalog that we found is from 1958, and the set was still sold for $6, while individual copies cost $1.50 a piece. Prices are also shown on the back of the flier, including discount for larger orders. Among the red-white-black posters are a few explaining “ALCOHOLISM as an ILLNESS,” educating about causes and danger signs of alcoholism, promoting help for alcoholics from a clinic or AA, or just describing the nature of alcoholism. For the Center, the most remarkable poster is perhaps #12, which sends the message that research, treatment, education, and community action together can help prevent alcoholism. The copyright date one more time is 1950, and CAS owns the copyright.

We have located six of these posters in the library: full size in multiple copies, some in quite decent shape. If you know anything about their history or if you happen to own a copy, please contact us!
3. Special Topics:
Rutgers students create phone app to promote responsible drinking

Rutgers student Josh Rosenheck and his associates have created an iPhone app called “Shots iGot.” Rosencheck, Paras Jain, and Mike Verderese entered the Shots iGot idea at Princeton University’s Hackathon contest. As a result, they were rewarded with $2,000 in prize money. So far, the app has gained interest from investors and may be used for potential research studies on substance abuse. The application allows people to measure the amount of alcohol in a variety of bottles as the original content is replaced by shots students may or may not be able to gauge. Furthermore, Shots iGot has an additional feature which includes measuring from container images taken by the user, and a mixer option which shows how many shots can fit into a bottle. The purpose of Shots iGot is to promote responsible drinking for college students and adults. The lite version of the app is free to download, while the full app is only $1.99 and an individual must be 18 or older to purchase it.

Recently Rosencheck and Verderese (above) made a visit to the Center of Alcohol Studies Library to present their app and offer it to do research in college drinking. The developers expressed their wish to work with CAS or any other research center by providing statistical data regarding perceived and actual alcohol content levels and drinking consumption among college students. Overall, the phone application sounds promising start to collecting data for future studies.

Shots iGot Features

For more, see articles in the Daily Targum:

4. Digital Archiving and Library Associations with Flickr


The goal of the project focuses on:

* increasing access to publicly-held photography collections, and
* providing a way for the general public to contribute information and knowledge. (Then watch what happens when they do!) (Flickr.com)

The Center of Alcohol Studies Library began experimenting with Flickr in February. As a test, we have uploaded historical figures from the Center including E.M. Jellinek, R. Brinkley Smithers, and Tony Carpenter. The Library will continue to use Flickr as a tool for archiving and tagging photos from CAS with the potential of creating taggable images for current and past Summer School attendees.

5. CAS Library at the 2013 VALE Conference

The 14th Annual Virtual Academic Library Environment (VALE) Users’ Conference was held January 4, 2013 in the Busch Campus Center at Rutgers. The theme of the conference was “Demonstrating value for every user.” The featured speaker was Dr. Ellie A. Fogerty, the Vice President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Fogerty’s speech focused on the value of accreditation processes for improving the learning environment for college students.

The CAS library presented a poster entitled “Small Streams Make Big Rivers: Chronicling the Birth of Alcohol Studies.” The poster highlighted the work of library staff both past and present in preserving information related to the development of the alcohol studies field over
the past 75 years. Featured on the poster is a model of the library’s digital archive that is currently under construction, showcasing rare artifacts from the birth of alcohol studies and the beginnings of CAS.

CAS Information Services staff that work on this project and/or were available to answer questions at the poster showcase were Christine Bariahtaris, Pat Bellanca, Scott Goldstein, Karen Thomas, Jonathan Torres, Helen Castro, Paul Candon, and Judit Ward.

6. Databases JSAD and other substance abuse journals are indexed in

Another project just completed at Information Services was checking and updating the list of databases in which the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs is currently indexed. It was amazing to find how many databases have ceased to exist or have changed their names. Sifting through lists from peer journals to compare their services also highlighted new providers.

As a by-product, here is the shortlist of online databases in which JSAD and other journals on addiction and substance abuse are indexed. Here is an opportunity to click through our list and explore these excellent resources! Only the underlined titles, i.e., the ones Rutgers subscribes to will open this time.
7. Tech Tip: Beware of phishing

Phishing is a form of online security fraud in which an unsuspecting user is coaxed into giving up confidential information. Phishing scams typically involve emails or web ads that appear legitimate and provide a plausible story for why the user should click through or provide sensitive information. That information is then used for identify theft or other fraudulent activities.

Although there are some tools available to help prevent phishing, the best defense is to be aware of these scams and to avoid them in the first place. Here are some tips from the Division of Information Protection and Security at the Office of Information Technology.

- Email is not a secure medium; no reputable institution, including Rutgers University, will ever request personal information via email.
- Use a separate browser each time you log in to a website that displays personal information, and be sure to log out and close the browser when you are finished.
- A spam filter is not sufficient to avoid phishing schemes. Sometimes they filter out legitimate emails (e.g., a subject line with alcohol studies might be considered spam simply because of the word alcohol), and other times they fail to filter out carefully worded phishing emails.

For more information on phishing, visit the phishing page created by the Division of Information Protection and Security: http://rusecure.rutgers.edu/phishing

8. New Face in the library: Lewis Parsons

Hello!
I’m Lewis Parsons, a second-semester LIS student here at Rutgers. I previously graduated in 2010 from Westfield State University in my home state of Massachusetts with a degree in history, with a large amount of coursework also in Geography.

Here at the Center I am working on going through the large collection of documents left by Mark Keller, one of the key figures in the history of the Center. I am combing through them, organizing them, and learning more about him and his fascinating life with each letter and conference pamphlet he saved.

In the library field I am still exploring where my interests lie. So far I have acquired an interest in the personal interaction on the front lines of reference services and the behind-the-scenes work of collection development, and all the exciting technologies that are revolutionizing both. After my studies, I hope to work in an academic library, or a specialized library, as well as hopefully getting the chance to continue my history studies someday by studying the history and culture of Polynesia. In my spare time, I have some pretty broad interests. These include soccer (go Celtic!), baseball, traveling, films, television, and storytelling of all forms, and of course reading everything from philosophy and religious books to science, science fiction and graphic novels.

*This issue of the newsletter was edited by*, Jonathan Torres *with contributions from Christine Bariahtaris, Scott Goldstein, and Judit Ward.*