

*Special Collections and Archives,  
Bjork Library, Stockton University:  
The Work of Many Hands*

Stockton's Special Collections and College Archives experienced inconsistent growth and, at times, poor management during their formative years. Stockton University has long retained materials related to its history within the Bjork Library, stored with irregular oversight in the Government Documents area. By the mid 1970s, librarians recognized the significance of Stockton's presence in the geographical Pine Barrens and began collecting materials related to the area. During Stockton's first three decades, various donations of "rare books" were also accepted. Not particularly rare and often with little relevance to one another, for years these "special" books were preserved alongside Pine Barrens materials in a locked room on the first level of the library.

This brief history traces the development of Stockton's Special Collections and Archives from their earliest efforts to the first major donations of South Jersey materials nearly forty years later. How does a new college, opened to the public in 1971, undertake to preserve its ongoing history and that of the much older local community? How did our currently well organized Special Collections and Archives, significant repositories of local history, get underway?<sup>1</sup>

*The Stockton Archives*

The need for a college archive was recognized early on. A month before classes opened at the Mayflower Hotel in Atlantic City, on August 4, 1971, Herman Elstein, Assistant Director of Reader Services, suggested retention of important school-related documents including academic working papers, trustee meetings, budgets, relevant laws, constructions reports, etc. Arthur Flandreau, Director of the Library, and Richard P. Chaite, assistant to President Bjork, advised that the archives be housed in the "Reader Services" area of the library. At some future date a "Special Collections and Archives" department was to be formed.<sup>2</sup> The archives collection, therefore, began shortly after the college opened as the "College Information File," a miscellaneous collection of college newspapers,

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<sup>1</sup> Stockton faculty and staff who provided details for this history include Lydia Javins, Bill Bearden, David Pinto, Dick Colby, Louise Tillstrom, Cheryl Olson, Mark Demitroff, John Sinton, Tom Ayers, Charla Comer, Alan Delozier, David Roessel, Ken Tompkins, Heather Perez and Tom Kinsella.

<sup>2</sup> Alan Delozier, *The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Archival Field Guide & Catalog, 1969–1994*, 7.

college working papers and information about Richard Stockton.<sup>3</sup> A driving force for the development of this collection was the initial Stockton State College self study, which was completed in 1975.

Early planning for the Archives, dating from 1974–1975, recognized similarities in format and handling requirements between archival materials and government documents. It was decided to place the Archives under the supervision of the Government Documents librarian.<sup>4</sup> From early on, the Archives were considered something of a “step-child.”<sup>5</sup> Government Documents initially resided in the Documents Workroom, E-222, a quite small space. By 1977, it had been relocated to E-004, a twenty by ten foot storage room in the lower level of the library. After the library expansion in 1995, Government Documents grew to encompass a considerable area with multiple rooms in the northeastern corner of the lower level of the library.

The Bjork Library has been a selective depository for federal documents since 1972 when it took over as depository from the Atlantic City Public Library. It has been a depository for New Jersey documents since 1973 and Atlantic County documents since 1976.<sup>6</sup> An informal agreement to collect Galloway Township documents is mentioned in librarian Ginny Vail’s 1982 position paper.<sup>7</sup> At that time the Government Documents collection numbered approximately 150,000 items including a significant collection of topographic maps. The department appears to have been chronically understaffed and challenged by its obligation to process, encode and appropriately weed holdings.

The scope of the Archives was deliberately limited. “The college archives collection is to be a select collection of the central documents relating to the development of the institution. It is not intended to be a comprehensive collection detailing all of the activities at the college or is it meant to be a warehouse of files from the various college offices.”<sup>8</sup> The plan developed in 1974–1975 and adopted shortly thereafter was for the archives to be subsumed under the direction of the

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<sup>3</sup> Ginny Vail, “Archives Position Paper,” 1982, 1.

<sup>4</sup> [McDonald, Joseph], “Stockton Archive Collection Draft,” 1974?.

<sup>5</sup> Ginny Vail, “Archives Position Paper,” 1982, 1.

<sup>6</sup> See letter from Elizabeth D. Strapp, Documents Librarian, to Joseph McDonald, Assistant Director for Reader Services, Library, Stockton State College, confirming that Stockton would become a New Jersey document depository as of February 1, 1973.

<sup>7</sup> See Ginny Vail, “Position Paper: Government Documents,” April 1982.

<sup>8</sup> Wilson M. Stahl, “Discussion Paper on College Archives,” July 8, 1981, 1.

Government Documents department and to become the responsibility of the Public Services/Documents librarian.”<sup>9</sup>

In 1975, non-current materials from the President’s office were added to the “College Information File.” This may have been when early documents, charred but not destroyed during the arson of the President’s cabin (February 1973), were deposited within the archives. For years afterward, the scent of charred paper was evident when certain file cabinets were opened. During fall 1975, approval was granted to Ken Stow, Assistant to the Vice President for Business and Finance, to gather and preserve in the archives annual budget proposals, yearly program guides, development documents, proposals, consultant reports and newspaper articles/promotional publications.<sup>10</sup> Materials related to the office of Natural Sciences and Mathematics were prominent as that division adhered to the announced archival schedule; other divisions did not. In July 1976, Elizabeth Alton donated copies of her manuscript *The Stockton Story, A History of the Founding of Richard Stockton State College* along with a collection of letters, notes, press clippings, and other documents from the early to mid 1960s that recorded efforts to found the institution.

Initially, the space reserved for the College Archives was a four-drawer vertical file cabinet located in the public area outside of the Documents Workroom (E-222). In 1976, CODOC was chosen as the method for cataloging and organizing the archives and in 1977 a student worker began the necessary cataloging and coding, funded by a grant from Stockton’s Research and Professional Development Committee.<sup>11</sup> The collection was closed, with no browsing allowed unless prearranged with the Documents Librarian or Assistant Director for Public Services. By July 1977, the Stockton Archives consisted of three file cabinets and three shelves of records.<sup>12</sup>

By 1978, the Archives had moved *into* E-222, as Government Documents had been relocated to E-004 on the ground level of the library. A 1978 memo provided procedures that offices were to follow while collecting and sending to the Archives “most of the official records and many of the

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<sup>9</sup> “Stockton Archive Collection Draft,” 1974, 1; Ginny Vail, “Archives Position Paper,” 1982, 1.

<sup>10</sup> Alan Delozier, *The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Archival Field Guide & Catalog, 1969–1994*, 8.

<sup>11</sup> Ginny Vail, “Archives Position Paper,” 1982, 1.

<sup>12</sup> Alan Delozier, *The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Archival Field Guide & Catalog, 1969–1994*, 9.

important informal records related to the development and function of the college.”<sup>13</sup> At an undetermined date, the Archives rejoined Government Documents on the lower level of the library.

This initial drive to collect materials and to develop the Archives appears to have run out of gas by the late 1970s. In 1981, Reference Librarian Wilson (Bil) Stahl points out the lack of attention accorded to the archives.<sup>14</sup> Ginny Vail, in her 1982 position paper, is scathing:

Many events have contributed to the total chaos which now exists in archives. First, the estimate of the number of materials to be received was much lower than what has actually been received even though many offices have sent nothing. Second, the constant changes in the college’s organization and the even more constant changes in personnel have led to uneven contributions to the archives with many important documents never having been sent at all. In addition, with offices constantly moving and changing names, only an expert with a series of detailed organizational plans could determine where to code each document. Finally, little or no staff has ever been assigned to archives and even then the staff has usually been temporary with little supervision and vague guidelines. In the Documents/ Archives department documents has always been considered more important so that even within its own department, archives has been an unwanted step-child, always relegated to “when we have time.”<sup>15</sup>

Contributions to the Archives were uneven during the 1980s. “Moribund” may be too strong a word for the collection; perhaps “haphazard” and “understaffed” are better descriptors. With the expansion of the library (funds were earmarked in 1991; construction was completed in 1995) the archives received renewed attention. In February of 1994, Luis Rodriguez, Assistant Director for Public Services, approved student Alan Delozier’s independent study within the Stockton Archives. Delozier, who had a degree from St. Bonaventure and was taking additional history courses at Stockton, undertook to organize and refocus the archives; Professor William J. Gilmore-Lehn and Government Documents librarian Frank Wagner supervised his work. Delozier, who would become University Archivist at Seton Hall University, completed an extensive review of the Archives and served as part-time Stockton College Archivist through 1994.

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<sup>13</sup> Wilson M. Stahl, “Instructions on the treatment of materials being sent to the College Archives as per College Policy IV-60.1,” July 24, 1978.

<sup>14</sup> Wilson M. Stahl, “Discussion Paper on College Archives,” July 8, 1981.

<sup>15</sup> Ginny Vail, “Archives Position Paper,” 1982, 1.

### *The Beginnings of Special Collections*

In February of 1974, Bil Stahl put forward a proposal for the creation of a Pine Barrens Information Center at Stockton.<sup>16</sup> Recognizing the ecological and cultural importance of the Pine Barrens (the Pinelands National Reserve would be established in 1978), Stahl proposed a center that would attract and support scholars and community members studying the Pine Barrens. He envisioned a clearing house with the potential to promote off-campus partnerships. Stahl listed two initial goals: (1) compilation of a bibliography of literature on the Pine Barrens and (2) establishment of an outstanding collection of primary and secondary source materials. Stahl had begun the project in October 1973, assisted by Stockton student John Wessler.

There was considerable interest in the Pine Barrens at this time. John Sinton, Professor of Environmental Studies, organized three well-received conferences focused on the Pine Barrens (1978, 1979, 1980), which garnered considerable interest on campus and within the wider community. Stockton students studied the environment and culture of the Pine Barrens in many courses. Stahl was requesting support for a project that moved well beyond the scope and capability of the library, with the potential to grow into a regional initiative. His application for office space, one staff member (a clerk typist), and modest funding was not supported. What *did* come about was a collection of materials stored in eight file cabinets, now referred to as the Pine Barrens vertical file. The collection preserves a typed bibliography of Pinelands literature/research, dating through the late 1980s, and copies of several hundred articles, pamphlets, booklets, and a lesser number of full-length studies relating to the Pine Barrens. The original location of these materials has not been discovered. By the late 1980s they were housed in a former study room, as will be discussed later. Eventually, they were moved to the Government Document area on the lower level of the library. Bill Bearden, Associate Director for Library Technical Service (1987 to 2018), believes that these documents were catalogued using the same CODOC system as that utilized for the archives. A computer generated index to the collection remains; the tractor-feed printouts, typical of that era, have been preserved.

In June 1974, William J. Gilmore, then Assistant Professor of History, suggested that the College collect all extant papers of, and directly relating, to Richard Stockton. Although he hoped

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<sup>16</sup> Wilson M. Stahl, "A Preliminary Proposal for the Establishment of a Pine Barrens Information Center," February 12, 1974. Pp. 9.

for original documents, he admitted that copies were more plausible. Gilmore directed his proposal to President Richard E. Bjork, “as your office seemed the most appropriate to oversee such a project.”<sup>17</sup> He asserted that collecting the papers would be relatively easy once identified and that Historical Studies majors might be interested in helping to set up an archive based on such materials. The proposal was given some consideration as James Judy, Assistant to the President, asked Raymond Frankle, Assistant Director of Technical Services in the Library, to explore the possibility. Related correspondence in 1975 between Bil Stahl and William C. Wright, Associate Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, suggested that such a project would be quite involved and expensive. The idea appears to have gone no further.

In spring 1978,<sup>18</sup> Tom Ayers, Instructor in Folklore, taught a course entitled *Folklore and Folklife of New Jersey*. Ayers encouraged students to study folkways of the indigenous Piney culture and South Jersey culture. Students interviewed longtime community members and submitted reports of their findings, including supporting materials such as audiotapes, drawings, photographs and maps. The reports were preserved within the library. Topics included details of the life of Clifton Maddox, salt hay farming, decoy carving, military folktales, New Jersey garvey building, prohibition and drug lore, women’s folklore, construction of a Barnegat Bay sneakbox, and more.

Lydia Javins, employed in the library from 1996 to 2009, describes these reports as the protoplasm for what we now refer to as Special Collections. Not all projects had great significance, but there were exceptions. For one project, Mark J. Fletcher interviewed his neighbor John J. Lingelbach, a pig farmer who had owned a portion of the land that Stockton is built upon. The Fletcher report includes photographs of Lingelbach, Lake Fred, and various outflow conduits, along with a hand-drawn map of the properties purchased by the State of New Jersey in 1969 and 1970. It also includes a cassette tape preserving a seventeen-minute interview with Mr. Lingelbach who

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<sup>17</sup> William J. Gilmore-Lehn, “Proposal for Collecting Photostats of the papers of Richard Stockton,” June 12, 1974.

<sup>18</sup> See the article “Naturalist to Speak,” for mention of Tom Ayers as Instructor of Folklore and teacher for “Folklore and Folklife of New Jersey,” *Stockton Chronicle*, March 13, 1978, 3. Ayers transferred from Concordia College to Stockton in September 1972. He enrolled in a folklore course taught by Mary Ruth Warner, Instructor in Social Sciences. The course inspired both Ayers and Andy Pepper to form the Stockton Folklore Society and led to the Lake Fred Folk Festival (held in A-wing). When Ayers returned from graduate school, John Sinton, Professor of Environmental Studies, encouraged his involvement in Pinelands preservation projects and related topics. Sinton also urged Ayers to teach “Folklore and Folklife of New Jersey,” which he did. He taught the same course at Douglas College.

describes Lake Fred's history as a cranberry bog. The wonderful project is preserved in Special Collections and the oral history cassette has been converted to a digital file.

In fall 1982, a second proposal was advanced by Bill Gilmore to establish a South Jersey Archives to be housed within the library. Gilmore pointed out the weak holdings of South Jersey primary sources in the State's largest historical repositories, naming the New Jersey State Archives, the State Library, the New Jersey Historical Society, Rutgers and Princeton. He also noted the fragmented state of holdings by South Jersey historical societies. In contrast to Bil Stahl's earlier Pine Barrens Information Center, Gilmore hoped to focus on the six lower counties of South Jersey (he does not mention Burlington or Ocean counties). He envisioned an archive that would promote engagement with local history among students and academics. The archive did not materialize, presumably lacking institutional support.<sup>19</sup>

In 1988, Ann Corbett was hired to work in the Reference area. With an interest in local history, she began to identify Stockton materials and collections that dealt with South Jersey. She gathered together the student projects from *Folklore and Folklife of New Jersey*, including an earlier photographic essay "Costumes at Stockton," dating from fall 1975, which documents dressing patterns within the Stockton community. She collected these materials, the Pine Barren's vertical file begun by Bil Stahl, Stockton's complete run of the Pinelands Commission Minutes (1979-), and Pine Barrens focused books, some quite fragile, that had arrived as donations. Cheryl Olson, a student worker in Reference between 1988 and 1990, assisted Corbett in assembling the South Jersey collection and remembers that it was housed in a glass-front room on the main level of the library. Only Corbett and the Circulation Desk had a key to that room.

Not all books in the collection had to do with the Pinelands. Bill Bearden described the selection of titles as haphazard: some books *were* about the Pinelands, some about broader aspects of New Jersey, some were simply older imprints with fragile bindings. These books were housed in two sets of glass-door cabinets, painted white, in the glass-front room, formerly a small individual study room. The locked cabinets were repurposed display cases for minerals and may have been donated by Stockton's Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1991, Ann Corbett left Stockton.

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<sup>19</sup> See [William J. Gilmore-Lehn], "Proposal for the Establishment of a South Jersey Archives at Stockton State College," [1982], Pp. 6. Mentioned in Alan Delozier, *The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Archival Field Guide & Catalog, 1969-1994*, 10.

While her efforts had provided early steps toward an organized Special Collections focused on local history and culture, the resulting materials were not immediately deemed important.

In 1995, when the library was renovated and expanded, the Special Collections books were transferred from the small individual study room, which had been demolished during renovations, to a newly built room opposite the Circulation Desk (E-105), larger than the previous space, but not by much. Identified as “The Special Collections Room,” the door was kept locked, and Circulation still controlled the key. It was rarely used.

By 1996, when Lydia Javins was hired to work in Circulation, Special Collections had become an orphaned collection. She took an immediate interest and began reviewing and further organizing the collection. Librarian Barbara Ruth Campbell also took an interest, writing a one-page annual report for Special Collections for the year 1997–1998. She estimated that 272 titles were stored in the glass-door cases and expressed an interest in promoting the existence of Special Collections to area school teachers, genealogical societies, historical societies and Pine Barrens groups. Her plans for outreach were laudable, but it is not clear that significant action was completed.

### *The Development of Special Collections and Archives*

In July 2001, David Pinto became Director of the Library and brought to Stockton his interest in special collections; Gerry O’Sullivan, the previous director, had shown no interest in this area. With the assistance of Bill Bearden and Lydia Javins, Pinto began to rethink and reorganize both Special Collections and the Stockton Archives. By 2003, President Farris—who announced her retirement in February 2002, effective at the end of June 2003—had begun to send box after box of files from her office to the Archives, still situated within the Government Documents area. This compounded existing organizational and space problems. It became clear that the badly cluttered Government Documents Workroom (E-056) and the adjacent glass-walled room facing Lake Fred and D-wing (E-056b) had to be reorganized.

Lydia Javins began work in Government Documents in 2005, and upon the retirement of Frank Wagner, the Government Documents librarian, she took over management in September 2006. The unit was to be reimagined as the College Archives, Special Collections, and Government Documents (with the latter deemphasized). In 2006, Javins had the materials stored in the Special Collections room (E-105) opposite Circulation, brought down to the Government Documents area. The



cabinets for the Pine Barrens vertical file were moved at some earlier date: Bill Bearden remembers that, after 1995, the files were just outside the Government Documents workroom (E-056). They were in the vicinity of Roger Wood's personal book collection, housed in free-standing book cabinets also just outside the Government Documents workroom.

The workroom was a hodgepodge of piles of paper. David Pinto reported that the adjacent glass-walled room, slated to become the "Reading Room" if it could be decluttered, looked like the stateroom scene from the Marx Brothers' *A Night at the Opera!* Furniture was stacked to the ceiling. File cabinets were stacked one atop another, tables on tables, desks on desks. Locks were broken on many file cabinets; keys were missing on others. Various boxes were filled with junk cardboard, and stacks of miscellaneous papers filled the room. Painstakingly, the space was cleared. Special mention goes to Ron Fieros from Circulation for removing the dangerously stacked upper tier file cabinets and hauling them elsewhere and to Wayne Bagnell, from the Key Shop in Plant Management, who spent hours picking and replacing file cabinet locks so that Javins could get key control over the area.

Javins was joined in fall 2005 by Dick Colby, recently retired Professor Emeritus of Cell-Biology. Unpaid, Dick assumed the position of Volunteer College Archivist. He first located and organized for binding the minutes of the Board of Trustees. He then moved on to Middle States accreditation reports. He also organized materials from the Stockton Foundation and the Faculty Assembly, especially focusing on the Library Committee, which he had chaired for many years. Dick straightened out the map collection.

An important component of the Archives consisted of many locked stack shelves of Princeton file boxes, organized alphabetically, containing documents supplied or collected by/from each University school, degree program, student club, cultural organization, governance committee, and various projects and events. Javins may have initiated this branch of the collections but Colby rearranged and added extensively to it. For example, it includes detailed minutes of every meeting of the Nursing Program faculty.

By October 2005, a draft policy for the "Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Archives and Special Collections" was in circulation. The Introduction and Mission Statement are provided below:

## **Introduction**

Most materials in the Richard Stockton College Archives and Special Collections are open for use by the general public, Stockton College faculty, students and alumni. The Archives and Special Collections collects, organizes, preserves and provides access to collections related to all aspects of Stockton College and the general history and culture of southern New Jersey. The books in Special Collections cover many topics including New Jersey history and local genealogy. There are also rare books, publications by Stockton College and New Jersey authors, and other works focusing on regional politics, geography and environment. In order to properly ensure the long-term accessibility and preservation of these collections, they do not circulate, and must be used by researchers in the designated Reading Room in accordance with the regulations specified below.

## **Mission Statement**

- To collect, organize and preserve materials of enduring intellectual value in all formats created by administrators, alumni, benefactors, donors, faculty, staff, and students of Stockton College.
- To acquire, through donation or purchase, first or early editions of literary works, books written by New Jersey authors, material about Stockton College or books by and about people affiliated with the College, local, regional and state history, and materials on the Pinelands.
- To support research, teaching and the intellectual integrity of Stockton College publications by making available and encouraging the use of archival collections by the College community and the general public.
- To promote knowledge and understanding of the history, student life, academic goals and vision of Stockton College.
- Encourage public awareness and the importance of preserving materials relevant to Stockton College and the surrounding community.

Working together, Dick Colby and Lydia Javins brought order out of chaos. They were assisted by students from the Atlantic County Special Services School as paid TES staff, who, Javins reports, did an amazing amount of the clerical grunt work necessary to thoroughly reorganize. By 2007, the Archives were evolving into an entity of its own, no longer a step-child. Perhaps for the first time, one could distinguish among Special Collections, the Archives, and Government Documents, with

Special Collections and Archives taking the lead as the importance of paper-based Government Documents waned in the digital age. Javins remembers that in 2008, Director David Pinto came downstairs, inspected the department and declared, “We have an Archive!”

Under David Pinto’s leadership, and through his efforts and those of staff members and volunteers, the library began to reorganize and strategically develop Special Collections and the College Archives. For the first time, the library provided sustained attention to proper organization, staffing, and maintenance of collections.

### *Collections Arrive*

Starting in September 2006, when Javins took over, the Archives were processed and catalogued as quickly as possible. Whatever the library could afford to bind it had bound. Javins also turned her attention to incoming special collections. She organized the John Henry “Pop” Lloyd Committee Records which arrived starting in 2006. In November 2007, William W. Leap, a local historian from Runnemede, agreed to donate his local history collection to Special Collections. Javins and Dick Colby helped with the arrival of 1,300 titles in various formats: monographs, annuals, maps, atlases, newspaper and magazine articles. All pertained to South Jersey. Materials for a focused and significant Special Collections library had arrived.

Tom Kinsella, Professor of Literature, began actively working with Special Collections and Archives in 2009. Four of his students curated the exhibition *Pages from the Pines: Literature of the Pine Barrens & South Jersey* in February 2010. The exhibition showcased books borrowed from local historian David C. Munn (and later donated to Stockton). In fall 2010, another group of Kinsella’s students introduced the Leap collection to the Stockton community, curating the exhibition entitled *Exploring South Jersey through the William W. Leap Collection* (November 2010 – January 2011).

At this time the library had three exhibition cases—two small paired jewelry display cases and a larger metal-framed case. Kinsella and Professor David Roessel requested funds from ARHU, approved by Dean Robert Gregg, to construct five additional wooden and glass cases. These cases, with rough design specs offered by Kinsella, were built by master carpenter Bill Roessel and have been in constant use since this time. Additional student curated exhibitions became a regular feature of the library, many but not all completed by Kinsella’s students. Based on South Jersey materials

available in Special Collections, the exhibitions included *Writing a Revolution: The Literature of New Jersey's Revolutionary Past* (April – June 2011); *Contemplating Place: The Poetic Landscape of South Jersey* (November 2011 – January 2012); *Surveying South Jersey: Maps and South Jersey in the Nineteenth Century* (November 27, 2012 – January 20, 2013); *The Boling Settlement: Unearthing a Chapter of South Jersey History* (January 29 – May, 2013); and *Come See For Yourself: Special Selections from Special Collections* (April 22 – July 30, 2014). These exhibitions were tied to course work in the Literature and American Studies programs.

When Lydia Javins retired in 2009, she was succeeded by Louise Tillstrom. The two librarians had been friends since meeting on the night shift at the circulation desk in 1999. Over shared lunch breaks in the Government Documents workroom, Javins introduced Tillstrom to the collections and to the tasks necessary to maintain and improve them. In 2012, David Pinto, having retired as Library Director, took over from Dick Colby, returning as part-time, paid archivist and curator of Special Collections. In fall 2012, David C. Munn signed a letter of agreement with Stockton announcing his intention to donate his collection of South Jersey materials to Special Collections. At that time he donated approximately 300 volumes of South Jersey poetry and books authored by John McPhee.

Also in 2012, the old NJN studio in lower E-wing (E-035) was allocated to Special Collections. Employees from the Division of Facilities and Operations constructed a connecting doorway and shelving was installed in 2013 allowing the space to serve as the Special Collections stacks. During May 2013 through 2015, Tom Kinsella secured internal funding, through a 2020 grant, to support the South Jersey Culture & History Center as well as Stockton's growing Special Collections. The relationship between these two entities remains close. Library support in the grant, which totaled approximately \$20,000, allowed the large F. W. Beers *Topographical Map of Atlantic County* (1872) to be restored and archivally framed, provided support for the development of library exhibitions, and funded the retrofitting of locked stacks outside of Special Collections and Archives.

With the arrival of the David C. Munn collection in May 2014, Special Collections at Stockton was no longer an afterthought. Munn's 10,000 item donation, focused on South Jersey, was an important academic resource that needed to be curated and shared. Other smaller collections, such as the Buzby historic Chatsworth general store collection and the Budd Wilson collection, were

being donated as well. David Pinto was providing excellent, part-time service, but the need for a full-time special collections professional to curate and develop these collections was obvious.

Joe Toth, Director of the Library (2012 to 2021), restructured staffing positions and created the position of Special Collections librarian. In 2017, Heather Perez was hired for the position and, with the excellent assistance of Louise Tillstrom, students and other librarians, has built a flourishing department. To date, approximately 100 additional collections, large and small, have joined the Leap and Munn collections. In important ways, the earlier visions of Special Collections as a repository of materials related to the Pine Barrens and South Jersey have been realized. Today the department preserves and makes available books, images (in photograph, slide, negative and digital formats), historic ledgers and business records, letters, oral histories, ephemera, maps, and even eighteenth-century vellum deeds. Documents related to each of the eight southernmost counties of New Jersey come under the purview of Special Collections. An archivist position to work alongside Perez, slated to be hired in fall 2022 but placed on hold, would assure continued development of the University Archives as Stockton moves into its second 50 years. The department is well placed to explore unique opportunities offered in our digital age for preservation, dissemination, and study of local heritages. Our position in the South Jersey community has never been stronger and the potential for continued, innovative development is great.

Stockton's path to its current Special Collections and Archives has had false starts and periods of neglect, but over the years library staff and faculty, often assisted by students, have envisioned something well beyond a storage space for old records. Understanding the importance of place—of Stockton, the Pine Barrens, and South Jersey—they have collected, preserved and made available appropriate historical materials, and continue to do so. Yet Stockton, at heart, is an institution of teaching and learning. The worth of the collection extends beyond its use for traditional archival research. Special Collections and Archives hold the raw material for academic studies, podcasts, exhibitions, dramatizations, documentaries, social media postings and more—their usefulness is limited only by the creativity of the user. Think of Stockton Special Collections and Archives as an intellectual maker space that provides copious and rich materials to interested students, faculty and community members alike.

Tom Kinsella July 29, 2022

## Appendix

“A Preliminary Proposal for the Establishment of a Pine Barrens Information Center,” Wilson M. Stahl, February 12, 1974.

“Instructions on the treatment of materials being sent to the College Archives,” July 24, 1978.

“Facts about the Library,” Fall 1978.

“Proposal for the Establishment of a South Jersey Archives at Stockton State College,” [William Gilmore], 1982.

The importance and value of the Pine Barrens region of New Jersey has been steadily increasing in recent years. In the past the Pine Barrens was only of interest to the scientist because of its unique ecological and geological structure. However, with the increasing demand for land, more and more groups are turning their attention to this 1.3 million acres lying so near New York City and Philadelphia. Today there is such concern over the future of this vast wilderness region. As more groups are studying the Pine Barrens the need for ready access to information concerning them has become mandatory.

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A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A PINE BARRENS INFORMATION CENTER

because of the importance of the Pine Barrens expressed by many Stockton faculty and students. Also because Stockton is located in the Pine Barrens and is committed to preserving the environment of the community, it seems fitting that the college should serve as an information center on the Pine Barrens. There are two initial goals envisioned for the project. The first was the compilation of a bibliography of the literature on the Pine Barrens. To date no such bibliography has ever been produced. The second objective was to establish an outstanding collection of primary and secondary source materials on the Pine Barrens in the library to support research. Both of these goals are in the process of being achieved.

February 12, 1974

*Pine Barrens*  
*Bi. Cent.*  
*Barrens*

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In October, 1973 I started a project under the auspices of the library to find and record all of the literature on the New Jersey Pine Barrens. This project was instituted because of the high degree of interest in the Pine Barrens expressed by many Stockton faculty and students. Also because Stockton is located in the Pine Barrens and is committed to preserving the environment and serving the community, it seems fitting that the college should serve as an information center on the Pine Barrens. There are two initial goals envisioned for the project. The first was the compilation of a bibliography of the literature on the Pine Barrens. To date no such bibliography has ever been produced. The second objective was to establish an outstanding collection of primary and secondary source materials on the Pine Barrens in the library to support research. Both of these goals are in the process of being achieved.



From the beginning the project has received enthusiastic response both from the Stockton community and from interested scientists outside of the college. Because of my biology background the project originally was limited to the scientific aspects of the Pine Barrens. However, as my knowledge of the area grew, and because of the suggestion of some of the faculty and students, it was felt that the historical and cultural aspects of this region should also be included in the project. With these additions the scope of the project was expanded greatly. At present the bibliography file consists of over 1,000 items and new items are being added almost daily.

I am greatly indebted to a Stockton student, John Wessler, who has been working with me on this project from the beginning. He has received neither payment nor course credit for his extensive work. John is a native of the Pine Barrens region and has a great deal of interest in and knowledge about the Barrens. Without his help and knowledge the project would not be in the advanced stage that it is now.

While doing research for the present Pine Barrens project we have uncovered many startling facts. The most striking one is the number of people who have conducted research on the same area. In the course of locating sources of information we have found people in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York as well as New Jersey. Even within the state of New Jersey at present it is very difficult to find out what institutions, groups,

and individuals are doing research on the Pine Barrens. Much of this information is found out solely by word of mouth. This can even be seen in our own institution. Students doing projects on the Pine Barrens have gravitated to the library because of the project and have come to know other students who are doing similar research. In many cases the research of one student has been complimentary to that of another. During the 1973 fall term three students were doing research on the Pine Barrens under the NAMS program who would not have met and been able to exchange ideas if it were not for the existence of the project. Currently there are students doing research on the Pine Barrens under the NAMS, ENVL, ARHU and SOBOL programs. Without the existence of such a project, researchers in the area have no means of meeting and exchanging ideas with other researchers and also they run the risk of duplication of work. As we have contacted people about our project they have been more than willing to include us on their "information circuit". At present we are automatically receiving information on the Pine Barrens produced or located by the New Jersey State Museum, Jack McCormick and Assoc., Pinelands Environmental Council, Pine Barrens Conservationists, Herbert Smith and Assoc., and many of the local libraries. But there are still many more contacts to be made.

The second finding in the course of our research was that there is no one location where an extensive collection of materials can be readily obtained. It is hoped that our bibliography will help ease this problem because first it will be an annotated listing of only materials on the Pine Barrens and second it will cite locations for any items not held by Stockton. Many of the materials we have obtained through personal contacts would be very difficult for a researcher to obtain through normal information channels. We have found that many libraries in and around the state have a core of materials on the Pine Barrens, but none have really made a concerted effort to extend it beyond the readily obtainable materials. With the recent state legislation requiring environmental impact statements for projects involving the Pine Barrens the need for a Pine Barrens information center is greater than ever. In connection with this, there has never been a comprehensive work on the Pine Barrens produced. Hopefully, the establishment and implementation of this project will encourage the production of such a work.

The third finding, and probably the most immediate to Stockton, is the lack of research or concern over the Pine Barrens south of the Mullica River. Most of the research and all of the legislation and active conservationist groups are concerned only with the Pine Barrens in Burlington and Ocean counties. Yet almost 90% of

Atlantic County is Pine Barrens! Many people feel there is an urgent need for land-usage studies to be done on the South Jersey Pinelands, but these people need a unifying force. The only group in existence at present is the Atlantic County Citizens Council on the Environment which seems to be primarily interested in the shoreline. From all indications if an extensive land-use study were done for this area it would make people aware of the Southern Pine Barrens and an organization would then be established to insure the wise use of the region. Some progress is being made in this area by a group of Stockton students who are currently doing a land-use study of Galloway Township. Also the leaders of the newly-formed Stockton Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) have expressed a willingness to help with a land-use study of this region.

The fourth and last major finding is the lack of cultural studies on the Pine Barrens. Since World War II many of the unique cultural aspects of the area have disappeared. What little has been recorded has been based on a very few individuals. An example of this is the work written by John McPhee dealing mostly with the "Pineys" yet, most of his materials come from only two residents of the Pine Barrens. Many of the works written are of little use except to the geneologist. An active oral history program should be instituted. There are many older people around who have lived in or near the Pines all of

their lives, but they are becoming fewer and fewer. It is these people who are the primary resource material for many of the social scientists and researchers in the humanities. The Pines were one of the first American homes for many ethnic groups such as the Swedes, Germans, and Italians. With the new emphasis on ethnic studies the Pine Barrens has become important as a region to study the impact and assimilation of these groups on this country.

Based on these findings the people involved in the present Pine Barrens project feel that there is a need for Stockton to make a commitment as an institution, to the continuation and expansion of the Pine Barrens project. This is an area in which Stockton could make very significant contributions and gain recognition from many quarters. As it stands now the project consists of two people. If anything should happen to us the project would die in the files and Stockton would miss an opportunity to be of greater importance. At present we have a firm foundation upon which to build, but the two of us are stretched to the limits of our physical capabilities.

What we envision as the initial outcome of Stockton's full commitment to this project is an information clearinghouse on the Pine Barrens. To achieve this an identity which designates the project as being a part of the college is needed. Once the identity is established and publicized

many people interested in the Pine Barrens will gravitate to the college. The idea of the clearinghouse is one where all the sources of information are recorded and people are free to draw from it. It will not be simply a bibliography, but will also keep track of people and groups working in the area. This could easily be expanded to other types of information such as herbarium and zoological specimens, and photographs. One possibility would be to affiliate the project, either formally or informally, with various groups actively doing research on the Pine Barrens. Also, we may be able to seek support from the State Department of Conservation and Economic Development and the N.J. Historical Commission. We would also expect that as this clearinghouse became established graduate students and faculty from other colleges would come to make use of it and thus increase Stockton's prestige and value. A very appropriate and effective method of making people aware of the clearinghouse would be for Stockton to host a symposia on the Pine Barrens.

Besides being simply a clearinghouse, the project could also serve as a research coordinator and activator. In view of the clearinghouse's contacts with active researchers, people will be able to find out who is doing research in what area and how to contact them. This is a very beneficial aspect as it will lead to more productive research. Also, because the people involved in

the clearinghouse will have an overview of what has been done and is being done, they will be in a position to work to institute research in areas that have been neglected. One effective method of performing these functions would be the publication of the newsletter. This newsletter could function as a current awareness tool by broadcasting current research being done, new publications, and lectures scheduled as well as featuring original articles.

Obviously to fully implement this project is beyond the scope and capability of the library. It will require space, manpower and staff that the library is unable to provide. However, because of the interdisciplinary nature of this endeavor and the advantages it offers to the whole institution the library should not be expected to bear the full burden of sponsorship. The library has already committed itself to its share of the work. Now we are seeking support from the rest of the college.

While the institutional identity is at present the most important need, to get the project off to a good start there are additional needs. Briefly, these needs consist of an office, staff and funds. A small equipped office is needed to house the project. The bulk of the materials will be kept in their proper place, e.g. library, science lab, etc. However, the office will be required for collation of materials, correspondence, maintaining information files, etc. The staff requirement is one clerk-typist.

Already we are spending much of our time doing clerical tasks. While this staff position may at first appear to be a major investment, it would in fact be a "seed" investment. Once the project is established there will be many people devoting time to it that are not being paid to work on it. The funds required should not be that great and could probably best be thought of as "seed money". In general, the funds would be used for the initial publicity campaign, copying costs, travel allowances and publication of the newsletter. A detailed budget can be drawn up as required.

Until the project is firmly established I will be more than willing to take charge of setting it up and serving as its first coordinator. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the project, I feel that it should be run by a board of a representative from each of the programs involved with a rotating or elected coordinator. I have already spoken to faculty members in different programs who said they would participate in the project.

In summary, this project provides Stockton with the immediate benefit of program enrichment and publicity. Also, it will serve as an example of Stockton's commitment to protect the environment and serve the community in its broadest sense. And finally, it gives Stockton an opportunity to undertake a project of magnitude and lasting value that very few colleges have undertaken.

Wilson M. Stahl  
Reference Librarian

klb



STOCKTON STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY  
PUBLIC SERVICES

RECEIVED

JUL 25 1978

DATE: JULY 24, 1978

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

TO: All College Offices  
FROM: Bil Stahl *WMS*  
RE: Instructions on the treatment of materials being sent to the College Archives as per College Policy IV-60.1

The College Archives is a collection of most of the official records and many of the important informal records relating to the development and function of the college. The Archives Collection is located in room E-222 on the top floor of the Library. The Collection is housed in vertical file cabinets and generally arranged by issuing office. It is available any hour the Library is open. Access to the collection can be obtained by contacting any of the Public Services Librarians.

Because of the large volume of materials received by the College Archives we ask that you follow the procedures given below. If you have any questions contact Tom Larson (ext. 266) or myself (ext. 352).

1. Purge all files of unnecessary and duplicate items. College Policy IV-3 should be used as a guideline for materials to be sent. If you have questions concerning whether an item should be placed in Archives, feel free to discuss this with either Tom Larson or myself.
2. Materials that are confidential in nature (e.g. personnel evaluations) are not to be included.
3. Materials should be in file folders with appropriate headings. Materials within each folder should be chronologically arranged.
4. Each shipment of materials must include a complete list of the files included in the shipment.
5. The Documents staff (ext. 532) should be given advanced notice (at least one day) before materials are to arrive. This does not apply to items that arrive on a regularly scheduled basis (e.g. monthly reports) or single documents.
6. A letter acknowledging receipt of materials will be sent from the Documents office to the supplying office. If the materials are not added to the Archives the supplying office will have the unused materials returned to them.

7. Except in special circumstances, bulk shipments to the Archives should only be scheduled for January, June and August.

Tom Larson, the Public Services/Documents Librarian will be visiting each college office to answer questions relating to Archives and to establish shipment schedules. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

A brief list of some of the materials in Archives is listed below:

1. Board of Trustee Minutes
2. College Newspapers
3. College Bulletins
4. Master Schedules
5. Self Study Materials
6. Press Clippings
7. Academic Working Papers

jw

## STOCKTON STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

Facts About the Library

The library occupies three floors and contains approximately 48,000 square feet.

There are over 93,000 books, including some 8,300 reference volumes. In addition, the library has about 22,000 "books" in microform format.

The library subscribes to:

1,686 periodicals  
37 newspapers  
129 indexes

In addition, the library has access to all commercially available online data bases.

The library is a designated depository for selected U.S. Government documents, New Jersey documents, and all documents issued by Atlantic County. This document collection now contains over 84,000 items.

The library has:

14,040 reels of microfilm  
26,916 pieces of microfiche  
15,232 pieces of ultrafiche

The media collections contain:

1,082 audiotapes (cassettes)  
344 films (8mm)  
425 films (16mm)  
495 filmstrips  
79 maps (wall)  
445 multimedia kits  
1,898 phonorecords  
80,000 slides  
15 study prints  
1,369 transparencies  
225 videotapes

The library has 44 full-time employees; 14 of whom are professional librarians or media related specialists.

At any one time the library employs about 52 student workers.

During the academic year the library is open 7 days a week (86 hours a week).

Available for student use are:

- Typing rooms
- Portable calculators
- Darkroom
- Carrels for viewing and listening to media
- Microfilm readers and copiers
- Coin operated copying machines

There are 671 "public seats" in the library, including an assortment of carrels, plain tables, divided tables, circular tables, typing rooms, wired carrels, couches, lounge chairs, and seating for microfilm readers and printers. This represents 16.7% seating capacity for 4,000 FTE.

Approximately 400,000 people enter the library each year.

As part of its responsibility the library houses, maintains, and circulates audiovisual equipment for the classroom.

Beside the traditional library services, the library has a production area containing a graphics shop, a small audio studio and a TV studio. This media area assists faculty, staff and students in designing and producing audiovisual materials.

In cooperation with Atlantic County Public Library, the library houses the Atlantic Area Reference Service which provides telephone reference for local residents.

The library is a member of PALINET (Pennsylvania Area Library Network).

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH JERSEY ARCHIVES AT  
STOCKTON STATE COLLEGE

1. WEAK HOLDINGS OF SOUTH JERSEY PRIMARY SOURCES IN THE  
STATE'S MAJOR HISTORICAL REPOSITORIES

Having spent a month at the New Jersey State Archives, State Library and New Jersey Historical Society, I come away flabbergasted at the lack of historical documents concerning South Jersey. The State Library and Historical Society are so weak in South Jersey sources that clearly they have never even sought to collect the myriad primary materials left by individuals, businesses, communities or institutions from Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, and Atlantic counties. Rather than a small, forgotten slice of New Jersey geography, these 4 counties comprise a fifth of the state's land mass. Yet less than 2% of the manuscript holdings of the State Archives and allegedly statewide historical society pertain to South Jersey. No wonder so little is known about South Jersey; the official collecting agencies for the state have ignored this area.

One of the most telling instances of this is in a "statewide" microfilm project carried out by the State Archives some time ago. The object was to preserve the state's early newspapers by microfilming them, thereby making them more accessible to scholars, state agencies, private companies, etc. In general the project was a most laudable one. But when it came to South Jersey, something intervened, some mental block. As a result, none of the newspapers of the only two communities publishing pre-1850 papers were microfilmed, and this despite knowledge that at least one full run of each of several Bridgeton and Salem newspapers existed in county historical societies in South Jersey. Was it too far to travel? Does South Jersey history have less relevance than the history of other parts of the state?

This is the situation in the State of New Jersey's major agencies for the collection of historical materials, and in the leading statewide historical society. A similar situation prevails at the other two large repositories of historical primary and secondary sources: Rutgers, the State University, and Princeton, the major private university. Princeton has never aggressively sought South Jersey manuscript materials but its stance is a bit more defensible. As a private university it has no special obligation to collect South Jersey sources. Rutgers has, under Donald Sinclair (who recently retired), sought to build a statewide historical collection and has had some modest success in obtaining a small group of South Jersey materials. The university's press has long been a strong supporter of South Jersey studies.

The bottom line is that none of the major statewide repositories of historical primary source materials has specifically collected South Jersey sources. As a result there is no substantial collection of South Jersey primary sources in any major statewide repository.

## 2. FRAGMENTED HOLDINGS OF SOUTH JERSEY PRIMARY SOURCES IN SOUTH JERSEY HISTORICAL REPOSITORIES

Within South Jersey, Glassboro State College comes closest to being a regional archive for area materials. This is principally because of the Frank Stewart Collection of materials relating to Old Gloucester County, out of which Atlantic and Camden counties emerged. But the collection is mainly focused on the Philadelphia-Camden and northern Gloucester county area rather than on Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, and Atlantic counties.

Beyond Glassboro, South Jersey holdings are badly fragmented. Each county has an historical society but the hours are extremely limited and often non-existent during the winter months at the heart of the academic year, when students and other scholars need the use of the collections. Moreover, there is no South Jersey perspective in any of the four county historical societies. At the two of the four I am most familiar with (Atlantic and Cumberland counties), cataloguing is primitive and storage conditions quite poor, especially at the Cumberland County historical society. The collection at Salem is in better order and more adequately preserved but the staff attitude is widely perceived as being overly protective and almost resentful that someone is bothering them with a request to see materials. The best of the South Jersey historical societies is the Old Gloucester County Historical Society at Woodbury. There there is the beginnings of a South Jersey perspective among the staff if not in their manuscript collecting policies.

Below the county-wide level there is tremendous diversity among local historical societies. Most have very limited collections, however, and certainly none have the possibility of growing much beyond their present state. In sum, within South Jersey there is decent coverage of the Philadelphia-Upper Delaware River fringe area by Glassboro. Otherwise there is presently no South Jersey archives and little hope that one will ever evolve unless Stockton State college assumes this responsibility to help preserve and disseminate the cultural and historical heritage of the region.

## 3. BASIC CONCEPTIONS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STOCKTON SOUTH JERSEY ARCHIVES

Because of pitifully weak collection development by state-wide agencies, and understandably fragmented

collecting by local and county institutions, South Jersey history has languished. Few dissertations have been completed relying on South Jersey sources -- one book is underway which started as a dissertation proposal but was never completed. Presently there are many interesting studies of aspects of early South Jersey life but no solidly researched overview. There is no decent bibliography of South Jersey (or even New Jersey as a whole) secondary source historical studies, no guide to South Jersey manuscript collections state-wide, nor any guide to other primary sources.

The history of New Jersey, but especially of South Jersey, is in fairly bad shape. Its salvation till now has been the local historians, genealogists, and historical society people who have collected, organized, and published as time from other full-time jobs has permitted. The superb work of William McMahan is an exemplary case of dogged dedication to history. R. Craig Koedel's work is most distinguished.

What we need now, above all else, is some coordination of effort in furthering the study of South Jersey history. The present proposal seeks to persuade you to take steps establishing a South Jersey Archives here at Stockton State College. I have in mind no grandiose, abstract plan; rather it is a concrete request for institutional support, essentially for a very small designation of space. A room is needed, preferably located in the Stockton library. This room would be designated the South Jersey Archives and need be no larger than one of the small study rooms. The room which formerly housed the microform printers, located on the main floor of the library, in view of the reference staff desks and main circulation area, is the best choice. Any of the study rooms on the third floor with a lock on the door would also be suitable.

The initial phase of establishing a South Jersey Archives entails four steps:

- (1) designation of suitable space (preferably in the library)
- (2) moving the New Jersey Historical Special collection, established several years ago, into the S.J. Archives space. Presently this collection is partly kept in a locked bookcase on the main floor, partly in technical services (a recent purchase being processed), and partly in the stacks. Also, moving the rare book files of the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society.
- (3) moving several finding aids into the SJA space.

These are the products of Prof. Gilmore's 1982 New Jersey Historical Commission Grant Research, and 1981-82 Stockton State College R & PD Committee Grant research. They include:

- (a)--a card file of all primary sources local, county, and state records on microfilm available from the Mormon Church Genealogical Society. This file covers Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, Atlantic and Old Gloucester counties, and is more up to date than the State Archives listing.
  - (b)--a card file of South Jersey primary source historical materials held by other repositories including a complete canvass of the State Archives and State Library to 1865, a canvass of the New Jersey Historical Society's holdings, and an expanding file of holdings in other repositories in the region.
  - (c)-- a card file of South Jersey primary source historical materials to 1865 presently in private hands.
  - (d)-- a card file bibliography of secondary sources covering all aspects of South Jersey History and Cultural Life to the present. This includes all items relating to New Jersey from America: History and Life (all volumes and Comprehensive Dissertation Abstracts.
  - (e)--A card file bibliography of all New Jersey imprints from the collection of the American Antiquarian Society.
  - (f)--as well as various other finding aids photocopied from other repositories. These include a collection of guides to other collections (eg. to the Salem County Historical Society manuscript collection).
  - (g)--a small collection of technical pamphlets on archival management and maintenance from the American Association for State and Local History.
- (4) designation of an intern from among interested Historical Studies majors. The intern will assist Prof. Gilmore in organizing the South Jersey Archives, establishing a mailing list, and in completing plans for a newsletter.



None of these four steps constituting the initial phase of establishing a South Jersey Archives requires any expenditure of funds. Nor does the establishment of a South Jersey Archives assume any obligations beyond space allocation (and the indirect cost of lighting and heat) in the future. We expect that if any funds are requested for future projects (holdings, a conference on South Jersey History, etc.) they will be approved solely on their individual merits and not because the college has already supported an earlier phase of the South Jersey Archives.

#### 4. BENEFITS TO THE COLLEGE FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH JERSEY ARCHIVES

In the early 1982 the Historical Studies faculty unanimously committed the program the the promulgation of South Jersey history as a specific mission. To implement this objective the program approved the establishment of a seminar in South Jersey History to be offered each fall semester. As well, senior seminar will be offered by Prof. Gilmore these next two years. Traditionally several students desire to choose topics in local, regional or New Jersey state history. To date the lack of access to any guides offering help tracking down primary sources historical materials has been a severe drawback to Stockton senior history majors. Thus, the first benefit of a South Jersey Archives will be to Stockton History majors and students in other fields with an interest in historical topics in local communities, South Jersey history and culture, and primary source research skills.

Second, the South Jersey Archives will benefit the residents of the counties of South Jersey (Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, Atlantic, and Old Gloucester). Already, a single brief announcement of Gilmore's fall seminar, Forgotten Land: South Jersey to 1865, in the A.C. Press has yielded 8 specific inquiries from South Jersey residents wishing to take the course. Once established--within a few years--this should be a major attraction among the Historical Studies program's offerings.

Third, the South Jersey Archives will benefit all scholars, genealogists, and other students of South Jersey history. One of the central aims of the Archives is to serve as a clearinghouse for all research projects pertaining to South Jersey history. By building, in conjunction with the South Jersey seminar, senior projects, and internships, a basic series of detailed finding aids pertaining to South Jersey primary historical sources and secondary accounts, the South Jersey Archives will establish itself as an invaluable resource for all persons interested in South Jersey life in the past. Part of the mission of Stockton State College as an institution of higher education is to

serve as a resource for the South Jersey region. The Archives helps fulfill this function, complementing our present library's role as a regional documents center for current community and institutional life in the area.

Fourth, the South Jersey Archives contributes to the profession of history by assisting in the preservation of historical materials, by offering counsel to those with manuscript material in need of preservation and conservation, and by fostering interest in the history of a fascinating portion of the northeastern United States from the Native American period through modernization, and into the twentieth century.

Finally, the archives add a practical, laboratory dimension to the Historical Studies program. By identifying the existence of manuscript collections on topics of interest Stockton students will enhance their practical historical research skills. There is growing interest in public history with utilitarian employment possibilities. For instance, a student with a good grasp of research in local land records, an an historical perspective informed by actual research, is a very good prospect for positions in law firms, title search companies, and local government consulting work.

In sum, the establishment of a South Jersey Archive at Stockton State College will provide many concrete benefits and with minimal cost to the college. Moreover, once established, a regional clearinghouse for historical research offers several additional avenues of growth and service to residents of South Jersey. These include the encouragement of research, its wider dissemination, and assistance in the preservation of South Jersey's contribution to American historical understanding.

I look forward to your comments and suggestions on this proposal.

cc: Bill Daly, VP Academic Affairs  
Margaret Marsh, Chair, ARHU  
Research and Professional Development Committee  
Joseph Messick  
William McMahon  
R. Craig Koedel  
John Sinton