

**Railroads of New Jersey exhibition at Rutgers (10/27/2011 – 01/06/2012)**

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All Aboard! Railroads and New Jersey, 1812–1930 - exhibition opens Oct. 27th

Members of the Rutgers community and the general public are invited to the opening of the new Special Collections and University Archives exhibition, All Aboard! Railroads and New Jersey, 1812-1930, on Thursday October 27th.

The opening event will be held in the Pane Room, on the first floor of Alexander Library on Rutgers' College Ave. campus in New Brunswick, starting at 5:00 pm. The event is free and will feature a talk by Loretta Treese, the author of *Railroads of New Jersey* (2006). She will talk on the topic: "New Jersey and Railroads - Perfect Together." The talk will be followed by a light reception.

Railroads had a pervasive presence and an immense influence in New Jersey during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They were both a product and an agent of the process of modernization. Many problems related to railroads in that era would be familiar today as well: fare increases, service disruptions, accidents, noise, and government regulation. But aside from their many problems, railroads were a key element in the development of the state and the nation. Railroads likewise influenced visual imagery, music, and literature.

Using a variety of media, the 'All Aboard' exhibition will explore the experimental phase of railroads in New Jersey, the pioneering era under the Camden & Amboy Railroad — the state-sanctioned monopoly that affected politics for decades; and the lively polemical campaign between opponents of the monopoly and its defenders. Other themes highlighted in the exhibition are technology, immigration, suburbanization, and the development of agricultural, bedroom, and resort communities. Among the visual images represented will be Thomas Edison's 1903 motion picture, *The Great Train Robbery*, which was filmed in New Jersey.

The exhibition, *on display until January 6, 2012*, features rare broadsides, pamphlets, and images documenting the history of railroads in the Garden State from Rutgers University Libraries' collections. The exhibition coincides with the publication of *Railroads and New Jersey: A Bibliography of Contemporary Publications, 1812-1901* by the late Donald A. Sinclair and David J. Fowler (Rutgers University Libraries, 2011).

For more information on the exhibition or the opening event, please contact Special Collections exhibitions coordinator Fernanda Perrone at [hperrone@rulmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:hperrone@rulmail.rutgers.edu) or 732/932-7006, ex. 363.

To RSVP for the opening event send an email to [events@rulmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:events@rulmail.rutgers.edu) or call the Libraries Administration reception desk at 732/932-7505.

<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/scua/exhibitions/exhibitions.shtml>

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