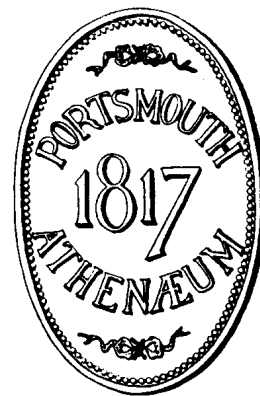


# The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Summer, 2006



## Inside:

### ***From the Stacks:***

Recent Accessions, Gifts & Acquisitions

### ***Upcoming Events***

July - September, 2006

### ***I Spy***

J.S. Blunt Painting featured in *Antiques and Fine Art* magazine

## Seacoast Literary Lions

The exhibition "Literary Lions: Celebrating 250 Years of Print in the Seacoast" is now on view in the Randall Gallery through October 28. The show highlights two dozen printers, publishers, editors, and authors with Seacoast connections, and the free 40-page catalog features brief biographies of more than 100 additional "Lions." J. Dennis Robinson, one of the main contributors to the catalog, writes that many of these lions were more lively than one might suspect:

"Portsmouth historian Charles Brewster described himself as the dullest man in Portsmouth, but not so with other Literary Lions.

Research on this project turned up some pretty wild tales. NH's first printer, for example, immigrated to Portsmouth after being thrown in a Boston jail for his seditious



**Daniel Fowle House**

pamphlet *Monster of Monsters*. A century later, 'Copperhead' editor Joshua Lane Foster was driven out of his Daniel Street office when a drunken mob trashed his anti-war pro-slavery newspaper *The States and Union*."

"After the death of her beloved fiancée, author Harriet Livermore rejected her wealthy family, shaved her head and roamed the world as an apocalyptic preacher who believed Native Americans were the lost tribe of Israel. Then there was Portsmouth boy Benjamin Penhallow Shillaber, who assumed the name 'Mrs. Partington' and became one of the most quoted 'women' in the 19th century. His colleague, James T. Fields, narrowly escaped drowning in the Piscataqua and went on to become the most famous publisher in America and editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*.

(continued on page 2)

## ***Quips for the Curioso***

**by Sherry Wood**

Tucked into the Athenæum's biography collection is a book that even a forensic pathologist could love. Amid the pages of *John Paul Jones, Commemorative at Annapolis, 1906* (reprinted in 1966 by the Government Printing Office) is a picture of the famed naval hero who lived in Portsmouth in 1777 and 1781. The photograph was taken 113 years after his death in Paris, after a team headed by Gen. Horace Porter located and dug up his body in a graveyard in the City of Light.

"I felt a deep sense of humiliation as an American citizen in realizing that our first and most fascinating naval hero had been lying for more than a century in an unknown and forgotten grave," Gen. Horace Porter wrote in his report to Congress.

Jones' mummified corpse -- preserved with

(continued on page 9)

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	<b>JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2006 FREE &amp; OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED</b>
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THROUGH

- OCT. 28 "Literary Lions: Celebrating 250 Years of Print in the Seacoast" exhibition on view. Tues., Thurs., and Sat. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- JULY 27 "The Celebration Not Partisan: Portsmouth and the 1856 Centennial of Printing in New Hampshire" — a lecture by Michael Baenen. 5:30 p.m., Rockingham Annex Ballroom \*
- AUGUST 12 Gallery talk by Bill Hamilton of Phineas Press: "Hand Type and Printing." 10:00 a.m., Athenæum Reading Room \*
- AUGUST 15 Annual Athenæum Pot-Luck Picnic for Proprietors and Subscribers. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. under the tent, Seacoast Science Center, Odiorne Point, with excellent views of the Piscataqua Sailing Association's Tuesday evening races!
- SEPT. 12 19th century mourning jewelry presentation by Bethany Groff, Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society during its 5:30 p.m. meeting, Tyco Visitors Center, Strawberry Banke \$10 for non-PDAS members
- SEPT. 14 Informal Athenæum Tea, hosted by Louise Dennett—a chance for old and new members and friends to gather and find common threads. 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room
- SEPT. 21 "Lively Boys! Lively Boys!" — a lecture relating to the Literary Lions exhibit by J. Dennis Robinson, 5:30 p.m., Rockingham Annex Ballroom \*

\* This lecture series is underwritten by the NH Humanities Council and co-sponsored by the Athenæum and the Portsmouth Historical Society in conjunction with the exhibit "Literary Lions."

**Space for Most Athenæum Events is Limited; Please Call 431-2538, ext. 2, for Reservations**

**"Literary Lions," cont.**

Fields married his soul mate, Portsmouth protagonist blows up a 'decayed' town of Portsmouth essayist Annie Adams, who after stagecoach, gets knocked out with where he eulogized Aldrich at the Music Hall in 1908. Then Twain (who had first been discovered by B.P. Shillaber) described Aldrich's wife Lillian in his private journal as a 'strange and vanity-devoured, detestable woman!' Portsmouth was, and remains today, a lively and incestuous haven for writers who, if you peek below the surface, are rarely dull."

*"An elderly Mark Twain came to the 'decayed' town of Portsmouth where he eulogized Aldrich at the Music Hall in 1908."*

"Howells described *The Story of a Bad Boy* by Thomas Bailey Aldrich as the first truly American novel. In the novel, Aldrich's young

dynamite and shoots a friend in the throat with an arrow. Aldrich later replaced Howells and Fields as editor of *The Atlantic*. An elderly Mark Twain came to the

detestable woman!' Portsmouth was, and remains today, a lively and incestuous haven for writers who, if you peek below the surface, are rarely dull."

## CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW  
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS,  
AND FRIENDS

**Congratulations to the following new Proprietors previously introduced in the Newsletter:**

*Evelyn S. Lamprey*

**Welcome to new Subscribers. . .**

**Ann E. Beattie**, a freelance marketing consultant who has developed a keen interest in the Isles of Shoals and is currently the Shoals Historian for the Seacoast Science Center. Ann lives in Stratham

**Charles Gray Bickford**, a retired professor of literature who has served as Director of the NH Humanities Council and President of Strawberry Banke and is interested in pursuing the “scholarly life” at the Athenæum. He and wife Barbara live in Portsmouth.

**Gary Wayne Dozier**, Planetarium Engineer at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord, who is passionate about exploring, learning, and sharing knowledge. He and his wife, Joyce, live in Hampton Falls.

**Thomas Andrew Holbrook**, familiar to the Athenæum community as the owner of RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth. Tom and wife, Stephanie, live in Portsmouth.

**Henry Marshall Sanders**, a former First Selectman for the town of Darien, Connecticut, who has a strong interest in Portsmouth, its people, its history, and its future. Henry and his wife, Shirley, live in Portsmouth.

**Welcome and Thanks to These New and Renewed Friends of the Athenæum:**

*Nick Baker  
Margaret Betts  
E. Thayer Drake*

*Barbara Gregg  
Paul Hughes  
Philip H. Kendrick*

*E. W. McNitt  
Keith Searles  
James & Michelle Swisher*



## And Then There's Our Most Recent Priceless Edition . . .

On May 3rd, Portsmouth Athenæum Archivist Susan Stowe Kindstedt gave birth to a bouncing baby girl, Amelia Elizabeth. As you can see, mother and baby are doing quite well. All of us at the Athenæum send our warmest congratulations to the new parents, Susan and her husband, Jason. While Susan is out on maternity leave, Courtney MacLachlan (recently the librarian at Strawberry Banke) will be filling in on weekends and other times in the Research Library.

Welcome Courtney (and Amelia)!

## FROM THE STACKS

## RECENT ACCESSIONS, GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

### ■ ■ GIFTS OF BOOKS HAVE BEEN GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

**Elizabeth Aykroyd:** Olwen H. Hufton, *The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe*

**Michael Baenen:** *Dictionary of American Regional English*; John Bierman, *Dark Safari: The Life Behind the Legend of Henry Morton Stanley*; Thomas Pakenham, *The Scramble for Africa 1876-1912*; Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*; F.A. Worsley, *Endurance: an Epic Polar Adventure*; Charles B. Officer, *A Fabulous Kingdom: The Exploration of the Arctic*; Susan Solomon, *The Coldest March: Scott's Fatal Antarctic Exploration*; Sara Wheeler Cherry, *A Life of Apsley Cherry-Gerrard*; Thomas Heffernan, *Mutiny on the Globe: The Fatal Voyage of Samuel Comstock*; Tom Chaffin, *Pathfinder: John Charles Fremont and the Course of American Empire*; Tom Pocock, *Edgar Vincent Nelson: Love & Fame*; Laurence Bergreen, *Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe*; David Roberts, *Shipwrecked on the Top of the World*; Hugh Thomas, *Rivers of Gold*; John R. Gribbin, *FitzRoy: The Remarkable Story of Darwin's Captain*; *Reporting Vietnam*; Simon Schama, *A History of Britain*; Fawn McKay Brodie, *The Devil Drives: A Life of Sir Richard Burton*; Leland Lovette, *Naval Customs, Traditions, and Usage*; Thomas Pakenham, *The Boer War*; Leonard F. Guttridge, *Icebound: The Jeannette Expedition's Quest for the North Pole*; Peter Booth, *Wiley Yankees in the Land of the Gods: Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan*; Joan Didion, *The Year of Magical Thinking*; David Paul Nord, *Faith in Reading: Religious Publishing and the Birth of Mass Media in America*; James Raven, *London Booksellers and American Customers*; Jane Lancaster, *Inquire Within: A Social History of the Providence Athenæum since 1753*; Henry S. F. Cooper, ed., *New York Society Library: 250 Years*; Maya Jasanoff, *Edge of Empire*; *Portsmouth Almanac and Rockingham County Handbook 1856*

**Barbara Benn:** CD of research on the John Langdon House, Portsmouth

**Molly Bolster:** "The Piscataqua Gundalow" by Courtney MacLachlan in *Maritime Life and Traditions*, Spring, 2006

**Richard Candee** [author]: *Building Portsmouth* (2006 ed.); *Outline History State Work of the Y.M.C.A. of N.H. 1852-1908*

**Ronan Donohoe:** David Monogan, *Jaywalking With the Irish*; Frank McCourt, *Teacher Man*

**Robert Dunn** [author]: *The Other Side of Sorrow*

**Nancy Goss:** 10 books on Portsmouth history

**Nancy Bertoglii** [author]: *70 Martine Cottage Road, Portsmouth, NH*

**Mary Lou Hodgdon:** Amy Tan, *Saving Fish From Drowning*

**Margaret Whyte Kelly** [author]: *Sarah – Her Story: the Life of Sarah Parker Rice Goodwin*

**Herb & Ellen Kingsbury:** Peter Pouncey, *Rules for Old Men Waiting*; Martin Windrow *The Last Valley: Dien Bien Phu and the French Defeat in Vietnam*

**Christie Labrie, Rose Labrie:** – various pieces of ephemera and children's books

## **GIFTS OF BOOKS, cont.**

**Carolyn Marvin:** Maxine Sitts, ed., *Handbook for Digital Projects*; Larry Ruttman, *Voices of Brookline Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco*; Richard Reinhardt, *Four Books, 300 Dollars, and a Dream: An Illustrated History of the First 150 years of the Mechanic's Institute*

**National Gallery (GB):** *Americans in Paris, 1860-1900*

**Jane Porter:** *Memorial Minutes: Phillips Exeter Academy, 1936-2002*; Ephemera relating to Moe's Italian Subs

**Peter Randall** [author & publisher]: *New Hampshire Then & Now*; [publisher], Jane Molloy Porter, *Friendly Edifices: Piscataqua Lighthouses and Other Aids to Navigation 1771- 1939*; John R. H. Kimball, *Disasters &c.: the Maritime World of Marblehead*

**J. Dennis Robinson** [author]: *Lord Baltimore: Founders of Maryland*; Paul Jeffers, *Burning Cold: The Cruise Ship Prinsendam and the Greatest Sea Rescue of All Time*

**Elaine M. Tefft:** Bedford Historical Society, *History of Bedford, NH 1737-1971*

**Joyce & Kenneth Volk:** H.W. Brands, *Andrew Jackson, His Life and Times*; William B. Styple, *Generals in Bronze: Interviewing the Commanders of the Civil War*

**Ursula & Philip Wright:** W. Jeffrey Bolster, *Cross-Grained & Wily Waters*

## **NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS:**

*100 Maps: The Science, Art, and Politics of Cartography Throughout History*

*Vital Records of Wells, Maine 1619-1950*

*The Oxford Companion to the Photograph*

*America and the Sea: Treasures from the Collections of Mystic Seaport*

*The Scrapbook in American Life*

*The World of John Winthrop: Essays on England and New England, 1588-1649*

Alexander, William: *The \$64 Tomato*

Armstrong, Karen: *The Great Transformation: The Beginnings of our Religious Traditions*

Ball, Philip: *The Devil's Doctor: Paracelsus and the World of Renaissance Magic and Science*

Barber, Peter, ed.: *The Map Book*

Basbanes, Nicholas A.: *Every Book Its Reader: The Power of the Printed Word to Stir the World*

Ben-Ami, Shlomo: *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy*

Brakebill, Tina Stewart: *"Circumstances are Destiny:" An Antebellum Woman's Struggle to Define Sphere*

Braver, Gary: *Flashback*

Budiansky, Stephen: *Her Majesty's Spymaster: Elizabeth I, Sir Francis Walsingham, and the Birth of Modern Espionage*

Carey, Peter: *Theft: A Love Story*

Carr, C.: *Our Town: A Heartland Lynching, a Haunted Town, and the Hidden History of White America*

Claxton, Melvin: *Uncommon Valor*

Couto, Mia [translated by David Brookshaw]: *Sleepwalking Land*

Dana, Richard Henry: *The Seaman's Friend: Containing a Treatise on Practical Seamanship*

Dennett, Daniel Clement: *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon*

Duncombe, Stephen: *The Bobbed-Haired Bandit*

Elliott, John Huxtable: *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America 1492-1830*

Evans, Nancy Goynes: *Windsor Chair-making in America: From Craft Shop to Consumer*

## NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS, cont:

- Fagan, Brian M.: *Fish on Friday: Feasting, Fasting, and the Discovery of the New World*
- Harrington, Donald: *The Pitcher Shower*
- Hessler, Peter: *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China's Past and Present*
- Institute of Nautical Archaeology: *Beneath the Seven Seas: Adventures with the Institute of Nautical Archaeology*
- King, Ross: *The Judgment of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade that Gave the World Impressionism*
- Kuh, Katherine: *My Love Affair with Modern Art*
- Kurlansky, Mark: *The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell*
- Legler, Gretchen: *On the Ice: an Intimate Portrait of Life at McMurdo Station, Antarctica*
- Levitt, Steven D.: *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*
- Library of Congress: *My Dear President: Letters Between Presidents and their Wives*
- Lovell, Margaretts M.: *Art in a Season of Revolution: Painters, Artisans, and Patrons in Early America*
- McCall Smith, Alexander: *Blue Shoes and Happiness*
- McPhee, John: *Uncommon Carriers*
- Mitchell, David: *Black Swan Green: a Novel*
- Monaghan, E. Jennifer: *Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America*
- Morgan, Jude: *Passion*
- Mosley, Walter: *Fortunate Son*
- Mumford, Steve: *Baghdad Journal: an Artist in Occupied Iraq*
- Pavord, Anna: *The Naming of Names: The Search for Order in the World of Plants*
- Pestana, Carla Gardina: *The English Atlantic in the Age of Revolution 1640-1661*
- Peterson, Clarence Stewart: *Known Military Dead during the American Revolutionary War*
- Philbrook, Nathaniel: *Mayflower: a Story of Courage, Community, and War*
- Polk, William Roe: *The Birth of America: from Before Columbus to the Revolution*
- Pollan, Michael: *The Omnivore's Dilemma: a Natural History of Four Meals*
- Pybus, Cassandra: *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution*
- Reznikoff, Charles: *The Poems of Charles Reznikoff*
- Richelson, Jeffrey: *Spying on the Bomb: American Nuclear Intelligence from Nazi Germany to Iran and North Korea*
- Roth, Philip: *everyman*
- Rowan, Edward L.: *Cass Street Stories: One Street's Contribution to American History*
- Schama, Simon: *Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves, and the American Revolution*
- Schama, Simon: *A History of Britain: the Fate of Empire 1776-2000*
- Schneider, Paul: *Brutal Journey: the Epic Story of the First Crossing of North America*
- Severa, Joan L.: *My Likeness Taken: Daguerreian Portraits in America*
- Starbuck, David R.: *The Archaeology of New Hampshire: Eploring 10,000 Years in the Granite State*
- Taylor, Alan: *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution*
- Thiesen, William H.: *Industrializing American Shipbuilding: the Transformation of Ship Design and Construction 1820-1920*

Updike, John: *Still Looking: Essays on American Art*  
Wade, Nicholas: *Before Dawn: Recovering the Lost History of Our Ancestors*  
Wilson, Harriet E.: *Our Nig, or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black*  
Worrall, Simon: *The Poet and the Murderer: a True Story of Literary Crime and the Art of Forgery*

## **GIFTS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FROM *Elizabeth Larson*:**

*Dover Village Directory* ,1848  
*Tax List for New Castle*, 1727  
*Record Book of the Gilman Blues*, 1799  
*Mss. Portsmouth commonplace book*, ca. 1828  
*Catalogue of Books in the Portsmouth Athenaeum*, 1833  
*The Homes and Haunts of Our Elder Poets*  
*Illustrated Memories of Portsmouth, York, YorkHarbor, YorkBeach, Kittery, Isles of Shoals, New Castle and Rye*  
*Loss of the U:S.S. "Thresher"*  
*Old Ships of New England*  
*Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*  
*The Study and Practice of the Law*  
*Three Heroines of New England Romances*  
Dr. Akenside: *The Pleasures of Imagination. A Poem*  
Ballou, Hosea: *Notes on the parables of the New Testament*  
Bartlett, John H.: *Talk on Wills*  
Bartlett, Joseph: *Aphorisms on Man, Manners, Principles & Things*  
Boucher, P.H.: *Institution au Droit Maritime*  
Brewster, Edith Gilman: *Some Three Hundred Years ago*  
Buffler, Esther: *String of Beads*  
Burroughs, Rev. Charles: *The Poetry of Religion, and other Poems*  
Carson, Rachel: *Silent Spring*  
Cleirec: *Les Us, et Coustumes de la Mer*  
Cutts, Mary: *The Autobiography of a Clock, and other Poems*  
Decatur, Stephen: *Private Affairs of George Washington*  
Halthazard-Marie Emerigon: *Traite des assurance et des contrats ...*  
Frankel, Moses M.: *Law of Seashore, Waters and Water Courses*  
Friends of the South Hampton, N .H.: *"The Ruth Blay Story," (typescript ) 1971*  
Greenleaf, Abner: *An Address delivered before the Society of Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of the State of New Hampshire*  
Head, James H.: *Jewels from the Quarry of the Mind*  
James, George Wharton: *Indian Basketry: How to Make Indian and Other Baskets*  
Lavo, Carl: *Back From the Deep: The Strange Story of the Sister Ships Squalus and Sculpin*  
Marine Fisheries Commission: *A Biological Survey of Great Bay, New Hampshire*

(continued on back cover)

# GENEROSITY

## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS GIFTS

### **Gifts in memory of Rita Conant:**

*Mr. & Mrs. Deane Avery  
Jeanne, J.P., & Matt Benitez  
& Dr. Fitzgerald  
Rose Eppard  
Jane Porter  
Robin Silva  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wagner*

### **Support for the Sanderson Poetry Series**

*Nancy Hill  
RiverRun Bookstore  
Eléonore Sanderson*

### **Arts Athenæum:**

*Ronald Bourgeault*

### **Book Fund:**

*Ronan Donohoe*

### **Unrestricted:**

*Daniel M. Hughes*

### **Endowment:**

*Philip McDonough*

### **Annual Appeal:**

*John D. Aber  
Richard G. Adams  
Stephen R. Alie  
Alan Amman  
R. Rhett Austell  
Michael Baenen  
Susan S. Bank  
Patricia Barbour  
Joan D. Barondes  
Evelyn S. Barrett  
Christopher Bartlett  
Ferris Bavicchi  
Robert Begiebing  
Betty Morton Belcher  
Larry & Susan Benedict  
Peter Bergh & Janet Prince  
Karen Bouffard  
Evangeline Brawn  
John Brewster  
Frances Browne  
Laurence Bussey  
Mary Cabrera  
John Campbell  
Richard Candee  
Margaret Scott Carter*

*Elizabeth Cavanagh  
John Chagnon  
Clark & Laurie Chandler  
Deborah M. Child  
Joan Christy  
Michael Chubrich  
Carol Cole  
Richard A. Cooper  
Gloria Costello  
Elizabeth Critchley  
Irene Crosby  
Mike Dater  
Stanley O. Davis  
Judy Day  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee D. Day  
Mary Decatur  
Patricia DeGrandpre  
Armistead Dennett  
Gail Drobnik  
David Ellis  
Roland Emerton  
Barbara Englebach  
David & Elria Ewing  
Eileen Foley  
Lois Fonda  
Eleanor Johnston Ford  
Steven Fowle  
Jameson French  
George R. Friese  
David Goodwillie  
Nancy Goss  
Frank Graf  
Neil A. Graves  
Frederick S. Gray, Jr.  
Sarah Hamill  
Joseph W. Hammond  
Margaret Harrington  
Mrs. Justin D. Hartford  
Ronda Baker Hill  
Angelynne Hinson  
Mary Lou Hodgdon  
Margaret F. Hodges  
Daniel M. Hughes  
Simeon P. Jarvis  
Paul Peter Jesep  
Michael Kenslea  
Norman F. C. Kent  
Elaine S. Krasker  
James Labrie  
Elizabeth B. Larsen  
Carol Lincoln  
William Littlefield  
Susan Lohse  
Wendy Lull*

*Dana Walker Mayo  
Marcia McCormack  
Janet McCracken  
Garvin McCurdy  
Robert Mennel  
Barbara W. Millar  
Sally H. Mirsky  
Claudia Morner  
Kathleen Murray  
G. Patrick Nerbonne  
Jane Nylander  
Joe B. Parks  
John Payzant  
Katherine Salter Pinneo  
Elsbeth Pope  
Sherman Pridham  
Thomas Quinn  
Peter Randall  
Barbara Renner  
Anne Reynolds  
Peter Peirce Rice  
Donald P. Ricklefs  
Lee Roberts  
Thomas Hall Roberts  
Neil Rolde  
Carol Rymes  
Jeffrey Salisbury  
Joan Sanborn  
Eléonore Sanderson  
John Schermerhorn  
Regina Schirmer  
Robert A. Shaines  
James A. Shanley  
Andrew Sherburne  
Victoria Stanhope  
Alanson Sturgis, Jr.  
Alvah Sulloway  
Amy Sutton  
Barbara K. Sweet  
Louise H. Tallman  
David A. Taylor  
Richard Toomey  
Eleanor Johnson Tracy  
Joyce & Kenneth Volk  
Joan Waldron  
Jeff Warner  
Frances Warrick  
Thomas Watson  
Rodney Watterson  
Paul Young  
Susan Zuckert*

# I spy. . .

by Deborah M. Child

Holding pride of place above the mantelpiece in the Sawtelle Reading Room, this painting is a masterpiece work by the Portsmouth-born John Samuel Blunt (1798-1835). It is a view looking east across Noble's Wharf over the Piscataqua River towards the shipyards. However, it is more than a topographical rendering as the artist has deftly captured the serene appearance of water under an early morning rising sun. This canvas will be featured in an upcoming article on Blunt's marine paintings to be published in the upcoming August/September issue of *Antiques and Fine Art* magazine — [www.antiquesandfineart.com](http://www.antiquesandfineart.com).

The author, Deborah M. Child, requests that anyone

who owns other historical views of the Piscataqua River, its docks or waterfront structures, contact her directly. She's also interested in any primary documentation about Blunt's grandfather, John Blunt (1734-1798), the pilot on Washington's Delaware crossing who in later years apparently provided ferry service to the mainland from Blunt Island — the family's island across from the present day Wentworth Hotel.



## 'I SPY'

View of Piscataqua River from Noble's Wharf  
Oil on canvas. H: 26 inches; W: 33 inches  
Signed and dated lower left "J. S. Blunt 1824"  
Collection of the Portsmouth Athenæum  
C06.509  
Gift of Joseph and Jean Sawtelle

For those of you counting, since I commenced a catalogue raisonné on this artist in 2005, I now have 250 entries including paintings owned by descendants of the artist residing as far away as California.

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## ***Quips for the Curioso, cont.***

alcohol and buried in a lead-lined coffin—was discovered March 31, 1905, in the Saint Louis cemetery "for foreign Protestants" near the Porte Saint Martin.

A long list of officials was involved in verifying that the coffin contained the body of John Paul Jones, who died at 45. Gen. Horace described the scrutiny as "the most scientific, painstaking and conscientious examination conceivable."

The forensic team procured two copies of a bust of Jones by the famous sculptor Houdon (a copy of this same sculpture is in the John Paul Jones house in Portsmouth) and took measurements for comparison to the corpse.

"Doctor Georges Papillault, with his delicate instruments, made all the necessary anthropometric measurements of the head, features, length of body, etc. and found them so entirely exact as to be convinced that the busts were made from the subject before him," the general reported.

There were other clues. The body was dressed in a ruffled linen shirt of "very fine workmanship." That corresponded to the "Admiral's fondness for dress," Porter wrote.

"To our intense surprise," Gen. Porter reported, "the body was marvelously well preserved, all the

flesh remaining intact, very slightly shrunken, and of a grayish brown or tan color."

During their autopsy, the physicians found indications that Jones had suffered from Bright's Disease, a kidney disorder. According to the eminent microscopist Dr. V. Cornil, the cause of death was "interstitial nephritis with fibrous degeneracy of the glomeruli of Malpighi."

Kidney failure would explain the symptoms Jones experienced, according to an account written by Col. Samuel Blackden of North Carolina, an intimate friend, witness of the admiral's will and pallbearer at his funeral.

"A few days before his death his legs began to swell, which proceeded upward to his body, so that for two days before his decease he could not button his waistcoat and had great difficulty in breathing."

The discovery of Jones' body came at a time when President Theodore Roosevelt was ruthlessly pursuing his dream of making America an international power. The body of John Paul Jones was just what the doctor, or rather, the president, ordered.

It was brought back to America with great pomp and circumstance and installed in the crypt of the U.S. Naval Academy chapel in Annapolis, Md., on April 24, 1906.

## **GIFTS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FROM *Elizabeth Larson, cont.:***

Moses, Thomas P.: *A Sketch of the Life of Thomas P. Moses, Teacher of Music...*, Whittem, 1850  
*Report on Portsmouth, NH, National Board of Fire Underwriters, March 1936*  
*Report on Portsmouth, NH, National Board of Fire Underwriters, March 1959*

New Hampshire Planning and Development Commission: *Made in New Hampshire: A directory of Manufactured Products, 1944*

Ogburn, Dorothy: *Shake-speare's Phoenix and Turtle*

Schuchhardt, Dr. C.: *Schliemann's Excavations: an Archaeological and Historical Study*

Selwyn, William: *An Abridgement of the Law of Nisi Prius*

Shillaber, B. P.: *Rhymes with Reason and Without*

Stuart, James and Revette, Nicholas: *The Antiquities of Athens and other Monuments of Greece*

Supreme Court of U.S.: *The State of Vermont, Oratrix vs. The State of New Hampshire, Defendant, (boundary dispute), 1936.*

Taylor, J.: *The Life of Our Blessed Saviour*

Valin, Rene-Josue: *Nouveau commentaire sur l'ordonnance de la marine...*

Wasson, George S.: *Cap 'n Simeon's Store*

Withey, William H.: *The Rockingham: The House that Jones Built*

Wright, Albert Haxen: *The Sullivan Expedition of 1779*

30 pieces of ephemera

The Portsmouth Athenæum  
9 Market Square  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

[www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org)

### **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT: *WENDY LULL*

VICE-PRESIDENT: *MICHAEL BAENEN*

TREASURER: *MICHAEL KENSLEA*

SECRETARY: *GAIL DROBNYK*

PAST PRESIDENT: *MICHAEL E. CHUBRICH*

*JEFFREY BOLSTER*

*PATRICIA DEGRANDPRE*

*RONAN DONOHOE*

*ROSE EPPARD*

*WILLIAM PURINTON*

*CARVELL TEFFT*

*A. ROBERT THORESEN*

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