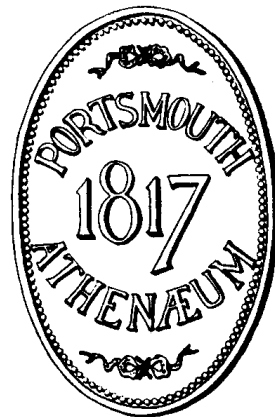


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Fall, 2009



Annual Proprietors Art Show Opens Dec. 4

The 14th Annual Proprietors Art Show, a real highlight of the Athenæum's yearly events calendar, opens concurrently with the Holiday Festivities on December 4th, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The show, which runs through January 13th, is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Submissions are limited to the original work of proprietors and their spouses or domestic partners, and may be in virtually any medium including painting, sculpture, photography, woodwork, needlework, ceramics, metalwork, floral design, and prints. All pieces other than floral designs should be delivered to the Randall Gallery on Saturday, November 28th between 10:00 and 4:00 p.m. Any work to be hung should be framed and ready for hanging. If submitting a 3-D piece, please supply a pedestal if at all possible. Entries are limited to two per person, of which at least one will be displayed, both if space permits.

Please note there will be no insurance coverage or gallery sitters for this show. Work is exhibited at the artist's own risk. Prices will not be listed with the titles; any inquiries about their purchase will be directed to the artist. All work should be reclaimed Saturday, January 16 between 10:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Sanderson's Barn New Fall Book Sale Venue

Preparations are well underway for the annual Athenæum Book Sale, Oct. 3rd from 9:00 a.m. til noon, at the Sanderson's barn at 248 Spinney Road, Portsmouth. Used books can be dropped at the Athenæum or taken to the barn Sept. 22 or 29 (call 431-2538 for times and directions). And please consider helping out, either by donating or volunteering to transport or sort books. We're also looking for musical accompaniment during the sale and for someone to run a Bake Sale. Questions? Contact Carol Lincoln (carol.lincoln@comcast.net)

Inside:

Welcome and Thanks

The Value of \$8.67

Upcoming Events

September — December, 2009

Okay, then. . . How About This One?

Congratulations and thanks to Buzzy Dodge, Anne Jardim, and Gerald Kelly for astutely identifying the basket illustrated in our last newsletter as a tool used in Central and South America for removing poisonous liquid from the manihot or cassava plant to produce tapioca. Hopefully another reader will recognize the artifact shown below—a wood and steel object with engraved floral decoration on sides



of the metal part, and a spring which turns a small wheel when depressed. An elaborate key on one end turns, but its function is unknown. This object has been linked with the 'brass lock' given in 1821 by Captain Spence (probably Captain Robert Spence, d. 1826). The Art and Artifacts Committee would be grateful for any leads which might help identify the origin of this item. Contact Elizabeth Aykroyd, Curator, at athartifacts@portsmouthathenaeum.org.

Events and News for Proprietors, Subscribers, & Friends of the Portsmouth Athenæum

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, 2009 - DECEMBER, 2009
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

THROUGH

- OCT. 31 "Selections from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art" remains on view, Randall Gallery.
- SEPT. 8, 15, 22, 29 Book drop-off for the Athenæum book sale at the Sanderson Barn. Call 431-2538 for times and directions.
- SEPT. 27 Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival presents cameo concert performances by various artists. Free and open to the public. 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- OCT. 1 In a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, Susan Strickler hosts a special behind-the-scenes session on Arts of the Piscataqua at The Currier Museum of Art. 6:00 p.m., Currier Museum Of Art, Manchester. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- OCT. 2 "Art 'Round Town," showcasing works from the Ogunquit Museum of American Arts, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- OCT. 3 Annual Athenæum Book Sale. Sanderson Barn, 248 Spinney Road, Portsmouth.
- NOV. 5 Co-sponsored by the Athenæum and the Seacoast Science Center, noted science and natural history writer, Todd McLeish, gives an illustrated talk about his new book, *Basking With Humpbacks: Tracking Threatened Marine Life in New England Waters*. Seacoast Science Center; call 436-8043 for time.
- NOV. 10 In a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, Athenæum Curator Elizabeth Aykroyd gives a talk on Paintings from the Benning Wentworth House, many of which are now on exhibit at the Athenæum. 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- NOV 14 Archaeologist and teacher Daniel Fernandez-Davilla, an expert on the history and culture of Peru who has led a number of expeditions into the remote jungle, lectures on "Chachapoyas: an Unknown Civilization of the High Jungle of Peru." 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery.
- NOV. 19 Focus on Collections: archivist Susan Kindstedt presents highlights of the Joseph W. P. Frost collection (a miscellany of treasures from the correspondence of Sir William Pepperrell to manuscript poems by Celia Thaxter), recently cataloged thanks to a grant from the Rosamund Thaxter Foundation. 5:30 p.m., Research Library.
- DEC. 4 The Fourteenth Annual Proprietors Art Show opens. On view Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. through January 13th, Randall Gallery.
- DEC. 4 Annual Athenæum Holiday Gala. Invitations forthcoming.
- DEC. 12 Pat Wall reads from and signs her new novel, *Beyond Freedom*, (sequel to 2004's *Child Out of Place*). Set in 1812 Boston in the black community surrounding the African Meeting House, the story reveals not only their struggle to survive in a climate of growing racism, but their courage and perseverance as they seek to build a better life. 3:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- JAN 13 191st Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. Invitations forthcoming.

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

CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME & THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS, & FRIENDS

OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING: *Dick Adams and Ronda Baker Hill* for the beautiful job they did scraping and painting the windows in the Reading Room; *James Wilkinson and Sherm and Cathy Pridham* for their continued efforts in scanning photographs; *Evelyn S. Lamprey* for the elegant design of our new rack cards; *Deb Richards* for hosting our August Art 'Round Town opening and to our new neighbors, *Jennifer Dumas and Paul Mackey* of Ireland on the Square for donating the refreshments; *Cindy and Jeff Knapp* for organizing the picnic (not to mention *Wendy Lull, Carvel Tefft, and Bill and Amey Wieting* for all their help that day); and, as always, our many ever-cheerful gallery sitters. And **THANKS to the FOLLOWING NEW and RENEWED FRIENDS of the ATHENÆUM:** *Diane Hodun, Michiko Vigden and David Wilcox.*

GENEROSITY

ANNUAL APPEAL:

*Douglas & Elizabeth
Aykroyd
Robert Gray Allen III
David & Nancy Borden
Maryellen Burke
Dr. Robert Chaikin
Irja Cillufo
Carol Cole
Richard A. Cooper
Charles DeGrandpre
Sara Delano
George Eatman
Barbara Engelbach*

*Rev. John Miles Evans
Tibbie Field
Neil A. Graves
Frederick S. Gray, Jr.
Nancy Grossman
Barbara D. Hill
Ronda J. Baker Hill
John Hopkins
Cynthia Knapp
Richard & Shirley Lyons
Bruce L. MacIntyre
Karen Pierce
Elsbeth W. Pope
Beverly Powell-Woodward*

*Lee Roberts
Elèonore Sanderson
Jean E. Sawtelle
Ira Schwartz
James A. Shanley
Renee Silverman
Max Smith
David A. Taylor
David H. Watters
Roger F. Wood
Susan L. Zuckert*

ARTSATHENÆUM:

Lee Roberts

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF MARGARET SCOTT CARTER:

*Robert Hamilton
Kenneth Ried*

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD HODGDON:

*Ruth L. Griffin
Mary Lou Hodgdon
George and Shirley
Walker*

Date	Amount
Feb 1832	8 07
Jan 1834	16
July -	16
Jan 1835	17
July -	18
Jan 1836	18
July -	18
Jan 1837	18
July -	18
Jan 1838	19
July -	20
Jan 1839	20
July -	22
Jan 1840	26
July -	27
Jan 1841	27
July -	18
Total	11 91

What's \$8.67 Worth?

Courtney MacLachlan, Archivist

This little story is a tribute to long memory, civic responsibility—and the power of compound interest.

Correspondence in a folder in the Athenæum Special Collections tells the tale of a long-forgotten birthday celebration and its aftermath. In February, 1832, Portsmouth commemorated the 100th birthday of George Washington in a town-wide celebration which probably included the usual music, speeches, and libations. After the activities, organizers of the occasion—Alexander Rice, Lory Odell, C.S. Toppan, and John D. Simes—deposited the surplus of \$8.67 in the Portsmouth Savings Bank, to benefit the next centennial celebration.

About twenty years later, on February 19, 1853, the Portsmouth Journal reported that the Centennial Fund

(cont. on back page)

The Portsmouth Athenæum
9 Market Square
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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What's \$8.67 Worth?, cont.

had grown to \$24.73.

"Should the accumulation continue at the same ratio until 1932," the paper predicted, "the \$8.67 will amount to about \$4,000." Sure enough, the account continued to grow although not quite at the rate the Journal predicted.

By April, 1882, the Portsmouth Journal reported that the value of the account had risen to \$153.58. Of the original trustees, only the Honorable Lory Odell was still living. He appointed William H. Rollins and T. Salter Tredick as new trustees.

Sometime after this the account went dormant. 1932 came and went and there was no 200th birthday celebration. All the original committee members had long since died. New interests predominated and the account was ignored. But while attention was elsewhere, the Centennial Fund continued to grow.

Fast forward to 1984. Athenæum proprietor David Sanderson was now in possession of the passbook because his law firm had included Norman Rand, the last living member of the Centennial Committee. At the suggestion of his wife Pat, Sanderson wrote to the director of the New Hampshire Charitable Fund asking about releasing the Centennial Fund money. Correspondence followed, involving Sanderson, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Portsmouth Savings Bank. Ultimately the Centennial Fund, which by 1987 was valued at \$6380.49, was transferred to the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, to be used, as the petition to the Attorney General says, "for the preservation of historically significant matters in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, area."

The worth of \$8.67 might change over the decades, but the value of people with a sense of history and community is timeless!