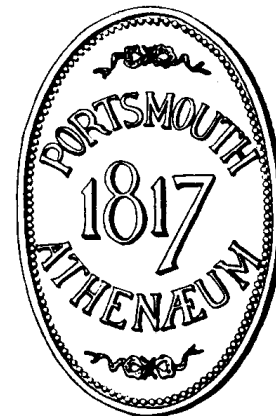


# The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Summer, 2010



## Pepperrell Pier Table Returns for a Visit

A rare Queen Anne walnut pier table which had been in the Athenæum Reading Room for at least half a century is back for a visit, part of the exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of



Little Harbor." The table was probably made in Portsmouth in the mid-eighteenth century and is supposed to have belonged to Sir William Pepperrell of Kittery. Along with other of the family's furnishings, it stood in the

Wentworth mansion at Little Harbor when the house was owned by the Cushing family from 1816 to 1886.

Just before the mansion was sold to J. Templeman Coolidge in 1886, Mary Sheafe Israel, a Cushing descendant, donated several paintings and family heirlooms to the Athenæum. Additional Cushing family portraits and the pier table were donated in the 20th century. For the past decade, the table has been on loan to the Warner House, but has returned to be reunited for the summer with the Cushing paintings.

The exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of Little Harbor" is on view in the Randall Gallery through August 28.

## Inside:

### ***Library News***

### ***New Acquisitions/Gifts***

### ***Welcome and Thanks***

### ***Upcoming Events*** ***June - October, 2010***

## **And furthermore. . .**

### **Volunteers Needed:**

Volunteers interested in the Athenæum's history are needed to help with tours of the Reading Room on Thursday afternoons, as well as our new "First Fridays" program of full Athenæum tours. For more information, please contact the Keeper, Tom Hardiman ([thardiman@portsmouthathenaeum.org](mailto:thardiman@portsmouthathenaeum.org)) or Sarah Hamill ([smhamill@comcast.net](mailto:smhamill@comcast.net)).



### **Athenæum Book Sale:**

This all-important annual fundraiser is set for Saturday, October 9 at the Sanderson Barn, 248 Spinney Road, in Portsmouth from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call 431-2538 to set up book donations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE, 2010 - OCTOBER, 2010  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- JUNE 4 The exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of Little Harbor" opens. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m, Randall Gallery. Continues through August 28.
- JUNE 17 Darcy Scott discusses and signs copies of her recently-released debut novel, *Hunter Huntress*—a sensual, hypnotic and uncompromisingly complex tale of music, myth and obsession. (Hear an excerpt at [www.darcyscott.net](http://www.darcyscott.net)). 7:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- JUNE 26 Guided Gallery Talk, presented by Elizabeth Aykroyd, Curator, Portsmouth Athenæum. 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery.
- JULY 2 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of Little Harbor," 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery, following a guided tour of the Athenæum at 5:00.
- JULY 5 Athenæum Research Librarian Carolyn Marvin signs copies of her new book *Hanging Ruth Blay: An Eighteenth Century New Hampshire Tragedy*. 7:00 p.m., RiverRun Bookstore. Reception to follow in the Athenæum Reading Room.
- JULY 27 Guided Tour of the Wentworth-Coolidge House and history discussion by James L. Garvin, State Architectural Historian. Participants are to meet at the house, Little Harbor Road, Portsmouth, 4:30p.m. (Note: this program is fully booked.)
- AUGUST 6 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of Little Harbor," 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery, including a guided tour of the Athenæum at 5:00.
- AUGUST 10 18th Annual Athenæum Pot-luck Picnic, 5:30 p.m., Seacoast Science Center. Invitations forthcoming.
- AUGUST 28 The exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of Little Harbor" closes.
- SEPT. 3 "Art 'Round Town" opens the Sawtelle Reading Room to the public. 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., including a guided tour of the Athenæum beginning in the Reading Room at 5:00.
- SEPT. 11 Opening reception for the exhibition "Nothing by Halves: the Life of Frank Jones," 5:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- SEPT. 14 In a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, Joan Brownstein speaks on "The Origin of American Folk Portraiture." 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 non-PDAS members.
- SEPT. 14 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 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "Nothing by Halves: the Life of Frank Jones," 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery, including a guided tour of the Athenæum at 5:00.
- OCT. 9 Annual Book Sale, 9:00 a.m. - noon, Sanderson's Barn, 248 Spinney Road, Portsmouth.
- OCT. 28 Douglas Wheeler, UNH History Professor Emeritus, lectures on "Pearl Harbor in History and Today." 7:00 p.m., Research Library.
- NOV. 4 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "Nothing by Halves: the Life of Frank Jones," 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery, including a guided tour of the Athenæum at 5:00.

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

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
WELCOME & THANKS**

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW  
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS, & FRIENDS

**Welcome to the following new Subscribers. . .**

. . . **Linda Cheatham** is a diplomat with the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, where she is on the board of the Foundation for Educational Exchange Between Canada and the United States. She is a member of St. John's Church and hopes to return to the Seacoast at the conclusion of her service.

. . . **Michael Griffin** works in Portsmouth in the field of Sales Management. His family has been associated with the Athenæum for more than 60 years.

. . . **Mark Harrison** is the owner of the Framing Alternative in Rye and is interested in antique books and prints. He and his wife, Ellen, live in York.

. . . **Michael McAndrew** is a retired sculptor of automotive prototypes for General Motors. He and his wife, Ann, live in New Castle, where Michael volunteers with the Fort Stark Brigade and the Historical Society.

. . . **Roderick Richards** is retired from banking and appreciates the Athenæum's role as a nexus for historical research and cultural events. He lives in York Harbor with his wife, Kathy.



**Thanks to The Following New and Renewed Friends of the Athenæum**

*Jack & Diane Chambers  
William Colebath  
David Corbett*

*Michelle & Martin O'Donnell  
Cynthia Pridham-Thomas*

*W. Keith Searles  
Donald Sloper*

**Our Gratitude to** *Dick Adams, Barbara Hill, and Elaine Tefft* for their help in painting the gallery. Thanks also to *Pat Breslin, Deb Richards, and Sherry Wood* for assisting *Elizabeth & Douglas Aykroyd* in mounting the Family Portrait Gallery exhibit.

**GENEROSITY**

**ADOPT-A-BOOK**

*Ronda Baker Hill  
John & Carolyn  
Payzant  
Elaine Tefft in memory  
of Stanton E. Tefft*

**ANNUAL APPEAL:**

*Geoffrey & Martha  
Fuller Clark  
Mrs. Margaret Hartford  
Wendy Lull  
John Butler Smith*

**IN MEMORY OF  
IRENE CROSBY:**

*David Sanderson  
Eléonore Sanderson  
Robin Silva  
Lee Roberts*

**UNRESTRICTED IN  
MEMORY OF  
JULIANA CARDONE:**

*Measured Progress*

**UNRESTRICTED:**  
*Arthur & Patricia  
Heard*

# All About Our Library

Carol Lincoln, Library Committee Chair

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the Athenæum Library? Our committee of 23 members meet three times a year and include Jane Porter, Gerry Ward, Herb Kingsbury, Larry Benedict, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Lynne Crocker, Mary Ellen Burke, Rose Eppard, Richard Candee, Ronan Donohoe, Mary Beth Kula, Peter Randall, Peter Narbonne, Maureen Cullen, Marcia Jebb, Nancy Grossman, Paige Roberts, Barney Share, Tom Hardiman, Robin Silva, Carolyn Marvin, Courtney Maclachan, and Carol Lincoln, chair. I've compiled some information from Robin, Carolyn and Courtney who graciously provided me with both quantitative and qualitative data.

Your library is a very busy place. Robin, Carolyn and Courtney are doing some interesting work. In 2009 we processed some 418 new books. The breakdown of 2009 usage included 190 researchers, 650 books loaned, and 159 visitors to the Reading Room. Our virtual library also has significant traffic: in 2009, the website received 12,989 hits and the online catalog had 2137 visits.

The research library responds to a variety of queries from both walk-in (or walk-up) researchers and those who contact us through our online website. These range from the casual "I've lived here all my life and always wondered what this place was" and the family genealogist seeking to find that elusive relative, to the more serious researcher working on a book or thesis.

All the collections—photos, manuscripts, vertical files, books, pamphlets and objects—have been accessed for the benefit of researchers from both far and near. One of our recent regulars, Brendan Harty, working with the New Hampshire Fire & Marine Insurance records, found another record book in Missouri and queried them. They graciously sent us the missing record for our collections. So the quest often results in a win-win result, as researchers share their completed genealogies, books, and theses with us!

Alongside the researchers and casual visitors in

the research library are volunteers working to enhance public access to the collections. Often, they've done research themselves, and they understand the thrill of that *Ah-ha!* moment when a historical puzzle is solved. We currently have one volunteer working on transcribing the logbooks and letters of a sea captain named Peter Turner who sailed out of Portsmouth from 1795 -1810. His detailed accounts enrich our understanding of our maritime legacy and the transcriptions of his records will certainly make him more accessible to future students and researchers. Another regular volunteer has taken on the project of scanning the photographs from the Thomas Wilson collection. These are great pictures which depict Portsmouth at the turn of the century and the early 1900s. Sometimes we receive archival material from unexpected sources, such as

a professor who called from Madison Wisconsin. He had helped clean out the home of a close friend and neighbor, and found there were a bundle of letters from relatives in Portsmouth. They illustrate

the westward movement of one family and its continued connection to the folks back home while they were making a new life in Wisconsin. These letters reside now at the Athenæum. Behind-the-scenes connections such as this one help enrich our collections. Perhaps in the near future a volunteer will be diligently working in the research room transcribing these letters for our patrons.

The Athenæum Book Sale is also a valuable asset to the library. All the money raised goes to the library. I will be chairing this year's sale again and we hope you will volunteer to help sort the thousands of books we receive or to work the day of the sale. The tentative date of the sale is October 9th, 2010. Sanderson's barn was a fantastic location last year and we plan to have it there again.

If you have suggestions or comments please e-mail me: [carol.lincoln@comcast.net](mailto:carol.lincoln@comcast.net).

*Researchers...range from the casual "I've lived here all my life and always wondered what this place was" and the family genealogist seeking to find that elusive relative, to the more serious researcher working on a book or thesis.*

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- Abigail Adams*, by Woody Holton
- American Leonardo: A Tale of Obsession, Art, and Money*, by John Brewer
- American Salvage*, by Bonnie Jo Campbell
- Aphrodite's Island: The European Discovery of Tahiti*, by Anne Salmond
- Architectural Jewels of Rochester, New Hampshire: A History of the Built Environment*
- Art of American Book Covers: 1875-1930*, by Robert Minsky (EDT)
- Art of the Edge Tool: The Ferrous Metallurgy of New England Shipsmiths and Toolmakers*
- Art Student's War*, by Brad Leithauser
- Augustus Saint-Gaudens in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, by Thayer Tolles
- Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History*, by Chuck Wills
- Cartographies of Time*, by Daniel Rosenberg and Anthony Grafton
- Case for Books: Past, Present, and Future*, by Robert Darnton
- Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*, by Diarmaid MacCulloch
- City of Laughter: Sex And Satire in Eighteenth-Century London*, by Vic Gatrell
- Classic Period of American Toolmaking 1827-1930*, by H.G. Brack
- Electronic Records in the Manuscript Repository*, by Elizabeth Dow
- Everyday Ethics and Social Change: The Education of Desire*, by Anna L. Peterson
- Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost and Found*, by Mary Beard
- Fourth Part of the World: The Race to the Ends of the Earth, and the Epic Story of the Map That Gave America Its Name*, by Toby Lester
- Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime*, by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin
- Gardens in Perpetual Bloom: Botanical Illustration in Europe and America 1600-1850*, by Nancy Keeler
- Grounded*, by Seth Stevenson
- History of Arctic Exploration: Discovery, Adventure and Endurance at the Top of the World*, by Matti Lainema and Juha Nurminen
- History of White People*, by Nell Irvin Painter
- Hubbub: Filth, Noise & Stench in England 1600-1770*, by Emily Cockayne
- Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot
- Indian History of an American Institution: Native Americans and Dartmouth*, by Colin G. Calloway
- Infinities*, by John Banville
- Infinity of Lists: An Illustrated Essay*, by Umberto Eco, Alastair McEwen (TRN)
- Inheritance of Rome: A History of Europe from 400 to 1000*, by Chris Wickham
- Inspired Innovations: A Celebration of Shaker Ingenuity*, by M. Stephen Miller
- Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Big Horn*, by Nathaniel Philbrick
- Lunatic Express: Discovering the World...via Its Most Dangerous Buses, Boats, Trains, and Planes*, by Carl Hoffman
- Making Haste from Babylon: The Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World a New History*, by Nick Bunker

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS, cont.

- Man Who Ate His Boots: The Tragic History of the Search for the Northwest Passage*,  
by Anthony Brandt
- Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination*, by Matthew G. Kirschenbaum
- Moses Montefiore: Jewish Liberator - Imperial Hero*, by Abigail Green
- Mrs. Adams in Winter: A Journey in the Last Days of Napoleon*, by Michael O'Brien
- Museum of Innocence*, by Orhan Pamuk, Maureen Freely (TRN)
- Nature Walks Along the Seacoast: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine*, by Julia Older  
and Steve Sherman.
- Old Devils: A Novel*, by Kingsley Amis
- One Amazing Thing*, by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- Packing the Court: The Rise of Judicial Power and the Coming Crisis of the Supreme Court*,  
by James MacGregor Burns
- Parrot and Olivier in America*, by Peter Carey
- Pox and the Covenant: Franklin, Mather, and the Epidemic That Changed America's Destiny*,  
by Tony Williams
- Provenance: How a Con Man and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art*,  
by Laney Salisbury and Aly Sujo Aly
- Reader on Reading*, by Alberto Manguel
- Registry of Maine Toolmakers: A Compilation of Toolmakers Working in Maine and the Province  
of Maine Prior to 1900*, by H.G. Brack
- Relentless Revolution: A History of Capitalism*, by Joyce Appleby, Ph.D.
- Salt-Glazed Stoneware in Early America*, by Janine Skerry and Suzanne Findlen Hood
- Secret History of Georgian London: How the Wages of Sin Shaped the Capital*, by Dan Cruickshank
- Small Island*, by Andrea Levy
- Space-Age Aesthetics: Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein, and the Postwar European Avant-Garde*,  
by Stephen Petersen
- Storm*, by Margriet De Moor, Carol Janeway (TRN)
- Ten Hills Farm: The Forgotten History of Slavery in the North*, by C.S. Manegold
- Three Weissmanns of Westport*, by Cathleen Schine
- Too Much Happiness: Stories*, by Alice Munro
- Union Atlantic*, by Adam Haslett
- War of 1812 in the Age of Napoleon*, by Jeremy Black
- Whale: In Search of the Giants of the Sea*, by Philip Hoare
- Why Translation Matters*, by Edith Grossman
- Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*, by Douglas Brinkley
- Women's Painted Furniture, 1790-1830: American Schoolgirl Art*, by Betsy Krieg Salm
- World Without Ice*, Henry Pollack, Ph.D.

# And Up on the Second Floor...

...the work continues. The recently acquired space on the second floor of the Foye Block is beginning to take shape as the Athenæum's new collections center and office. The Market Square side is now being used as administrative offices and as office and work space for the



Art & Artifacts Committee. The back half is being converted to climate controlled storage for artifacts and rare books. The transfer of books from the vault to the second floor will free up space for our very overcrowded archival collections.

## GIFTS OF BOOKS

- Alusic Enterprises: *The Peace Treaty of Portsmouth: A Spiritual Perspective*, by Donald J Alusic  
Mark Anderson: *The Lost Symbol: a Novel*, by Dan Brown  
Athenæum Music and Arts Library of La Jolla, California: *20 Meetings of the Membership Libraries Group, 1991-2009*, by Erika Torri  
Elizabeth Aykroyd: *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*, by Gail Collins  
Larry Benedict, Proprietor: *Fire in the Blood*, by Iráene Némirovsky, translated by Sandra Smith; *New Englanders in the 1600s: A Guide to Genealogical Research Published Between 1980 and 2005*, by Martin Edward Hollick; *Suite Française*, by Iráene Némirovsky, translated by Sandra Smith; and *Wolf Hall: a Novel*, by Hilary Mantel  
Collection of Harold Hotchkiss Bennett and Bertha May Bennett: *The Book of Birds* National Geographic Society (U.S.); *Bird-life: A Guide to the Study of our Common Birds* by Frank M. Chapman  
Richard Candee, Proprietor: *Beacon Lights of History, Vol. II The Middle Ages; Beacon Lights of History: Vol. 1: Antiquities; Beacon Lights of History, Vol. III, Renaissance and Reformation; Beacon Lights of History, Vol. IV, Warriors and Statesmen; Beacon Lights of History, Vol. V, Great Women; Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston,* principal authors, Richard Candee, [et al] and edited by Keith N. Morgan; *Old Age, A Sermon Preached at Epping, N.H. December 27, 1850, at the Interment of Hon. William Plume* by Andrew P. Peabody  
Wendy Cote, *The Merchant's and Mechanic's Assistant; Being a Collection of Rules and Practical Tables for the Us*, by Isaac Ridler Butts.

The Portsmouth Athenæum  
9 Market Square  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

*Return Service Requested*

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT: *MARYELLEN BURKE*  
VICE-PRESIDENT: *THOMAS WATSON*  
TREASURER: *WILLIAM PURINTON*  
SECRETARY: *DOUGLAS AYKROYD*  
PAST PRESIDENT: *CARVEL B. TEFFT*  
*ANN E. BEATTIE*  
*KAREN L. BOUFFARD*  
*KATHERINE S. CLARK*  
*GEORGE FRIESE*  
*FREDERICK S. GRAY, JR.*  
*SUSAN KRESS HAMILTON*  
*ANGELYNNE K. HINSON*  
*SIMEON P. JARVIS*  
*JOHN RICE*

**STAFF:**

KEEPER: *TOM HARDIMAN*  
LIBRARIAN: *ROBIN SILVA*  
RESEARCH LIBRARIAN: *CAROLYN MARVIN*  
ARCHIVIST: *COURTNEY MACLACHLAN*  
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS: *JAMES SMITH*  
OFFICE MANAGER: *NANCY MULQUEEN*

**CONTRACTED SERVICES:**

BOOKKEEPING: *DOROTHY POLANDO*  
ARCHIVAL SERVICES: *SUSAN KINDSTEDT*

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

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 51  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

## GIFTS OF BOOKS, cont.

- Collette Dysart: *Finely Carved & Nicely Painted*, by Jim Cullen  
Captain William Frappier: *Steamboat Yesterdays on Casco Bay: The Steamboat Era in Maine's Calendar Island Region* by William J. Frappier  
Susan Hamilton, Proprietor: *The Weeping Goldsmith: Discoveries in the Secret Land of Myanmar* by W. John Kress; *Old Orchard Beach*, by Daniel E. Blaney  
Thomas Hardiman, Proprietor: *Sir John Soane: The Architect as Collector, 1753-1837*, by Peter Thornton  
John Maher: *Early Engineering Reminiscences, 1815-40*, by George Escol Sellers  
J. Dennis Robinson, Proprietor: *Striking Back: The Fight to End Child Labor Exploitation*, by J. Dennis Robinson  
Robert Silva: *God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570 to 1215*, by David L Lewis; *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*, by John Dower; *The Vikings: A History*, by Robert Ferguson; and *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals*, by Jane Mayer  
Joyce Volk: *The Lost Chalice*, by Vernon Silver  
Barbara and Gerald Ward, Proprietors: *American Furniture: 2009; Native American Art*, by Gerald W. R. Ward, Pamela A Parmal, and Michael Suing; *Maritime Maverick: the Collection of William I. Koch*, by Granby; *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession*, by Allison Hoover Bartlett  
Blaine Whipple, *15 Generations of Whipples: Descendants of Matthew Whipple of Ipswich, Massachusetts*, by Blaine Whipple