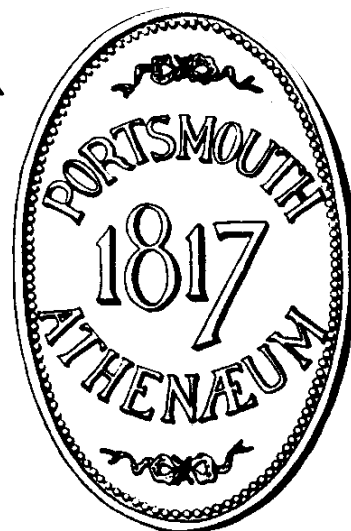


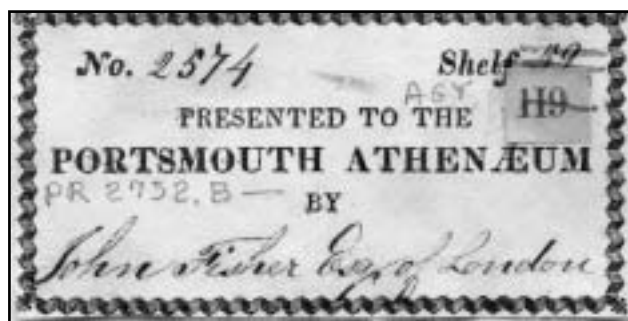
The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Summer, 2011



Money, Revolution & Books Opens October 7

The Portsmouth Athenæum's 1829 Annual Report noted "to the liberal spirit of John Fisher, Esq. of London, we are indebted for the most important donation ever made to the Library, consisting of two hundred thirty four volumes of very valuable works in various branches of science and general literature." The gift increased the then twelve-year-old library's holdings by ten percent. Nowhere was there any explanation of why the Commissioner of the Barracks at London was donating books to a library in New Hampshire. The



books were disbursed according to subject throughout the Athenæum's collection.

"Money, Revolution, and Books," an exhibition in the Randall Gallery opening October 7th, will bring the collection together again after more than 180 years. The exhibit and accompanying catalog will explain the full history of the collection and its remarkable connections to New Hampshire history. More than the random residual of casual reading, the Fisher collection reflects one family's multi-generational, intercontinental quest to build a patrician legacy, an effort that ultimately made them one of the only families that could be said to have won both sides of the American Revolution. It is a tale of ambition, war, intrigue, and persistence. If you would like to be involved in the on-going research, please contact the Keeper.

Inside:

***PBS History Detectives
Visit the Athenæum***

***Welcoming the Jaffreys
Home***

More Digital Mysteries

Upcoming Events

June - September, 2011

Save the Date and Bring a Plate!

Join fellow Athenæum Proprietors, Subscribers, and Friends at the Annual Summer Potluck Picnic—one of the most well-attended events of the year—scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 5:30 p.m. at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye.

Share your culinary delights while enjoying the sights and sounds of the sea, making a few new friends and reconnecting with old. Wine and soft drinks provided!

Volunteers are also needed to assist in planning and implementing this ever-popular event. Those interested should contact Kitty Clark at (603) 778-9599 or Sam Jarvis, (603) 436-0608, to offer your hands-on help and innovative ideas.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE, 2011 - SEPTEMBER, 2011
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- JUNE 23 Alan Fraser Houston discusses his recent *book, Keep Up Good Courage, A Yankee Family & the Civil War: The Correspondence of Corporal Lewis Q. Smith of Sandwich, NH, Fourteenth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, 1862-1865.* 7:00 p.m., Reference Library
- JULY 1 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "Fire on the Water: Portsmouth's Kearsarge Sinks the Deadly Confederate Raider Alabama." 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- JULY 8 Musician Alisa Nakashian-Holsberg, one of the few modern players of the once-popular Glass Harmonica (invented by Benjamin Franklin and used by Franz Mesmer to mesmerize patients) and Dorothee Kocks—author, historian and story teller, whose new historical novel *The Glass Harmonica* includes the 1802 Portsmouth Christmas and a fictional concert at the Athenæum—present "Under the Spell... An Intimate Soirée Celebrating the Glass Harmonica, Its History and Music." 7:30 p.m., Reading Room. Black Tie optional.
- JULY 26 The History Detectives episode "Kittery Telescope," filmed in part at the Athenæum, airs on PBS. Check your local listing for viewing times. A special showing will be held at the Athenæum on a date to be determined; please watch the website for details.
- AUGUST 5 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "Fire on the Water: Portsmouth's Kearsarge Sinks the Deadly Confederate Raider Alabama." 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- AUGUST 6 Dick Adams and Richard Candee lead a Civil War Portsmouth Walking Tour. 10:30 a.m., Fitz-John Porter statue, Haven Park
- AUGUST 16 19th Annual Athenæum Pot Luck Picnic, Seacoast Science Center. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- SEPT. 2 "Art 'Round Town" showcases the exhibit "Fire on the Water: Portsmouth's Kearsarge Sinks the Deadly Confederate Raider Alabama." 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- SEPT. 7 "Meet the Jaffreys," a special reception to unveil the recently acquired portraits of George Jaffrey IV and his wife, Clementine. 5:30 p.m., Reading Room. Invitations forthcoming.
- SEPT. 14 Dr. Emerson "Tad" Baker, Professor of History at Salem State College, presents "Digging Up the Past: 17th Century Homesteading. 7:00 p.m., Research Library. Free for Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends of the Athenæum, all others \$10
- SEPT. 25 Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival presents cameo concert performances by various artists. 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Reading Room
- OCT. 1 Annual Athenæum Book Sale, 9:00 a.m. - noon, Sanderson's Barn
- OCT. 7 Opening Reception for the exhibition "Money, Revolution, & Books: The Athenæum's Library of John Fisher of London," 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- OCT. 12 Dr. Gregory McMahon, Director of the Çadır Höyük Excavation team, presents "Digging Up the Past, The Hittites and Their World: The Archaeology of Hattuša and Late Bronze Anatolia," 7:00 p.m., Research Library. Free for Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends of the Athenæum, all others \$10

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

CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME & THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS, & FRIENDS

THANKS to the following new and renewed friends of the Athenæum:

Sherburne Wentworth Dunn
Robert Graham

Catherine Hawkins
Bill Holly

Katherine Salter Pinneo
Donald L. Sloper, Jr.

GENEROSITY

ADOPT-A-BOOK:

Richard G. Adams
Joseph Capobianco
Joyce Fitzpatrick
Ronda Baker Hill
Stephen Decatur
Simeon P. Jarvis
Courtney MacLachlan
Jane Porter
William Wieting
Sumner Winebaum

ANNUAL APPEAL:

Richard G. Adams
Michael A. Baenen
Ronda Baker Hill
Susan Sweetser Bank
Patricia Barbour
Larry Benedict
Peter Berg & Nancy Prince
Charles Bickford
John Bickford Foundation
Elizabeth Binnie
David Borden
Carl Brage

Evangeline Brawn
Frank & Patricia Breslin
Irene Bush
Laurence Bussey
Lorn Buxton
Joe & Judy Capobianco
Elizabeth Cavanagh
Phil & Meg Cavanaugh
Joan Christy
Martha Fuller Clark
Carol S. Cole
Wendy Coté
Michael Dater
Judy Day
Armistead Dennett
Townsend H. Dunn
Rev. John Miles Evans
Mrs. Robert B. Field, Jr.
Eleanor Johnston Ford
Morris C. Foye III
George Friese
Amy K. Gant
Alan Gold
Frank Graf
Neil Graves
Ted Gray
Thaddeus Gray
Sarah Hamill
Tom Hardiman
Neil C. Herring

Mary Lou Hodgdon
William Dean Howells
Lionel Ingram
Simeon P. Jarvis
Elizabeth B. Larsen
Frederick Lewis
Wendy Lull
John H. Maher
Dana Walker Mayo
Jan McCracken
Garvin McCurdy
Edward McNitt
Robert Mennel
Barbara W. Millar
Faith Critchley Miller
Joyce S. Morgan
Claudia Morner
Robert Morrill
G. Patrick Nerbonne
Jane & Richard Nylander
Brian Phelan
Jane Porter
Bill Purinton
John W. Rice
Edward Rutlege
David Sanderson
Regina Schirmer
Renee Silverman
Donald L. Sloper, Jr.
Thomas F. Smith

Clinton Springer
Dana Stairs
Alanson Sturgis
Barbara Sweet
Louise Tallman
Edmund Tarbell
David A. Taylor
M. Elaine Tefft in memory
of Stanton E. Tefft
Susan Thoresen
Richard Toomey, Jr.
The Trefoil Foundation
Hilda P. VersluysThomas
R. Watson
Joan S. Waldron
Douglas L. Wheeler
Joan H. White

ARTSATHENAEUM:

Steven Fowle

UNRESTRICTED:

Stephen Decatur
Lois Fonda
Margaret Harrington
Susan Kaufmann
Wendy Lull
Rodney Watterson

Welcoming the Jaffreys Home

Question...

...What do an historic balloon trip, antiquities from ancient Greece, and 18th-century elk horns have in common? Answer: George Jaffrey IV (1789-1856). In addition to being one of the founding directors of the Athenæum, Jaffrey served as either librarian or commissioner of our library from 1823 until his death in 1856. He was also one of the most prolific donors to our collections, and now we have collected him!

The Athenæum has just purchased portraits, circa 1814, of both George and his wife, Clementina Matilda and you are invited to help celebrate their homecoming! The Art & Artifacts Committee and Board of Directors are hosting a special unveiling of these extremely important portraits on September 7th in the Reading Room. Invitations are forthcoming.



Digital Discoveries, Part II

In the winter issue of the newsletter, we featured a hi-res scan of two white-haired gentlemen reading the day's newspapers in our Reading Room. While they remain unidentified, another of our alert readers, Mike Pesaresi of Stratham, found even more buried history in the digital images available through the Library of Congress American Memory website. In looking through the photographs taken of 33-35 Deer Street around 1933 for the Historic American Building Survey,



Mike noticed that in addition to recording the historic house, the photographer also recorded the Italian-American residents proudly posing in the doorways. Mike has identified many of the people in the photos and would like help in identifying the rest. The house, built in 1705, was demolished in the urban renewal of Portsmouth's North End in the 1970s.

And here's yet another one...Can anyone identify the location of either the



bartender or the Portsmouth bar at right? Signs in the back say "Tom & Jerry," "Portsmouth Brewing Co. Half Stock Ale," "We sell Jones Eldredges Portsmouth Ales State Your Choice," and "Try Our Holiday Punch Brimfull of Joyfullness." A carved Bellamy eagle hangs at the left of the bar. The photo postcard was addressed to E.H. Joly, U.S.S. New Hampshire along with the note: "Just keep this to look at when you are dry. Bert."



Thanks to a generous grant from PSNH, the Athenæum has been retrofitted with energy efficient led lights throughout the library. With the dramatic savings in electricity, this project is calculated to pay for itself in under two years!

Help Wanted

We're looking for a few volunteers who would like to act as Wine Stewards at upcoming Athenæum events, especially the summer picnic and the winter holiday gala. The Wine Stewards will help party planners select appropriate wine and soft drinks for each event, then work together in short shifts during the event to open bottles, clear empties, and refresh supplies as needed. The stewards will not only help select and help serve the wines, they'll be encouraged to share their knowledge with other Proprietors. This is a great way to meet people, make new friends, and contribute to the conviviality that makes our Athenæum a vital organization.

Digging Up the Past Continues...

In his September 14th presentation on 17th Century Homesteading entitled "Life in the Early Piscataqua: An Archaeologist's View," Dr. Emerson "Tad" Baker illustrates how excavations at both the Chadbourne Site (1643-1690) and others in early southern Maine and New Hampshire help give a picture of life in those areas. Settlers lived under difficult frontier conditions, in homes that were simple and poorly built by our standards, yet they also enjoyed many expensive imported possessions that served as important reminders of life back in England.

Dr. Baker is a Professor of History at Salem State College and an award-winning author of numerous books and articles on the history and archaeology of early New England. His latest book, *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*, is set in New Castle, New Hampshire. He has worked as both a consultant and on-camera expert for the PBS-TV series *Colonial House*, and he has appeared on such other shows as WCVB's *Chronicle*, and The History Channel's *This Week in History*. He has served as the director of Old Berwick Historical Society's Chadbourne Archaeology Project since 1995.

The following month, on October 12th, Dr. Gregory McMahon presents "The Hittites and Their World: The Archaeology of Hattuša and Late Bronze Anatolia," detailing how the Hittites created and ruled the first Anatolian empire, forging a unified state from the fragmented principalities of early Anatolia (Turkey) in the Late Bronze Age (1800-1200 B.C.E.). The texts

of their extensive royal archives, written in the cuneiform script, constitute the oldest records in any Indo-European language. Almost lost to history when their empire was catastrophically destroyed around 1200 B.C.E., we knew them only from references in the Hebrew Bible until they were rediscovered in the early 20th century. Powerful allies of 18th Dynasty Egypt,

and contemporaries and rivals of the Mycenaean Greeks who fought the Trojan War, they have now resumed their rightful place in our understanding of the politics/culture of the second millennium in the Ancient Near East.

This lecture will introduce Hittite culture and history through a discussion of some of their key historical records and through images both of their spectacular capital city Hattuša and the lecturer's own site of Çadýr Höyük, a provincial city of the

Hittite empire.

Dr. McMahon has been a member of the Çadýr Höyük Excavation team since 1993 and is the current director of the excavation. He received his Ph.D. in Hittite philology from the University of Chicago in 1988, and has been on the faculty of the Department of History at the University of New Hampshire since the fall of that same year. He is currently in the final stages of co-editing the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Anatolia* for Oxford University Press.

Both events take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Research Library and are free for Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends of the Athenæum; all others are \$10. Becoming a Friend costs as little as \$25; visit the membership page of our website for details.

"The texts of their extensive royal archives, written in the cuneiform script, constitute the oldest records in any Indo-European language."



Back in April, Elyse Luray, one of the stars of the popular PBS series, "History Detectives," paid a visit to the Athenæum for two days of filming an episode about an 18th century telescope with a connection to Kittery. The episode premieres nationwide on July 26. The Art & Artifacts Committee is planning a private screening later this summer, date to be announced shortly. The event will feature access to some of the original documents consulted for the show so that you can be your own detective!

PBS History Detectives Visit the Athenæum

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*
KAREN L. BOUFFARD
KATHERINE S. CLARK
GEORGE FRIESE
ANGELYNNE K. HINSON
SIMEON P. JARVIS
JOHN LAMSON
JOHN RICE
JOHN SHAW
DAWN SHIPPEE

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

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

Overhauling the Periodicals List...

Your Athenæum staff is currently reevaluating periodical subscriptions that we suspect may not be widely read by our membership, as well as others that have been presented as possible new purchases. Please let us know if you read any of the following when you are here and how often, as we keep only the most recent issues while the Portsmouth Public Library receives all of them: "Architectural Digest," "Art in America," "Atlantic Monthly," "Harper's Magazine," and "The New Yorker."

Two periodicals have been suggested for purchase: "Country Life"—"the essential weekly read for those who are passionate about the British countryside, fine art, gardening and property," and a periodical to which we used to subscribe (www.countrylife.co.uk); and "Lapham's Quarterly"—"a magazine of history and ideas" (www.laphamsquarterly.org). If anyone currently receives either of these and wishes to donate their copies, the Athenæum would be most grateful. The periodicals "Antiques" and "Antiques & Fine Arts" have been received by donation for several years. Please send email or comments to Robin Silva – rsilva@portsmouthathenaeum.org

We are also currently looking for books for our new children's shelf on the mezzanine including children's books, picture and chapter books by Portsmouth Athenæum authors, those by local authors or on local subjects, and classic children's literature. Please feel free to check books out for children and grandchildren this summer.

Stay ahead of the crowd with timely notice of Athenæum events and programs by joining our email list. Just send a quick note to nmulqueen@portsmouthathenaeum.org.