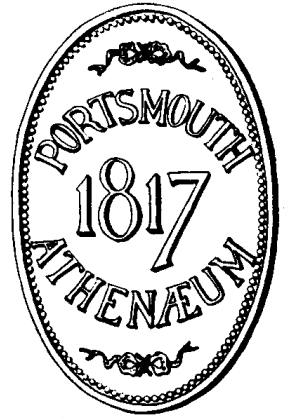


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Spring, 2009



Ogunquit Museum Exhibit Opens June 5

In partnership with OMAA curator and Athenæum Proprietor Susan Kress Hamilton, our newest exhibit, "Selections from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art," featuring selected works from the Museum's extensive Permanent Collection, opens June 5th in the Randall Gallery.

Located at 543 Shore Road and perched on a cliff overlooking Narrow Cove and the Atlantic Ocean,



Hamilton Easter Field, Cove Dories, c. 1915, 10 x 20 inches, oil, from the OMAA Permanent Collection

the OMAA—founded in 1953 by Maine painter and philanthropist, Henry Strater (1896-1987)—houses a collection of over 1600 works of art. The scope and quality of this collection has justifiably earned the Museum a reputation as one of the best small museums in the nation. Included in its diverse collection are works by such internationally known artists as Alexander Calder, Marsden Hartley, Roy Lichtenstein, John Marin and Edward Hopper. Recent seasons have featured outstanding exhibitions by artists Jamie Wyeth, Ansel Adams, Will Barnet and Wolf Kahn.

Programming in conjunction with the Athenæum exhibit includes two Gallery talks by OMAA Director Ron Crusan on July 16 (see calendar of events) and September 17; and an August bus trip to the Museum from the Athenæum, date to be announced.

Inside:

Annual Meeting & Reports

Minutes of the 190th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum

Upcoming Events April - July, 2009

Your Library Needs You!

In these turbulent times, we all feel the pinch of the slowing economy in some way. Our Athenæum has not been immune to the hard times, and we've had to tighten our belt to ensure the future of our long-term interests in an environment of shrinking income. That said, we must also remember that our institutional mission is not only about the financial survival of the organization, but about advancing knowledge and building connections between people.

In order to succeed, the Athenæum needs a vital and active membership. In these days when money may be tight, we also need and gratefully accept contributions of your time and talents. Volunteers are the life-blood of our organization. Our Library Committee needs someone to chair our book sale and help to recruit and manage the many helping hands who make the sale happen. Without the organizers and workers, there can be no book sale.

You can volunteer to give or sponsor a

cont. on back cover

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

UPCOMING EVENTS	APRIL, 2009 - JULY, 2009 FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
----------------------------	--

- APRIL 18 The exhibition "Through the Eye of the Needle" closes.
- MAY 5 In a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, Jay Williamson, Curator of the Old Newbury Historical Society, will give a talk on "Edmund Tarbell, Portsmouth and the Boston Scene." 5:30 p.m., Tyco Visitor Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 non-PDAS members.
- JUNE 5 Opening reception for "Selections from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art," 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery. The exhibition continues through October.
- JUNE 9 In a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, Bob Barth, noted expert on historic ceramics, will give a talk on "Collecting Old Pots – What's My Excuse?" 5:30 p.m., Tyco Visitor Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- JUNE 13 The reference library will be closed for Market Square Day.
- JUNE 25 Author Duane E. Shaffer, cofounder of the Civil War Round Table of New Hampshire and past secretary of the New Hampshire Monuments and Memorials Commission, gives a talk and signing for his new book *Men of Granite: New Hampshire's Soldiers in the Civil War*, 5:30 p.m., Reading Room.
- JULY 16 Ron Crusan, Director of the OMAA, will present a gallery talk on the current exhibit: "Selections from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art," 5:30 p.m., Randall Gallery.

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

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Nicholas Baker</i> | <i>David E. Hersee, Jr.</i> | <i>James E. Ladd</i> | <i>Becky McBeath</i> |
| <i>Margaret Betts</i> | <i>Paul F. Hughes</i> | <i>Ellen Marlatt</i> | <i>Sara Rhoades</i> |
| <i>Diane & Jack Chambers</i> | | | <i>Stuart Shaines</i> |

THANKS TO THOSE who helped to make the Athenæum Book Sale such a success but went unmentioned in the previous newsletter: *Richard Adams, Rhett & Carol Austell, Larry Benedict, Maryellen Burke, Irene Crosby, Lynne Crocker, Pat DeGrandpre, Armistead Dennett, Gary Ghigliotti, Marylou Hodgdon, Cathleen Hodson, Garvin McCurdy, Sandra Smith, Sally Sulloway, Gary & Nancy Wetzel, and Jon Wycoff.*

And Our Heartfelt Thanks to the Following for Their Generosity:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ADOPT-A- BOOK: | <i>Wendy Lull</i> | SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: | <i>Charles Doleac</i> |
| <i>Larry Benedict</i> | <i>Joe & Nancy Mulqueen</i> | | <i>Dudley Dudley</i> |
| <i>Jeff Bolster</i> | <i>John & Carolyn Payzant</i> | <i>Elinor Lamson</i> | <i>Amy Gant</i> |
| <i>Richard Candee</i> | <i>Jane Porter</i> | <i>Frances Lord</i> | <i>Margaret Morrissey</i> |
| <i>Joseph Capobianco</i> | <i>Elèonore Sanderson</i> | UNRESTRICTED: | <i>Carol Rymes</i> |
| <i>Barbara Engelbach</i> | <i>Sumner Winebaum</i> | <i>Hollis Brodrick</i> | <i>Susan Sawtelle</i> |
| <i>Ronda Baker Hill</i> | ARTS ATHENÆUM: | <i>Pat D'Antonio</i> | |
| <i>Michael Kenslea</i> | <i>Elinor Lamson</i> | | |

MINUTES, 190TH ANNUAL MEETING

Douglas Akroyd, Secretary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
3:30 P.M.
COPLEY RESEARCH LIBRARY

Call to Order

President Carvel Tefft welcomed Proprietors and Subscribers to the 190th meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. The minutes of the 189th meeting were presented. On the motion of Ted Gray, seconded by Richard Candee, the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.

A moment of silence was observed for remembrance of those who died during 2008: Charles W. Clark, spouse share 2; Robert Dunn, life member; Gerard Fountain, formerly share 160; Joseph W. P. Frost, formerly share 61; Albion W. Goodrich, Jr., subscriber; Philip W. Hodgdon, spouse share 197; Therese Quinn, spouse share 332; Mary Ricklefs, spouse former share 63; Howell E. Russell, share 195; Elizabeth Bennett Rice, share 135; Henry M. Sanders, share 358; Frances T. Sanderson, share 92; and Margaret Waddle, formerly share 119.

Finances

Report of the Treasurer: Treasurer Mike Kenslea presented the financial summary for 2008. He also noted that fewer than 10 percent of proprietors were members of the Adams Society which recognizes those who have made provisions for the Athenæum in their wills. He asked that all keep the Athenæum in mind when considering their wills.

Report of the Investments Committee: Bill Purinton delivered the Report of the Investments Committee.

Reports on the Year

Report of the Keeper: Keeper Tom Hardiman delivered the Report of the Keeper. In doing so he noted that if you are not meeting the people of the Athenæum, you are not getting full value out of your membership.

Reports of the Committees

Carolyn Marvin delivered the Report of the Library Committee; **Richard Candee** delivered the Report of the Special Collections Committee; **Elizabeth Aykroyd** delivered the Report of the Arts and Artifacts Committee; **Keeper Tom Hardiman** delivered the Report of the Arts Athenæum – Performance Committee for **Bill Wieting**; **Dick Adams** delivered the Report of the Building Committee; **Gail Drobnyk** delivered the Report of the Technology Committee; **Ted Gray** delivered the Report of the Admissions Committee for **Boyd Morrison**.

Report of the President: President Carvel Tefft delivered the Report of the President. He thanked the outgoing directors and treasurer for their efforts and presented certificates of appreciation to Mike Kenslea and Jeff Bolster.

The full substance of the reports of the Keeper, the Committees, and the President follow this report.

Election of Officers and Directors

Dick Adams presented the following slate to replace outgoing officers and directors: Secretary (one year): Douglas Aykroyd; Treasurer (one year): William Purinton; Directors (three years): Karen Bouffard, Catherine Clark, Simeon Jarvis. Ted Gray moved that recommendations of the Nominating Committee be approved. Peter Lamb seconded and the membership approved the motion by consensus.

Other Business

President Carvel Tefft presented the board's proposal to change the By-Laws of the Athenæum. He suggested that Article 1 be amended to replace the fixed number of "three hundred and seventy-five shares" with "a fixed number of shares, the number to be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the Proprietors at the Annual Meeting." Immediate Past President Wendy Lull moved the motion which was seconded by Jeff Bolster. During the discussion Jack Magee moved that the motion be modified to read "three hundred and eighty" instead of "three hundred and seventy-five." This change was seconded by Kevin Lafond. Jack Magee expressed his concern that the intent of the original motion would be a first step toward changing the very nature of the Athenæum from a "private" organization to a "membership" organization, making it more like a country club than the special place that it is. President Carvel Tefft was asked if the Board had a membership number in mind when the original proposal was offered, and he stated that three hundred and ninety was the proposal for 2009. Jack Magee then changed his original modification from 380 to 390, and Kevin Lafond seconded. After vigorous discussion, the motion to change the the amendment failed, and the original motion passed. President Carvel Tefft then proposed that the number of proprietors be set at three hundred and ninety. The motion was moved by Mike Kenslea, seconded by John Rice, and passed by the membership. The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm and was followed by a small reception in the Library Room.

President's Report

Carvel B. Tefft

I would like to welcome you all to the 190th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. In case you were wondering, the Athenæum was incorporated in 1817, but did not have its first annual meeting until 1819, thus we are at the 190th. We have had a bit of a break in the weather in what has been a stormy winter (in more ways than one) and I hope the clearing skies bode well for our future.

The future has been a major topic of discussion at the Athenæum in the past year. The board has been working on the implementation of our Long-range Plan, which was approved at our last annual meeting. I have appointed an ad hoc committee to insure the smooth and timely implementation of key recommendations of the plan. The committee consists of Dick Adams, Ann Beatie, Jeff Bolster, myself, Wendy Lull, and Tom Hardiman (ex-officio). The first action of the committee was to conduct a survey of the Proprietors to get a sense of how they viewed the Athenæum and how they would like to see us move into the future. (*Ed. note: see page 10 for the Long Range Plan Progress Report and Survey Results.*)

More than a third of the Proprietors responded to the survey, which is a remarkable level of participation and the information will be invaluable to us as we proceed in the next few years. I have heard it said that "libraries are not made; they grow," and to that end we have already had some success in implementing recommendations of the long-range plan. Thanks to a generous bequest from Betty Jane Brighton, we were able to purchase the second floor condominium of the Foye Block, which we hope will be library space for housing our rapidly expanding collections. The space is currently being leased until we can raise the additional money needed to utilize the space effectively. The income from the lease has also been important in helping us weather the recent financial storms.

I can report that the Athenæum has an excellent Board of Directors and that strength of purpose and diversity has marked this board for several years. As the ad men from All-State say: "you're in good hands." I would like to give special thanks and recognition to those who are rotating off the board this year: Directors Cynthia Knapp and Jeffrey Bolster; Treasurer Mike Kenslea; and Secretary Ronan Donohoe, who is currently in China. Thanks to all of you for your dedication and support.

Speaking for myself, my association with the Athenæum has been a wonderful journey. Like so many of you, my first introduction to the Athenæum was a chance visit with John Maher. That piqued my interest and I became a member. Now, having served on the board and one year as President, I feel I understand better what the library is about and how we all, as Proprietors, develop a special attachment to the place. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be of service to the institution and I hope you will all join me in working to make a better future for the Athenæum.



Memorial Concert

Thursday, January 22, Arts Athenæum presented a Memorial Concert in St. John's Church featuring pianist Chad Bowles and dedicated to the memory of recently departed Proprietors, spouses, and past Proprietors *Charles W. Clark, Robert Dunn, Gerard Fountain, Joseph W. P. Frost, Albion W. Goodrich, Jr., Philip W. Hodgdon, Therese Quinn, Elizabeth Bennett Rice, Mary Ricklefs, Howell E. Russell, Henry M. Sanders, Frances T. Sanderson and Margaret Waddle*. A brief reception followed.

Keeper's Report

Tom Hardiman

2008 was certainly a year of challenges and of accomplishments. For me, the greatest relief in facing the daunting challenges before us is that I am lucky to have the best staff with whom I have ever worked. Nancy, Robin, Carolyn, Courtney, and Adam are not just competent in their work, they are also cordial, cooperative, and collegial. If any one of them is having trouble finding an answer or solving a problem, they all work together to come up with a solution. If any of you have ever worked in an information industry, you will recognize how very rare and wonderful that generosity and team spirit can be. And those of you who use the library regularly know what a treat it is to work with them.

The past year will be remembered for political strife and financial turmoil, but for me, the greatest challenge of 2008 was in the grief of how many good friends we have lost. I think in particular of Robert Dunn, our Custodian/Philosopher for a decade and a half. Robert may have left a bit to be desired in the field of maintenance, but as the embodiment of the Athenæum's mission of scholarship and society, he could not be matched. I think the time I spent talking about books with Robert in our Old Library Room is closest thing I will get to time travel.

Joe Frost was one of my oldest friends here – I had known him since I was in college and my sister was working on our family genealogy. We would laugh because we both had ancestors in York County going back ten generations, but not a single common relative that we could find.

Beth Rice was another hard loss. Beth was always one to push and challenge, push and challenge, but you never had the feeling that she was pushing you down, just that she thought you could do better. And if she thought you could do better, she would push you to do better. In her battle with cancer Beth taught us all to never whine, never complain, and never be afraid to push others to rise to a challenge.

Especially because he never missed an Annual Meeting, Howie Russell will surely be missed by most of us here today. I don't think I have ever known anyone (with the possible exception of Ted Gray) as good-natured as Howie. The only time I can recall him getting cross was when I had to tell him that we couldn't accept his gift of an enormous engraving of Daniel Webster giving a speech in Congress because it didn't meet our collections criteria.

"What!" he bellowed, "this is Daniel Webster. He lived right here in Portsmouth!" Then, once I explained to him that when he was in Congress, Webster represented Massachusetts, he said, "Oh, of course," and went right back to his normal happy mood. It was simultaneously inspiring and confounding.

These were just a few of the good friends lost this year. My point in telling these stories to say that in the various committee reports today you will hear much about the Athenæum's rare and valuable collections, but if you are not taking advantage of the opportunities to get to know this astoundingly interesting and amusing group of people, you are definitely not getting your money's worth out of your Athenæum membership.

Technology Committee Report

Gail Drobnyk

The Technology Committee met several times in 2008 to review technology issues facing the Athenæum. We continued the service contract that we initiated in 2006 with Lenharth Systems, as they have provided excellent technical support.

We met with Jason Wall of Lenharth Systems to begin planning the network requirements for the second floor. The network configuration will depend on the planned use of the new space and we will plan to do the wiring while the space is under construction.

There is a need for a copier that provides automatic feeding and collating and that would work on the network. There is also an occasional need for printing multiple color copies. We reviewed the options and, although we preferred the option of purchasing a color copier, recommended purchasing a new black and white copier and a separate color laser printer because of cost considerations. In December Tom was able to negotiate the purchase of a color copier for the amount that we had budgeted for a black and white copier and the new copier will arrive next week.

If any of you have any suggestions for technology initiatives in 2009 please pass them on to me or any of the committee members: Rose Eppard, Tom Hardiman, Claudia Morner, Nancy Mulqueen, Dennis Robinson, Robin Silva, and Gail Drobnyk.

Investment Committee Report

Bill Purinton

The close of 2008 marked the end of the second full year of the Athenæum's endowment investment portfolio under the management of Smith Barney through its office here in Portsmouth. As we all by now know, it was a year of unprecedented turmoil in global financial markets.

My committee includes the following proprietors: Elizabeth Bardwell, John Schoemerhorn, Cathleen Hodson and Michael Murray. We have met several times this year to monitor the performance of the portfolio. Our objective was and continues to be maintaining asset diversification in order to achieve long-term growth of the endowment invested according to the prudent risk parameters specified by the Athenæum's investment policy.

As of December 31, 2008 the portfolio, which totaled \$786M, was comprised as follows:

	\$M	%	2007 by comparison	
Cash	87	11.1	109	8.1
Corporate Bonds	120	15.3	202	15.0
US Treasuries	51	6.5	52	3.9
Preferred Stock	51	6.5	40	3.0
Common Stock	477	60.6	940	70.0
Totals	786	100.0	1,343	100.0

During 2008 about \$239,000 was withdrawn from the endowment to fund the purchase of a portion of our building and to meet budgeted support of operating expenses. The bulk of these monies originated with the Brighton bequest received by the Athenæum in 2007. Operating support was provided by interest and dividend income totaling about \$29,000.

The ratio of equity to fixed income securities, including cash, was roughly 60 / 40 at year's end. Asset allocation within the common stock portfolio at 12/31/08 was as follows: cash 13%, growth companies 37%, value companies 31% and international companies 19%.

Our investments tend to be in larger companies, listed on the NYSE, within these asset classes. Each asset class within the equity portfolio is handled by a separate manager under the overall oversight of Smith Barney. The common stock portfolio as a whole showed a negative rate of return of 35.7% for the year ending 12/31/08. This compares to the negative 37.9% recorded for the same period by the broadly based S&P 500 stock index. While the international and value components of our portfolio out-performed their benchmark indices, the growth component continued to show significant under-performance.

The fixed income portion of the portfolio has been structured to generate current income in support of the Athenæum's operating budget. It currently is yielding about 6.57%, or about \$15,500 annually. Annual dividends from the equity portfolio contributed an additional \$14,200.

I closed my remarks at this meeting a year ago with a prediction of credit market turmoil and stock market weakness. Unfortunately I was right. While these conditions persist today, I am hopeful that we may look forward to gradual improvement in the performance of our endowment funds during 2009.

I believe that the steps we have taken over the recent past to diversify the Athenæum endowment will enhance prospects for its recovery and eventual growth over the coming years.

Art & Artifacts Committee Report

Elizabeth Rhoades Akroyd

The Art and Artifacts Collection Committee is charged with the care and exhibition of the objects, as opposed to books, manuscripts, and photographs, in the Athenæum's possession. The Committee is responsible for their arrangement in all parts of the Athenæum building, except for the Randall Room, where the fine exhibitions are held under the auspices of the Exhibition Committee.

The main work of the year has been to continue to re-catalogue the collection to enter it into the PastPerfect software. You can see the results on the web site, where each object is shown with a photograph and pertinent information. This project will be ongoing for some time, since the research necessary to catalogue an object completely can be lengthy. In 2008 there were four new accessions, and sixty-one objects or sets of objects were re-catalogued. Work was also begun to sort out the large number of works which came to us from Dorothy Vaughan's estate in 2005. It is a big project in itself to try to sort out the works by different artists, but the largest part appears to have been the work of Mary Harris, who lived in Portsmouth and was a Proprietor of the Athenæum.

In 2008 our main acquisition was the handsome silver teapot presented to Captain George Frost Blunt by the New Hampshire Fire and Marine Insurance Company, our predecessors in the 1805 building. The teapot made by Jones and Baldwin of Boston was the gift of Louise and Basil Richardson. Joseph W.P. Frost, before his death, also gave us three drawings dated 1842 from the Lady Pepperrell House in Kittery.

Thanks to a grant from the Thaxter Foundation, we were able to repair the vase painted by Celia Thaxter and to remount the exhibit of the Thaxter ceramics on the Mezzanine with new labels and graphics. We also have put a small sample of some of Mary Harris's watercolors and drawings in the table case in the Old Library Room. We plan to showcase more of our holdings in this case from time to time. New accessions of 2008 include: three drawings by A.W. Fiske, Kittery Point, 1842, Lady Pepperrell House, Sally Cutts, Joseph Cutts (gift of Joseph W.P. Frost); two insignia and a threepenny bit – war souvenirs of Philip Hodgdon (gift of Mary Lou Hodgdon); five silhouettes from the Ffrost-Sawyer Homestead, Durham (purchase); presentation teapot to George F. Blunt (gift of Louise and Basil Richardson).

Members of the Committee are Douglas Aykroyd, Deborah Child, Louise Dennett, Rose Eppard, Barbara Hill, Evelyn Lamprey, Elaine Tefft, Hilda Versluys, Joyce Volk, Tom Hardiman and Elizabeth Aykroyd.

Arts Athenæum Performance Committee Report

Bill Weiting

In 2008 the Performance Committee organized the Athenæum's Annual Memorial Concert, presented on 3 February at St. John's Church. The performance was by Geoffrey Wieting, who played both the church's LeTourneau organ and the 18th century Brattle organ. Thirteen deceased proprietors or friends of the Athenæum were honored, including Frank Butterworth, Matthew Cote, Ruth Cowan, Nancy Goss, Kevin Guy, Allen Kaufman, Kennard Palfrey, Merrilee Possner, George Sherman, Gladys Smith, Clotilde Straus, Daniel Tarbell, and Douglas Woodward. Thursday, 22 January 2009, the Performance Committee presented the Annual Memorial Concert at St. John's Church, with Mr. Chad Bowles in recital on the Steinway grand piano there. (Mr. Bowles has studied with Frederick Moyer, who performed at our Memorial Concert some years ago in the same venue.) Immediately after the concert, an informal reception was held at the Athenæum for Proprietors and the families of the memorialized proprietors to be memorialized. The concert was open to the public, gratis.

The committee has had some difficulty in gathering for meetings - attendance by two or three has been the rule - but plans are afoot for several concerts in the coming spring, including folk music by "The Toad in the Road," a group which includes our own Bruce MacIntyre.

Other possibilities for Athenæum programs include: Jose Lascano, guitar, possibly along with flutist Sergei Pallottelli (a return, suggested by Heather and Bruce); small choral groups such as Tuckerman Eight—a men's ensemble led by Darryl Robertson—or a smaller portion of Amare Cantare, or the York Singers; and a possible jazz program has excited lots of interest and enthusiasm. Of interest for the Athenæum might be a program centered around some explanations and examples, i.e., some teaching, that might deepen the audience's understanding (and, hence, appreciation) of jazz structures, idioms, conventions, history, etc.

The Performance Committee is always eager to hear ideas and suggestions for concerts or other performances that might be sponsored by Arts Athenæum, and equally ready to receive new members with ideas and energy.

Admissions Committee Report

Boyd Morrison

The first meeting of the new Admissions Committee was held on 29 September 2008 at the Athenæum. Committee members are: Mark Connolly, Ted Gray, Cynthia Knapp, Boyd Morrison Chairman, Mike Murray, John Rice, and Tom Watson.

Subscribers Approved for Proprietorship are Wendy Starkey, John C. Lamson, Joseph A. Capobianco, Donald Stevens, Robert M. Chaikin, David H. Waters.

Subscribers awaiting Proprietorship include Amy K. Gant, John Evans, Sally Ford, Susan J. Reynolds, Samuel W. Page, Stephanie T. Seacord, Patrick I. Clary, Nancy Wetzels, Thomas Catalano, David A. Borden, Arlon A. Chaffee, Trip Allen.

Motion (by John Rice): "That the Admissions Committee approve the current list of Subscribers awaiting

Proprietorship and recommend them forward to the Board.” Second (Ted Gray). Motion passed (unanimous).

Additionally, each of the eleven new applicants was assigned a committee member to review their application and contact both the applicant and their respective endorsers. With the goal of being impartial, each committee member was assigned an applicant(s) that they did not know personally; applicant review assignments were: Mark Allinson – Ted Gray; John Shaw & Ned Robinson – Cynthia Knapp; Monica Reuss & Allan McGee – John Rice; William Dean Howells & Allan Ammann – Boyd Morrison; Jessica Ritzo & Elizabeth Tarbell – Mike Murray; George Eatman – Tom Watson; Doug Wheeler – Mark Connolly.

On October 27, our committee met again to review this next group of applicants. Following discussion, motions on each individual applicant were made. Current status of applicants are as follows. Applicants for Subscriber Recommended by Admissions Committee/Approved by Board: Mark B. Allinson, John R. Shaw, Monica E. Reuss, Allan R. McGee, Edward O. Robinson, William Dean Howells, Douglas L. Wheeler, Alan D. Ammann, Elizabeth S. Tarbell, George H. Eatman. Applicants for Subscriber with Completed Applications (Current review by Admissions Committee): Jessica C. Ritzo, Carolyn Kelly, Stephen Decatur.

The Admissions Committee will hold its next meeting in late January/early February.

Special Collections Committee Report

Richard Candee

The Special Collections Committee mission is to keep local manuscripts, imprints, ephemera, serials and photographs from disappearing out of the area and to buy items that should come back to Portsmouth. We also encourage local organizations to deposit manuscripts and photographs with us for public research use. We recommend materials for deaccession or transfer, and review staff needs for budgeting. Besides myself, committee members have been Buzzy Dodge, Ronan Donahoe, Jane Porter, Dr. Warren Pringle, Sumner Winebaum and Peter Narbonne, with Tom Hardiman, Keeper, and President Carvell Tefft (ex officio). We rarely meet as a group, doing most of our work by email and individually working with the staff.

Manuscripts are purchased with the help of the Athenæum's Warrick Fund endowment and by individual gifts from Proprietors. We seek Board permission to buy materials costing over \$2000. Often at the end of each year we are surprised by some important offer of local manuscripts or other materials that requires such action. Fortunately, there was no “December Surprise” this year.

Indeed, additions to the manuscripts this year were generally modest and normal—including such gifts as scrapbooks of the Atlantic Heights PTA in the 1960s, and purchases of 19th century manuscripts of Susan Halliburton, Nathaniel A. Haven's 1784-88 wastebok, and records of the Martin Parry estate charges. The Warner House Association added four Civil War items related to John P. Sherburne to its deposit collection, the Portsmouth 3miscellaneous 19th century legal documents, and Louise Tallman gave two early 20th century plot plans to Harmony Grave and Sagamore cemeteries.

Peter Randall gave two unpublished manuscripts on Portsmouth sailing vessels by Julian Fisher and Woodard Openo; Irene Crosby, Hollis Broderick, Peter Narbonne, Kinley Gregg, Nancy Sell and Dennis Robinson all gave other local materials. Several minor items came from the Dorothy Vaughan collection and Ruth Fletcher gave us diaries of the Rev. Joseph Adams of Newington 1715-1782, while a clutch of letters, cards and photographs donated by Eileen MacDonald between Joseph MacDonald and Marie Leonard describe working class life in Portsmouth during and after the last Great Depression (mostly 1933-1936). Courtney MacLachlan finally added to our manuscript catalog “Mr Furnald, sir, I got your Beems Redy,” eleven letters to local ship builders Fernald & Pettigrew (1846-1857), that were given to us by Joe Parks back in 2002.

Perhaps one of the most important “finds” catalogued this year was the Seal of John Paul Jones from the Wendell Collection. This rare wax seal had long ago been published and is something the late Joe Frost had been looking for (pushing me and staff to find) ever since the 1980s when the Athenæum first got the Wendell families papers. It is ironic and sad that it finally surfaced just as he passed away.

This brings me to the start of what I think will be single most significant bequest of this decade to the Athenæum rare books, local imprints, manuscripts, and other special collections from the collections of Joseph William Pepperell Frost. Many decades ago a local paper did a story on Joe and his wonderful antiquarian paper collections and asked what would become of it. “Oh,” he said, “it all will go to the Portsmouth Athenæum.” And so it has. We have Peter Narbonne to thank for his careful identification of those materials Joe specifically slated for us that are slowly being added to our several collections.

Manuscripts include a Freight Book from the Sloop Franklin 1792-93, a group of 1870s and 1889s letters to and from local author B. P. Shillaber (a great favorite of Joe's), a 1725 deed for land in Kittery from Joseph Heard to Nathan Bartlett, as well as various miscellaneous bits and pieces found in Joe's books as Robin Silva processed them.

Joe's books include rare pamphlets and ephemera like catalogues and invitations exhibited here last summer, or a catalogue of local artist Rose Labrie, and various 19th and early 20th century historical pamphlets, especially sermons of local ministers and historical addresses. Added to our reference collection is a 1995 architectural survey of Eliot and one of the earliest American works on books: An introduction to the study of bibliography (1814) and other books on books, including *The Salem Athenæum* (1917). To our general book collections Joe's books add biographical works on the Moody family, John Mason, Sir Fernando Gorges, Capt. Francis Champernowne. Also backup copies of rare works like the Wentworth family genealogy, Ticknor's memoir of Nathaniel A. Haven (with the rare bookplate of the "Portsmouth Apprentice Library"), the strange and wonderful 1870 pamphlets of the eccentric polymath John Elwyn (formerly owned by A. H. Hoyt), his brother's 1943 *The Nicholas Frost Family*, as well as various works about William Pepperrell (of course) about who Joe dedicated more than 50 years trying to bring greater attention and interest. One of these, Usher Parson's 1855 biography was owned by our own Charles Brewster, as was one of the Shillaber books of poems, inscribed by the author.

Other works were clearly acquired for who wrote them. For example, Joe (a lifelong Democrat) had a copy of Thomas Jefferson's *Manual of Parliamentary Practice for the Use of the Senate of the United States* (1820) now in our rare book vault.

An important additions to our vault are four early 18th century pamphlets bound together on the New England church and its discipline that were owned by Tobias Leighton and acquired by Sir William Pepperrell, under whom Leighton served at the surrender of Louisbourg. Another Pepperrell book with Louisbourg association is Joseph Addison's *Evidences of the Christian Religion* (1742) inscribed "A present from the Honourable Admiral Warren", whose full scale portrait by Smibert dominates the Reading Room downstairs, "to William Pepperrell, 5th January, anno domini 1745."

William Pepperrell's wife was the daughter of the famous 17th century Boston witch-trial judge and diarist Samuel Sewall (1652-1730). Many of the Pepperrell books in the collection Joe gave us some years ago came from Samuel Sewall's own library, and we can now add a 1651 religious *Exposition* by Jeremiah Burroughs, annotated with comments throughout, and inscribed "Samuel Sewall Aug. 21, 1707."

As these selected works suggest, Joe loved associational copies and he often made extensive notes inside to remind us who the various former owners were. Thus, Jonathan Parsons' *Good News from a Far Country* (1756) has Joe's note: "1st book printed in New Hampshire with ads of Daniel Fowle" New Hampshire's first printer. Benjamin Parker's sermon on the ordination of Joseph Eames at Newton, NH, *The difficulties, duties and encouragements of Christ's ministers considered* (1759 ed.) is noted on Joe's bookplate as "1756 first printing in NH" and is inscribed "Nathan Weare's Book 1767." Weare, Joe noted, is mentioned in *Adam's Annals* as one of three NH delegates to the 1754 Provincial Congress that first proposed a plan of union to meet the threat of French and Indian encroachment.

The *1799 Prayer Book for the use of families prepared by the Ministers on the Piscataqua River* (1799, the earlier of 2 editions) is inscribed by Joe: "My great-great-grandfather's prayer book, Capt. Joseph Frost (1791-1880), inscribed by Maj. Joseph Frost (1762-1811), Joseph W. P. Frost."

A couple of books have association with NH Governor, Sec. of the Navy, U.S. Senator, and Supreme Court Justice Levi Woodbury of Portsmouth. These include D.J. Browne's 1834 *Letters from the Canary Islands* inscribed to Woodbury from the author, and one of Woodbury's early collection of ancient books, William Lombarde's *Eirenarcha: or Of the office of the Justice of the Peace, in foure bookes* (1599) that came out of Woodbury's gift to the Rockingham County courthouse when that State Street structure was about to be demolished—and probably acquired because Joe, too, was long-time local JP in Maine.

A copy of Alfred Tennyson's *In Memoriam* (1850) has in Joe's distinctive tiny hand "From Celia Thaxter's Library" and is inscribed "Lucy W. Thaxter, August 1850 /Isles of Shoals, Aug. 15th" (and loaded with dried flowers between the pages!). His copy of *A Garden Island* (1895) was "given to Miss Helen Pearson's mother by Celia. Her mother was daughter of Tobias Ham Miller" to whom it was inscribed by the author. It was further inscribed to Joe by Rosamond Thaxter and loaded, as was his habit, with related printed material, manuscripts and photographs.

We also acquired from Joe, Celia Thaxter's manuscript poems "The Sandpiper" and "The Sunrise Never Failed Us Yet," along with her letter to James R. Osgood, the publisher of *The Atlantic*, and the original \$200 check she received for her poems. These all had appeared in the "Literary Lions" exhibit.

In addition to all this are photographs of Joe and his brother John Eldredge Frost, the Frost family, plus a diagram of the Frost Farm in Eliot. We look forward to further additions to this large and important collection in 2010.

Of other photographs acquired in 2008, we purchased a number of local images on eBay, often because Dennis Robinson brought them to Tom's and my attention (thank you, Dennis): two uncommon shots of Henderson Point being blown up in 1905, several stereocards of Portsmouth and the harbor, an albumen print of Nellie Dennett (b. in 1849), and 13 identified photographs of Lafayette V. Newell and family. In addition, tintypes and daguerreotypes of the Frost and Sawyer families of Dover and elsewhere were purchased at Northeast Auctions in November. Other photographs were donated by Earle Shettleworth Jr., of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, arial views of Portsmouth donated by Ken Doolittle, and recent documentary photos of Lafayette School by Lisa Mausolf.

Special Collections Committee Report, cont.

Finally, as always, I must thank our staff and volunteers: Carolyn Marvin handles all the ephemera and is at present cataloguing all our map collection so that it will be searchable on-line. Courtney MacLachlan, our Archivist, has kept the new acquisitions up-to-date, while cataloguing many earlier gifts and purchases. Susan Kindstedt continues to get detailed information about our various large archival collections on line. Today two-thirds (48 out of 67) of our numbered manuscript collections now have their complete finding aids on www.PortsmouthAthenaeum.org. Congratulations to all our staff for their fine work!

2008 Long Range Plan Progress Report & Survey

The Athenæum's 5-year plan was approved at last year's Annual Meeting. The plan addressed nearly every aspect of the Athenæum's operation. Board President Carvel Tefft assembled an Ad Hoc Committee to prioritize implementation of the Plan.

Committee members include Dick Adams, Ann Beattie, Jeff Bolster, Tom Hardiman, Wendy Lull, and Carvel Tefft. As the group prioritized the Plan's recommendations, it became clear that we needed input from the membership before they could proceed in several key areas. Ann Beattie crafted a member survey that would provide insight in several key areas. The survey was distributed over the summer. Over 35% of the total Proprietors responded, which is an unusually high rate for surveys of this kind—thank you all! A summary of the results follows.

The Committee continues to address the issues of building condition, space and funding. Members' feedback on these initial areas is greatly appreciated by the Committee, and will continue to inform their work. Watch for further updates in future issues of the newsletter.

Fall 2008 Proprietors Survey Results (Summary)

One hundred thirty-seven of 375 Proprietors participated in the survey, a response rate of 37%. Seven percent of respondents used Athenæum website at least 10 times over the last 6 months, 9% used the Athenæum for research at least 10 times, 10% borrowed books at least 10 times and 14% engaged in light reading at least 10 times. Those offerings, as well as attendance at speaker or book events, were not utilized at all over the last 6 months by an average of 50% of respondents.

In considering how much they valued the "Collections," "Programs" and "General operations" of the Athenæum, respondents allocated 46 points of 100 points to "Collections" and 26.5 points each to "Programs" and "General Operations." Respondents felt strongly that the Athenæum was fulfilling its mission among members and somewhat less strongly, but still favorably, felt the Athenæum was fulfilling that mission in the community.

As a means of increasing income for the Athenæum, "Increasing Assessments" was neither favored nor opposed by respondents. The two most favorable means of increasing income for the Athenæum were "Fundraising" and "Increasing the Number of Proprietors." Seventy-one percent of respondents favored an increase in the number of Athenæum Proprietors, which currently stands at 375; 33% wanted an increase to 400, 16% preferred an increase to 450 and 22% favored an increase to at least 500 Proprietors.

The average length respondents had been Proprietors was 13.3 years. Half of the Athenæum's Proprietors have nominated someone else to become a Proprietor.

Portsmouth Athenæum 2008 Financial Summary

Reported by Michael Kenslea

REVENUE:

Proprietor Assessments	\$	77,925
Annual Appeal		32,786
Miscellaneous Contributions		28,475
Investment Income		79,299
Other Operating Income		7,736
Gain (loss) on Sale of Investments		(28,977)
Receipts for Special Purposes		42,093

(including gifts and grants) \$ 239,337

EXPENDITURES:

Staff & Related Costs	\$	121,886
Collections		11,295
Utilities		14,027
Building, Maintenance & Renovations		21,149
Insurance, Office, Printing		38,292
Depreciation		27,257
Special Purpose Expenditures		30,011

\$ 263,918

ENDOWMENTS & RESERVE ADDITIONS:

Reserve Additions	\$	1,382
-------------------	----	-------

.....
Balance Sheet

ASSETS:

Cash, including Savings Reserves	\$	98,753
Invested Funds		788,390
Accounts Receivable		30,800
Prepaid Expenses		3,142
Fixed Assets		740,380

\$ 1,661,466

LIABILITIES:

Prepaid Proprietor Assessments	\$	78,200
Deferred Income		15,261
Accounts Payable		14,891

\$ 108,353

FUND BALANCES:

Net Surplus		(23,199)
Fund Balances		1,576,312

1,661,466

The Portsmouth Athenæum
9 Market Square
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Return Service Requested

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: *CARVEL B. TEFFT*

VICE-PRESIDENT: *G. PATRICK NERBONNE*

TREASURER: *WILLIAM PURINTON*

SECRETARY: *DOUGLAS AYKROYD*

PAST PRESIDENT: *WENDY W. LULL*

ANN E. BEATTIE

KAREN L. BOUFFARD

PHILIP CAVANAUGH

KATHERINE S. CLARK

FREDERICK S. GRAY, JR.

SUSAN KRESS HAMILTON

COL. LIONEL INGRAM

SIMEON P. JARVIS

MICHAEL M. MURRAY

STAFF:

KEEPER: *TOM HARDIMAN*

LIBRARIAN: *ROBIN SILVA*

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: *CAROLYN MARVIN*

ARCHIVIST: *COURTNEY MACLACHLAN*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: *ADAM CLEMENTS*

OFFICE MANAGER: *NANCY MULQUEEN*

CONTRACTED SERVICES:

BOOKKEEPING: *DOROTHY POLANDO*

ARCHIVAL SERVICES: *SUSAN KINDSTEDT*

www.portsmouthathenaeum.org

Annual Meeting Issue

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

Your Library Needs You, cont.

program, a lecture, a trip, or one of the many other social events that keep our Athenæum vibrant. We welcome reading groups, writing groups, or discussion groups. If you have a favorite library subject, talk with Robin about how to keep that section neat and inviting, properly shelved, and clean. Or, better yet, partner with other members who are interested in the same subject and make an event of it. You may be surprised with what you might discover!

Our Exhibits Committee is always in need of gallery sitters and someone to help Lee Roberts, who generously volunteers to schedule the sitters.

Our Art & Artifacts Committee and Building Committee are always looking for help in maintaining our historic spaces in ways that keep them hospitable but safe places to display our collections.

We still need help in securing the funds to transform the 2nd floor of the Foye block into safe, secure, and accessible storage for our rapidly growing special collections.

All that we do is made possible by the generosity of our members. The lights stay on thanks to your annual dues and your very generous additional gifts. To truly fulfill our mission, we need our members to embrace the unique nature of the Athenæum and to build an institution that reflects themselves and speaks well to our future Proprietors and show them how it is properly done. Together, we will make it happen.