

The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Summer, 2005

War and Peace: Images from the Russo-Japanese War

A hundred years ago, this was as close as it got to television.

Thirty-four rare lithographs go on display June 18 at the Portsmouth Athenæum, part of the free exhibit, "War and Peace: Images from the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905."

The drawings were made from accounts telegraphed from the battlefield to artists in Tokyo.

"They would get these lithographs out almost overnight," said Eleanor J. Tracy, the exhibit's curator. "They would appear in newspapers. The idea was to win support for the war within Japan and to attract support from various sympathetic Western nations."

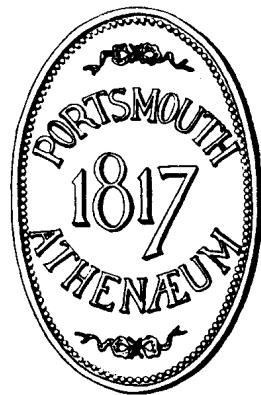
The images come from the collections of Frederic A. Sharf, an independent scholar who bought his first Japanese woodblock print in June 1983 while browsing in a London flea market.

"I had become a frequent business traveler and was looking for some artistic object to collect to enhance those trips," said the Boston, Mass., resident and Harvard history graduate, who describes himself as having an "early but forsaken desire to go into academia."

The exhibit in the Athenæum's Randall Gallery also includes a photographic collage of the Japanese and Russian negotiators who came to Portsmouth to end a bloody, 18-month war — a collision between Japan, seeking a sphere of influence in Korea, and Russia, expanding into Manchuria.

"There were 500,000 fighting on each side. It was the biggest war the world had seen to that point," said Chuck Doleac, co-chairman and founder of the Portsmouth

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Catalogue Raisonné

John Samuel Blunt
(1798-1835)

Upcoming Athenæum Events

June - September, 2005

You Gotta Regatta!

On-the-water fun—including the popular children's Sail-A-Thon, exciting racing and a remote radio broadcast—make Portsmouth's South Mill Pond the place to be Sunday, August 7, when the Seacoast Science Center and Portsmouth Model Yacht Club team up with the Portsmouth Athenæum and Friends of the South End for the Center's ninth annual model yacht regatta. The action starts at 10:00 a.m. and continues throughout the day, ending with a 3:00 p.m. reception at the Athenæum.

Events begin at the upper pond with a multi-fleet regatta for the

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War and Peace: Images from the Russo-Japanese War, *cont.*

Peace Treaty Anniversary Committee and one of seven speakers who will present lectures as part of the Athenæum exhibit.

Doleac is also lending the exhibit some books, diaries and other items from his personal collection. In addition, there will be an original painting by Frederic Remington showing the Russians marching in Manchuria. It's on loan from owner Julia Randall of Chevy Chase, Md.

Tracy said the message of the exhibit is to show how the small community of Portsmouth helped achieve a peace treaty that ended a major war and led to President Theodore Roosevelt winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906.

"A community, however small, can be a catalyst for peace," Tracy said. "In 1905, Portsmouth proved that truth."

Roosevelt never came to Portsmouth during the treaty talks, which were held at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. But Tracy said he kept a close eye on things from his "summer White House" in Oyster Bay, N.Y., summoning the various Russian or Japanese delegates there several times when negotiations almost came to a halt.

"His real concern was achieving a balance of power," she said. Adding to the sense of time travel that is a goal of the exhibit, Tracy said, will be background music of war-time ballads the geishas sang as they played on the samisen, a three-string, banjo-like instrument. Musicologist Edgar Pope, a professor at Hokusei Gakuen University in Sapporo, Japan, created a 27-song CD especially for the Athenæum. Titles from the 1904-5 songs include *The Enemy is 10,000*, *Advancing Through the Snow* and *Song of the*

Drawn Swords.

The North Church, across the street from the Athenæum, is donating its sanctuary to host the lecture series for the exhibit so up to 500 people can be accommodated.

The lectures, free and open to the public, run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and include:

July 16: Author Constantine Pleshakov speaks about Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and Emperor Meiji of Japan as well as the epic naval battle in which the Russians lost their fleet in a matter of hours.

Aug. 4: Author Peter E. Randall describes the role of ordinary New Hampshire citizens who offered the Russian and Japanese delegates banquets, parties and prayers.

Aug. 25: Author Christopher Benfey speaks on the New Englanders who went to Japan seeking spiritual fulfillment.

Sept. 6: Edgar Pope, Hokusei Gakuen University Junior College musicologist, Sapporo Japan, addresses "The Sound of Music of the Meiji Era."

Sept. 20: Charles Doleac, founder of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Anniversary Committee, looks at "Peace Making in Portsmouth."

Sept. 27: Anne Nishimura Morse, curator of Japanese art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,

speaks on "Artists' Reflections on the War."

Oct. 1: Author Kathleen Dalton looks at the President's diplomatic coup in her lecture, "Roosevelt to the Rescue."

The *War and Peace: Images from the Russo-Japanese War* exhibit is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. through Nov. 5. For event details, please see pages 4 & 5.

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WELCOME and THANKS to these new and renewed FRIENDS OF THE ATHENÆUM:

*Nicholas Baker
Richard Berry
Stephen Berwick
Margaret Betts
Marion Buffington*

*John & Sandra Dika
Barbara Gregg
Nate Hazen
Milli Knudsen
David F. Lomasney*

*Ellen Marlatt
Mary Russell
Henry M. Sanders
Keith & Toni Searles
Jeff Warner*

GENEROSITY

ArtsAthenæum:

*Patricia Heard
Lee Roberts
Thomas Hall Roberts*

Book Fund:

Christopher Russell

For the Eléonore Sanderson Poetry Series:

Felice Fullam & Peter Sullivan

Special Collections: (to purchase a letter from John Langdon to Tobias Lear)

*Michael Baenen
Larry Benedict
Barbara Gregg*

Support for the Treaty Exhibition and Lecture Series:

*Mike Chubrich & Donna Saunders
Dudley Dudley
Jameson French
George Friese & David A. Taylor
Frank & Joan Graf
Shel & Elaine Krasker
Ursula Wright*

Unrestricted:

*Philip McDonough
Middle Street Baptist Church*

GRANT SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION:

Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation for the development of a web site
NH Humanities Council in support of the Treaty lecture series
North Church in support of cataloging the North Church archival collection
Isles of Shoals Association to transfer the Shoals images database into PastPerfect

THANKS to members and friends who have given their time and talents to our efforts:

Eleanor Tracy, who devoted well over a year of work to making the Peace Treaty exhibit
and lecture series come to life.

Fred Sharf for the loan of his fabulous collection of lithographs and for producing the catalog.

Rose Eppard for staying late into the evening to help hang the exhibit.

Sherry Wood for the excellent publicity.

Darcy Scott for designing and formatting the newsletter and for helping with the web site.

COMING PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM EVENTS

June - September 2005

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED, SINCE SPACE IS LIMITED.

- JUNE 16 Exhibit Opening for "War and Peace: Images from the Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905." 5:30 - 8:00 in the Randall Gallery. Frederic A Sharf, Historian and Collector, speaks on "The Art of Propaganda: Lithographs Published During the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905. " Invitations are forthcoming.
- JUNE 21 Brock Jobe, Professor of Decorative Arts at Winterthur will talk on "Two Studies - Portsmouth and Southeastern Massachusetts Furniture: What Stayed, What Changed" in a session of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, 5:30 at the Rockingham Ballroom. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- JUNE 23 Book signing for James E. Fender, author of *On the Spur of Speed*, the latest in the series chronicling the exciting adventures of Captain Geoffry Frost of Portsmouth during the American Revolution. 5:30 p.m. in the Sawtelle Reading Room.
- JUNE 24 "What is it? How do I find it? And what is that doing in the Athenæum?" A primer on how to use our new electronic and paper tools to find what you are looking for in the library. 5 p.m. in the Research Library. Call 431-2538 ext. 2 for reservations.
- JULY 7 Book signing for Nancy Grossman, author of *The Placenames of Portsmouth*, being an anecdotal stroll through the centuries and neighborhoods of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 5:30 p.m. in the Sawtelle Reading Room.
- JULY 16 Constantine Pleshakov, author of *The Tsar's Last Armada: The Epic Voyage to the Battle of Tsushima* will talk about Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and Emperor Meiji of Japan as well as the epic naval battle in which the Russians lost their fleet in a matter of hours. 5:30 p.m. at North Church.
- JULY 22 "What is it? How do I find it? And what is that doing in the Athenæum?" A primer on how to use our new electronic and paper tools to find what you are looking for in the library. 5 p.m. in the Research Library. Call 431-2538 ext. 2 for reservations.
- AUGUST 4 Peter E. Randall of Portsmouth, author of *There Are No Victors Here: A Local History on the Treaty of Portsmouth*, will describe the role of ordinary New Hampshire citizens who offered the Russian and Japanese delegates banquets, parties and prayers. 5:30 p.m. at North Church.
- AUGUST 7 The Seacoast Science Center and Portsmouth Model Yacht Club Regatta at the South Mill Pond from 9:30 to 2:30, with a reception to follow in the Sawtelle Reading Room of the Athenæum at 3:00.
- AUGUST 25 Christopher Benfey, author of *The Great Wave: Gilded Age Misfits, Japanese Eccentrics and the Opening of Japan*, will speak on the New Englanders who went to Japan seeking spiritual fulfillment. 5:30 p.m. at North Church.

COMING PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM EVENTS

June - September 2005, cont.

- AUGUST 26 "What is it? How do I find it? And what is that doing in the Athenæum?" A primer on how to use our new electronic and paper tools to find what you are looking for in the library. 5 p.m. in the Research Library. Call 431-2538 ext. 2 for reservations.
- SEPT. 6 Edgar Pope, musicologist, Hokusei Gakuen University Junior College, Sapporo Japan, will address "The Sound of Music of the Meiji Era." 5:30 p.m. at North Church.
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- OCT. 1 Kathleen Dalton, author of *Theodore Roosevelt: A Strenuous Life*, will look at the president's diplomatic coup in her lecture, "Roosevelt to the Rescue." 5:30 p.m. at North Church.

Catalogue Raisonné for John Samuel Blunt (1798-1835)

Deborah Child is undertaking a Catalogue Raisonné for the artist and Portsmouth native John Samuel Blunt (1798-1835), known to have executed miniatures, ship ornaments and signage, as well as portraits, landscapes, and marine art. His works can be seen in many public collections including the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Virginia; the American Folk Art Museum, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, MA; and both the Portsmouth Historical Society and Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH.

Blunt's early years were reportedly spent working in the Boston workshop of John Ritto Penniman (American, 1782-1841). By 1819, he was in Concord, NH, seeking portrait commissions. In 1821 he married Esther Peake Colby (1801-1872), taking up residency on Portsmouth's Pleasant St where, in 1825, he opened an art instruction school—soliciting patrons by advertising in the local papers. Moving to Boston in 1831, he established a studio on Cornhill, settling his family into a residence on Castle Street. He perished on a sea voyage home from New Orleans to Boston in 1835.

Nina Fletcher Little brought the first serious critical attention to Blunt with her landmark article *J. S. Blunt, New England Landscape Painter* published in *Antiques* in (September 1948) However, since the demise of Robert C. H. Bishop, who based his dissertation *The Borden Limner and His Contemporaries* (University of Michigan, 1975) on Blunt and highlighted his work in the exhibition also entitled *The Borden Limner and His Contemporaries* (University of Michigan Museum of Art. November 1976 through January 1977), little has been published on this artist.

Since then, a number of previously unknown works by Blunt have surfaced including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and other items such as a very fine pair fire buckets (sold at Northeast Auctions, Portsmouth, NH, August 2004). As a result, Deborah has elected to develop a more in-depth chronology for this artist and update the checklist of his signed and attributed works. She is especially interesting in locating any descendants of the artist as well as locating documentary sources such as diaries, account books, sketches and paintings. Should you have personal knowledge of this artist, own any works by him or know others who do, please contact her directly. Confidentiality is assured. Contact dmchild@eslamprey.com 603-969-4021.

From the Stacks. . .

Archival and Photograph Accessions 1/1/2005-5/12/2005

Portsmouth area ephemera including Portsmouth High School, Gift of **Sally Crockett**
Albert Henry Blanchard (1828-1909) diary, 1845-1846 while Blanchard apprenticed to a druggist in
Portsmouth, Purchase
Davis Brothers stereoview of Islington Street, Purchase
Delegates of the Treaty of Portsmouth (3 photographs), Gift of **Jim Dolph**
Letter from Joseph Haven to Eliza Haven Wardrobe, July 30, 1818, Purchase
Treaty of Portsmouth parade (photograph), Gift of **George Sherman**
The Youth's Companion, New England Edition Magazine, with article about Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Purchase
Photograph of "Mrs. Paine" by Connor, Gift of **Jane Nylander**
Quarters A at the Navy Yard including interior and exterior views (8 photographs) and exterior view of Quarters
B, C, D, E, and F at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Purchase
Portsmouth school class portraits including group in front of the Farragut School, ca. 1905 (4 photographs),
one photograph has individual identification, Purchase
Letter from John Langdon to Tobias Lear, January 6, 1814, Purchase
Glass plate negatives by William Mather Lamson of Portsmouth area including images of the Treaty of
Portsmouth Events, ca. 1903-1905, Gift of **Jean Sawtelle**
Letter from James Sheafe to J. Fisher Sheafe, January 6, 1828, Purchase
Receipt for purchase of clothing from Morris Kichler by Lyman Spalding, Gift of **Kinley Gregg**
Letter from John Frost, Boston to Captain Thomas E. Oliver, New Castle, 1832, Gift of **Kinley Gregg**
Letter from Peter Post to Captain Thomas E. Oliver, New Castle, 1820, Gift of **Kinley Gregg**
Letter from Robert Getty, Boston to William and Charles Neil, Portsmouth, 1803, Gift of **Kinley Gregg**
Letter from Oliver Hamilton, Portsmouth to John R. Parker, Boston, 1807, Gift of **Kinley Gregg**

Gifts of books and publications have been gratefully received from the following:

Raimond Bowles, 2 volumes of *Laws of New Hampshire* and 1 vol. *New Hampshire State Papers*
Richard Candee, *Growing up at the Plains*, typescript by Charles W. Clark, and CD of *The Hand-Cranked
Knitter and Sock Machine* by Richard Candee
Armistead Dennett, *Letters of John Dennett*
Gail Drobnyk, 12 volumes of *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings*
Kinley Gregg, *Pedalling on the Piscataqua*
Mary Lou Hodgdon, *The Five of Hearts: an Intimate Portrait of Henry Adams and His Friends*
Preservation Company, *Historic Properties in Kensington, New Hampshire*.
Peter Randall, *Piscataqua River Forts 1631-1945* by Nelson G. Lawry
Jean Sawtelle, microfilm of John Paul Jones Papers and Log of the Ranger
Tilbury House Publishers, **Neil Rolde**, *Unsettled Past, Unsettled Future; the Story of Maine's Indians*

New Print Acquisitions:

Non-Fiction:

The Collections and Programs of the American Antiquarian Society
Members and Officers of the American Antiquarian Society
American National Biography / Supplement 2
Armstrong, Karen *Islam: A Short History*
Barratt, Carrie and Ellen Miles *Gilbert Stuart*
Berkin, Carol *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence*
Bernstein, Peter *The Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation*
Bowcock, Andrew *CSS Alabama: Anatomy of a Confederate Raider*
Bull, Malcolm *The Mirror of the Gods: How the Renaissance Artists Rediscovered the Pagan Gods*
Cohen, I Bernard *The Triumph of Numbers*
Connolly, Michael J. *Capitalism, Politics, and Railroads in Jacksonian New England*
Crystal, David *The Stories of English*
Dawkins, Richard *The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution*

Diamond, Jared *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*
 Diamond, Jared *Guns, Germs, and Steel*
 Evans, Benjamin and June R. *New England's Covered Bridges: A Complete Guide*
 Faragher, John A *A Great and Noble Scheme: The Tragic Story of the Expulsion of the French Acadians from their American Homeland*
 Fowler, William M. *Empires at War: The French and Indian War and the Struggle for North America*
 Frankfort, Harry G. *On Bullshit*
 Galinou, Mireille *City Merchants and the Arts*
 Gladwell, Malcolm *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*
 Herlihy, David *The Bicycle: A History*
 Holzer, Harold *Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech that made Abraham Lincoln President*
 Lawry, Nelson *Portsmouth Harbor's Military and Naval Heritage*
 Levin, Meryl *Primarily New Hampshire: A Year in the Lives of Presidential Campaign*
 Marshall, Susan E. (ed.) *The New Hampshire State Constitution: A Reference Guide*
 McConnell, Andy *The Decanter: An Illustrated History of Glass from 1650*
 Page, I *Guide for Drawing the Acanthus and Every Description of Ornamental Foliage* (Loncon: Akerman, 1840) [purchase Hickmott Fund]
 Palmer, Michael *Command at Sea: Naval Command and Control Since the Sixteenth Century*
 Rediker, Marcus *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates of the Golden Age*
 Reid, John Phillip *Controlling the Law: Legal Politics in Early National New Hampshire*
 Robinson, J. Dennis *Wentworth by the Sea: The Life and Times of a Grand Hotel*
 Rodger, N.A.M *The Command of the Ocean: A Naval History of Britain, 1649-1815*
 Rozwadowski, Helen M. *Fathoming the Ocean: The Discovery and Exploration of the Deep Sea*
 Rudd, Brandon K. (ed.) *Karl Bodmer's North American Prints*
 Sargent, William *The House on Ipswich Marsh: Exploring the Natural History of New England*
 Singh, Simon *Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe*
 Tomlinson, William *Bookcloth 1823:1980: A Study of Early Use and the Rise of Manufacture*
 Ulrich, Laurel, (ed.) *Yards and Gates: Gender in Harvard and Radcliffe History*
 Wientraub, Stanley *Silent Night: The Story of World War I Christmas Truce*
 Wilmerding, John *Compass and Clock: Defining Moments in American Culture*

Biography, Collective Biography, and Autobiography:

Appelfeld, Aharon *The Story of a Life*
 Bopp, Lawrence and Stephen Bockmiller *Showing the Flag: The Civil War Naval Diary of Moses Safford*
 Denham, James and Keith Huneycutt (eds.) *Echoes From A Distant Frontier: The Brown Sisters' Correspondence from Antebellum Florida*
 Flanders, Judith *Circle of Sisters: Alice Kipling, Georgiana Burne-Jones, Agnes Poynter, and Louisa Baldwin*
 Hitchcock, Susan Tyler *Mad Mary Lamb: Lunacy and Murder in Literary London*
 Obama, Barack *Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*
 O'Toole, Patricia *When Trumpets Call: Theodore Roosevelt After the White House*
 Schiff, Stacy *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*
 Walner, Peter A. *Franklin Pierce: New Hampshire's Favorite Son*
 White, Evelyn C. *Alice Walker: A Life*
 Widmer, Edward L. *Martin Van Buren*
 Wilson, Emily Herring *No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence*

Fiction:

Dai Sijie *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*
 Doyle, Arthur Conan *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*
 Gordon, Mary *Pearl*
 Haddon, Mark *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
 Hosseini, Khaled *The Kite Runner*
 Kidd, Sue *The Secret Life of Bees*
 Sittenfield, Curtis *Prep: A Novel*
 Smith, Alexander McCall *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies: More from the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*

You Gotta Regatta! *(cont.)*

popular Solings and the super-fast CR 914s. Under the encouraging eyes of the Friends of the South End, children can assemble and sail toy boats at the lower pond between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. can assemble and sail toy boats at the lower pond between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

At 3:00 the Athenæum will host a reception (reservations please). This will be a wonderful opportunity to view the Athenæum's collection of model boats and half hulls, including the HMS America, the oldest model of an American-built boat.

As details are finalized, they will be posted on the Center's web site (www.seacentr.org). Racers and flotilla participants can pick-up registration forms at the Center or from Race Director Alain Jousse (alainj@comcast.com). Call the Athenæum to reserve your spot at the reception (603-431-2538 ext. 2). This will be a wonderful way to spend a summer Sunday—rain or shine!

Preliminary Regatta Schedule:

9:30 a.m.-Skippers' Meeting

10:00-noon: Racing Heats Begin

11-noon: Children's Sail-A-Thon

1:00: Racing and Sail-A-Thon Resume

2:30: Pond-side Award Ceremony

3:00: Reception at the Athenæum

The Portsmouth Athenæum
9 Market Square
Portsmouth, NH 03801

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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