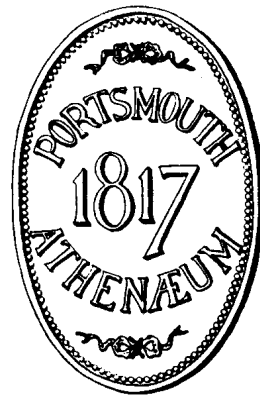


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter



Fall, 2006

Arts & Artifacts:

Windsor Chairs in the Athenæum

Pick up *Windsor Chair Making in America* from the new books rack, have a seat at the table in the Sawtelle Reading Room, and you will have the unusual experience of reading about the chair you are sitting in.

On page 324 of her book, Nancy Goyne Evans recounts how the Portsmouth Athenæum ordered a dozen arm



chairs in 1855 from Blake, Ware & Company of Boston for \$3.75 apiece. Two stools were ordered at the same time for 75 cents each. According to the documentation still available in the Athenæum's collection, the order was placed on October 18, 1855 by J.M. Tredick. The chairs were shipped from Boston to Portsmouth by the Eastern Railroad Corporation for a total of \$2.72. According to a recent inventory, 11 of the 12 chairs are still in use with

the location of the 12th chair unknown. That the chairs have lasted so long should come as no surprise since Windsor chairs were known for being very sturdy.

As you go through the Athenæum making your own inventory (you know you can't believe everything you read), you will probably find 18 Windsor chairs that look pretty much

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December 9 – January 11

From the Stacks:

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Upcoming Events

September – December, 2006

Donations Sought for Annual Book Sale



Donations of books are currently being accepted for the Athenæum's Annual Book Sale, scheduled to take place Saturday, October 21st, from 9:00 a.m. till noon at the South Church Parish Hall. Books should be delivered to the Sanderson Barn or the Athenæum itself. For pick-up or large donations, to volunteer your time or truck for moving the books on the 20th and 21st, please contact Peter Narbonne or Michael Baenen at 207-748-0808.

UPCOMING EVENTS	SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER, 2006 FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
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THROUGH

- OCT. 28 "Literary Lions: Celebrating 250 Years of Print in the Seacoast" exhibition on view. Tues., Thurs., and Sat. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- SEPT. 14 An Informal Athenæum Tea, hosted by Louise Dennett — a chance for members, new members and friends to gather and find common threads. 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- SEPT. 21 "Lively Boys! Lively Boys!", a lecture by J. Dennis Robinson relating to the Literary Lions exhibit. 5:30 p.m., Rockingham Annex Ballroom. *
- SEPT. 24 The Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival presents cameo concert performances by various artists. 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room. No reservations required.
- OCT. 3 – 7 Jack Williamson demonstrates his recreation of Daniel Fowle's historic printing press, the first in New Hampshire. 10:00 – 5:00 p.m., Tyco Visitor Center at Strawberry Banke Museum. *
- OCT. 7 Neil Gustafson in a role-playing performance as Isaiah Thomas, Patriot Printer. 2:00 p.m., Tyco Visitor Center at Strawberry Banke Museum. *
- OCT. 21 Annual Athenæum Book Sale. 9:00 a.m. – noon, South Church Parish Hall.
- OCT. 24 "A Portsmouth Parrotts' Tale," the story of the Parrott family – a presentation by Deb Child during a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society. 5:30 p.m., Tyco Visitors Center at Strawberry Banke. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- OCT. 26 A lecture by Vincent Golden, Curator of Newspapers at the American Antiquarian Society, on "The Sorry State of Newspaper Survival." 5:30 p.m., Rockingham Annex Ballroom. *
- NOV. 9 Susan Strickler, Director of the Currier Museum of Art; and Andrew Spahr, the Currier's Chief Curator, outline the museum's expansion and plans for the development and display of their superb collections. 5:30 p.m., Athenæum Research Library.
- NOV. 30 Editorial cartoonist Mike Dater discusses his work and recent book, *George W, the Son King*. 5:30 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- DEC. 8 Annual Holiday Gala. Invitations forthcoming.
- DEC. 9 The Eleventh Annual Proprietors' Show opens, remaining on view through January 11, 2007. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- DEC. 14 An illustrated lecture by Peter Randall on his new book and traveling exhibition of photographs, *New Hampshire Then and Now, Historical and Contemporary Photographs of the Granite State from 1840 to 2005*. 7:00 p.m., Athenæum Research Library.

* This lecture series is underwritten by the NH Humanities Council and co-sponsored by the Athenæum and the Portsmouth Historical Society in conjunction with the exhibit "Literary Lions."

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

GENEROSITY

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

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

*Irene Bush
Vincent D'Amico*

*Anita Gauthier
Diane Hodun
Dennis D. Nelson*

*Cynthia Thomas
David Willcox*

Our Gratitude to Members and Friends Whose Time and Talents Enrich Our Many Endeavors:

Thanks to all who made the annual Athenæum Picnic a perfect evening, especially *Cindy Knapp*, who organized the volunteers and managed the small details. Thanks as well to *Army* and *Louise Dennett* for designing and printing the invitation, and to all who worked on the mailing of it. Thanks also to *Deb*, for sharing her organizational notes; and for the wine, flatware and tablecloths, as well as her floral arrangement! Thanks to *Suzie* and *Rod Watterson*, and *Jeff Knapp* for setting up the tables and chairs. And finally, thanks to everyone who helped clean up including *Mike Chubrich*, *Sara Hamel* and husband *Jim*, *Bill Wieting*, *Bill Purington*, *Jeff Knapp*, and *Rod* and *Suzie Watterson*.

And many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who have been scanning photographic images into our online catalog: *Mike Henninger*, *Evelyn Lamprey* and *Peggy Wishart*. Together with our fine staff, they have scanned more than 1400 images.

Gifts:

In memory of Rita Conant:

Deb Child

Sanderson Poetry Series

*Jane Porter
Helen K. Reid*

Jane Porter Fund:

Michael Baenen

John S. Blunt Research Project:

*Patricia Heard
Wendy Lull
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Morgan*

Gift in Support of the Athenæum Picnic:

Wendy Lull

Gifts in Memory of Jane Kaufmann:

Deb Child

Annual Appeal:

*Dr. R. J. Allister
Elizabeth & Douglas Aykroyd
Nancy R. Beck*

*Elizabeth Bennett
Stephen Bennett
Maryellen Burke
Irene Bush
Phil & Meg Cavanaugh
Irja Cilluffo
Matthew & Wendy Coté
Charles DeGrandpre
Robert Dennett
Charles Doleac
Byron E. Emery
Rose Eppard
Margaret Faulk
Janice Gallinger
Gary Ghigliotti
Ann Graf
Ruth Griffin
Nancy Grossman
Tom Hardiman
Barbara Hill
Marcia Jebb
John D. Kelley
Rev. Edward J. Kelley
Herbert & Ellen Kingsbury
Mary Beth Kula
Irene R. Lebel
Bruce L. MacIntyre
Alfred McElaney
Mark McNabb
Dennis L. Meadows
Joyce S. Morgan
Stephen Munton*

*Karen Pierce
Jane Porter
Merrilee Possner
Beverly Powell-Woodward
William Purinton
John Rice
Howell E. Russell
Edward Rutledge
Henry M. Sanders
David Sanderson
Jean Sawtelle
Patricia Scholz-Cohen
Dr. Ira Schwartz
William Seaward, Jr.
Renee Silverman
Mark & Candus Simpson
Max Smith
Thomas Smith
Sally Horner Smyser
Robert Snover
Clinton Springer
Thaxter Swan
Edward P. Thompson
A. Robert Thoresen
Wendy Turner
Joan H. White
Dr. William F. Wieting
Elaine M. Willoughby
Roger F. Wood
Diane E. Woods
George Young*

The Portsmouth Athenæum

Eleventh Annual Proprietors Art Show

December 9, 2006 - January 11, 2007

The Proprietors Art Show is open to all proprietors and their spouses or domestic partners who have an interest in being part of this exciting event. The opening will be on December 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., concurrently with the Annual Holiday Festivities. The show will run through January 11 and will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Entries may be any original work including painting, sculpture, photography, woodwork, needlework, ceramics, metalwork, floral design*, and prints.

Pieces (except floral designs) should be delivered Saturday, December 2, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to the Peter Randall Gallery. All work needs to be framed and ready for hanging. If you are submitting 3-D work please supply a pedestal if possible. Entries are limited to two per person, of which at least one will be displayed, two if space permits. Please pick up your piece on Saturday, January 13 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Please note there will be no insurance coverage or gallery sitters for this show. Work is exhibited at the artist's own risk. In addition, prices will not be listed with the titles; instead, any inquiries regarding the purchase of individual pieces will be directed to the artist.

Please fill out both forms below with the information on your artwork. Attach one to the back of each piece and bring the other when you deliver your work to the gallery.

* Floral designers should be in touch with Deborah Richards (603-433-4792) for instructions.

ENTRY FORM

(Should accompany each entry.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #
(home) _____ (work) _____

Title: _____

Medium: _____

Size: _____

Date of work: _____

IDENTIFYING FORM

(Should be affixed to each piece delivered to the Athenæum on December 1)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #
(home) _____ (work) _____

Title: _____

Medium: _____

Size: _____

Date of work: _____

FROM THE STACKS

RECENT ACCESSIONS, GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

■ ■ GIFTS OF BOOKS HAVE BEEN GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Mark Anderson: Julia Child, *My Life in France*; **Michael Baenen:** James F. O'Gorman, *The Maine Perspective: Architectural Drawings 1800 – 1980*; Edward Chase Kirkland, *Men, Cities, and Transportation, a Study in New England History*; **Richard Candee:** James F. Cooper, *The Colonial Church Records*; *The First Half-Century of the Essex Institute*; *Preliminary Structures Report for the Portsmouth Memorial Bridge*; *Catalog of the Collection of Relics in Memorial Hall*. *Catalog of the Litchfield Historical Society*. **Joan Christy:** Charles Elliott, *The Gap in the Hedge*; **City of Portsmouth:** *NH Historic Property Documentation, Portsmouth Armory*; **Lynne Crocker:** *Bookbinding in America: Three Essays*; **Irene Crosby:** Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind (Sombra del Viento)*; **Ronan Donohoe:** John Gimlette, *Theatre of Fish: Travels Through Newfoundland and Labrador*; **Eamon Duffy:** *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, c.1400 – c.1580*; **Tom Hardiman:** Dane Yorke, *Stories and Legends of Old Biddeford, Parts I & II*; **Exeter Public Library:** *Exeter New Hampshire – Where the River Meets the Tide: a Poetry Anthology*; **Kevin Lafond:** *Portsmouth Middle School Yearbook, 2006*; *Clipper 2006*; K. Lafond, *Portsmouth Merchant Scrip: Along with a Brief History of Its Use and Biographical Sketches of the Merchants*; **Jane Porter:** Bruce Roberts, *Northern Lighthouses: New Brunswick to the Jersey Shore*; J. Candace Clifford, *Maine Lighthouses: Documentation of Their Past*; Douglas Bland Hague, *Lighthouses: Their Architecture, History, and Archaeology*; U.S. Light-house Board, *List of Lighthouses, Lighted Beacons, and Floating Lights of the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coasts*; U.S. Light-house Board, *Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, Transmitting a Report from I. W. P. Lewis, Civil Engineer*; Dennis L. Noble, *Lighthouses & Keepers: The U.S. Lighthouse Service and Its Legacy*; U.S. Light-house Board, *Report of the Evidence Relating to the Light-House Establishment*; Douglas Peterson, *U.S. Lighthouse Tenders 1840-1939*; Kathleen Finnegan, *Lighthouses of Maine and New Hampshire*; William O. Thomson, *Solitary Vigils at Boon Island, Nubble Light*; **Stephanie Seacord:** William H. Thiesen, *Industrializing American Shipbuilding: The Transformation of Ship Design and Construction, 1820-1920*; **Bill Seaward:** Bruno Tertrais, *War Without End: The View From Abroad*; **Madelyn Shupenko:** Mary Price, *A National Treasury of Cookery*; **Michiko Vigden:** *L'illustration, from 1843-1905*, (having to do with Japan and the Russo-Japanese War); **Joyce and Kenneth Volk:** Agnes Austin Aubin, *A Warner House Biography*; **Jody White:** Trevor J. Fairbrother, *Painting Summer in New England*.

Recent Library Acquisitions:

Boot, Max: *The Savage Wars of Peace: Small Wars and the Rise of American Power*

Candee, Richard M.: *Building Portsmouth: The Neighborhoods & Architecture of New Hampshire's Oldest City*

Decker, William: *Merrill Epistolary Practices: Letter Writing in America Before Telecommunications*

Kidder, Tracy: *Mountains Beyond Mountains*

Knight, Helen C.: *A New Memoir of Hannah Moore; or Life in Hall and Cottage; Lady Huntington and Her Friends, or The Revival Work of God in the Days of Wesley; Saw Up and Saw Down; or, The Fruits of Industry and Self-Reliance; Golden Threads; Rueben Kent's First Winter in the City; An Universal Etymological English Dictionary; Jane Hudson, or the Secret of Getting On in the World; My Early Home and Other Tales to Promote the Welfare and Happiness of the Family; Robert Dawson or the Brave Spirit; The Rocket: The Story of the Stephensons, Father and Son; Spare Moments and Other Stories for Boys*

Nicholson, Adam: *Seize the Fire: Heroism, Duty, and The Battle of Trafalgar*

Smestad, Brian R.: *Portsmouth: Portrait of a Restaurant*

Updike, John: *Terrorist*

Vilenkin, A.: *Many Worlds in One: Other Universes – Fiction or Reality?*

Zimmerman, Jean: *The Women of the House: How a Colonial She-Merchant Built a Mansion, a Fortune, and a Dynasty*

Windsor Chairs, *cont.*

like the one illustrated. In 1861, when the Athenæum cut through the ceiling of the old library to create a balcony, it ordered six additional arm chairs at the cost of \$4.00 each. An additional arm chair was donated in 1975 by Phyllis Hodgdon.



The arm of the Haskell chair (above) has a fuller, more rounded end than that of the Hubbard chair (below).

Fortunately, it is not difficult to identify which of the three sources provided our chairs. The original 12 chairs were made by William O. Haskell of 141 North Street in Boston. His chairs are clearly stenciled on the bottom of the saddle. The chairs acquired in 1861 and 1975 were made by John C. Hubbard of Boston whose impressed mark is on the bottom of the saddle.

For those who wish to avoid disturbing proprietors who may be occupying one of the chairs, a quick look at the chair's arms will provide a quick means of identification. The Haskell chairs have a much more rounded profile at the end of the arms while the Hubbard arms are much thinner and less round. One way to differentiate the chair donated in 1975 is to compare the front stretcher with those on the other Hubbard chairs. It has more turned rings and looks much like the Haskell stretchers. Of course, the brass plaque with the donor's name on the back of the chair is also a good means of identification.

— Douglas Aykroyd

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