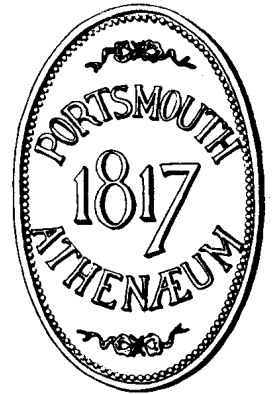


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Spring, 2007

Inside:



Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House Exhibit Held Over

The very popular exhibit, *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House*, is being held over in the Randall Gallery for



Armchair, probably London, 1763-67
Moffatt-Ladd House Collection

three extra weeks, remaining on view through May 19th. The show highlights the many generations of women who have helped preserve one of the finest Georgian mansions in New England, and features many fine costumes, textiles, and personal belongings generally not on display.

The ongoing program series features an April 14 Gallery Talk, *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House* as well as the April 26 lecture by Johanna McBrien, Editor-in-chief of *Antiques and Fine Art* entitled *Portsmouth Furniture in the Moffatt-Ladd House*. In June, the exhibition travels to Concord and the galleries of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

The Moffatt-Ladd House; From Mansion to Museum, a beautiful 80-page, full-color book chronicling the rich history of the house and its collections, is available for just \$15. Further details about the exhibit and program times can be found in the Events Calendar and on our website: www.portsmouthathenaeum.org.

Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 188th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum

Upcoming Events

April - June, 2007

Welcome and Thanks

Parker String Quartet Performs April 22

"...Propels the music irresistibly but with extraordinary grace and flexibility"
— The Washington Post

The musicians of the New England Conservatory's lauded Parker Quartet will give a special Athenæum performance April 22nd. All four musicians—Daniel Chong, violin; Karen Kim, violin; Jessica Bodner, viola; and Kee-Hyun Kim, cello—are currently in the Conservatory's Professional String Quartet Training Program, pursuing graduate degrees in performance and chamber music. In 2005 they won the Concert Artists Guild Competition, and both the Grand Prize and Mozart Prize at the Bordeaux String Quartet Competition. The New York Times raved that their performance "set the group apart as something extraordinary." Seating is very limited and reservations required. Please see Events Calendar for further information.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS	APRIL - JUNE, 2007 FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
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THROUGH

- MAY 19 The exhibition *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House* remains on view in the Randall Gallery.
- APRIL 10 “Bellamy Banter,” a round table discussion among leading experts on the work of local carver John Haley Bellamy, takes place as part of a special meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society. 5:30 p.m., Levenson Room, Portsmouth Public Library.
- APRIL 14 Gallery Talk: *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House*.
10 :00 a.m., Randall Gallery.
- APRIL 22 The New England Conservatory’s Parker String Quartet—Daniel Chong, violin; Karen Kim, violin; Jessica Bodner, viola; and Kee-Hyun Kim, cello—performs at the Athenæum. Reservations required; seating is limited to 45.
4:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- APRIL 26 Johanna McBrien, Editor-in-chief, *Antiques and Fine Art* gives a lecture on “Portsmouth Furniture in the Moffatt-Ladd House.” Reservations required.
5:30 p.m., Research Library.
- MAY 15 Mason John Wastrom gives a talk, “When is a Restoration NOT a Restoration,” as part of a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
5:30 p.m., Stoodley's Tavern at Strawberry Banke.
- MAY 17 Local author and Athenæum Proprietor Neil Rolde will give a talk and sign copies of his latest book, *Continental Liar from the State of Maine: James G. Blaine*, a colorful biography of the feisty editor-turned-Congressman who narrowly lost the presidential election of 1884.
5:30 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- MAY 19 Exhibition *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House* closes.
- JUNE 12 Barbara Rimkanus will give a talk on the sculptor Daniel Chester French in a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
5:30 p.m., Tyco Center at Strawberry Banke.
- JUNE 14 Prof. Neil DePaoli lectures on the early history and archeology of Greenland's Week Brick House, c. 1710. Sponsored by the Weeks House. Reservations required.
7 30 p.m., Research library.
- JUNE 21 The exhibition *Abandoned in the Arctic: Adolphus W. Greely and the Lady Franklin Bay Exhibition, 1881-1884* tells the tragic tale of Greely’s journey to do research and exploration in the high Arctic. The six survivors of the party of 26 returned to a tumultuous welcome in Portsmouth in 1884. Invitations are forthcoming.
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., the Randall Gallery

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

MINUTES, 188TH ANNUAL MEETING	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 3:30 P.M. COPLEY RESEARCH LIBRARY
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Call to Order

President Wendy Lull welcomed Proprietors and Subscribers to the 188th meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. The minutes of the 187th meeting were presented. On the motion of Ted Gray, seconded by Bill Wieting, the minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.

A moment of silence was observed for remembrance of those who died during 2006: Caroline Cadwalader, share 149, Rita Conant, share 27, Byron E. Emery, share 120, Jane Harriett Dellbahner Kaufmann, share 341, Alvah W. Sulloway, share 68, Ruth Swan, spouse, share 266, Charles Tallman, spouse, share 191.

Finances

Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Mike Kenslea reported that 2006 was a successful year financially for the Athenæum, with a surplus of \$50,391. There had been a number of bequests and an increase in gifts from the annual appeal, and thus there had been no need to withdraw funds from the investment portfolio.

Report of the Investments Committee

Bill Purinton delivered the Report of the Investments Committee. Wendy Lull reported that the Board had discussed possible alternatives for supporting one of our institutional Proprietors – the North Church steeple replacement. The North Church has divided its fundraising into two distinct efforts: one for renovations to the church and the other for replacing the steeple, which is an icon of our community. One option is to make a contribution, possibly of \$1,000, to the Market Square Steeple Fund. However, since we rely on contributions from our members, the Board decided to bring the issue to the Proprietors at the Annual Meeting. Ellie Sanderson moved, and Jeff Bolster seconded, that the Athenæum make a contribution of \$1,000 to the Market Square Steeple Fund.

There was considerable discussion, as several Proprietors felt that it would be inappropriate for the Athenæum to make a contribution to another non-profit organization and that it would set a bad precedent, as the other two institutional Proprietors, South Church and St. Johns Church, might then expect similar contributions. There was also concern that the Athenæum might need the money to address any pressing in-house items that need to be addressed. Keeper Tom Hardiman reported that the 2007 budget includes line items for needed physical repairs. It was noted that the contribution would not be made to the North Church, but rather to the Steeple Fund, which is a distinct entity, and that the North Church had not requested such a contribution. One suggestion was that the Athenæum consider taking up a separate collection from any Proprietors choosing to contribute.

Past President Mike Chubrich reported that the Athenæum is the beneficiary of a bequest from Ray and Betty Brighton that will be a substantial amount, and that it would be appropriate to honor their memory by making a contribution of \$1,000 in their honor. He believes that they would have contributed generously to the Steeple Fund if they had been alive when the steeple collapsed. Mike moved to amend the motion to read that the Athenæum make a \$1,000 contribution to the Market Square Steeple Fund in honor of Ray and Betty Brighton, funded by the Ray and Betty Brighton bequest. Ellie Sanderson and Jeff Bolster agreed to the amendment and spoke in favor of it. The motion, as amended, was approved by a considerable majority of the Proprietors, with five voting in opposition and one abstention.

Annual Meeting, cont.

Reports on the Year

Report of the Keeper

Keeper Tom Hardiman reported that the Athenæum had received several bequests in 2006, including one from the estate of Charlie Tallman. In addition, one Proprietor, who will remain anonymous, had closed a charitable remainder trust with the Athenæum as beneficiary, so we have the added benefit of receiving a bequest and keeping one of our best volunteers. Tom then delivered the Report of the Keeper.

Reports of the Committees

Ellie Sanderson 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.

Rose Eppard delivered the Report of the Arts Athenæum – Exhibits Committee.

Bill Wieting delivered the Report of the Arts Athenæum – Performance Committee.

Dick Adams delivered the Report of the Building Committee.

Gail Drobynyk delivered the Report of the Technology Committee.

Ronan Donohoe delivered the Report of the Admissions Committee.

Report of the President

President Wendy Lull delivered the Report of the President, commenting that the earlier discussion on the Steeple Fund is indicative of the lively discussions at Board meetings.

The full substance of the reports of the Keeper, the Committees, and the President follows in this newsletter.

Election of Officers and Directors

Maryellen Burke, on behalf of Committee chair John Maher, presented the proposed slate of officers for the coming year. President Wendy W. Lull; Vice President Michael Baenen; Past President Michael E. Chubrich will serve the second year of their two-year terms. Secretary Gail C. Drobynyk and Treasurer Michael E. Kenslea were nominated for one-year terms. Col. Lionel Ingram, Evelyn S. Lamprey, and Michael M. Murray were proposed for three year terms as Directors. Six Directors will continue to serve terms as previously voted.

Bill Wieting moved that recommendations of the Nominating Committee be approved. Richard Candee seconded and the membership approved the motion by consensus.

Other Business

President Wendy Lull thanked the Directors for their efforts on behalf of the Athenæum. She welcomed the three new Directors and gave special thanks to those Directors whose terms had expired: Ronan Donohoe, Rose Eppard, and Bob Thoresen.

On motion of Bill Wieting, seconded by Mike Kenslea, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm and was followed by a small reception.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Drobynyk, Secretary

Report of the Investments Committee: William Purinton, Chairman

As of December 31, 2005 the portion of the Athenæum's endowment under the responsibility of the Investment Committee totaled \$1,090,872. The portfolio was constituted as follows: common stocks \$716,527; fixed income securities \$307,536, and cash \$66,809. Our Investment Manager, Citigroup / Smith Barney,

Annual Meeting: Investment Committee Report, cont.

projects that these holdings will generate \$28,600 of cash contribution to the Athenæum's 2007 budget.

Last year the Investment Committee made two significant changes in the management of the endowment: it 1) reshaped investment policy to encourage asset diversification and 2) recruited an Investment Manager to succeed Babson Capital.

In our report to you a year ago we stated our intention to explore the means to diversify our common stock holdings into asset classes other than large capitalization "Fortune 500" companies. We were concerned that such a concentration was denying us the returns achieved historically in other market segments such as small, mid-cap and purely international equities.

Although Babson Capital had served us reasonably well, our portfolio counselor announced her retirement in March, and at that time we decided to seek a Portsmouth-based firm to act as Investment Manager. Our request for proposal specified our diversification objective. During the second quarter we conducted a series of interviews with three candidates.

Citigroup / SmithBarney gave us the most competitive response. We agreed on an initial allocation of the then \$997,000 portfolio value as follows: 35 % fixed income and cash, 15% in stocks of companies domiciled internationally—the remaining 50% to be distributed between domestic equities in both the growth and value segments. This approach is known as a "multi-disciplined" account with each equity segment having its own sub-manager under the local oversight of Smith Barney.

This more intensive approach will increase our annual management fee from the \$8,500 we have historically paid. We expect it to be \$12,000 this coming year, although it will vary with the value of the equity portfolio. We are confident that improved performance over time will more than compensate for the added expense.

We have made these changes in our investment approach and the Athenæum's investment policy in consultation with the Board of Directors. Going forward we will continue to review portfolio performance quarterly and inform the Board of investment results and the portfolio's configuration on a timely basis.

Keeper's Report: Tom Hardiman

2006 was a year of dramatic changes in our institution. Last year, I reported that with a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation, Piscataqua Region, we launched our website, www.portsmouthathenaeum.org, elegantly designed by Proprietor Evelyn Lamprey. This year, a generous grant from the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation enabled us to link our collections database to the website, allowing you to search our collection of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, photographs, ephemera, art, and artifacts at any time from anywhere in the world. We had worries that this access to information would increase demand for services beyond what our very limited staff hours and budget could accommodate. To our (pleasant) surprise, it has had the exact opposite effect: having all of this information in a single resource has allowed the library to function far more efficiently and effectively. Previously, patrons had to be guided by staff through multiple catalogs, indexes, and finding aids; now, they can be easily directed to a single resource. Patrons can do their preliminary searching at home when the library is not open or staffed, and when they arrive at the library, they already know what they would like to see, greatly reducing the amount of time that the staff has to spend guiding them through the collections. We hope that our Proprietors and Subscribers will take advantage of this new ability to locate books and other resources from home or work.

In her first full year as your Librarian, Robin Silva has made huge strides in working with committee chair Elèonore Sanderson to make the library more efficient and user-friendly. By shifting copy cataloging and circulation to our fabulous new Assistant Librarian, Carolyn Marvin, Robin has been free to concentrate on the painstaking work of individually editing thousands of catalog records to transfer them from our old catalog to the new web-based system and she is on track to complete the conversion years ahead of schedule.

Annual Meeting: Keeper's Report, cont.

Research librarian Ursula Wright continues her fine work at the reference desk, now aided one day a week by Courtney MacLachlan, who until recently was librarian at Strawberry Banke. Our Archivist, Susan Kindstedt, has been adding manuscript collections finding aids to our website, and has added to the Athenæum family with the birth of her daughter Amelia in May.

Office Manager Nancy Mulqueen and bookkeeper Dorothy Polando, working with Treasurer Mike Kenslea, do an indispensable job of keeping us on a sound and predictable financial footing. Nancy has also been doing regular updates to the website.

Despite our enterprising foray into cyberspace, most of the real work of our Athenæum takes place in real time and space, and as always, the vast majority of that work is done by volunteers, most of whom are Proprietors, Subscribers, or Friends. The Library Committee and its friends logged hundreds of hours in putting on the most successful Book Sale to date and the Exhibits Committee brought literally dozens of members together to work on the Literary Lions project. From the newly reinvigorated Technology and Art & Artifact committees, to your volunteer Board of Directors, to the alertly adapting Investments Committee, the vital business of this Athenæum is undertaken by members who care passionately about our organization and who understand that this is still very much a membership library. We have demonstrated that we take seriously our collecting mission and that we treat our fabulous collections seriously and responsibly, but we should not lose sight of the co-equal half of our mission statement, which is "to be a locus of convivial interchange and intellectual discourse." As an organization and as Proprietors and Subscribers of this Athenæum, we should engage one another and our community in discussion, conversation, friendly debate, and shared appreciation for what we and our predecessors have built in this truly unique institution over the past 190 years. I invite your interest, your input, and your involvement in pursuit of that mission.

Report of the Library Committee: Eleonore P. Sanderson, Chairman

I have the pleasure this afternoon of reporting to you, on behalf of the Library Committee's staff and volunteers, that the Portsmouth Athenæum is in a spirited period of development in the 21st Century. After 190 years of continuous operation, your library is moving in new technological directions, while retaining its signature historic character.

These days, the library staff is concentrating on accessioning our collection to the electronic library data base. Requests for research information come over the e-mail, internet, and telephone, as well as in person. But lest you think that our books themselves are disappearing into cyberspace, let me reassure you that our extensive library is being managed efficiently and expertly by real people who hope that you, our membership, will take advantage of its many opportunities.

Robin Silva, our Librarian, reports that during the year 2006, 341 researchers from 15 states and 2 foreign countries signed in at the Research Library desk to use the collections. In addition, Ursula Wright, our Research Assistant, has reported that she is very busy filling orders for photographs and answering a wide variety of research requests from all over the world through our expanding electronic capabilities. Louise Dennett, Chairman of the Reading Room volunteers, reports that 128 visitors to the Thursday afternoon public hours were from 14 states and 6 foreign countries. Our circulation figure for the year was 750 books, 15 of which were on inter-library loan. Even though these figures are down from the prior year, growth seems to be showing in the website use. Photo orders netted \$2,265 last year, which seems to reflect the increase in use of the internet and our website.

Robin Silva, with Assistant Librarians Carolyn Marvin and Courtney MacLachlan, and with volunteers Marcia Jebb and Irene Crosby, are working to accession books and periodicals electronically. This year alone, 4428 items were cataloged, with about 10,000 more to go to meet the goal of listing every item to the electronic data base. A total of 515 new titles were accessioned - 216 of which were donations and gifts, and 309

Annual Meeting: Library Committee Report, cont.

were purchases, using funds from 14 special book funds and funds raised by the Annual Book Sale, which last year raised just under \$4,000 - in one morning.

The Library Committee is a standing committee, described by Article 11 of the bylaws. The committee meets three times a year to go over the book and periodical orders, which include suggestions by Proprietors and Subscribers. As you know, by looking at the enticing assortment of books on the display table in the Reading Room, our buying list includes the latest books of very high quality thought to be of particular interest to Athenæum members. I want to remind every one of you that you are welcome, if not obligated, to suggest titles at any time.

Naturally, the life of a book is limited by its condition, and the Adopt-A-Book Program is a very important part of the repair function at the library. Today you will have an opportunity to give new life to some interesting items from the collection, some of which will be bound by our expert Proprietor, Lynne Crocker. Please peruse this display and sign up to underwrite these repairs before you leave this afternoon. And please note that some of the repairs may be upgraded to leather, if you're feeling particularly generous. To remind you, you might want to be inspired to dedicate the repair to a celebration, or other event, which will be memorialized on a special book plate.

Peter Narbonne and Michael Baenen were responsible for another successful book sale, held at the South Church on October 21st, 2006. The book sale is a chance for Proprietors and others to contribute volunteer hours - and books - toward the purchase of many new books for the Athenæum. A complete list of volunteers is added to this report, and will be published in the March Newsletter. There are many - and many are needed to sort and transport books, in addition to working on the day of the sale. The book sale is a major opportunity for Proprietors to contribute to the organization, and to have a good time in the process. Additional volunteers serve on the Reading Room Committee, and their names are listed in the addendum as well. In addition to all of these generous people, the Library Committee itself serves the Athenæum by its advice, and by reviewing books for purchase.

In conclusion, I invite your attention to our beautiful Athenæum website. Designed by Evelyn Lamprey, additions are constantly being made to be useful to all of us, as to the rest of the world. If you add www.portsmouthathenaeum.org to your list of favorites, you won't have to type in the address again. In addition to the GPS coordinates for the Athenæum, our website includes a wish list of books to stir your generous instincts. Please check it out.

Library Committee members: R. Rhett Austell, Michael E. Baenen, Richard Candee, Lynne Crocker, Ronan Donohoe, Keeper Thomas Hardiman, Mary Lou Hodgdon, Marcia Jebb, Herb Kingsbury, Carol Lincoln, Peter Narbonne, Jane Porter, W. Rodman Philbrook, Beth Pope, Peter Randall, Gerald W.R. Ward, Chairman Eleonore Sanderson. President Wendy Lull, ex-officio. Rose Eppard resigned in 2006. Keeper Tom Hardiman, Librarian Robin Silva, and Assistant Librarian Carolyn Marvin attended the committee meetings as staff members. **Reading Room Volunteers:** Garvin McCurdy, John Udaloy, George Pierce, Phil Kavanaugh, Renee Silverman, Wendy Cote, Clint Springer, Chairman Louise Dennett. Robert Dunn resigned in 2006.

Book Sale Volunteers: Mary Lou Hodgdon, Margaret Morrissey, Dave Sanderson, Barbara Green, Cindy Knapp, Amy Knapp, Bill Gindele, Carol Cole, Carol Lincoln, Herb Kingsbury, Sarah Hamill, Bill Wieting, Charlotte Fardelmann, Mike Chubrich, George Ross, Steve Bennett, Nancy Mulqueen, Wendy Lull, Felice Fullam, Tom Holbrook, Tom DeVries. Michael Baenen and Peter Narbonne, Co-Chairmen. The staff of the Athenæum was also very helpful in many ways on behalf of the Book Sale.

Report of the Special Collections Committee: *Richard M.Candee & Michael Baenen, Co-Chairs*

The Special Collections Committee this year was chaired by Richard Candee and Michael Baenen; members Buzzy Dodge, Ronan Donahoe, Joseph W.P. Frost, Jane Porter, Sumner Winebaum and Dr. Warren Pringle, with Susan Kindstedt, Archivist; Tom Hardiman, Keeper, & Wendy Lull, President (ex officio). Former member Jack McGee

Annual Meeting: Special Collections Committee Report, cont.

resigned for propriety's sake, in order to sue the Athenaeum for a client.

Our mission is to keep local manuscripts, imprints, ephemera, serials and photographs from disappearing out of area and to buy items that should come back to Portsmouth. We also encourage local non-profits to deposit their manuscripts and photographs with us for public research use. We sometimes microfilm materials we cannot acquire, recommend materials for deaccession or transfer, and review personnel or staff needs for budgeting. We meet as a group occasionally, doing much of our work by email and individually with the staff. We must, however, seek Board permission to buy materials costing over \$2000.

Susan Kindstedt, our Archivist, has processed the Portsmouth Historical Society collection for name access in the on-line computer catalog, has begun processing the South Church Records (with help from the South Church and Piscataqua Bank), and she continues sending small collection records to the Library of Congress and adding our archival collection finding aids to our own Athenæum website. These all allow researchers to consult both finding aids and catalog records before their visit. It has also given greater publicity to our collections as a "Google" search for an individual name can now lead a researcher to our website and one of our collections. Researchers now come (or email) with a far better idea of what resources we have.

Over the summer I collated all the Portsmouth Oracle newspapers (we now have two nearly-full sets) to help the committee and staff make informed judgments as to which issues to retain if we deaccession duplicate materials.

As usual, this year we acquired a number of interesting manuscripts: Sandy Smith gave us the 1913-1915 Hotel Register for the Appledore House to increase our manuscripts of the Isles of Shoals, Joe Frost donated the 1834-1853 Record Book of the Portsmouth Lyceum, and Jonathan Wycoff gave us a 1909 daily log of the Portsmouth Health Department. Betty Larson gifted a number of important local items, including the 1799-1813 records of the Gilman's Blues infantry company, a 1728 tax list for New Castle, some St. John's Church notices, including Charles Burrough's 1857 letter of resignation, plus an unidentified commonplace book with (among many others) three poems by my pal Thomas P. Moses.

Kinley Gregg again gave a number of individual letters related to John Brown of Kittery, Andrew Venard, William S. Chase, Thomas and Benjamin Hale, James Sheafe, Frank W. Miller, Charles G. Bellamy, and Charles Cushing. Ursula and Philip Wright gave us an 1848 Jacob Wendell letter that had somehow escaped our own HUGE collection that Marcia Jebb has been processing for more than a decade (and for which we hope to have a new finding aid this coming year).

But certainly the most amazing donations are manuscripts and an 1830 sketchbook by the Portsmouth-born artist John Samuel Blunt. These are the direct result of the Athenæum's sponsorship of Deborah Child's research project that will result in the publication this spring of a facsimile of his 1821 sketchbook of Portsmouth (now on loan) and a supporting exhibition of his local landscapes in collaboration with the Portsmouth Historical Society. We thank the Board for their wisdom in sponsoring Deb's excellent research; the initial fallout to the benefit of the Athenæum is of enormous intellectual (not to mention financial) value. I hope the Athenæum continues to sponsor strong local history research like this that turns up missing manuscripts for many years to come.

Special Collections manuscripts purchased with the help of the Athenæum's Warrick Fund endowment and by individual gifts from Proprietors and others were Account Books of the Ship Danube and the Ship Athens (1840-1852); individual letters to Elizabeth Spaulding of Portsmouth, from Daniel Sparhawk (1819), and E. F. Sise; Gilson Family diaries from New Castle (1867 – 1907); Fort Constitution and Fort Langdon, New Castle records 1814-1942; Portsmouth Universalist Society Ledger 1807-90 (with help from some So. Church parishioners); Whaleback Lighthouse Records by Jedidiah Rand and Reuben J. Leavitt 1853-54; and a miscellaneous group of Haven and Haliburton Family Mss.

Not only do we collect area manuscripts, we try to add to our newspaper, local imprints, ephemera and photo collections each year. In this category Stephen Alie donated an 1889 petition in favor of JH Hutchinson as

Annual Meeting: Special Collections Report, cont.

postmaster, and Christy Labrie donated many imprints and photos relating to the work of her mother Rose Labrie for the Literary Lions exhibition. Douglas and Elizabeth Ackroyd, Doug Armsden, Richard Candee, Kinley Gregg, Stanley Davis, John and Barbara Patterson, Eleanor Porter, June Saxon, and Carvel Tefft all gave a number of other ephemera and/ or photographs. I donated several of the works by Helen C. Knight, a juvenile authoress written up in the Literary Lions catalog, including an early history of the African state of Liberia as the new home for freed American slaves. Among our local imprint purchases was a pamphlet for the 3rd annual recital of the James Sisters' School of Dancing, and an 1855 printed letter from the Portsmouth Marine Railway Company. The committee also purchased a number of photographs, many from eBay (thanks to Dennis Robinson for bringing many more items to our attention), like the photograph album with interior images of Frank Jones's Woodbury Avenue home, other photographs of the William Haven house on Middle Street, and a portrait of Lena Hodgdon. Finally, Michael Baenen and Peter Narbonne donated the wonderful daguerreotype of local printer and historian Tobias ("Uncle Toby") Ham Miller about whom Jane Porter has written, displayed in the Literary Lions exhibit this summer.

Finally, I must thank our volunteers, especially Peggy Wisshart who has been scanning more of our photograph collection – a seemingly endless task!

Art and Artifacts Collection Committee: Elizabeth Rhoades Aykroyd, Chairman

The newly reconstituted Curatorial Committee met in May, and among our first acts was to change our name to reflect more accurately the collection in our care. The name chosen was Art and Artifacts Collection Committee (promptly nicknamed the A & A Committee). The collection policy was also rewritten to bring our practices closer to those of museums today, but also to recognize the difference between a museum and the Athenæum.

The Committee has agreed that, now that all catalogs are being entered into the PastPerfect system, the old data about our collection is inadequate, and we began a project to recatalog the entire Art and Artifacts Collection. We expect this project to be ongoing for some time, but work has begun, and the results will be visible on the web site.

In 2006 our main acquisition was a set of chairs which relate to two sets by Langley Boardman. We are fortunate that Tom Hardiman saw them in an auction catalog and that we were able to purchase them at a very favorable price. Research into the history of the chairs is in process.

The hard-working members of the Committee are Douglas Aykroyd, Deborah Child, Louise Dennett, Rose Eppard, Barbara Hill, Evelyn Lamprey, Elaine Tefft, Hilda Versluys, Joyce Volk, and Tom Hardiman.

Arts Athenæum Exhibits Committee: Rose C. Eppard, Chair

Our exhibit season began with the third of our Treasures series: The Warner House Exhibit: Coming Home, guest curated by Joyce Volk and designed by Susan Hamilton. It was a beautiful exhibit culminating in a reunion for Warner descendants and the unveiling of the Warner House book.

This well attended exhibit was followed by an unexpected happening. Our scheduled exhibit encountered a conflict, and in very short order the Literary Lions Exhibit came together. This exhibit was a celebration of 250 years of print on the seacoast. Twenty one proprietors and subscribers volunteered to research over 140 writers, poets, publishers and editors with a seacoast connection. The catalogue, a special edition of the New Hampshire Gazette, to the tune of 8,000 copies, was distributed free to one and all. Remaining copies were donated to area schools. We still have some squirreled away, so if you didn't get one, you may want to grab one from the Randall Room.

In December we hung another Proprietors Show. It is still on display in the Gallery for any of you who haven't seen

Annual Meeting: Arts Athenæum Report, cont.

it. It will be coming down on Saturday to make room for the Moffatt-Ladd Exhibit: Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House, opening with a reception on Sunday, January 28th at 1:00 p.m.. This exhibit will include four enticing lectures and three gallery talks. Please consult your postcard.

The summer exhibit is on the Adolphus Greely expedition to the Arctic in 1881. The opening is scheduled for June 21st. The planning for the exhibit is moving along rapidly, spearheaded by Jeff Clark. Stay tuned; there may be a film premiere in the offing.

In closing, I would like to thank the untiring members of this committee who make all of this possible. Their support during my tenure has meant a great deal to me. As I step down as chair, I wish my successor, Peter Narbonne, great success.

Arts Athenæum Exhibits Committee Members 2006: Barbara Adams, Richard Candee, Kitty Clark, Rose Eppard, Jaci Grote, Tom Hardiman, Evelyn Lamprey, Susan Lohse, Jane Porter, Deb Richards, Sharon Stephan, Sally Strazdins, Elaine Tefft, Eleanor Tracy, Joyce Volk, Sherry Wood, and Ursula Wright.

Report of the Technology Committee: *Gail Drobnyk, Chair*

The Technology Committee was formed in December, 2005 to address a significant list of problems with the Athenæum's computer systems. We prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) outlining the most pressing issues and sent it to several local organizations that had been referred to us by Proprietors. After meeting with the respondents, we engaged Lenharth Systems to address the initial list of issues. Pleased with their resolution of these problems, we entered into a service contract involving monthly visits during which Lenharth Systems would address any new issues, monitor the health of the computer systems, and make recommendations for hardware and software changes. Among the issues dealt with were implementing updated virus protection and internet security for all computers, providing wireless Internet access for Proprietors and researchers, bringing all of the staff computers up to a level of reliability, protecting our financial data so that all staff computers could have Internet access, and providing e-mail for all members of the staff.

Committee members are Gail Drobnyk, Rose Eppard, Carol Glaser, Tom Hardiman, Evelyn Lamprey, Claudia Morner, Nancy Mulqueen, Dennis Robinson, and Robin Silva.

Admissions Committee Report: *Ronan Donohoe*

The Admissions Committee meets approximately once a month or whenever there are new applications to be considered. In addition to vetting new applicants, the committee recommends subscribers for vacant proprietorships and processes the transfer of shares where allowed. The committee would like to thank those Proprietors who have encouraged likely applicants to apply for membership and all those who have written letters of endorsement. These letters of endorsement are essential to our deliberations and they often add interest and merriment to our discussions. Almost all the 375 shares are taken up at this time, a small handful are tied up in estates. There are at present about twenty-five saps, or subscribers awaiting proprietorship.

New Proprietors (9):

*Douglas Carey
Lois Fonda
Gary Ghiogliotti
Richard Haynes
Evelyn Lamprey
Timothy Lennon
Andrew Ritzo
David Sanderson
John Schermerhorn*

New Subscribers (18):

*Ann Beattie
Charles Bickford
Joseph Capobianco
Robert Chaikin
Kerry Cronin
Gary Dozier
John Evans
Sally Ford
Amy Gant*

*Albion Goodrich
Sarah Hamill
Tom Holbrook
John Lamson
Sue Reynolds
Henry Sanders
Wendy Starkey
Donald Stevens
David Watters*

Transfers (2): The transfer of share 288 from the late Libby Delano to her daughter, Sara Delano. The transfer of share 96 from the late Mrs. John B. Staley to her grandson, Mark Tarbell.

Annual Meeting: President's Report

Report of the President: Wendy Lull

As you can all gather from the previous reports, the state of the Athenæum is strong. The year's successes are due to the good works and spirits of our dedicated staff, ever-ready volunteers and to your generosity. We owe Tom, the staff, and all our volunteers a hearty "huzzah" for an excellent year. Thanks to a stronger Annual Fund than we have had in some time, we look forward to an even more productive 2007. I also want to personally thank our volunteer Board members for making our monthly meetings productive and fun. Your insights and suggestions have guided our deliberations through some interesting issues. I assure everyone here that there is no such thing as "yes-people" on the Board, and that the diversity of our opinions ensures that our decisions are made with due diligence: the Athenæum's long-term best interests are always at the core of our consensus.

And so at this time I want to thank our out-going Directors, and ask each to come forward to receive a token of our esteem and affection. Ronan Donohoe, Rose Eppard, and Robert Thoreson.

As many of you know, each President is asked to take on a particular project during their tenure; my charge was to update our long-range plan. Now I realize that for some of you, writing a strategic plan is right up there with completing tax forms, but planning for the Athenæum is a pleasure. First of all, the previous plan, thoughtfully and thoroughly crafted by many of you in this room, was actually done—save one item! That is a remarkable feat and made our job much easier. (That pesky leftover item, compact shelving, was undone only because of its \$50,000 price tag). Second, I have a great planning team—Vice President Michael Baenan and our Keeper Tom Hardiman. We come to the process with a great deal of non-profit planning experience—but all just different enough to create some wonderful synergy. And third—the reason planning is one of my favorite administrative duties—is that we are preparing the foundation for the Athenæum's future.

There are delicious dichotomies in strategic planning for the Athenæum. She is both venerable and vibrant. When you walk in the front door you gain a calm sense of place, but there is an undercurrent of powerful potential. Our collections put our lives and community into a current context unlike that of any other area institution. I believe that we have crafted a plan that incorporates all these attributes and will result in an Athenæum that is the community's resource of choice for Piscataqua history and culture.

As lofty as that may sound, I can see that some of you are thinking, "That sounds good, but what does it mean?" It means that when you tell someone that you are a Proprietor, Subscriber, Friend or volunteer here, they won't say "the Athenæum—what's that?" They'll say "I just saw that new exhibit—I had no idea that Portsmouth played such an important role in..." or "The Athenæum! They have such great concerts and lectures but they sell out so quickly—do you know how I could become a member?" or, for our esteemed Treasurer: "Perhaps you can help me—I have a few ships logs signed by John Paul Jones I wanted to gift to the Athenæum, but only if they'll accept an endowment to go with them—who should I talk to?"

We will present our draft to the Board in March; implementation will begin as soon as it is finalized. In true Athenæum tradition, the new initiatives will be rich with volunteer opportunities for the Board and Committees. And so it is with pleasure that I announce the Committee Chairs who will be assisting with some of that implementation in the upcoming year. Thanks to all of you for agreeing to serve.

Admissions: Ronan Donohoe

ArtsAthenæum/Exhibits: Peter Narbonne

ArtsAthenæum/Performance: Bill Wieting

Building: Dick Adams

Curatorial: Elizabeth Aykroyd

Investments: Bill Purinton

Library: Ellie Sanderson

Nominating: Maryellen Burke

Personnel: Peter Bergh

Special Collections: Richard Candee

Technology: Gail Drobnik

CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME & THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS,
AND FRIENDS

WELCOME new Proprietors:

Townsend Dunn, a business consultant with strong family ties to Portsmouth, received the transfer of share 136 from his uncle, Dudley Stoddard. Townsend and his wife, Deborah, live in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Lynn Seward of Kittery Point is a municipal accountant with a love of reading and history. She received the transfer of share 120 from her uncle, Byron Emery.

Congratulations to the following new Proprietors, introduced in a previous newsletter: **Andrew Ritzo, Carol Lincoln, Katherine Clark, Karen Bouffard, and Constance Seery**

WELCOME to new Subscriber Sam Page, a retired toxicologist who has worked for the United States Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization. Sam and Jane Page live at Duck's Head and divide their time between Newcastle and a second home in France.

WELCOME and thanks to the following new and renewed Friends of the Athenæum:

John & Lynn Aber

Nicholas Baker

Margaret Betts

Marion Buffington

Sandra & John Dika

Richard Grossman

David E. Hersee, Jr.

James E. Ladd

William Littlefield

Ellen Marlatt

Kathy & John Ross

Jeff Warner

THANKS are due our many members and friends who have given their time and talents to enrich and enliven the Athenæum's many endeavors: **Barbara Ward, Cheryl Cullimore, & Stephanie Rohwer** for their beautiful work putting together the marvelous exhibition *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House*, and extra hearty thanks to **Fred Engelbach** for physically transforming the exhibit gallery; to **Richard Candee, Lynne Crocker, & Michael Baenen** for a fascinating brown bag talk series on the history of our book collections; to **Mike Dater** for the original cartoon for the Library Committee notes; and thanks, as always, to **Darcy Scott** for laying out the newsletter!

Generosity:

Adopt-A-Book:

*Richard G. Adams
Michael Baenen
Richard Candee
Tom Hardiman
Cynthia Knapp
Frances Lord
Elèonore Sanderson
Thomas Watson
Sumner & Helen Winebaum*

Annual Appeal:

*Brad Lown
J. Dennis Robinson*

Arts Athenæum:

*Mike Chubrich & Donna Saunders
Irja Cilluffo
Katherine S. Clark
Geoffrey & Martha Fuller Clark
Steve & Karen Feld
Felice Fullam & Peter Sullivan
John Hopkins
Simeon P. Jarvis*

*Susan Lohse
Steven Munton
Lee Roberts*

John S. Blunt Research Project:

*Peter & Nancy Beck
Oxford Gallery
Rosamund Thaxter Foundation*

Book Fund

*R. Stuart Hume
Steven Munton
Barbara Renner
Sandra J. Smith
Mark Tarbell*

Endowment:

Charles DeGrandpre

Donald Hickmott Fund:

Joyce R. Zabarsky

Special Collections:

*Robert Dishman
Warren Pringle*

*James A. Russ
Joan Waldron
Charles W. Wendell*

Unrestricted:

*Ann Beattie
Carl W. Brage
Gloria Costello
Charles Doleac
Ellen Fineberg
Morris C. Foye III
Michael Harvell
Ronda Baker Hill
Daniel Hughes
Marcia Jebb
Bruce MacIntyre
Dana W. Mayo
Laurence McManus
Patricia Meyers
Sally Mirsky
Howell E. Russell
Sally Smyser
Andrew Sherburne
Sharon P. Stephan
Richard Toomey, Jr.
W. Peter Torrey
Marcy Weeks*

Financial Report, 2006

Portsmouth Athenæum 2006 Preliminary Financial Summary

Reported by Michael Kenslea, Treasurer

REVENUE:

Proprietor Assessments	\$	77,325
Annual Appeal		32,785
Miscellaneous Contributions		15,088
Investment Income		69,738
Other Operating Income		11,467
Gain on Sale of Investments		46,907
Receipts for Special Purposes		32,784

(including gifts and grants) \$ 286,094

EXPENDITURES:

Staff & Related Costs	\$	111,353
Collections		13,966
Utilities		10,905
Building, Maintenance & Renovations		20,012
Insurance, Office, Printing		30,218
Depreciation		29,188
Special Purpose Expenditures		23,151

\$ 238,793

ENDOWMENTS & RESERVE ADDITIONS:

Reserve Additions	\$	3,090
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Balance Sheet

ASSETS:

Cash, including Savings Reserves	\$	89,912
Invested Funds		1,087,442
Accounts Receivable		36,410
Prepaid Expenses		7,284
Fixed Assets		548,872

\$ 1,769,920

LIABILITIES:

Prepaid Proprietor Assessments	\$	80,450
Deferred Income		39,941
Accounts Payable		7,409

\$ 127,800

FUND BALANCES:

Net Surplus		50,391
Fund Balances		1,591,729

1,769,920

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A great many of our books have been missing for some time. Please check your book shelves and night stands for books with Athenæum book plates. A list of missing titles will appear in the Summer newsletter.

SOME TIPS:

Remember to sign out all books that leave the library. When you return them, just sign them back in and let the staff reshelve them.

Look for our new Book Review notebook on the circulation desk. Leave us a note! And don't forget to give us your new book suggestions. Call or email rsilva@portsmouthathenaeum.org

Watch for our fabulous annual Book Sale: October 20th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Find what you are looking for on our website: www.portsmouthathenaeum.org.



The Portsmouth Athenæum
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www.portsmouthathenaeum.org

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Annual Meeting Issue