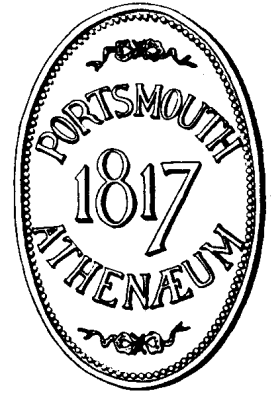


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Spring, 2008

Inside:



Brighton Bequest Proves Athenæum's Largest to Date

In late 2007, the Athenæum received a remarkable bequest from the estate of Proprietor Betty Brighton to establish a fund in the name of Raymond A. and Betty Jane Brighton. The \$229,825 bequest was the largest single gift in the Athenæum's 191-year history.



Betty Brighton

Betty and Ray were well known figures in both the Athenæum and the larger community. Ray spent thirty-three years at the Portsmouth Herald as a reporter, editor and director. He was also a director and president of the Athenæum. Betty was for many years news editor of the Herald and, later, night

editor of the Burlington Free Press. She was the first female president of the New England Associated Press News Executives Association and she and Ray were the first husband and wife honorees of the Yankee Quill Award by the Academy of New England Journalists.

The Athenæum board of Directors is looking at

*. . .the gift made it possible. . .to
capitalize on a one-time opportunity
to purchase the two condominiums
on the second floor of the Foye block.*

how best to honor the memories of Betty and Ray according to the spirit of the bequest. The fortuitous timing of the gift made it possible for the board to capitalize on a one-time opportunity to purchase the two condominiums on the second floor of the Foye block. One of the greatest priorities emphasized in the Long-Range Plan adopted by the board in December is the acquisition

of adequate space to safely house the Athenæum's rapidly growing collections. There is much work left to be done, but the new space will

greatly improve the library's ability to serve its members and its mission. We are grateful to the many proprietors involved in bringing the Brighton bequest to fruition and negotiating the purchase of the second floor.

Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 189th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum

Meet the Authors!

Upcoming Events

April - June, 2008

Welcome and Thanks

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL - JUNE, 2008
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

THROUGH
MAY 3

“Preservation Then & Now,” an exhibit telling the story of the preservation movement in New England — drawing on Historic New England’s significant role as the region’s premier preservation organization and its rich collection of documents and artifacts related to the Hancock House. Randall Gallery.

APRIL 8

John Vander Sande discusses “Early Northshore Furniture: Connoisseurship and Collecting.” Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 for non-PDAS members.

APRIL 10

Alan R. Hoffman signs copies of his unabridged English translation of Auguste Levasseur’s *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825* — a journal of the General’s 1824-25 farewell tour of all 24 United States and its interesting Portsmouth connections. 7:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.

APRIL 26

Tour of the Lady Pepperrell House, Kittery Point. [Please note this tour is fully booked.]

APRIL
DATE
TBD

Trip to the Concord Museum to view “American Style: Russell Kettell’s Pine Furniture,” arranged by proprietors Hollis Brodrick and Sharon Platt. Includes lunch and gallery talk. Please call 431-2538 for more information.

MAY 8

Elizabeth De Wolfe lectures and signs copies of her book, *The Murder of Mary Bean*, an investigation of the tragic 1850 murder of a Saco Island factory girl, and its connection to an earlier murder in Manchester, New Hampshire. 7:00 p.m., Research Library.

MAY 10

Tour of Portsmouth’s Jackson House, circa 1664, built by Richard Jackson — woodworker, farmer, mariner — and the oldest surviving wood frame house in New Hampshire or Maine.

MAY 13

Banks Gallery’s Jamie LaFleur lectures on “Island Light: Painters of the Isles of Shoals.” Meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center. \$10 for non-PDAS members.

MAY 22

Louise Dennett hosts an Informal Athenæum Tea — a chance for current and new members and friends to gather and find common threads. 4:00 — 6:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.

JUNE 1

Opening reception for the exhibition “Russell Cheney – New England Master. Paintings of Northern New England 1910-1945.” Part I: *From Impressionism to Yankee Modernism, Portsmouth & the New Hampshire Coast* opens at the Portsmouth Historical Society at 2:00 p.m.. Part II: *The Art of the Domestic, Paintings of Kittery and Southern Maine* opens in the Randall Gallery at 4:00 p.m. The exhibit is on view through early September.

JUNE 10

Abbey Burch lectures on “By His Account Rendered: The Business of Cabinetmaking in York County, Maine.” Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society meeting, 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center. \$10 for non-PDAS members.

JUNE 28

Gallery Talk for the exhibition *The Art of the Domestic, Paintings of Kittery and Southern Maine*, with a focus on new discoveries. 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery.

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

MINUTES, 189TH ANNUAL MEETING	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 3:30 P.M. COPLEY RESEARCH LIBRARY
--	---

Call to Order

President Wendy Lull welcomed Proprietors and Subscribers to the 189th meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. The minutes of the 188th meeting were presented. On the motion of Ted Gray, seconded by Richard Candee, the minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.

A moment of silence was observed for remembrance of those who died during 2007: Frank Butterworth, Jr, formerly share 110, Captain Matthew Cote, share 111, Ruth Cowan, formerly share 103, Nancy Douthat Goss, share 299, Kevin M. Guy, share 229, Allen Kaufman, formerly share 301, Kennard Palfrey, formerly share 171, Merrilee J. Possner, share 130, George Sherman, formerly share 283, Gladys L. Smith, share 326, Clotilde Straus, formerly share 117, Daniel Tarbell, share 66, Col. Douglas Woodward, husband of Proprietor Beverly Powell-Woodward, share 108.

Finances

Report of the Treasurer: Mike Kenslea

Treasurer Mike Kenslea reported that 2007 was a successful year financially for the Athenæum. He reported that, under the tutelage of Keeper Tom Hardiman and Nancy Mulqueen there had been both change and continuity and that the financial needs of the committees had been satisfied. Mike noted that Past President Mike Chubrich had successfully negotiated a settlement for the Brighton bequest, and had donated his time doing so. In addition, the contributions for the Annual Appeal had been 20% higher than budgeted.

Report of the Investments Committee: Bill Purinton

The close of 2007 marked the end of the first full year of the Athenæum's endowment investment portfolio under the management of Smith Barney through its office here in Portsmouth.

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

As of December 31, 2007 the portfolio, which totaled \$1,343M, was comprised as follows:

	2007	\$M	%	2006 by comparison	
Cash		109	8.1	66	6.1
Corporate Bonds		202	15.0	101	9.3
US Treasuries		52	3.9	101	9.3
Preferred Stock		40	3.0	101	9.3
Common Stock		940	70.0	718	66.0
Totals		1,343	100.0	1,087	100.0

Annual Meeting: Investment Committee Report, cont.

The ratio of equity to fixed income securities, including cash, was 70 / 30 at year's end.

The endowment was augmented in August 2007 by a \$228,000 bequest to the Athenæum by the Brighton estate. In September \$15,000 was withdrawn from the portfolio to support library operating costs.

Asset allocation within the common stock portfolio at 12/31/07 was as follows: cash 10%, growth companies 46%, value companies 25% and international companies 19%. Our investments tend to be in larger companies, listed on the NYSE, within these asset classes. Each category within the equity portfolio is managed separately. The common stock portfolio showed a rate of return of 5.84% for the year ending 12/31/07. This compares to the 5.49% recorded for the same period by the broadly based S&P 500 stock index. While the international and value components of our portfolio performed well against their benchmark indices, the growth component recorded significant under-performance. The Investment Committee will be addressing this shortfall with our investment advisor later this month. 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 5.95%, or about \$24,000 annually.

In closing I'd like to say a few words about the risks apparent in today's financial news. Continuing turmoil in the credit markets and the heightened likelihood of a recession during 2008 have generated volatility and sharp equity market declines since the stock market's peak last October. Unfortunately these conditions are likely to persist well into 2008. I believe that the steps we have taken over the past 18 months to diversify the Athenæum's endowment will serve us well in such a challenging environment.

Reports on the Year

Report of the Keeper: Tom Hardiman

The past year has been a very good and productive one for our Athenæum, as you have heard in the previous reports and will hear much more in the reports to come. Our professional staff, 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.

In staffing the library, your Librarian, Robin Silva, deserves our collective thanks for her incredible work in getting our complete library catalog online two years ahead of schedule. Assistant Librarian Carolyn Marvin has done much of the cataloging of new books and tracking circulation. Research Librarian Ursula Wright is now assisted on weekends by Adam Clements and Sarah Marcoux, who are making an impression with their energy and enthusiasm. Courtney MacLachlan has taken over the duties as Archivist, replacing Susan Kindstedt, who has made a transition to contract projects. Because of the incredible work done by staff and a small army of volunteers in transforming our catalog from paper to the internet, our rich resources have gone from being available in this room 12 hours per week to being available 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world.

The achievements of the past year underscore the fact that the Athenæum is not an old building near the bus stop in Market Square; it is a dynamic organization whose mission is energized by the membership and can be carried far beyond these walls by our group efforts. Thanks to contributions from Proprietors and friends and commitments from our Board of Directors, we have had important

Annual Meeting: Keeper's Report, cont.

additions to our collections and have made them easily accessible in our online catalog. Our exhibits in the Randall Gallery this year were all curated by Proprietors and were accompanied by two substantial publications written by Proprietors, one of which was also designed by a Proprietor. These, along with a feature chapter in a new book on America's Membership Libraries bring our work to the wider world without taxing our intimate space here at 9 Market Square. Also this year, in a bold project championed by President Lull, the Athenæum published a major book, the Sketchbooks of John Samuel Blunt, researched and written by Proprietor Deb Child and designed by a fellow Proprietor, Evelyn Lamprey. Thanks to generous contributions from Proprietors and friends, the Blunt project was fully funded before it went to press.

Our Athenæum continues to thrive by reflecting the interests and ambitions of its Proprietors. In revising the Long Range Plan, the Board of Directors has addressed how we can continue to best serve our members and our mission. As Proprietors, it is our responsibility to apply our talents and unique abilities to continuing our great success.

Report of the Library Committee: Ronan Donohoe for Ellie Sanderson

The Library Committee, Library staff members led by Librarian Robin Silva, and loyal volunteers join me in reporting to the membership that this past year marked a clear transition to our technology-based operation, while maintaining our time-honored programs in support of The Portsmouth Athenæum. The declining numbers for research visits, the Thursday Reading Room visitation, and Library usage by Proprietors have been offset in part by exploding use of the website and online catalog.

Over 10,000 books were cataloged in 2007, and the highest number of donations in history were received, thanks to generous Proprietors and others. Orders for photographs were up, and the Adopt-A-Book program expanded last year. The Library Staff has organized a display for your adoption consideration today, and we hope you all will take advantage of it.

With the help of Carolyn Marvin and volunteers, the number of known missing books was pegged at 49. Several were found last year, some in the book sale donations! Members are urged to check their bookshelves, and check the website for names of missing volumes.

A Featured Book of the Month is on the website, thanks to Lynne Crocker, Marcia Jebb, and Gerry Ward, along with the wish list, and many, many other interesting items.

The Annual Book Sale held on October 20th was led by Peter Narbonne and Carol Lincoln. The sale netted about \$3,000 for the Library this year, and involved many volunteers for sorting, transportation, and work on the sale itself. Thanks to each and every one of them. And hearty thanks to all those who donated their books to the sale. The proceeds are added to the Library budget, the special book funds for the purchase of additions to the Library.

The Committee met three times during the year: 2/10/07, 6/2/07, and 10/13/07 to approve book lists recommended by the Library staff and interested Proprietors, Subscribers, and friends. Members are urged to suggest books for the Athenæum collections by using the book in the Reading Room, or speaking to a member of the staff. Among the many other items for consideration this past year was

Annual Meeting: Library Committee Report, cont.

feedback to the Long Range Planning Committee for Library policies and strategies for the coming years.

Mary Lou Hodgdon and Beth Pope resigned from the Library Committee during the past year, and Beth Bennett Rice was added to the Committee roster, which also includes: Rhett Austell, Michael Baenen, Richard Candee, Lynne Crocker, Ronan Donohoe, Rose Eppard, Marcia Jebb, Herb Kingsbury, Mary Beth Kula, Carol Lincoln, Peter Narbonne, Jane Porter, W. Rodman Philbrick, Peter Randall, Gerald Ward, Eleonore Sanderson, Chair, with Wendy Lull serving ex officio. Staff members are Robin Silva, Librarian; Carolyn Marvin and Countney MacLachlan, Assistants; Tom Hardiman, Keeper.

Library Volunteers: Irene Crosby, Gail Drobnik, Marcia Jebb, Bill Littlefield and Hilda Versluys. **Reading Room Volunteers**, under the leadership of Louise Dennett, included Wendy Cote, John Udaloy, Garvin McCurdy, Renee Silverman, Phil Kavanaugh, and George Pierce, who resigned during the year. Substitutes are Clint Springer and Louise Dennett. **Volunteers for the Book Sale**, led by Peter Narbonne and Carol Lincoln: Michael Baenen, Karen Bouffard, Robert Chaikin, Mike Chubrich, Kitty Clark, Lois Fonda, Sally Ford, Felice Fullam, Sarah Hamill, Peggy Hodges, Herb Kingsbury, Cindy Knapp, Jeff Knapp, Betty Larsen, Alan Lincoln, Wendy Lull, Margaret Morrissey, Joe Mulqueen, Nancy Mulqueen, Carolyn Payzant, John Payzant, Nancy Pollard, Deb Richard, Dave Sanderson, Bill Weiting, and Philip Wright.

Report of the Special Collections Committee: Richard Candee

The Special Collections Committee 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.

Special Collections manuscripts are purchased with the help of the Athenæum's Warrick Fund endowment and by individual gifts from Proprietors. We must, however, seek Board permission to buy materials costing over \$2000. In this, we thank the Board this year for allowing us to acquire some most interesting manuscripts. The largest group is a major addition to our Wendell family papers. This relates directly to parts of our existing collection and seems to have been deaccessioned by a museum or library as not within their scope – but it sure is within ours and adds depth to all our vast existing Wendell materials.

Also regionally important was the purchase earlier in the year of a ledger and two daybooks belonging to a South Berwick cabinetmaker, Joseph Murphey, 1815-1849. Tom identified him initially and we have already had one furniture scholar from Winterthur Museum come study it this summer. And, joining a large but incomplete group of Josiah P. Gilson diaries we got a year or two ago, we added four more years: 1901, 1902, 1905, and 1908 including his laconic lack of interest in the Peace Treaty events of 1905! We also honored Dennis Robinson's suggestions for many items found on eBay: buying several letters, a local 1815 Pay Roster, a census of blind residents of Portsmouth and Rye in 1834, an 1870s Bow St. grist mill's account book.

continued, page 9

CONGRATULATIONS , WELCOME & THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS,
AND FRIENDS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following new Proprietors, introduced in previous newsletters:

Charles G. Bickford

Gary W. Dozier

Sarah Hamil

Elaine M. Tefft

.....

WELCOME to new Subscriber *Arlon Atherton Chaffee*, an executive recruiter with an interest in both antiques and early American history. He lives in Newmarket with his wife, Margaret Kay.

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

John Aber

Russ Cullen

James Ladd

Carmen Valentino

Nicholas J. Baker

Anita M. Gauthier

William Littlefield

Jeff Warner

Margaret Betts

Richard D. Grossman

Ellen Marlatt

Jack & Diane Chambers

Joan Jacobs

Stuart Shaines

THANKS also to *Karen Possner* for delivering a very generous bequest from the estate of her sister, proprietor *Merrilee J. Possner*. Karen also gave the Athenæum Merrilee's large reference library of books on antiques and folk art.

Generosity:

Adopt-A-Book:

Richard G. Adams
Michael Chubrich
Wendy W. Lull
Courtney MacLachlan
John & Carolyn Payzant

Annual Appeal:

Karen Buffard
Pat Meyers
Neil Rolde
Carvel B. Tefft

Arts Athenæum:

Steve & Karen Feld
John Hopkins
Sally H. Mirsky
T. Michael MacDonald
Lee Roberts

Book Fund:

Douglas Carey
Stephen Muntun
Barbara Renner

Endowment:

J. Michael Hughes in memory of
Fred & Hildi Gray
Mark McNabb

Special Collections:

Hollis Brodrick
Laurence Bussey
Frances Lord
Joyce Volk
Charles Warner Wendell

Unrestricted:

Dr. Robert M. Chaikin
Charles Doleac
Ronda J. Baker Hill
Elizabeth Larsen
Bruce MacIntyre
James Muntun
William McKie Stuart
Joyce Volk
Roger & Elaine Wood



From *The Life of Robin Hood* (London:1795),
one of 15 books in need of conservation
available for adoption at
www.portsmouthathenaeum.org/Adoptabookforweb2008.pdf

Portsmouth Athenæum 2007 Financial Summary

Reported by Michael Kenslea, Treasurer

REVENUE:

Proprietor Assessments	\$	77,892
Annual Appeal		35,776
Miscellaneous Contributions		242,446
Investment Income		78,593
Other Operating Income		7,742
Gain on Sale of Investments		8,755
Receipts for Special Purposes		81,751

	\$	532,954
--	----	---------

EXPENDITURES:

Staff & Related Costs	\$	128,658
Collections		17,698
Utilities		12,547
Building, Maintenance & Renovations		15,409
Insurance, Office, Printing		43,376
Depreciation		28,522
Special Purpose Expenditures		74,432

	\$	320,642
--	----	---------

ENDOWMENTS & RESERVE ADDITIONS:

Reserve Additions	\$	3,610
-------------------	----	-------

.....

Balance Sheet

ASSETS:

Cash, including Savings Reserves	\$	68,274
Invested Funds		1,346,000
Accounts Receivable		33,902
Prepaid Expenses		2,966
Fixed Assets		535,438

	\$	1,986,579
--	----	-----------

LIABILITIES:

Prepaid Proprietor Assessments	\$	78,175
Deferred Income		5,337
Accounts Payable		6,433

	\$	89,945
--	----	--------

FUND BALANCES:

Net Surplus		215,923
Fund Balances		1,680,711

		1,986,579
--	--	-----------

Annual Meeting: Special Collections Committee, cont.

Hollis Brodrick presented us a gift of the stock certificate to Samuel Coues for his shares in the Portsmouth Whaling Company (whose records we own) and Joe Frost gave us J.L.O. Coleman's account book showing sales and purchases of antiques 1895-1926. Materials related to the Billings family of Kittery Point, Maine, were the gift of the Kittery Point Congregational Church.

Kinley Gregg this year gave us nine letters from local men or dealing with local businesses—like the manuscript record by James Sheafe about the loss of his Ship Apollo in 1825 or the three early 19th c. letters to or from William Neil, the English-born crockery merchant that Louise Richardson studies. Not only do we collect area manuscripts, we try to add to our newspaper, local imprints, ephemera and photograph collections each year.

Among the most interesting **local imprint titles** acquired this year was a book published here by “Uncle Toby” –Tobias Ham Miller – in 1823: *Louisa Hoare's Hints for the Improvement of Early Education and Nursery Discipline!* Moreover, Robin Silva has catalogued and put on line many of the items donated earlier by Elizabeth Larson from Wyman Boynton's estate. Among these are Joseph Bartlett's Aphorisms for example with a bookplate of the local YMCA library in it. Local 19th century author James H. Head's *Jewels from the Quarry of the Mind*. Also: our own copy of the 1833 Athenæum catalog (we've been using one belonging to PHS) plus a copy of the autobiography of my friend Thomas P. Moses. Also the 1727 manuscript tax list of New Castle, the 1799 record book of the Gilman Blues, and several law books of the Levi Woodbury law collection.

Ephemera: June Rogers donated an 1898 Portsmouth Herald Souvenir Edition and Julia L. Tilley pamphlets and manuscripts related to Pease Air Force Base including dedication materials.

Photos: In this category we purchased several local street scenes and a bunch of glass plate negatives of Kittery taken by Alexander Dennett. Peter Narbonne and Michael Baenen donated the very important daguerreotype portrait of Tobias Ham Miller — together with Miller's own annotated copy of *Adam's Annals* (Exeter, 1824) from which he published excerpts — seen in last year's “Literary Lions” show. Peter also gave us a bunch of early stereo views and an early glass plate negative by Meinreth (one of the earliest photographers here) that we didn't have. Kinley Gregg added many photographs and a couple of stereoptican views to the collection, while Stephanie Krenn brought in six scrapbooks for the Atlantic Heights School PTA! Peter and Marnie Frost donated two photograph albums containing images of New Castle, from Gayle Kadlik pictures of the Ferguson family on Londoners Island at the Isles of Shoals, and Constance Lathrop Luedtke of her father Howard Lathrop whose portrait by Russell Cheney graces the Public Library walls.

We also received a photo of salvage operations for the U.S.S. Squalus from the New Hampshire Farm Museum and one of a brick schoolhouse on Lafayette Road from the Seabrook Historical Society.

The committee is chaired by myself and Michael Baenen; and the other members are Buzzy Dodge, Ronan Donahoe, Joseph W.P. Frost, Jane Porter, Sumner Winebaum, Dr. Warren Pringle, and Fran Lord, with Susan Kindstedt and now Courtney MacLachlan, Archivists and Carolyn Marvin who handles all the ephemera, with Tom Hardiman, Keeper, & Wendy Lull, President (ex officio). Finally, I must thank our staff and volunteers, especially Susan Kindstedt who has continued to organize the South Church manuscripts and help get our finding aids to various archival collections on line.

Annual Meeting: ArtsAthenæum Exhibits Committee Report

Peter Narbonne

It's been another successful year for Athenæum exhibits in the Randall Gallery, thanks in no small part to the wonderful committee members and others who meet throughout the year — doing the hands-on, behind-the-scenes details to make it all happen.

I'll take a moment to recognize our committee members: Barbara Adams, Proprietor Show; Richard Candee; Kitty Clark; Jackie Grote; Susan Hamilton; Tom Hardiman; Evelyn Lamprey; Susan Lohse; Wendy Lull; Peter Michaud; Jane Porter, secretary; Deb Richards, refreshments and Party Planner Extraordinaire (iceberg sculpture centerpiece); Sally Strazdins; Elaine Tefft; Eleanor Tracy; Joyce Volk; Barbara Ward; Ursula Wright; Sherry Wood, publicity.

We have also had the pleasure of working with the following folks on last year's two big exhibits: **Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House**: Barbara Ward, Curator and Sherry Cullimore. **Abandoned in the Arctic, Expedition of Adolphus Greely**: Dr. Jeff Clark, Curator; Susan Hamilton, Designer. **The Preservation Movement Then and Now** by Historic New England: Ken Turino, Exhibitions Manager; Richard Nylander, Historic New England Senior Curator; Lorna Condon, Curator of the Library and Archives.

This exhibition tells the story of the preservation movement in New England, drawing on Historic New England's significant role as the region's premier preservation organization and its rich collection of documents and artifacts related to the Hancock House, one of the earliest preservation stories in New England. The show also examines preservation today, how the concept has changed and expanded from saving one architectural monument to preserving streetscapes, neighborhoods, and open spaces. A resource panel includes information on preservation services including Historic New England's Stewardship program, and information on state preservation offices and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The exhibition also contains a special section on Portsmouth's Rundlet-May House. Then opening in June will be **Paintings of Russell Cheney**: Richard Candee, curator. As with so many things here at the Athenæum, our committee relies on your volunteer efforts and support.

Report of the Arts and Artifacts Committee: Elizabeth Aykroyd

The Art and Artifacts Collection Committee has continued its work to recatalog the collection to the standard demanded by the PastPerfect software. We are fortunate to have the combined talents (and knowledge!) of the committee members to professionally catalog the artifacts. The results are seen on the web site, as each newly catalogued item is entered into the program, as well as an accompanying photograph. This project will be ongoing for some time. In 2007 there were three new accessions, and seventy-one objects or sets of objects were re-catalogued.

At the same time, some changes have been made in the exhibit of objects around the building, particularly in the case in the Reading Room where some of the South Seas artifacts which came to the Athenæum in 1825 are displayed for the first time in decades. The "Cabinet of Curiosities" on the stair at the mezzanine level has been cleaned, all the objects catalogued and photographed, and the exhibit re-arranged.

In 2007 our main acquisition was a painting of Fort McClary in Kittery by George Savary Wasson, which was the bequest of Elaine Lamprell of Kittery. Wasson was a Boston painter who summered in Kittery and other places on the coast of Maine. The painting and its frame were conserved because of the generosity of Mike Kenslea. Also in 2007 we were able to have the Boardman-type

Annual Meeting: Arts and Artifacts Report, cont.

chairs refinished and reupholstered. Cathy Hodson generously funded the refinishing, and gifts from Jane Porter and Evelyn Lamprey helped defray the cost of the upholstery. The chairs are now in the Old Library Room and are in constant use by Proprietors and committees.

New accessions of 2007 include: Painting of Ft. McClary by George S. Wasson – Bequest of Elaine Lamprell; Ship model, possibly the Granite State – Gift of Willis Rivinus; Three submarine models – Gift of Sam Jarvis.

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.

Report of the Technology Committee: Gail Drobnyk

The Technology Committee met several times in 2007 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.

Among our accomplishments, we replaced the old laser printer with a much faster one that can be accessed by all staff members over the network. In addition, we increased the RAM in all of the computers to improve their performance, upgraded the computer in the stacks so that it would run effectively with PastPerfect, and purchased another computer to be used by the curator. Among the issues dealt with was the requirement by our insurance company that we upgrade the security cameras in the Research Library and Reading Room. After reviewing several alternatives we decided to accept the proposal from Protection One, which involved installing cameras with wide angle views of the three principal entrances to the building and the work table in the research library. They have motion sensors that turn them on and off and infrared night vision. The cameras are digital and can store about a month of video, which can be burned to a DVR. The cameras are to be used only to provide evidence in case of a major theft and are not used to monitor the activities of members or guests.

If any of you have any suggestions for technology initiatives in 2008 please pass them on to me or any of the committee members which include Gail Drobnyk, Rose Eppard, Carol Glaser, Tom Hardiman, Evelyn Lamprey, Claudia Morner, Nancy Mulqueen, Dennis Robinson, and Robin Silva.

Report of the Admissions Committee: Ronan Donohoe

The committee is made up of five Proprietors: myself, chair, and Rose Eppard, Tibby Fieled, Vernis Jackson, and Jane Porter. The Committee thanks those Proprietors who have sent prospective members our way and special thanks to those who have taken the time to write the endorsement letters for new applicants. These letters are essential to our vetting procedures. At this moment there are two shares available and twenty-one subscribers awaiting shares.

New Proprietors (9): Ann Beattie Kerry Cronin Henry Sanders
Karen Bouffard Tom Holbrook Connie Seery
Kitty Clark Carol Lincoln Tobey Stowe

New Subscribers (6): David Borden Sam Page
Tom Catalano Stephanie Seacord
Patrick Clary Nancy Wetzel

Annual Meeting: Report of the President, Wendy Lull

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Board President over the past two years. Before I give my report, I would like to personally thank Tom and the entire crew for their solid work. Your professionalism and skill enabled the Board to concentrate on several special projects because we knew that the operation was in good hands. I also thank the Directors for their energy and insight, for their honesty and keeping the institution's best interests in the forefront of all our deliberations. Perhaps we can say that we lived the "convivial interchange and intellectual discourse" part of the mission every month. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers for your dedication, talent, commitment and joie d'vivre. There are many worthy institutions in the seacoast that rely on volunteers; you chose to give your time to the Athenæum and that means a great deal to us all. Thank you.

I shall focus my remarks on three main accomplishments, each of which requires more than you—first to Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends. The 2006 and 2007 Annual Appeals both set records: \$32,785 in '06 and \$35,676 this year. Your generosity tells us that you value our activities and programs and support the institution's general direction. Not only that, it is a lot more fun to have the breathing room of little more money, although I assure you we have not gone out spending willy nilly!

This year we completed two very complex legal negotiations: finalizing the lease of our parking spaces and bringing the Brighton bequest to a satisfactory conclusion. Neither of these issues could have been resolved without the steady hand of Mike Chubrich. In the resolution of the bequest, the keen legal mind, and delicate diplomacy of Honorable John Maher, Peter Randall and Mike Kenslea came to the fore as well and I sincerely thank you all. Either of these would be a significant undertaking, and to take on both—as volunteers—is a phenomenal contribution to this institution.

The final accomplishment is the one I know you have all been waiting to hear about since my report last year: updating the long range plan. Yes, Virginia, we have a new Five Year Plan! I want to explain how we developed the plan, how you can access it and hopefully engage some of you in its implementation.

The first phase was completed last year, when Vice President Michael Baenan, Tom Hardiman and I reviewed the previous plan. As I reported then, there was very little left undone in the previous plan, which should be a point of pride of all of us; especially for those of you who crafted that plan. Next, we considered the needs and opportunities that we are facing and anticipate to create a series of drafts that were reviewed by the full Board to make sure we were on track. Once the Board agreed that we had reached a practicable end point, we sent that version to each Committee for review. Committee Chairs were encouraged to invite others to participate so that we could have input from as many people and viewpoints as was reasonable. We then convened a joint meeting of the Board and Committee Chairs and incorporated the various versions and opinions as consensus allowed.

That meeting was another mission moment—with a great deal of interchange and discourse—all if it productive and moving towards the same goal: a set of achievable priorities. For example, rather than set a new target for how many proprietorships we should have, it calls for setting the financial and facility usage criteria for determining that number. The exact number may, or may not change, but at least we will all be in agreement about what drives that discussion. We know that we'll need more space, and more space means more money, so we are calling for the creation of a Development Committee to help us create a fundraising plan to meet both capital and operational needs. Although I would be happy to review the entire plan with you now, I shall leave that joy for you to pursue on your own. And this is how you can do that.

Annual Meeting: President's Report, cont.

The plan will be posted on the web site, and hard copies will be available here. We encourage you to take a few moments (it is three pages long) to review it. Although it has been formally ratified by the Board, we welcome your feedback. Tom, appropriately, is the Keeper of Input, and will be the point person for your comments. I implore you, however, to submit your comments to him in writing—or jot them down (with your name) in the suggestion box here. We ask for this so that if we have any questions we can contact you. Please do not take it personally if we do not include your idea; after all, we want to be inclusive, but we also have a lot of work to do as it stands.

Which happily brings me close to the end of my report. Completing a plan is just the beginning. The real work is in implementation. The plan calls for projects, tasks, and research on which Tom and the new Board will need your help. In the tradition of the Athenæum, the plan will be guided by the Board, driven by the staff and fulfilled by volunteers. The slate of officers and directors Maryellen will present to you in a few moments have the experience, skills and willingness to take this on, and I look forward to assisting them as I can.

We may think that the Athenæum is strong now, but look out Portsmouth—we are just getting started.

Election of Officers and Directors:

Maryellen Burke presented the proposed slate of officers for the coming year. Carvel B. Tefft was nominated for President for a two-year term; G. Patrick Nerbonne was nominated for Vice President for a two-year term; and Immediate Past President Wendy W. Lull was nominated for a two-year term. Ronan Donohoe was nominated for Secretary for a one-year term and Treasurer Michael E. Kenslea was nominated to continue for another one-year term. Ann E. Beattie, Frederick S. Gray, Jr., and Susan Kress Hamilton were nominated for three year terms as Directors. Karen L. Bouffard was nominated for a one-year term as Director to complete the three-year term vacated by Carvel Tefft. Five Directors will continue to serve terms as previously voted.

Jeff Bolster moved that recommendations of the Nominating Committee be approved. Rhett Austelle 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 new Officers and Directors and gave special thanks to those Officers and Directors whose terms had expired: Michael Baenen, Mike Chubrich, Pat DeGrandpre, and Gail Drobynyk.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm and was followed by a small reception.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Drobynyk,
Secretary



2007 Athenæum Committee Chairs:

Admissions: Ronan Donohoe
ArtsAthenæum/Exhibits: Peter Narbonne
ArtsAthenæum/Performance: Bill Wieting
Building: Dick Adams
Arts and Artifacts: Elizabeth Aykroyd

Investments: Bill Purinton
Library: Ellie Sanderson
Special Collections: Richard Candee
Technology: Gail Drobynyk

Meet the Authors!

Two Athenæum programs this spring will feature local authors with important new books relating to regional history:

APRIL 10, 7:00 p.m., the Sawtelle Reading Room:

Alan R. Hoffman will give a presentation and book signing for his unabridged English translation of Auguste Levasseur's *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825*. This is the first full printing in English of Levasseur's journal of General Lafayette's 1824-1825 Farewell Tour of all 24 United States. Mr. Hoffman will talk about Lafayette's superstar status, his hero's welcome in Portsmouth, and his faux pas in soiling the carpet at the Warner House.

MAY 8, 7:00 p.m., the Research Library:

Elizabeth De Wolfe will sign copies and talk about her recent book and exhibition, *The Murder of Mary Bean*, in which she investigates the story of the tragic 1850 murder of a Saco Island factory girl, and its connections with an earlier murder in Manchester, New Hampshire. Ms. De Wolfe uncovers the true identity of the murdered girl – Berengera Caswell, a Canadian immigrant – and deciphers the sad series of events that lead to her death, which was sensationalized in the pulp press of the time.

The Portsmouth Athenæum
9 Market Square
Portsmouth, NH 03801
www.portsmouthathenaeum.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: *CARVEL B. TEFFT*
VICE-PRESIDENT: *G. PATRICK NARBONNE*
TREASURER: *MICHAEL E. KENSLEA*
SECRETARY: *RONAN DONOHOE*
PAST PRESIDENT: *WENDY W. LULL*
ANN E. BEATTIE
JEFFREY BOLSTER
KAREN L. BOUFFARD
FREDERICK S. GRAY, JR.
SUSAN KRESS HAMILTON
COL. LIONEL INGRAM
CYNTHIA E. KNAPP
MICHAEL M. MURRAY

STAFF:

KEEPER: *TOM HARDIMAN*
LIBRARIAN: *ROBIN SILVA*
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: *CAROLYN MARVIN*
ARCHIVIST: *COURTNEY MACLACHLAN*
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS: *ADAM CLEMENTS, SARAH MARCOUX,*
URSULA WRIGHT
ARCHIVIST: *SUSAN KINDSTEDT*
OFFICE MANAGER: *NANCY MULQUEEN*

CONTRACTED SERVICES:

BOOKKEEPING: *DOROTHY POLANDO*
ARCHIVAL SERVICES: *SUSAN KINDSTEDT*

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

Annual Meeting Issue