

# The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Winter, 2008

## "The Preservation Movement Then and Now" Exhibit Opens February 3rd

The Athenæum's next exhibit, *The Preservation Movement Then and Now*, opening February 3, tells the story of the preservation movement in New England which began with the fight to save the Hancock House in 1863.



The Rundlet-May House

Presented by Historic New England, the show's various displays draw on that group's significant role as the region's premier preservation organization and its rich collection of documents and artifacts related to the Hancock House. A special section will also

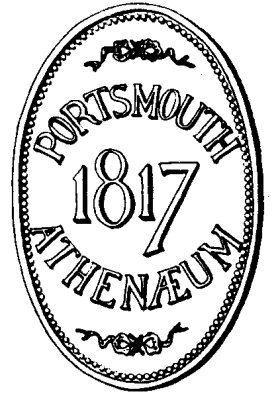
focus on Portsmouth's Rundlet-May House.

The upcoming exhibit also examines the idea of preservation today, how the concept has changed and expanded from saving one architectural monument to preserving a variety of 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.

In addition to lectures associated with the exhibit (see side panel), Historic New England will conduct scheduled tours of a number of historic buildings in the area, including Portsmouth's Jackson House during the months of April and May.

An opening reception for *The Preservation Movement Then and Now* is scheduled for February 3rd, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

## Inside:



### **Wasson Painting Becomes Double Gift**

### **Annual Fund Sets A(nother) Record**

### **Upcoming Events**

January - March, 2008

#### **Exhibit Lectures**

#### ***The Preservation Movement Then and Now***

*"The Battle to Save the John Hancock Mansion: Early Preservation in Boston"*

Presented by Historic New England  
Senior Curator Richard Nylander  
and Lorna Condon,  
Curator of the Library and Archives  
Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m., (Snow date Feb. 14)

*"William Summer Appleton and the  
Preservation of Jackson House"*

Presented by Richard Candee, Professor  
Emeritus, American and New England Studies,  
Boston University  
Feb. 21, 7:00 p.m., (Snow date Feb. 28)

*"Preserving Four Centuries of New England  
Homes: Historic New England and its  
Stewardship Program"*

Joseph Cornish, Senior Stewardship Manager,  
Historic New England  
March 6, 7:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY - MARCH, 2008  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

- JAN. 9 189th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum, 3:30 p.m., Research Library. Reception to follow in the old library.
- JAN. 17 An illustrated presentation by photographer Richard Moore of his upcoming exhibit of photographs of Odiorne Point and the seacoast—hauntingly evocative visions of the past and present created by utilizing precise camera locations to superimpose historic images on contemporary landscapes. 7:00 p.m., Research Library.
- JAN. 29 Book launch reception for *America's Membership Libraries*, which features essays on 16 remaining membership libraries, including our Athenæum. 5:30 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- FEB. 3 Opening of "Preservation Then & Now," an exhibit chronicling the story of the preservation movement in New England. Reception from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- FEB. 3 Organist Geoffrey Wieting in a Memorial Concert dedicated to the memory of Athenæum Proprietors *Frank Butterworth, Jr, Captain Matthew Coté, Ruth Cowan, Nancy Douthat Goss, Kevin M. Guy, Allen Kaufman, Kennard Palfrey, Merrilee J. Possner, George Sherman, Gladys L. Smith, Clotilde Straus, Daniel Tarbell, and Col. Douglas Woodward*, husband of Proprietor *Beverly Powell-Woodward*. 4:00 p.m., St. John's Church.
- FEB. 5 "Samuel McIntire: Carving an American Style", a lecture by Dean Lahikainen during a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society. 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 charge for non-PDAS members.
- FEB. 7 Lecture by Historic New England Senior Curator Richard Nylander and Lorna Condon, Curator of the Library and Archives, entitled "The Battle to Save the John Hancock Mansion: Early Preservation in Boston." 7:00 p.m., Research Library. Snow date February 14.
- FEB. 21 Richard Candee, Professor Emeritus, American and New England Studies, Boston University, presents "William Summer Appleton and the Preservation of Jackson House." 7:00 p.m., Research Library. Snow date February 28.
- MARCH 6 Joseph Cornish, Senior Stewardship Manager, Historic New England, lectures on "Preserving Four Centuries of New England Homes: Historic New England and its Stewardship Program." 7:00 p.m., Research Library.
- APRIL 8 In a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, John Vander Sande talks about "Early Northshore Furniture: Connoisseurship and Collecting." 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- APRIL-  
MAY Historic New England conducts tours of historic buildings in the area including Portsmouth's Jackson House. More information to follow.

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

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
WELCOME & THANKS**

**TO THE FOLLOWING NEW  
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS,  
AND FRIENDS**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following new **Proprietors** who were introduced in previous newsletters: *Kerry Cronin, Ann Beatie, Thomas Holbrook, and Henry Sanders.*



**WELCOME to New Subscribers. . .**

. . . *Nancy Mayer Wetzell* and her husband Gary live in South Berwick. Nancy is a landscape gardener. She has been associated with SPNEA, now Historical New England, for many years. She has recreated the Sarah Orne Jewett garden and is a well know expert on the literary and landscape history of the region. Nancy is also much involved with choral music groups in the Seacoast.

. . . *G. Thomas Catalano* and his wife Marie live in Kittery. A graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy, Tom is retired from a career in the insurance field, having built up a multi-branch agency from small beginnings. In addition to an interest in maritime history and books, Tom is involved with tennis and sailing.

. . . *David Borden* and his wife Nancy Horner Borden live in New Castle. David retired from a career in community development and corporate consulting and now represents Rye and New Castle in the NH State Legislature. He devotes a great deal of his time and energy to environmental programs.

Welcome also to *Susan Kaufmann*, who takes over the share of her mother, late Proprietor Jane Kaufman. A graduate of Brown and UNH, Susan lives in Greenland. She is an art educator with interests in textiles, horticulture and figure skating.

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

*Richard Berry  
Irene Bush  
William Colbath  
Craig Evans*

*Elisabeth D. Garrett  
Nathan L. Hazen  
Bill Holly  
Joan T. Jones*

*Kathy & John Ross  
Dana L. Stairs*

**THANKS TO EVERYONE** who helped make the Athenæum Book Sale a great success: *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, Carol Lincoln, Wendy Lull, Margaret Morrissey, Joe Mulqueen, Nancy Mulqueen, Peter Narbonne, Carolyn Payzant, John Payzant, Nancy Pollard, Deb Richards, Dave Sanderson, Bill Weiting,* and last but not least *Philip Wright.* Thanks also to Starbucks manager, *Heidi Horner,* who donated coffee and pastries, and to *Jim Mills,* of Jim Mills Realty, for generously loaning use of his truck for the fifth straight year to transport the books before and after the sale.

**OUR GRATITUDE ALSO GOES** to our many Gallery Sitters for our exhibits, "Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House," and "Abandoned in the Arctic." Your generosity and hospitality greatly enhanced the experience for thousands of visitors this year!

**THANKS AS WELL** to all our library volunteers: *Irene Crosby, Courtland Gilbert, Bill Littlefield, John Payzant,* and *Hilda Versluys.*

# GENEROSITY

## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

### Annual Fund Sets A(nother) Record—A Letter From The President

*On behalf of the Board and staff, I want to thank all our Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends for such a successful Annual Fund. Together we set a new record of support: \$34,401! That exceeds last year's record by almost \$2,000—and gifts are still coming in. This year, the average gift size increased by \$12 to \$162, due in part to the substantial increase of the largest gift received: \$4,000! Although large gifts are appreciated and necessary, what is most important is participation. This year, 12.5% of Annual Fund donors were Subscribers and Friends who collectively gave over \$3,000. Support from the people who know us best means that the Athenæum will be able to continue making new connections to our community. That means more people will be able to enjoy our exhibits, new students and scholars will study and learn from our collections, and we can all be very proud of being a critical part of one of the seacoast's most venerable and vibrant cultural institutions. Thank you all.*

Wendy W. Lull  
Board President

## Gifts:

### ANNUAL APPEAL:

Douglas & Elizabeth Aykroyd  
Michael Baenen  
Nancy Beck  
Charles G. Bickford  
Jeff Bolster  
David Borden  
Carl Brage  
Margaret S. Carter  
Dr. Robert Chaikin  
Laurie Chandler  
Irja Cilluffo  
Dr. Geoffrey & Martha Fuller Clark  
Mark Connolly  
Elizabeth Critchley  
Rose Eppard  
Morris Foye  
Steven Fowle  
Amy Gant  
Cleaveland F. Horton  
Anne S. Howells Trust  
Lionel Ingram  
James Labrie  
Peter Lamb  
Elinor Lamson-Pearson  
Irene R. Lebel  
Peter Loughlin  
Brad Lown  
Bruce MacIntyre  
Claudia Morner  
Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Beverly Powell-Woodward  
Peter Randall  
John W. Rice  
J. Dennis Robinson  
Howell E. Russell  
Henry M. Sanders  
William Seaward  
Stacy Smith  
Alanson Sturgis  
Edmund C. Tarbell II  
M. Elaine Tefft in memory of  
Stanton E. Tefft  
Gerald & Barbara Ward  
Rodney K. Watterson  
William F. Wieting  
Elaine Willoughby

### ARTS ATHENÆUM:

Stephen R. Alie  
John Campbell  
Mary Cabrera  
Michael Chubrich  
Dr. Geoffrey Clark  
Barbara Engelbach  
Rev. John Miles Evans  
Jameson French  
Ann Graf  
Marcia Jebb  
Anne S. Howells Trust  
John Payzant  
Jane Porter  
Peter Randall  
Elèonore P. Sanderson

Sumner Winebaum

### BOOK FUND:

Mary Cabrera  
Thomas Coleman  
Eleanor Johnston Ford  
Mary Lou Hodgdon  
Herbert Kingsbury  
John R. Maher  
Gerald W. R. Ward  
Roger F. Wood

### ENDOWMENT:

Joan D. Barondes  
Mary Cabrera  
Thomas Coleman  
Barbara Engelbach  
Simeon P. Jarvis  
Donald S. Margeson  
Howard Oedel  
Joe Parks  
David Sanderson  
Elèonore P. Sanderson  
Dr. Ira Schwartz  
Susan L. Zuckert

### DONALD HICKMOTT FUND:

James L. Garvin  
Tom Hardiman  
Joyce Roepel Zabarsky

### JANE PORTER FUND:

Steven Fowle  
Joan Waldron

**MERRILEE J. POSSNER  
MEMORIAL GIFTS:**

Michael Baenen & Peter Narbonne  
Deborah M. Child  
Howard P. & Florence Fertig  
Nancy Grossman  
Tom Hardiman  
Martha D. Levisky  
Susan Lohse  
Johanna McBrien  
Mason McBrien  
Jan McCracken  
Jane Porter  
Joyce G. Volk  
Ursula Wright  
Susan L. Zuckert

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:**

Mary Cabrera  
Deborah M. Child  
Carol Cole  
Thomas Coleman  
Peter Cook  
Jane Porter  
Warren Pringle  
Susan Reynolds  
James A. Russ  
Edward Rutledge  
Sandra Smith

Ursula Wright

**UNRESTRICTED:**

R. J. Allister  
Alan Ammann  
R. Rhett Austell  
Ann Beattie  
Larry Benedict  
Peter Berg  
Evangeline R. Brawn  
Mary Cabrera  
Michael Chubrich  
Dr. Geoffrey & Martha Fuller Clark  
Thomas Coleman  
Gloria Costello  
Elizabeth Critchley  
Michael Dater  
Stanley O. Davis  
Sara Delano  
Dudley Dudley  
Townsend H. Dunn  
David & Elria Ewing  
Elizabeth Field  
Lois Fonda  
Morris Foye  
Amy Gant  
Frank Graf  
Neil A. Graves  
Robert A. Hall

Joseph Hammond  
Mrs. F. W. Harrington  
Daniel Hughes  
Isles of Shoals Association  
Michael Kenslea  
Elaine Krasker  
Peter Lamb  
Brad Lown  
John R. Maher  
Garvin McCurdy  
Robert Mennel  
Margaret Morrissey  
Howard Oedel  
Joe Parks  
Warren Pringle  
William Purinton  
Thomas Quinn  
Donald Ricklefs  
Rodney Rowland  
Anthony Sarni  
John Schermerhorn  
Andrew Sherburne  
Renee Silverman  
Barbara K. Sweet  
Robert Thoresen  
Eleanor Johnson Tracy  
David Watters  
Roger F. Wood

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**Athenæum Receives Double Gift of Wasson Painting**

Earlier this year, the Portsmouth Athenæum was given a lovely small painting, an oil on canvas view of Fort McClary done by the well known Kittery Point marine artist and author, George Savary Wasson (1855 – 1926). The painting was a bequest from Elaine A. Lamprell of Kittery, who had received the painting from her aunt, Mildred Coes Wasson, the artist’s daughter-in-law and a former Athenæum Proprietor.



In addition to its familial connection with a former Proprietor, this gift was significant because at the time we did not have

an example of Wasson’s work in the collection.

When it arrived from the estate, the painting was

in poor condition, with small punctures and minor losses to the paint and poor previous repairs to the original frame. The cost of the complete restoration of the painting and frame was underwritten by a gift from Athenæum Treasurer and Kittery resident Mike Kenslea. The painting, which is considered an important document of the local

landscape, is now on exhibit in the Research Library.

## FROM THE STACKS

## RECENT ACCESSIONS, GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

### Gifts of Books

**Elizabeth Aykroyd:** *Maine Register for 1834*; **Ron Bourgeault:** Lathem Edward Connery, ed., *Mark Twain's Four Weeks in England, 1907*; **Richard Candee:** Mary Beaudry, *Documentary Archaeology in the New World*; **Robert Dunn:** John-Michael Albert, *The 2008 Poet's Guide to New Hampshire*; **Great East Lake Improvement Association:** *Newichawannock Reflections, Memories of Great East Lake*; **Thomas Hardiman:** Emerson W. Baker, *Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*; **Susan Kindstedt:** Susan Kindstedt, *The Dennett Homestead on Christian Shore, Portsmouth New Hampshire*; **Courtney MacLachlan:** Jack Larkin, *Where We Lived: Discovering the Places We Once Called Home*; **Old Berwick Historical Society:** *The Placenames of South Berwick*; **Robin Silva:** Richard Michelson, *Tuttle's Red Barn: The Story of America's Oldest Family Farm and The Thirteenth Tale: a Novel*, b Diane Setterfield; **Barbara and Gerald Ward:** Gerald Ward, *Shy Boy, She Devil and Isis; Novel History* by Mard C. Carnes; *Heavenly Date and Other Flirtations* by Alexander McCall Smith; and *Master Carver, Johannes Kirchmayer 1860-1930* by F. Shirley Prouty; **Rod Watterson:** Rodney Watterson, *A Management and Environmental Study of Submarine Construction at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*.

### Recent Acquisitions

Diane Ackerman, *Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*; David Attenborough, Susan Owens, Martin Clayton and Rea Alexandratos, *Amazing Rare Things: The Art of Natural History in the Age of Discovery*; Greg Behrman, *Most Noble Adventure: The Marshall Plan and the Time When America Helped Save Europe*; Amy Bloom, *Away: A Novel*; Michael K. Brown, *America's Treasures at Bayou Bend: Celebrating Fifty Years*; Donald Cann, John Galluzzo (EDT) and Gayle Kadlik (EDT), *Isles of Shoals and History of the Book in America: The Industrial Book, 1840-1880*; Howard P. Chudacoff, *Children at Play: An American History*; Gregory Clark, *Farewell to Alms : A Brief Economic History of the World*, Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About It*; John Derbyshire, *Unknown Quantity: A Real And Imaginary History of Algebra*; Donald Dewey, *Art of Ill Will: The Story of American Political Cartoons*; Alexandre Dumas, Lauren Yoder (TRN), *Last Cavalier: Being the Adventures of Count Sainte-hermine in the Age of Napoleon*; Jose Maria Eca De Queiros, *Maias*; Andrew Ferguson, *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America*; Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Amerigo: The Man Who Gave His Name to America*; James R. Gaines, *For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette, and Their Revolutions*; Robert Gellately, *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler: The Age of Social Catastrophe*; S.L. Gordon, *Portsmouth March and Quick Step*; Alan Greenspan, *Age of Turbulence*; Philip F. Gura, *American Transcendentalism*; David Halberstam, *Coldest Winter: America and the*

## Recent Acquisitions, cont.

*Korean War*; Vaclav Havel, Paul Wilson (TRN), *To the Castle and Back*; Bernd Heinrich, *Snoring Bird: My Family's Journey Through a Century of Biology*; Tim Jeal, *Stanley: The Impossible Life of Africa's Greatest Explorer*; Hugh Kennedy, *Great Arab Conquests : How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live in*; Yasmin Khan, *Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*; Frances Kiernan, *The Last Mrs. Astor: A New York Story*; Edmund M.B. King, *Victorian Decorated Trade Bindings, 1830-1880: A Descriptive Bibliography*; Kenneth F. Kiple, *Movable Feast: Ten Millennia of Food Globalization*; David C. Korten, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*; Dean Lahikainen, *Samuel McIntire: Carving an American Style*; William Langewiesche, *Atomic Bazaar: The Rise of the Nuclear Poor*; Eve Laplante, *Salem Witch Judge: The Life and Repentance of Samuel Sewall*; Jack Larkin, Lynne Z. Bassett, and Thomas Neill, *Northern Comfort: New England's Early Quilts 1780-1850*; Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War*; Andro Linklater, *Fabric of America: How Our Borders and Boundaries Shaped the Country and Forged Our National Identity*; Marcus Mabry, *Twice As Good: Condoleeza Rice and the Path to Power*; John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, *Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*; Robert Morgan, *Boone: A Biography*; Greg Mortenson, and David Oliver Relin, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations--One School at a Time*; Charlotte Mosley, *Mitfords: Letters Between Six Sisters*; Jill Norgren, Ruth Bader Ginsburg (FRW), *Belva Lockwood: The Woman Who Would Be President*; Ed Offley, *Scorpion Down: Sunk by the Soviets, Buried by the Pentagon: The Untold Story of the USS Scorpion*; Per Petterson, *Out Stealing Horses*; Carla Rahn Phillips, *Treasure of the San Jose: Death at Sea in the War of the Spanish Succession*; Jem Poster, *Courting Shadows*; Marcus Rediker, *Slave Ship: A Human History*; Andre Resendez, *Land So Strange*; Richard Russo, *Bridge of Sighs*; Tom Segev, Jessica Cohen (TRN), 1967: *Israel, the War, and the Year That Transformed the Middle East*; Amity Shlaes, *Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression*; Virginia Smith, *Clean: A History of Personal Hygiene and Purity*; Ron Soodalter, *Hanging Captain Gordon: The Life And Trial of an American Slave Trader*; Willman Spawn and Thomas E. Kinsella, *American Signed Bindings Through 1876*; Konstantinos Staikos, *The History of the Library in Western Civilization: From Minos to Cleopatra*, *The History of the Library in Western Civilization: From Constantine the Great to Cardinal Bessarion*, and *The History of the Library in Western Civilization: From Cicero to Hadrian*; Jeff Talarigo, *Ginseng Hunter*; Charles Taylor, *Secular Age*; Colin Thubron, *Shadow of the Silk Road*; Janet Todd, *Death and the Maidens: Fanny Wollstonecraft and the Shelley Circle*; Michael Tougias, *Fatal Forecast: An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea*; Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History*; Bruce Watson, *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Men, the Murders, and the Judgment of Mankind*; Tim Weiner, *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*; Alan Weisman, *World Without Us*; Spencer Wells, Mark Read (PHT), *Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey*; Colin White, *Guide to the Printed Work of Jessie M. King*; Jay Winik, *Great Upheaval: America and the Birth of the Modern World, 1788-1800*; Roxie J. Zwicker, *Haunted Portsmouth: Spirits and Shadows of the Past*.

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

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BOOKKEEPING: *DOROTHY POLANDO*

## Eagle Scout Aids Athenæum

Michael Gordon of Portsmouth recently finished a major endeavor on behalf of the Athenæum—one that also served as his Eagle Scout project. Mike (who is pictured at center with his brothers, Matt and Chris) both planned and supervised a major re-housing of our historic newspaper collections, a project involving hundreds of hours of work by more than a dozen scouts.



newspapers had been gathered and randomly stacked on the floor in the attic loft of the Foye building. They are now individually wrapped, labeled and aligned on newly installed shelves in chronological order by title, making them easy to access and utilize for the first time in decades.

Thank you Mike, and fellow Scouts, and congratulations on becoming an

Over the years, hundreds of 20th century Eagle Scout!