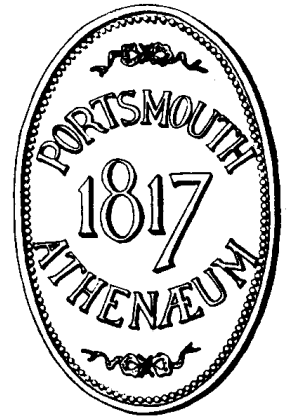


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Winter, 2009



"Through the Eye of the Needle" Opens February 10

Our ancestors might not have had Facebook, still they enjoyed another form of social networking: that of needlework. "Through the Eye of the Needle: Sewing Stories and Family Stories," features 30 such pieces from Strawberry Banke Museum's extensive collection. On display February 10 through April 18, the exhibit includes many pieces never before on public view, according to Kimberly Alexander, curator of the exhibit and chief curator at Strawberry Banke.



An 1825 sampler stitched by Mary Starbird includes not just the usual letters and numbers, notes Alexander, but a camel-leopard (giraffe) and a dromedary embroidered into a scene of Portsmouth homes—the result of a "circus" of unusual animals displayed at the old Pitt Tavern. Some everyday pieces are also displayed with an "inside out" view—a toddler's chemise ripped at the hem and down the front and patched as the child learns to walk; a mother's dress cut down, re-stitched, and entirely remade for her daughter.

"Through the Eye of the Needle" is also the inaugural event for another Strawberry Banke coordinated program called NeedleArts, a year of exhibits and workshops for all ages and ability levels on such topics as knitting, hooked rugs and weaving, with related lectures by experts in their fields—all of it culminating in a NeedleArts Symposium in late 2009.

For further information on the upcoming exhibit, visit both the Portsmouth Athenæum and Strawberry Banke web sites: www.portsmouthathenaeum.org and www.strawberrybanke.org.

Inside:

Two Very Special Gifts

Upcoming Events

January — April, 2009

Recent Gifts & Acquisitions

Water, Water Every Where

Over the course of Christmas week, the Athenæum was plagued by an ice dam on the roof of the Foye block that caused extensive leaking into the main library stacks and reference stacks. Thanks to quick action by our librarian, Robin Silva, damage to the collection was minimal. On January 20th, an ice dam on the opposite slope of the same roof caused a major leak in the vault, soaking many of our large manuscript collections. Once again, swift response by our library staff—Robin Silva, Courtney MacLachlan, Carolyn Marvin, and contract archivist Susan Kindstedt—kept the crisis manageable and prevented a devastating catastrophe. Within hours of the leak, the affected collections were in a freezer truck on their way to a facility in Illinois to be freeze-dried. The full extent of the damage to the manuscripts may not be known for months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY, 2009 - APRIL, 2009
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

- JAN. 14 190th Annual meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum
- JAN. 22 Memorial Concert featuring pianist CHAD BOWLES, dedicated to the memory of recently departed Proprietors, spouses, and past Proprietors: Charles W. Clark, Robert Dunn, Gerard Fountain, Joseph W. P. Frost, Albion W. Goodrich, Jr., Philip W. Hodgdon, Therese Quinn, Mary Ricklefs, Howell E. Russell, Elizabeth Bennett Rice, Henry M. Sanders, Frances T. Sanderson, and Margaret Waddle. 3:30 p.m., St. John's Church
- FEB. 8 Opening Reception for "Through the Eye of the Needle: Sewing Stories and Family Stories"; Needle Arts from the collection of Strawberry Banke Museum." 2:00 p.m., Randall Gallery
- FEB. 12 "What is Reiki anyway?? ... and why do we use it at Portsmouth Regional Hospital?"—a lecture by Garvin McCurdy on the ground-breaking program of healing energy offered for over a decade at PRH. 7:00 p.m., Research Library
- FEB. 19 Local author and Athenæum Proprietor M. F. Bloxam speaks about her new novel, *Night Battles*. Publishers Weekly says: "Bloxam delivers fine Sicilian literary horror in the vein of Tom Piccirilli and Sara Gran . . . Bloxam's ornate prose is the perfect complement to her complex heroine and the creepy goings-on in this eerie and satisfying debut novel." 7:00 p.m., Reading Room
- MARCH 5 Lecture by Jane Nylander, Director Emerita of Historic New England on "Clothing of Family, 1800 – 1860," 7:00 p.m., Research Library
- MARCH 8 Musical group Toad in the Road, joined by guest vocalist Steve Carrigan, performs traditional instrumental and vocal music of the British Isles and North America; and includes commentary on the songs' origin, history and inclusion in the performance. 3:00 p.m., Reading Room
- MARCH 19 DVD release celebration, co-sponsored by the Seacoast Science Center, for Andrea Melville's "An Island Kingdom, A Documentary Featuring the 400 Year History of the Isles of Shoals," featuring selected clips and a talk about the film's research and production. 7:00 p.m., Research Library
- MARCH 28 Lecture and demonstration on "Art and Imagination in Hooked Rugs" by Jane Radcliffe of Museum Research Associates and curator of "Rugs All Marked Out," in conjunction with Susie Stephenson, of MaineMats and a writer on rug hooking, 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery
- APRIL 11 Gallery Talk with Kimberly Alexander, PhD., Chief Curator of the Strawberry Banke Museum, 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery
- APRIL 18 Exhibition "Through the Eye of the Needle" closes

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

A Season of Giving

At the end of 2008 the Athenæum received two important gifts to its collections. In early December, Ruth Knox Fletcher, mother of Proprietor Ronda Baker Hill, donated the diary kept by their ancestor, Rev. Joseph Adams of Newington, from 1715 to 1783. This very early diary provides both a unique view of life in Newington in the eighteenth century and an important record of Rev. Adams' work in the community.



Adams Diary

Also in December, Louise and Basil Richardson donated an important silver teapot with an historic connection to the Athenæum. The teapot was presented by the Directors of the NH Fire & Marine Insurance Company to Capt. George Frost Blunt for his efforts in saving the ship Thomas Wilson which ran aground on the Isles of Shoals in 1810. When the insurance company went out of business in 1823, the Athenæum purchased its building in Market Square, which now houses our old library and reading room. We're grateful to the Richardsons for this generous gift of a tangible link to our past.



Capt. George Frost Blunt Teapot

Gifts of Books:

Nicholas Baker: *John Prentiss Benson: American Marine Artist* by Beverly Seamans and Margaret Betts; Ron Bourgeault: 50 books in the collection of the Boston Athenæum, *ABC for Book Collectors* by John Carter, *The Colosseum* by Fillippo Coarelli, *Corot to Braque: French Paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston* by Anne Poulet, *Death, Heaven and the Victorians* by John Morley, *From Queen to Empress: Victorian Dress 1837-1877: an Exhibition at the Costume Institute* by Caroline Goldthorpe, *The Golden Horseshoe; The Life and Times of the Metropolitan Opera House* by Frank Merkling, *Manners & Morals: Hogarth and British Painting 1700-1760* by Elizabeth Einberg, *The Map Collector, June 1993: The Cartographic Collections at the Boston Athenæum* by John Lannon, *No Boughs on my Bonnet: The Journal of the Times of Barbara Copeland Wentworth of Cushing, Maine* by Barbara Copeland Wentworth, *On Human Finery* by Quentin Bell, *Oriental Architecture in the West* by Patrick Conner, *Recreating the Past: British History and the Victorian Painter* by Roy Strong, *The Story of Tobacco in America* by Joseph C. Robert, *Victorian Cups and Punches and Other Concoctions*; Richard Candee: *Sarah Orne Jewett* by F. O. Matthiessen; Armisted and Louise Dennett: *Immortal Songs of Camp and Field* by Rev. Banks; Charles Doleac: *Marquis's Who's Who in America*; John Grady: *The Treaty of Portsmouth, Audio of Dedication Ceremonies at the PNSY Declaring it a National Historic Mechanical Engineering*; Thomas Hardiman: *Important Scientific Books: the Richard Green Library, Saco Valley Settlements and Families* by Gideon Ridlon; Mary Lou Hodgdon: *Airborne Troop Carrier Three-One-Five Group* by William Brinson, *The Glider Gang: An Eyewitness History of World War II Glider Combat* by Milton Dank, *Glidermen of Neptune: The American D-Day Glider Attack* by Charles Masters; Courtney MacLachlan: *ABC for Book Collectors* by John Carter; Patricia Meyers: *The Portsmouth Portraits* by Dorothy Vaughan; Robin Mower: *Carmina Sacra or, Boston Collection of Church Music, Comprising the Most Popular Psalm and Hymn...*; Peter Randall: *Outlaw Journalist: The Life and Times of Hunter S. Thompson* by William McKeen, *Wallace Stegner and the American West* by Philip L. Fradkin; Robin Silva: *John Ashbury: Collected Poems 1956-1987*; Sandra Smith: *Old Dead Seagull Cranberry Jam* by Elizabeth B. Gamble; Stratham Public Library: *Blind Man's Bluff: The Untold Story of American Submarine Espionage* by Sherry Sontag, *War's End: An Eyewitness Account of America's Last Atomic Mission* by Charles Sweeney, *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*, Richard Winslow: *Togo Ignites Japan* by John Taylor.

CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME & THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING NEW
PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS, & FRIENDS

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

Irene Bush	Vernon Gray	Joan Jacobs	Dana L. Stairs	Diane Woods
William Colbath	Brian Gregg	William Littlefield	Carmen Valentino	
K. W. Doak	Nathan Hazen	Jonathan Ross	Jeff Warner	

THANKS TO EVERYONE who helped make the Athenæum Book Sale a great success: co-chairs *Herb Kingsbury* and *Carol Lincoln*, *Karen Bouffard*, *Robert Chaikin*, *Mike Chubrich*, *Kitty Clark*, *Lois Fonda*, *Sally Ford*, *Felice Fullam*, *Sarah Hamill*, *Peggy Hodges*, *Cindy Knapp*, *Jeff Knapp*, *Betty Larsen*, *Alan Lincoln*, *Wendy Lull*, *Margaret Morrissey*, *Joe Mulqueen*, *Nancy Mulqueen*, *Peter Narbonne*, *Carolyn Payzant*, *John Payzant*, *Nancy Pollard*, *Deb Richards*, *Dave Sanderson*, *Heather & Len Thomsen*, and *Bill Weiting*. 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 TO *Cindy Knapp* for orchestrating an elegant Holiday Gala when the Athenæum was an oasis of electricity in the aftermath of the ice storm. Thanks also to *John & Carolyn Payzant*, *Ronan Donohoe*, and *Bill Weiting* for the decorations. Special thanks go to *Douglas & Elizabeth Aykroyd* for helping with the clean up afterwards. **THANKS ALSO TO** *Barbara Adams*, *Kitty Clark*, and *Joan Graf* for hanging the Proprietors' Show in the gallery. Artists are reminded to pick up your artwork as soon as is practical. The art is stored in the Old Library.

GENEROSITY

ADOPT-A- BOOK:

Brian Whipple Gregg
M. Elaine Tefft in memory
of Stanton E. Tefft, Esq.
Thomas Watson

ANNUAL APPEAL:

Karen Bouffard
Margaret S. Carter
Sara Delano
David & Marion Ellis
Janice Gallinger
Filson & Kate Glanz
Brad Lown
John A. Mason
Larry McManus
J. Dennis Robinson
A. Robert Thoresen
Charles Warner Wendell

ARTS ATHENÆUM:

Stephen R. Alie
Robert Gray Allen
Alan Ammann
Alan D. Ammann
Irja Cilluffo
Thomas Coleman

Michael Dater
Hon. Judy Day
Barbara Englebach
Rev. John Miles Evans
Steven Parker Feld
Jameson French
Ann Graf
Frank A. Graf
John Hopkins
Linda Hughes
Marcia Jebb
Susan Lohse
Bruce MacIntyre
D. Bruce Montgomery
Stephen Munton
Phineas Press
Jane Porter
Barbara Renner
Renee Silverman

BOOK FUND:

Larry Benedict
Thomas Coleman
Michael Dater
Ronda Baker Hill
Mary Lou Hodgdon
John R. Maher

Barbara Millar
Neil Rolde
William M. Stewart

ENDOWMENT:

Richard G. Adams
Joan Barondes
Robert Chaikin
Thomas Coleman
William Dean Howells
Peter Lamb
Brad Lown
Allen McGee
Mark McNabb
Eléonore Sanderson
David Sanderson
Ira Schwartz, M.D.
Elizabeth S. Tarbell

DONALD HICKMOTT FUND:

James L. Garvin
Evelyn S. Lamprey

IN MEMORY OF PHIL HODGDON:

Carl Brage

JANE PORTER FUND:

Joan Waldron

IN MEMORY OF MERRILEE POSNER:

Jan McCracken

IN MEMORY OF HOWIE RUSSELL:

Mr & Mrs Robert Turgeon

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

Richard Candee
Thomas Coleman
Peter Cook
Robert B. Dishman
Ellen Fineberg
Ronda Baker Hill
Isles of Shoals Assn. U.U.
Warren Pringle
Joyce Volk
Charles W. Wendell

UNRESTRICTED:

R. J. Allister
R. Rhett Austell

UNRESTRICTED, cont.:

<i>Janet Prince & Peter Bergh</i>	<i>Tibbie Field</i>	<i>Elizabeth B. Larsen</i>	<i>Rodney Rowland</i>
<i>Evangeline Brawn</i>	<i>Eleanor Johnson Ford</i>	<i>John R. Maher</i>	<i>Anthony Sarni</i>
<i>Lawrence Bussey</i>	<i>Morris Foye III</i>	<i>Garvin McCurdy</i>	<i>Jean Sawtelle</i>
<i>Philip Cavanaugh</i>	<i>Frank A. Graf</i>	<i>Lawrence McManus</i>	<i>Regina Schirmer</i>
<i>Deborah M. Child</i>	<i>Kinley Gregg</i>	<i>Robert Mennel</i>	<i>Robert A. Shaines</i>
<i>Michael Chubrich</i>	<i>Robert A. Hall</i>	<i>Patricia Meyers</i>	<i>James Shanley</i>
<i>Carol S. Cole</i>	<i>Joseph W. Hammond</i>	<i>James Munton</i>	<i>Andrew Sherburne</i>
<i>Thomas Coleman</i>	<i>Mrs. W. F. Harrington</i>	<i>Kate & David Murray</i>	<i>Sharon Stephan</i>
<i>Gloria Costello</i>	<i>Michael Harvell</i>	<i>Howard T. Oedell</i>	<i>William M. Stewart</i>
<i>Elizabeth Critchley</i>	<i>Ronda Baker Hill</i>	<i>Karen Pierce</i>	<i>Alanson Sturgis</i>
<i>Hon. Judy Day</i>	<i>Daniel Hughes</i>	<i>Jane Porter</i>	<i>Barbara K. Sweet</i>
<i>Sara Delano</i>	<i>Simeon P. Jarvis</i>	<i>Warren Pringle</i>	<i>Richard Toomey</i>
<i>James Dolph</i>	<i>Michael Kenslea</i>	<i>William Purinton</i>	<i>W. Peter Torrey</i>
<i>Townsend H. Dunn</i>	<i>Norman F. C. Kent</i>	<i>Anne L. Reynolds</i>	<i>Richard E. Winslow III</i>
<i>George Eatman</i>	<i>Elaine S. Krasker</i>	<i>Susan Reynolds</i>	<i>Roger F. Wood</i>
<i>David Ewing</i>	<i>John C. Lamson</i>	<i>Neil Rolde</i>	<i>Ursula Wright</i>

Recent Acquisitions

Ashbery, John	<i>John Ashbery (Poems)</i>
Baez, Fernando	<i>Universal History of the Destruction of Books : From Ancient Sumer to Modern Iraq</i>
Bailyn and Bailyn	<i>Massachusetts Shipping, 1697-1714: A Statistical Study</i>
Barcott, Bruce	<i>Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw: One Woman's Fight to Save the World's Most Beautiful Bird</i>
Bennett, Frank M.	<i>Steam Navy of the United States</i>
Bobis, Merlinda	<i>Banana Heart Summer</i>
Brennessel, Barbara	<i>Good Tidings: The History and Ecology of Shellfish Farming in the Northeast</i>
Burk, Kathleen	<i>Old World, New World: Great Britain and America from the Beginning</i>
Chotner, Deborah	<i>American Naive Paintings</i>
Crowley, Roger	<i>Empires of the Sea: The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Contest for the Center of the World</i>
Cunliffe, Barry	<i>Europe Between the Oceans: Themes and Variations: 9000 BC - AD 1000</i>
Dobbs, Michael	<i>One Minute To Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War</i>
Dolnick, Edward	<i>Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century</i>
Esdale, Charles	<i>Napoleon's Wars</i>
Fortey, Richard	<i>Dry Storeroom No. 1: The Secret Life of the Natural History Museum</i>
Garrison, J. Ritchie	<i>Two Carpenters: Architecture And Building in Early New England, 1799-1859</i>
George, Rose	<i>Big Necessity</i>
Gordon-Reed, Annette	<i>Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family</i>
Harvey, Miles	<i>Painter in a Savage Land: The Strange Saga of the First European Artist in North America</i>
Herring, George C. et al	<i>From Colony to Superpower: America and the World, 1776-1996</i>
Kaku, Michio	<i>Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration into the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation, and Time Travel</i>
Kammen, Carol	<i>On Doing Local History: Reflections on What Local Historians Do, Why, and What It Means</i>
Katra, Joseph R.	<i>Clockmakers and Clockmaking in Maine, 1770-1900</i>
Kendall, Joshua	<i>The Man Who Made Lists: Love, Death, Madness, and the Creation of Roget's Thesaurus</i>
Kermes, Stephanie	<i>Creating an American Identity: New England, 1789-1825</i>
Klein, Maury	<i>Power Makers: Steam, Electricity, and the Men Who Invented Modern America</i>
Lee, Jennifer	<i>Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food</i>
Lerer, Seth	<i>Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter</i>

cont. on back page

The Portsmouth Athenæum
9 Market Square
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Return Service Requested

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: *CARVEL B. TEFFT*
VICE-PRESIDENT: *G. PATRICK NARBONNE*
TREASURER: *WILLIAM PURINTON*
SECRETARY: *DOUGLAS AYKROYD*
PAST PRESIDENT: *WENDY W. LULL*
ANN E. BEATTIE
KAREN L. BOUFFARD
PHILIP CAVANAUGH
KATHERINE S. CLARK
FREDERICK S. GRAY, JR.
SUSAN KRESS HAMILTON
COL. LIONEL INGRAM
SIMEON P. JARVIS
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
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

www.portsmouthathenaeum.org

Recent Acquisitions, cont.

Levy, Buddy	<i>Conquistador: Hernan Cortes, King Montezuma, and the Last Stand of the Aztecs</i>
Lewis, Anthon	<i>Freedom for the Thought That We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment</i>
	<i>Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: American Art from the Yale University Art Gallery</i>
McGoogan, Ken	<i>Race to the Polar Sea: The Heroic Adventures of Elisha Kent Kane</i>
Millhauser, Steven	<i>Dangerous Laughter: Thirteen Stories</i>
Moore, Joshua F.	<i>What's in a Picture?: Uncovering the Hidden Stories in Vintage Maine Photographs</i>
Motavalli, Jim	<i>Naked in the Woods: Joseph Knowles and the Legacy of Frontier Fakery</i>
Nelson, James L.	<i>George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea</i>
	<i>New Hampshire Old House and Barn Resource Directory</i>
Nicholson, Adam	<i>Quarrel with the King: The Story of an English Family on the High Road to Civil War</i>
Perley, Sidney	<i>Historic Storms of New England</i>
Pollitt, Fran	<i>Historic Photos of Maine</i>
	<i>Preserving Community Character: Preservation Planning for New Hampshire</i>
Price, H. H. &	<i>Maine's Visible Black History: The First Chronicle of Its People</i>
Talbot, Gerald E.	
	<i>Puddle Dock (book of photographs);</i>
Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn	<i>Photographs: Archival Care And Management</i>
Robinson, Marilynne	<i>Home</i>
Rugh, Susan Sessions	<i>Are We There Yet?: The Golden Age of American Family Vacations</i>
Rushdie, Salman	<i>Enchantress of Florence</i>
Saint, Chandler B.	<i>Making Freedom: The Extraordinary Life of Venture Smith</i>
Scarpa, Tiziano	<i>Venice Is a Fish: A Sensual Guide</i>
Shaffer, Duane E.	<i>Men of Granite: New Hampshire's Soldiers in the Civil War</i>
Simons, D. Brenton	<i>Boston Beheld: Antique Town and Country Views</i>
	<i>State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America</i>
Stuart, Nancy Rubin	<i>Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation</i>
Theroux, Paul	<i>Ghost Train to the Eastern Star: On the Tracks of the Great Railway Bazaar</i>
Tyldesley, Joyce	<i>Cleopatra: Last Queen of Egypt</i>