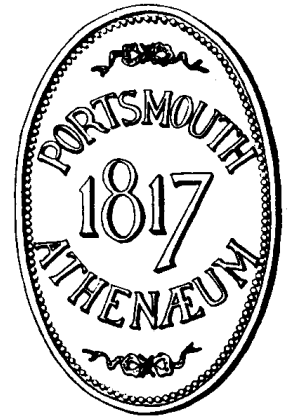


# The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Spring, 2010



## Family Portrait Gallery Exhibit Opens June 4

Those who love old Portsmouth houses know about the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion: its odd assemblage of architecture, its magnificent setting, and the romantic story of the December-May marriage of Royal Governor Benning Wentworth to his housekeeper Martha Hilton. Also well known is the artist John Templeman Coolidge, who owned the house in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and who



brought to the house other artists and art-lovers. Few people, however, know much about the years between the Wentworths and the Coolidges when the Cushing-Sheafe family lived in the house. It

was the Cushings who furnished the house with portraits and possessions of their many Portsmouth relatives and opened some of the rooms to the public, even allowing the Davis Brothers to sell stereopticon views of the house and some of its rooms.

When the house was sold to the Coolidges in 1886, Mary Sheafe Cushing Israel gave several of her family portraits to the Athenæum, where they have remained since that time. In the exhibit "A Family Portrait Gallery: the Cushings of Little Harbor," the paintings have been brought together for the first time in many years to evoke an era when appreciation of our ancestors and their houses was just beginning to inspire historical tourism.

An opening reception for the exhibit is planned for June 4th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

## Inside:

### ***Annual Meeting & Reports***

Minutes of the 191st Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum

### ***Upcoming Events***

***April - June, 2010***

### ***Welcome and Thanks***

### **And furthermore. . .**

**2010 Adopt-a-books are still available**, including 5 volumes of *The Plays of William Shakespeare* published in Edinburgh in 1774. These volumes can be lovingly repaired for \$65 each and will bear a bookplate acknowledging the donor or whatever family, friend, or event the donor would like to honor. Other titles up for adoption can be found on the Library Collections page at [portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://portsmouthathenaeum.org).



The Athenæum Library Committee and Arts & Artifacts Committee are hoping to commission a new circulation desk and magazine rack for the Reading Room in memory of Irene Crosby, who for twenty years kept the desk neat and organized and re-shelved all of our circulating books. If you have suggestions or would like to make a contribution to the project, please contact the Curator or the Keeper.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL, 2010 - JUNE, 2010  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- THROUGH  
APRIL 24 The exhibit, Treasures of The American Independence Museum, remains on view. Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- APRIL 2 Art Around Town showcases Treasures of The American Independence Museum. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- APRIL 7 Douglas and Elizabeth Aykroyd give a special guided gallery talk of the exhibit Treasures of The American Independence Museum. 7:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- APRIL 12 The Phyllis E. Hodgdon Lecture Series presents the film “St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Caribbean Jewels,” presented by Steve Gonser. 7:30 p.m., Portsmouth High School Auditorium, 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive.
- APRIL 13 Philip Zea, President of Historic Deerfield, Inc., gives a talk on “The Dunlap Cabinetmakers: The Scots-Irish Tradition in New Hampshire Craftsmanship,” during a meeting of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society. 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center, Strawberry Banke. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- APRIL 17 Wendy Bergeron, AIM Curator, gives a gallery talk for the exhibit Treasures of The American Independence Museum. 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery.
- MAY 7 Art Around Town: Special reception. 5:00 – 8:00, Reading Room.
- MAY 9 - 15 The Athenæum hosts a week-long series of programs on the preservation and conservation of books, paper, and other treasures during National Preservation Week. Schedule TBA; please visit [www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org) or call 431-2538 for details.
- MAY 12 The Athenæum and the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire host a lecture by Frederik Stanton, author of *Great Negotiations: Agreements that Changed the Modern World*—a lively account of eight history-changing negotiations, including the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905. 7:00 pm, Reference Library. Admission: \$10.00 general public, \$5.00 WACNH members. RSVP to [rsvp@wacnh.org](mailto:rsvp@wacnh.org).
- JUNE 4 Opening reception for the exhibit “A Family Portrait Gallery: the Benning Wentworth House of Little Harbor in the Cushing Years.” 5:00 – 8:00 p.m, Randall Gallery. Continues through Sept. 11.
- JUNE 8 Architect Linda Miller and contractors Jon and Keith Dodge give a talk on “The Evolution and Restoration of the Joshua Wentworth House, Portsmouth, NH.” 5:30 p.m., Tyco Center. \$10 for non-PDAS members.
- JUNE 17 Darcy Scott discusses and signs copies of her recently-released debut novel, *Hunter, Huntress*—a sensual, hypnotic and uncompromisingly complex tale of music, myth and obsession. (Read an excerpt at [www.darcyscott.net/pages/HunterHuntress.html](http://www.darcyscott.net/pages/HunterHuntress.html)) 7:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.

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

# MINUTES, 191ST ANNUAL MEETING

Douglas Aykroyd, Secretary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010  
3:30 P.M.  
COPLEY RESEARCH LIBRARY

## Call to Order

President Carvel Tefft welcomed Proprietors and Subscribers to the 191 st meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. The minutes of the 190th meeting were presented. On the motion of Ted Gray, seconded by Richard Candee, the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved. A moment of silence was observed for remembrance of those who died during 2009: Ferris Bavicchi, share 6; John Campbell, share 340; Margaret Scott Carter, share 169; Ann Graf, share 221; Richard Hodgdon, share 173; Dudley Stoddard, share 136; Anne Sturgis, spouse, share 56; Thaxter Swan, share 266; and Frances Warrick, share 52.

## Finances

**Report of the Treasurer:** Treasurer Bill Purinton presented the financial summary for 2009. He thanked the Keeper and staff for controlling expenses during the year. Their management was key to having completed the year in the black without dipping into our endowment.

**Report of the Investments Committee:** Bill Purinton delivered the Report of the Investments Committee (see page 10).

## Reports on the Year

**Report of the Keeper:** Keeper Tom Hardiman delivered the Report of the Keeper (page 5). He reminded us that even when the enormity of the challenges facing us seem overwhelming, there are always things we can do.

## Reports of the Committees

**Paige Roberts** delivered the Report of the Library Committee (page 6) and admonished us to “read more books.” **Richard Candee** delivered the Report of the Special Collections Committee (page 8). **Elizabeth Aykroyd** delivered the Report of the Arts and Artifacts Committee (page 7). **Ronan Donohoe** delivered the Report of the Arts Athenæum (page 8)– Performance Committee for Bill Wieting. **Dick Adams** delivered the Report of the Building Committee. **Gail Drobnik** delivered the Report of the Technology Committee (page 6). **Ted Gray** delivered the Report of the Admissions Committee for Boyd Morrison.

**Report of the President:** President Carvel Tefft delivered the Report of the President. He thanked the outgoing officers and directors for their contributions and presented certificates of appreciation to them.

The full substance of the reports of the President, the Keeper, and the Committees follow this report.

## Election of Officers and Directors

Dick Adams presented the following slate to replace outgoing officers and directors: Treasurer (one year): **William Purinton**; Secretary (one year): **Douglas Aykroyd**; President (two years): **Maryellen Burke**; Vice President (two years): **Thomas Watson**; Directors (three years): **George Friese, Angelynn Hinson, John Rice**.

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

## Other Business

a. Cindy Knapp spoke of the need to organize a committee to support the Athenæum’s parties and receptions.

b. Carvel recognized Cindy Knapp and Dick Adams for their continuing contributions to the Athenæum.

c. Wendy Lull asked that Nancy Mulqueen, Robin Silva, Carolyn Marvin, and Courtney MacLachlan be recognized for their contributions as employees of the Athenæum. They were given a hearty round of applause.

There being no further business, Dick Adams made a motion to adjourn. Ronan Donohoe seconded the motion, which passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm and was followed by a small reception in the Old Library.

# President's Report

Carvel B. Tefft

As the outgoing President of the Athenæum, I simply wanted to thank you for the opportunity to serve this venerable institution.

We have achieved much, as we have reflected upon our membership much. Achievements include managing a balanced budget through one of the most difficult economic periods in our history, and adding physical space to ensure that future collections and exhibitions can be properly cared for and displayed. We have improved our older spaces, such as the Reading Room, with new paint and the beautifully refinished table as its focal point. We have substantially increased the value of our endowment in the face of a withering securities market. Additionally, we have instituted a mechanism in the form of an Ad Hoc Committee to better and more precisely implement our Long Range Plan.

Upon reflection, we are reminded of those who have left us and who so ably steered our past legacy and fortunes, just as we have welcomed those new Proprietors who will steer our fortunes in the future. We also reflect upon your good will in the most trying of times—you, our Proprietors, who continually give so generously throughout the year.

And lest we forget, as my name fades from the memory of our esteemed membership, feel free to rekindle the memory of my service through a kind word about the excellent wine served during those halcyon years at our summer Picnic and the Holiday Party. For this I will be truly grateful. I bid you all. . . adieu!

## CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME & THANKS

## TO THE FOLLOWING NEW PROPRIETORS, MEMBERS, & FRIENDS

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

*Nicholas Baker*

*Margaret Betts*

*E. Thayer Drake*

*Brian Whipple Gregg, Esq.*

*Paul F. Hughes*

*Peer Kraft-Lund*

*James Ladd*

*William Littlefield*

*Ellen Marlatt*

*Rebecca McBeath*

*Carmen Valentino*

*Jeff Warner*

*Elisabeth Garrett Widmer*

**THANKS** to **Douglas & Elizabeth Aykroyd** and **Pat Breslin** for their many hours of labor in moving all of the Arts & Artifacts collections, furniture, and office equipment out of the 4th floor of the Pierce Block to the 2nd floor of the Foye Block. We're grateful to **Dick Adams** for all of his labors in repairing plumbing, sheetrock, and a dozen other small jobs in retrofitting the 4th floor back to a residential unit. And many thanks to **Karen Bouffard** for her patience in finding the perfect tenants.

### Our Heartfelt Thanks to the Following for Their Generosity:

#### **ADOPT-A-BOOK:**

*Richard Candee*  
*Stephen Decatur*  
*Nancy Grossman*

#### **ANNUAL APPEAL:**

*Angelynne Hinson*  
*Joan Jacobs*

#### **ARTS ATHENÆUM:**

*Steven Parker Feld*  
*Bruce MacIntyre*  
*Eléonore P. Sanderson*

#### **BOOK FUND:**

*Steven Parker Feld*

*Marylou Hodgdon in  
memory of Irene Crosby*  
*Deirdre Link*  
*Barbara Renner*  
*Richard Snowden*  
*Mark Tarbell*

#### **ENDOWMENT:**

*Mark McNabb*  
*Charles Tarbell in memory  
of Richard Hodgdon*

#### **JANE PORTER FUND:**

*Dr. Robert B. Dishman*

#### **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:**

*Douglas Carey*  
*Peter Cook*  
*Dr. Robert B. Dishman*  
*Frances Lord*  
*Warren Pringle*  
*Sandra Smith*

#### **UNRESTRICTED:**

*Robert Gray Allen III*  
*Ronda Baker-Hill*  
*Joan Barondes*  
*Ann Beattie*  
*Stanley Owen Davis*  
*Ellen Fineberg*  
*Nancy Grossman*  
*Michael Harvell*  
*Dr. John Hopkins*

*Cleaveland Horton*  
*Carolyn Kelly*  
*James Labrie*  
*John C. Lamson*  
*Michael MacDonald*  
*James Munton in memory  
of Philip Hodgdon*  
*Patricia Myers*  
*Howard T. Odell*  
*Warren Pringle*  
*Donald Ricklefs*  
*Ned Robinson*  
*Regina Schirmer*  
*Andrew Sherburne*  
*Carvel B. Tefft*  
*W. Peter Torrey*  
*Ursula Wright*

I would like to begin with a little story about my friend Ron, Raiselis, the cooper at Strawberry Banke. Ron is a woodworker, teacher, musician, and watercolor artist, but he also loves cartoons and is forever passing along comics clipped from papers. Reflecting on 2009 reminded me of a cartoon Ron gave me about ten years ago: a five-panel comic titled "Happy and Crabby go to the Beach." It started with a man and a woman standing on a beach strewn with starfish and the woman, Happy, says, "Look, all of these starfish have been stranded by the tide. We have to get them back in the water or they'll die." In the next panel, Crabby says, "Are you kidding? There must be millions of them. We can't save them all!" In the third panel, Happy tosses a starfish into the ocean and says, "I just saved that one." The next panel just showed a close-up of Crabby's face, teeth gritted in angst and consternation. In the last panel, the two of them are tossing starfish into the ocean with both hands.

The point of the story is that often the enormity of our problems can be utterly paralyzing. With a decimated economy, declining membership, dwindling income, and major building problems, I might have presented my annual report as: "Last year, we had a completed long-range plan, new space for collections storage, and a contingency if the rest of the Foye block should become available, but under the circumstances, we couldn't do it." It wouldn't be very exciting, but not surprising either. While we couldn't do what we had planned, we could do something, so we did.

When we started the year with a major roof leak in the manuscript vault on inauguration day, your library staff and a number of Proprietors on hand sprang into action and moved valuable materials out of harm's way. We had a professional moisture control crew here within hours to take wet materials off to be freeze-dried. Over the course of the next month, staff and dozens of volunteers moved everything out of the 4th floor to temporary storage on the 3rd floor, and then back again to the 4th floor after repairs were completed. In the process, we found many hidden problems with materials that were improperly stored or not cataloged at all. Today, with those problems addressed, our collections are actually in better shape than they were before the disaster.

In moving so much material up and down the stairs, it was noticed how shabby our public entrance had become, so we repainted the hallway and Susan Hamilton spruced up the lobby at 6 Market Square. With that entrance renewed, it emphasized how shabby the South wall of the Reading Room had become and Dick Adams and Ronda Baker Hill volunteered to scrape and paint all of the window sash, trim, and wall.

Our Annual Appeal went out in June and many of our most generous supporters were no longer in a position to contribute as they had in previous years, but they gave what they could. And hundreds of our Proprietors, Subscribers, and Friends for whom \$100, \$50, or \$20 was a stretch, made that stretch and contributed what they could. With declining revenue, your staff worked hard to cut expenses wherever possible and thanks to good oversight by your Treasurer, Bill Purinton, and office manager Nancy Mulqueen, we were able to finish 2009 in the black.

In November we lost our tenant on the 2nd floor, and therein our only significant stream of earned income. The situation looked even more bleak when it was determined that with the current glut of commercial vacancies in Portsmouth, we would be lucky to get just a fraction of the previous lease rate, if we could get a tenant at all. An ad-hoc space committee featuring several Board members and committee chairs sprang to action and decided to implement a plan advocated by Director Karen Bouffard. The plan was to move our offices and artifact storage out of the condo on the 4th floor and

*continued on next page*

## **Library Committee Report**

**Carol Lincoln**

The library committee is a full and active committee. Our meetings are lively and efficient. This year the staff processed 418 books. Our library circulation is down again this year. If you have a suggestion for books you would like us to order, please send the titles to Robin.

We updated the acquisitions policy and sent it to the board. The bookmarks donated by Peter Randall are a great addition to our reading room.

Our book sale was a great success again this year. We made some money and a lot of members had fun working on this project.

## **Technology Committee Report**

**Gail Drobynk**

The Technology Committee met in 2009 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.

We purchased a new color copier with a feature that can create Adobe Acrobat .pdf files from documents. The .pdf files can be e-mailed, thus eliminating the need for a fax machine. This allowed the Athenæum to eliminate the Fairpoint DSL line, which had previously been used for both internet connection and the fax phone service, saving approximately \$80 per month. Instead of the Fairpoint DSL line, the internet connection is now over a DSL line supplied by the internet service provider GWI.

We met with Jason Wall of Lenharth Systems to begin planning the network requirements for the second floor. Jason oversaw the network wiring while the second floor was under construction.

If any of you have suggestions for technology initiatives in 2010, please pass them on to me or any of the committee members: Rose Eppard, Tom Hardiman, Claudia Morner, Nancy Mulqueen, Dennis Robinson, Robin Silva, and Gail Drobynk.

## **Keeper's Report, cont.**

into the offices on the 2nd floor so that the 4th floor unit could be returned to a residential rental. Architect Anne Whitney gave us an excellent floor plan and staff and volunteers, especially your all-volunteer Arts & Artifacts Committee, have been working hard through what is already our busiest season to complete the move so we can get the unit rented.

This year has been an excellent reminder that the legal name of our organization is not "Portsmouth Athenæum." Since June 21, 1817 our legal name has been "The Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum," confirming from the start that this is not an inanimate library of things, but group of people dedicated not to self-improvement, but mutual improvement. In 2009 the future plans for the library, Portsmouth Athenæum, looked like a million starfish on a beach with the tide going out, but enough of our people picked up one piece of our future and said "I can do this," that our plans are back on track.

The Art and Artifacts Collection Committee is charged with the care and exhibition of the objects, as opposed to books, manuscripts, and photographs, in the Athenæum's possession. The Committee is responsible for their arrangement in all parts of the Athenæum building, except for the Randall Room, which comes under the Exhibits Committee.

During the past year we have continued to work on the new catalogue of the collection. We received twenty-eight new objects and recatalogued over one hundred others. Two of our major acquisitions were a pair of fire buckets dated 1835 which belonged to Samuel Pickett, and a portrait of Samuel Hale III (c.1828) by Joseph Greenleaf Cole. The fire buckets are awaiting much-needed conservation, but the portrait now hangs in the Research Library. A list of all the acquisitions is at the end of this report, and a small exhibit of some of our new objects has been installed in the Old Library Room.

We have been fortunate this year to have had the help of a wonderful volunteer, Pat Breslin. Pat has done literally everything from cataloguing objects to moving furniture. Her major task has been the catalogue of the Athenæum's half-models, and she wrote an article for the last newsletter about that collection.

Conservation of the collection is always a need. This year we had two pre-Columbian Peruvian jugs repaired so that we are now able to display them in the Mezzanine Cabinet. We also worked with the Building Committee to have the large table from the Reading Room refinished and recovered with leather. It is truly the centerpiece of the Reading Room now. Next year we plan to have one of the new fire buckets restored.

As part of the ongoing inspection of the entire collection, we asked a paintings conservator to give us an estimate for the repair of the cloudy varnish on the Smibert portrait of Sir Peter Warren, which hangs in the Reading Room and is one of our greatest treasures. After many discussions concerning the logistics of working on such a large painting and the amount of conservation needed, the final estimate was nearly \$10,000—a sum far beyond our annual budget of \$2400. For the moment this project is necessarily in abeyance, but we hope to be able to raise funds for it in the future. The conservator also looked at the S.F.B. Morse portrait of Abraham Shaw, which has suffered from poor repairs in the past, and bringing that painting back to its original state will also be an expensive project, so we have set that aside for the moment.

As the year ended, the storage and work areas for the Arts and Artifacts Committee were being moved from the fourth floor condominium to the second floor under the Reference Library. The reconfiguration of this space will result in better storage and a much-improved work area, much to the satisfaction of those on the committee who were working in the less than ideal conditions upstairs.

Members of the Committee are Douglas Aykroyd, Pat Breslin, Deborah Child, Louise Dennett, Rose Eppard, Barbara Hill, Evelyn Lamprey, Elaine Tefft, Hilda Versluys, Joyce Volk, Tom Hardiman and Elizabeth Aykroyd.

Acquisitions for the year 2009:

Sheafe coat of arms embroidered on paper by Susan Franklin Sheafe, c.1810. Purchase.

War of 1812 presentation saber of General Samuel Thomas. Gift of Marge Hay and Theresa Turner

Drawings and watercolors by Helen Pearson, Sarah Haven Foster, Mary D. Miller, and Oscar Laighton. Gift of the estate of Joseph W. P. Frost.

Pair of fire buckets which belonged to Samuel Pickett, 1835. Gift of William McClary.

Eight souvenir models of World War II submarines built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Gift of Stanley Davis.

Portrait of Samuel Hale, 1828, by Joseph Greenleaf Cole. Purchase.

Piscataqua Exchange Bank scrip. Gift of Rob F. Carrigg.

Watercolor of the South End by Charles Goodhue, c.1950. Gift of the estate of Charles Goodhue.

## **Arts Athenæum Performance Committee Report**

**Bill Weiting**

The Performance Committee was pleased to present the 2009 Memorial Concert on 22 January, with Chad Bowles presenting a recital of piano music at St. John's Church. Mr. Bowles' teachers included Frederick Moyer, another New Hampshire-based pianist who presented an earlier Memorial Concert for the Athenæum. Mr. Bowles' program was well-received.

In the Spring, our own Bruce MacIntyre performed a program of folk music with his group "The Toad in the Road." Bruce and "The Toad in the Road" have a following of devoted fans all their own, and their performance was packed.

The Performance Committee also presented the 2010 Memorial Concert in January, commemorating those Proprietors who died in 2009. Bass-baritone David Ripley, accompanied by Arlene Kies, presented a recital of art songs, including a number of original songs written by him. The recital took place in the Sawtelle Reading Room; we owe special thanks to Ellie and David Sanderson, whose Steinway grand piano was moved to the Athenæum for the occasion.

Taking advantage of the piano's presence, the Performance Committee arranged for another recital by Chad Bowles, who presented an interesting and powerful program two weeks after the Memorial Concert.

The Performance Committee is always eager to hear ideas and suggestions for concerts or other performances that might be sponsored by ArtsAthenæum, and ready as well to embrace new members with ideas and energy. Meetings are ad hoc; interested proprietors should contact Dr. Wieting at [billwieting@usa.net](mailto:billwieting@usa.net).

## **Special Collections Committee Report**

**Richard Candee**

The goal of the Special Collections Committee is to keep local manuscripts, imprints, ephemera, serials and photographs from leaving the area and to buy items that should come back to Portsmouth. We recommend materials for deaccession or transfer, and work closely with the professional staff in acquiring and vetting offered collection materials.

We also encourage local organizations to deposit manuscripts and photographs with us for public research. For example, this year the Portsmouth Historical Society added a 1847 letter from Celia Thaxter to its holdings, the Wentworth Gardner & Tobias Lear Houses added two Leonard Cotton account books (1825-1864) to their records, and St. John's Church added a 1764 pew plan of Queen's Chapel to their collection.

Besides myself, committee members have been Buzzy Dodge, Ronan Donahoe, Fran Lord, Peter Narbonne, Jane Porter, Dr. Warren Pringle, Sumner Winebaum, and Joyce Volk with Tom Hardiman, Keeper, and President Carvel Tefft (ex officio). While we rarely meet as a group, we do our work by email and individually with staff.

Carolyn Marvin handles the ephemera and our map collection. Archivist Courtney MacLachlan, has kept new acquisitions nearly up-to-date, while processing many earlier gifts and purchases. Susan Kindstedt continues to place aids to our various large archival collections on-line. So, today 60 of the 80 manuscript collections listed on-line (up by a dozen from 48 last year) now have complete box-by-box/folder-by-folder finding aids on-line at [www.PortsmouthAthenaeum.org](http://www.PortsmouthAthenaeum.org). Congratulations to Courtney, Susan and all our archival staff and volunteers for their fine work!

Last year I noted "the single most significant bequest of this decade to the Athenæum rare books, local imprints, manuscripts, and other special "collections" from the late Joseph W.P. Frost. Peter Narbonne continued to bring more material in, while Robin Silva catalogued the rare books and pamphlets and Susan Kindstedt catalogued the manuscripts that are now in our catalogue, including three new large

manuscript collections:

Sir William Pepperell Collection, his and his father's businesses

Woodbury Family Papers, the letters and other papers of Levi Woodbury and Charles Levi Woodbury

Joseph Frost Collection (research on the Frost family)

**Additions to our rare books** are generally donated, but small local imprints, ephemera and manuscripts are often purchased—often with the assistance of the Athenæum's Warrick Fund endowment and by individual gifts from Proprietors. This year we purchased several rare books and imprints:

An 1860 New Hampshire bibliography

The government engineer's report on Pull-and-be-damned Point, 1899

A Daniel Fowle imprint of the NH House of Representatives 1786 session

An 1885 catalog of books related to Portsmouth and the 1739 boundary dispute with Massachusetts Bay.

**We also bought a number of local items on eBay**, mainly because Dennis Robinson brings them to Tom's and my attention by email (thank you, Dennis). These include:

A manuscript letter from a local minister, the Rev. John Emerson to Thomas Prince of Boston (we were outbid for a second)

Photographs of the Rev. E. H. O'Callaghan, of St. Mary's Church, and the original Middle Street Baptist Church

An 1896 catalog of the 4th Annual Exhibition of the Piscataqua Sketch Club

The 1902 account book showing purchases from a local butcher and fishmonger

A business card of Chas. E. Gray, for his brothel the "Four Tree Island House" with a bit of risqué doggerel on it.

**We also purchased privately** a 1730 NH court order requiring a Newmarket slave-owner to control the behavior of his man "Sambo," as well as some 20 photographs of the Piscataqua River RR Bridge, which caved in (killing two people) in 1939. Subsequently, we acquired an illustrated pamphlet reprinting a story from the Boston Herald c. 1920 asking the legislatures of both Maine and New Hampshire to remove that old bridge. Apparently bridges across the Piscataqua always require much lobbying from those who don't listen!

Another lot purchased at a Hap Moore auction adds to our extensive collection of Wentworth-by-the-Sea materials with 1940s-1970s ephemera, artifacts, photos, and blueprints that were collected by a former hotel employee. There is even a video of the demolition of the two major wings nearly a decade ago.

As usual, many items were given by Proprietors, including items from Kinley Gregg, myself, Peter Randall, Bill Seaward, David Sanderson, and Charles Tarbel. Anne and Tom Hardiman also donated the book *House Plans for Everybody*, an 1878 architectural book in memory of the late Arthur Gerrier.

Other individuals outside the Athenæum donated several items. For example, Paula Rais donated 1996 oral history tapes of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard workers from her "Shipyard Project." Jennifer and James Warren donated a wonderful 1779 music book, *Select Harmony* by William Law, once owned by Samuel Haven, whose many sermons we also own. Jonathan Hubbard sent us civil engineer Timothy Dame's 1887 map of the Champernowne Farm on Cutts Island, Rozzie Thaxter's later home. Peter Narbonne presented a terrific daguerreotype of the Rev. Andrew Peabody, the South Church minister from 1833 to 1860; Portsmouth Historical Society donated a photo of horses pulling a GE generator

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# Investment Committee Report

Bill Purinton

2009 proved to be a year of recovery, both for the global economy and for the value of the Athenæum's endowment. Our investment management continues under the oversight of the Portsmouth office of Morgan Stanley-Smith Barney.

My committee includes the following proprietors: Elizabeth Bardwell, John Schermerhorn, Cathleen Hodson and Mike Murray. We met several times during the year to monitor the performance of the portfolio. Our objective was and continues to be maintaining asset diversification in order to achieve long-term growth of the endowment invested in accordance with the prudent risk parameters specified in the Athenæum's investment policy.

As of December 31, 2009 the portfolio, which totaled \$996,000, was comprised as follows:

	\$M	%	2008 by comparison	
Cash	87	8.7	87	11.1
Corporate Bonds	189	19.0	120	15.3
US Treasuries	26	2.6	51	6.5
Preferred Stock	29	2.9	51	6.5
Common Stock	665	66.8	477	60.6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The ratio of equities to fixed income securities, including cash, was roughly 67 / 33 at year's end. Asset allocation within the common stock portfolio was as follows: cash 2%, growth companies 38%, value companies 40% and international companies 20%. Within these asset classes, our common stock investments tend to be in larger companies listed on the NYSE. Each asset class is managed separately under the oversight of Morgan Stanley-Smith Barney.

The common stock portfolio as a whole showed a positive return approaching 36% during 2009. This was well above the 27% recorded for the same period by the broadly based S&P 500 stock index.

The recovery across the equity markets during 2009 was dramatic, and we remained fully invested through October. At that time, given the extent of the run-up, the investment committee decided to move about \$70,000 from the equity portfolio into the fixed income account where it remains today in cash. We intend to maintain this liquidity cushion at least through the first quarter of 2010.

The fixed income portion of the portfolio has been structured to generate current income to support the Athenæum's operating budget. It is currently yielding about 5%, or about \$13,000 annually. Annual dividends from the equity portfolio contributed an additional \$11,000.

While we have so far seen a good recovery from the financial crisis experienced in 2008, the US economy is still fragile and overly dependent on support from the federal government. Accordingly, we will maintain the discipline of asset diversification and manage our liquidity carefully as we proceed into 2010.

# Portsmouth Athenæum 2009 Preliminary Financial Summary

Reported by William Purinton, Treasurer

## REVENUE:

Proprietor Assessments	\$	74,866
Annual Appeal		25,434
Miscellaneous Contributions		67,219
Investment Income		73,786
Other Operating Income		29,182
Gain (loss) on Sale of Investments		(55,213)
Receipts for Special Purposes		27,889

(including gifts and grants)	\$	243,163
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## EXPENDITURES:

Staff & Related Costs	\$	142,390
Collections		8,131
Utilities		11,099
Building, Maintenance & Renovations		20,737
Insurance, Office, Printing		18,029
Depreciation		-
Special Purpose Expenditures		37,759

	\$	238,145
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## ENDOWMENTS & RESERVE ADDITIONS:

Reserve Additions	\$	-
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### Balance Sheet

## ASSETS:

Cash, including Savings Reserves	\$	132,813
Invested Funds		999,305
Accounts Receivable		31,865
Prepaid Expenses		10,929
Fixed Assets		730,863

	\$	1,905,776
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## LIABILITIES:

Prepaid Proprietor Assessments	\$	79,400
Deferred Income		1,645
Accounts Payable		9,623

	\$	90,668
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## FUND BALANCES:

Net Surplus		5,018
Fund Balances		1,810,089

		1,905,776
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The Portsmouth Athenæum  
9 Market Square  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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[www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org)

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## *Annual Meeting Issue*

### **Special Collections Committee Report, cont.**

through Market Square; and Richard Hodgdon lent a collection of photos of Portsmouth baseball games from 1918-1939 for digital scanning.

Usually around the end of every year, some bookseller offers us a "December surprise" that threatens to break the budget. This year we turned all of them down, but I am especially happy to report a different kind of December surprise. Not to mention what surely must be the finest maritime history manuscript collection to have ever been given to the Athenæum as a group:

Many ships logs, manifests, records, deeds, passports and newspaper clippings of local ships and their captains 1817–1840s

A shipyard daybook 1804–1810

The diary of a local 49er, including his voyage from Portsmouth around Cape Horn to San Francisco and the California gold fields

An 1850–1852 Portsmouth whaling voyage log of the Bark Ohio

A photo album of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Eleven folio account books, letter books, and many other individual records of Portsmouth merchants John and Nathaniel A. Haven (1790s–1840s)

A half-dozen more volumes of George Wallis Haven (1840-1850s)

And most exciting and rare, the extensive collection of some 21 volumes of ships logs, journals, and letter books, plus three lots of the manuscript letters of Portsmouth Captain Peter Turner, who sailed for the Havens and other local ship owners 1795–1809.

All in all, a treasure trove of new research material!