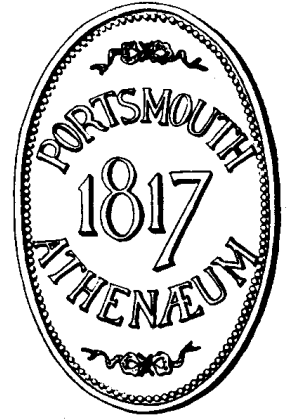


The Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter

Winter, 2010



"Treasures of American Independence Museum" Opens February 5

Since 1902, the (AIM) has been housed in Exeter's historic Ladd-Gilman House (1721) and Folsom Tavern (1775); and has hosted the New Hampshire chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati—the nation's oldest veterans society, founded by George Washington in 1783. Beginning February 5th and running through April 24th, an exciting exhibition of Treasures of the American Independence Museum will be on view in the Randall Gallery.

Through artifacts, documents, and programs, the AIM presents stories of the American Revolution



Ladd-Gilman House, Exeter

and of New Hampshire's important role in the struggle that defined our nation. In conjunction with the upcoming exhibit, the AIM will present a series of lectures and tours led by Wendy Bergeron, Randall Hammond, and Douglas & Elizabeth Aykroyd.

An opening reception is planned for February 5th at 5:00 p.m. in the Randall Gallery. Please see the calendar on page two for a full list of related programs.

Inside:

Welcome and Thanks

***The Athenæum's
Historic Half-hulls***

***Upcoming Events
January — April, 2010***

Mid-winter Memorial Concert Celebrates Past Proprietors

A Memorial Concert honoring those Proprietors lost to us in 2009 is planned for January 21st at 4:00 p.m. in the Sawtelle Reading Room. This very special performance features two extraordinary area musicians: baritone David Ripley and pianist Arlene Kies.

An honors graduate of Harvard and the New England Conservatory of Music, Mr. Ripley teaches voice and directs the opera program at the University of New Hampshire where he received the 2007 Outstanding Associate Professor Award.

As a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, Ms. Kies studied with Hans Graf in Vienna, Austria. Further studies took her to Sienna, Italy, and eventually back to Boston, where she worked with pianists Russell Sherman and Anthony di Bonaventura. In 1988, she was awarded an Individual Artists Fellowship by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

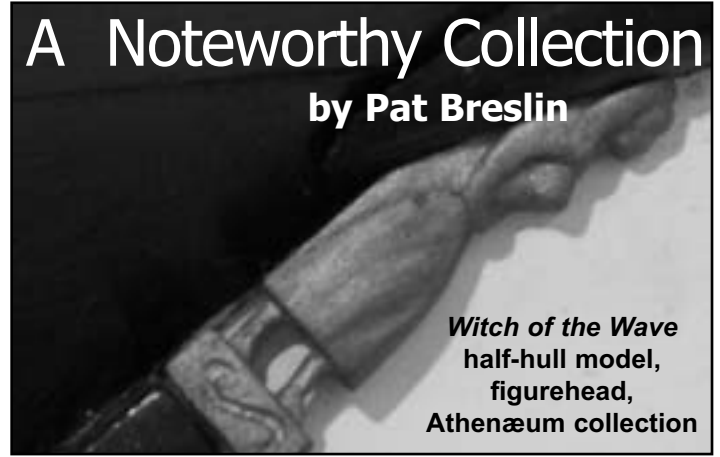
THROUGH

- JAN. 13 The Fourteenth Annual Proprietor's Art Show remains on view Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- JAN 13 191st Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. Invitations forthcoming.
- JAN. 21 Memorial Concert honoring Athenæum Proprietors lost in 2009 featuring baritone David Ripley accompanied by pianist Arlene Kies. 4:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room. Please see accompanying article.
- FEB.
DATE TBA A cameo piano concert by Chad Bowles, Reading Room. For more information, go to www.portsmouthathenaeum.org or phone 431-2538.
- FEB. 5 Opening of New Exhibit, "Treasures of the American Independence Museum," 5:00 p.m., Randall Gallery.
- FEB. 17 Wendy Bergeron, American Independence Museum Curator, lectures on "New Hampshire in the Revolution," and how this theme is reflected in the museum's collection. 7:00 p.m., the Research Library.
- MARCH 5 Art Around Town showcases "Treasures of the American Independence Museum," 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Randall Gallery .
- MARCH 6 Join in the Bicentennial Celebration of our sister library: "The Salem Athenæum Bicentennial Assembly: Celebrating 1810." Period music, dancing, food and drink. Black tie or period dress. \$125 per person. 7:00 – 11:00 p.m., Hamilton Hall, Salem. For more information about this and other Bicentennial events, visit www.salemathenaeum.net .
- MARCH 13 Randall Hammond, AIM Board member and member of the NH Society of the Cincinnati, lectures on "The Society of the Cincinnati: America's Oldest Veterans Organization." 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery.
- MARH 21 Well-known recording artist, historian, poet and author Lucie Therrien, performs songs from North America and beyond. With lyrics in both English and French, she accompanies her songs on the guitar, the spoons, and drum, while interweaving cultural and historical anecdotes between selections. 4:00 p.m., Sawtelle Reading Room.
- 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 17 Wendy Bergeron, American Independence Museum Curator, gives a Gallery Talk on the exhibit, "Treasures of the American Independence Museum," 11:00 a.m., Randall Gallery.

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

Half-hull Ship Models: A Noteworthy Collection

by Pat Breslin



Members and visitors to the 1805 building can't help but be impressed by the rows of half-hull ship models adorning the walls of the back hall and along the stairwells. In the early days of American shipbuilding the process involved the shipyard building a half-model of most ships to scale. This model might serve as a guide for producing duplicates of highly successful vessels or might be displayed in the shipbuilder's offices. Usually done to scale, evidence exists that the measurements were not entirely accurate, due in part to variations in methods of measurement—"the scaled dimensions of the half model not infrequently depart from the (Customhouse) register dimensions by four or five feet of length and by a foot or more in beam" (*The National Watercraft Collection*, H. Chapelle). Half-hull lift models are made of horizontal planks or layers, known as 'lifts'. In an aid to design, these wooden layers separate by the removal of a couple of fasteners in the hull.

Each of the 40 or so models in the Athenæum collection reflects the history of one or more great merchant sailing vessels. Many are documented in publications owned by the Athenæum with brief histories of their travels, their crews and their functions, reflecting varying degrees of success at sea. Destructive events such as fire or sinking are noted, as are sales that take the ship out of U.S. ownership. A large number in the Athenæum collection came to us from the Gray and Prime Coal and Salt Co. collection. This company occupied the premises earlier occupied by E.F. Sise and Co., a mercantile company that may have owned these models originally.



Witch of the Wave, Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion, June 14, 1851

Salem's Youngest Witch

One of our more interesting half-models, the *Witch of the Wave* (on display in the first floor back hall), was built in Portsmouth by George Raynes in 1851. This boat, termed "the handsomest clipper ship ever beheld," was lean, long, and graceful—her clear decks, her library of 100 volumes, her apothecary shop, her luxurious staterooms finished in rosewood, bird's-eye maple, satin and zebra wood, along with gilded cornices and molding, commanded the admiration of all. "Her figurehead represented a young woman partially clad in gossamer drapery of white and gold, with one shapely arm extended and her small bare feet lightly stepping upon the crest of a wave" (*The Clipper Ship Era*, A.H. Clark). At

launch, during the first sail and upon delivery to Salem, MA, after whose witches she was apparently named, the *Witch* was celebrated with music, dancing, banquets, and lunches. The evening before her launch, a celebration was held at the Raynes mansion. Stories abound that Governor Ichabod Goodwin "threw off his shoes and danced in his stocking feet" (*Ports of Piscataqua*, Wm. G. Saltonstall). *Witch of the Wave* champagne baskets could at one time be seen in Portsmouth.

The boat's speed was legendary. In 1853, she sailed from Canton to London in ninety days. Her voyages often carried 19,000 chests of the choicest quality tea. She is reported to have sailed around the world, stopping at several ports, in ten and a half months, covering 338 miles in one 24-hour period.

Other colorful histories of ships represented by our half-models include a news report on the multi-purpose *George Raynes*: "On July 15th, 1852, the *George Raynes* came into Boston with merchandise and 300 passengers. A three-day storm had damaged her rigging and made life miserable for the steerage

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CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME & THANKS

Welcome to the following New Subscribers:

Lorn Buxton, a Selectman for the Town of New Castle, where he lives with his wife Rosalie, is interested in local history and heritage and is active in several historic organizations.

Dr. Kenneth Cohen, a psychiatrist working in Portsmouth, believes “history reflects the collective social psychology of cultures and, as such, offers the foundations of cultural sense of place.” He and his wife, Helen, live in Kensington.

Neil Herring and wife Pamela live in North Hampton. A Healthcare Consultant, he has an abiding interest in history and appreciates the Athenæum’s important collections.

Clifton Hodgdon, son of long-time Athenæum Proprietor Richard Hodgdon, is the Supervisor of the New England Center in Durham. He and his wife Charlene live in Northwood.

Stephen Hall Roberts is an Attorney and District Court Judge with a long family history in the Seacoast. He and his wife Julia live on the Roberts ancestral farm in Rollinsford.

Barney Share is a retired public school teacher and administrator who is interested in the Athenæum’s archival holdings. He and his wife Diane live in Portsmouth.

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

Ted Alex

Pat Breslin

Irene Bush

Kenelm Winslow Doak

Megan Fabrega

Vernon Gray

Nathan Hazen

Bill Holly

Joan Jones

Ashlie O’Brien

Frances M. Southern

Dana Stairs

Diane Woods

Many Thanks to all the Book Sale volunteers for making this year’s event so fantastic. A very special thank you to *Ellie and Dave Sanderson* for hosting the Sale in their wonderful barn. Thanks as well to *Nancy Grossman* for the great publicity and, as always, to *Nancy Mulqueen* for managing the sales. Many others contributed time and energy to this important annual fundraiser and we send a big group thank you to all.

Our Gratitude to *Cindy Knapp* as well for her tireless work in coordinating the Holliday Gala; and to *Dick Adams, Mark Allinson, Douglas & Elizabeth Aykroyd, Ronan Donohoe, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Lee Hodson, Lynne Kelly, Peter Narbonne, Carvel Tefft, and Bill Wieting* for their invaluable help.

Half-hull Ship Models, cont.

passengers” (*Tall Ships of the Piscataqua*, R. Brighton).

Nor was life always peaceful on other vessels. On the *Annie Sise*, a mutiny was caused by the refusal of some of the men to do duty. “A sailor named Murphy pursued the mate into the cabin with sheath-knife drawn. In self-defense, the mate drew his pistol and put two bullets in Murphy” (Brighton). A reader dipping into the books cited will find many fascinating stories about our other half-models, which stand as mute beacons to Portsmouth’s maritime past.

Resources: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA: Speaking Trumpet from the Witch of the Wave; Oil painting, *Witch of the Wave*, by Clement Drew; Medicine Chest from the Witch of the Wave; Oil painting, *Witch of the Wave* by Lai Sung, Hong Kong.

Publications available at the Athenæum: *The Clipper Ship Era*, A. H. Clark; *Ports of Piscataqua*, Wm. G. Saltonstall; *Tall Ships of the Piscataqua*, R. Brighton; *The National Watercraft Collection*, H. Chapelle.

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ANNUAL APPEAL:

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Fran Mallon
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Susan Kress Hamilton
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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- 1688: *The First Modern Revolution*
2666
Abbey's Road: Take the Other
Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society
*Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation
Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science*
American Civil War: A Military History
*American Naval Broadships: A Collection of
Early Naval Prints (1745-1815)*
Arabs: A History
*Architectural Photoreproductions:
A Manual for Identification and Care*
Architecture of Grosvenor Atterbury
*Battle for America 2008:
The Story of an Extraordinary Election*
*Beyond America's Grasp:
A Century of Failed Diplomacy in the Middle East*
*Black Walden:
Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*
Blood's a Rover: A Novel
*Book of William:
How Shakespeare's First Folio Conquered the World*
British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective
Burn Farm
*Can Poetry Save the Earth?:
A Field Guide to Nature Poems*
Censoring an Iranian Love Story
*Constitutional Chaff: Rejected Suggestions
of the 'Constitutional Convention' of 1787...*
Crude World: The Violent Twilight of Oil
D-Day: The Battle for Normandy
*Dancing in the Dark:
A Cultural History of the Great Depression*
*Dangerous Games:
The Uses and Abuses of History*
Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life
*Empire of Liberty:
A History of the Early Republic, 1789-1815*
Enduring
*Evidence Explained:
Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*
Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression
Good Soldiers
*The Great Migration:
Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635 (Vol. VI, R-S)*
*Ground Truth:
The Untold Story of America Under Attack on 9/11*
*Hawk and the Dove: Paul Nitze, George Kennan,
and the History of the Cold War*
- Pincus, Steve
Bolano, Roberto
Abbey, Edward
De Waal, Frans
- Holmes, Richard
Keegan, John
- Smith, Edgar Newbold
Rogan, Eugene
- Kissel, Eleonore & Vigneau, Erin
Pennoyer, Peter & Walker, Anne
- Balz, Dan & Johnson, Haynes
- Cohen, Stephen P.
- Lemire, Elise
Ellroy, James
- Collins, Paul
Allen, Robert C.
Benson, Michael
- Felstiner, John
Mandanipour, Shahriar
- Edt. by: Butzner, Jane
Maass, Peter
Beevor, Antony
- Dickstein, Morris
- MacMillan, Margaret
Ginzberg, Lori D.
- Wood, Gordon S.
Harington, Dona
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown
Shlaes, Amity
Finkel, David
- Farmer, John
- Thompson, Nicholas

<i>Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care</i>	Reid, T. R
<i>Hummingbird's Daughter: A Novel</i>	Urrea, Luis Alberto
<i>Idea of Justice</i>	Sen, Amartya
<i>Illustrious Dead: The Terrifying Story of How Typhus Killed Napoleon's Greatest Army</i>	Talty, Stephan
<i>Inside the Kingdom: Kings, Clerics, Modernists, Terrorists, and the Struggle for Saudi Arabia</i>	Lacey, Robert
<i>Interpretive Wood-Engraving: The Story of the Society of American Wood Engravers</i>	
<i>Is Democracy Possible Here?: Principles for a New Political Debate</i>	Dworkin, R. M.
<i>Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?</i>	Sandel, Michael J.
<i>Keynes: The Rise, Fall, and Return of the Twentieth Century's Most Influential Economist</i>	Clarke, Peter
<i>Lazarus Project</i>	Hemon, Aleksandar
<i>Letters of Loss & Love: Judith Sargent Murray Papers, Letter Book 3</i>	Murray, Judith Sargent
<i>Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession</i>	Bartlett, Allison Hoover
<i>Marx's General: The Revolutionary Life of Friedrich Engels</i>	Hunt, Tristram
<i>Massachusetts Quilts: Our Common Wealth</i>	Edt. by Bassett, Lynne Z.
<i>New Literary History of America</i>	Edt. by Marcus, Greil & Sollors, Werner
<i>Nomenclature 3.0 for Museum Cataloging: Robert G. Chenhall's System for Classifying Man-made Objects</i>	Bourcier, Paul & Rogers, Ruby
<i>On Poets & Poetry</i>	Pritchard, William H.
<i>Out of the Attic: Inventing Antiques in Twentieth-Century New England</i>	Greenfield, Briann G.
<i>Paradise Found: Nature in America at the Time of Discovery</i>	Nicholls, Steve
<i>Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line</i>	Sandweiss, Martha A.
<i>Pilgrims: A Wobegon Romance</i>	Keillor, Garrison
<i>Red Cloud at Dawn: Truman, Stalin, and the End of the Atomic Monopoly</i>	Gordin, Michael D.
<i>Rise and Fall of Communism</i>	Brown, Archie
<i>Selected Writings of Judith Sargent Murray</i>	Murray, Judith Sargen
<i>Single Swallow: Following an Epic Journey from South Africa to South Wales</i>	Clare, Horatio
<i>Somme: The Darkest Hour on the Western Front</i>	Hart, Peter
<i>Strength in What Remains</i>	Kidder, Tracy
<i>Thanksgiving: The Biography of an American Holiday</i>	Baker, James W.
<i>Thirty Years War: Europe's Tragedy</i>	Wilson, Peter H.
<i>Ultimatum</i>	Glass, Matthew
<i>Vesuvius: A Biography</i>	Scarth, Alwyn
<i>Vital Records of North Hampton, N.H</i>	
<i>Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal</i>	Stuart, Tristram
<i>Wedlock: The True Story of the Disastrous Marriage and Remarkable Divorce of Mary Eleanor Bowes, Countess of Strathmore</i>	
<i>The Whole Death Catalog: A Lively Guide to the Bitter End</i>	Moore, Wendy
<i>Woodstock: Three Days That Rocked the World</i>	Schechter, Harold
<i>World War One</i>	Evans, Mike (EDT) & Kingsbury, Paul (EDT)
<i>Worlds Made by Words: Scholarship and Community in the Modern West</i>	Stone, Norman
	Grafton, Anthony

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GIFTS OF BOOKS

Larry Benedict: *Fire in the Blood & Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky, and *Wolf Hall: A Novel* by Hilary Mantel; **Richard Candee:** *Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston* by Richard Candee; **Lynne Crocker:** *No Vulgar Hotel: the Desire and Pursuit of Venice* by Judith Martin; **Mike Dater:** *The Son Also Sets* by Mike Dater; **Collette Dysart:** *Finely Carved and Nicely Painted* by Jim Cullen; **In Memory of Margaret Scott Carter:** *American Antiques from the Israel Sack Collection*; **Peter Narbonne:** *1928 City of Portsmouth Ordinances*; **Jane Porter:** *Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* by Robert M. Edsel, and *Flying the Colors* by Alan Granby; **Portsmouth Public Library:** *Adams Family Correspondence*, ed. by L. H. Butterfield; **Peter Randall:** *The Yale Biographical Dictionary of American Law*, ed. by Roger K. Newman; **Paige Roberts:** *The French and Indian War, 1754-1763* by Seymour Schwartz; **Robert Silva:** *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals* by Jane Mayer; **Robin Silva:** *Physick Book of Deliverance Dane, A Novel* by Katherine Howe; **University Press of New England:** *Basking with Humpbacks* by Todd McLeish; **Joyce Volk:** *The Lost Chalice* by Vernon Silver, and *Sultana: Surviving Civil War ...* by Alan Huffman; **Barbara and Gerald Ward:** *The Man Who Loved Books* by Allison Hoover Bartlett, and *Maritime Maverick* by Alan Granby; **Jennifer Taft Warren and James Willis:** *Select Harmony* and *The American Musical Primer* (hymnals); **Douglas Wheeler:** *The Azores and the United States (1787-1987)* by Douglas Wheeler.