

Spring 2016

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

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
9 MARKET SQUARE
P.O. BOX 848
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. 03802
603. 431.2538
www.portsmouthathenæum.org



Portsmouth Athenæum

NEWSLETTER

C O N T E N T S

Summer Exhibit	2
1817 Impact Campaign	3
Nathaniel Adams Legacy Society	3
2016 List of "Veteran" Proprietors	3
North End Exhibit Draws Crowds	4
Arcana: Reading Habits over the Years	5
From the Secretary's Desk	6
Events: April – July	7
Book Sale Revamp	8

IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS ACQUISITION

IN DECEMBER, the Athenæum received a valuable art work from the estate of Dr. Charles Wendell of Plainfield, New Jersey. Dr. Wendell was an Athenæum Proprietor, holding share 121 for many years. He taught French language and literature at St. John's University, Rutgers College, and Kean University. His bequest was a proof state aquatint "View of Portsmouth in New Hampshire taken from the east shore," from the 1781 printing of Joseph F. W. Des Barres' *Atlantic Neptune*.

Des Barres' monumental work charting the coastline, islands, and harbors from Quebec to the Gulf of Mexico was published serially between 1774 and 1782.

The detailed view of the Portsmouth riverfront was probably engraved in London based on sketches by Samuel Johannes Holland, the Dutch surveyor who was based in Portsmouth from 1770 to 1775. The Athenæum also owns an earlier 1776 version of the print and the 1779 chart of Portsmouth harbor. The 1781 version of the view is larger and more broadly artistic than the earlier depiction. Dr. Wendell's gift helps us envision how the town appeared in its waning days as the capitol of a Royal province and before much of the old town was swept away by the fires of the early nineteenth century. The print is currently on view in the Research Library.



Joseph F. W. Des Barres,
"View of Portsmouth in
New Hampshire taken
from the east shore",
Atlantic Neptune, 1781,
proof state aquatint.

NEH Grant to Fund Fire Risk and Safety Plan

A \$6,000 Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will fund a critical Athenæum collections care project in early 2016.

The NEH funds will support a comprehensive fire risk assessment, the development of a fire safety plan, and the purchase of additional environmental monitoring devices for our collections storage and exhibit areas.

The Athenæum's successful grant proposal is an important and timely accomplishment, as we have all been painfully reminded recently of the vulnerability of historical structures to fire. Heavy damage to the Portsmouth Gas Light Co. just down the street, and the tragic loss of the Tarbell House in New Castle, are sobering evidence of how quickly centuries of history can be reduced to ash.

A 2014 collections conservation assessment identified fire safety as a critical priority in the Athenæum's long-range

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Cartoon courtesy of Proprietor Mike Dater.

• Summer Exhibit •

Architecture of the Piscataqua: A Photographic Reflection

IT HAS BEEN nearly eighty years since the publication of *Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua* by the architect John Mead Howells. This summer's exhibition is a photographic reflection of the book and the houses that inspired Howells to record them for posterity. The twentieth century proved tumultuous for the buildings and residents of the city. The 1920s saw the sale of historic interiors and the resulting destruction of their edifices. The Depression of the 1930s slowed this trend and allowed Howells to photograph buildings viewed as architecturally important to his audience. Urban renewal emerged from the victories of World War II with mixed results for the built environment and residents of Portsmouth when neighborhoods were destroyed or moved in an effort to "improve" the living arrangements and structures of the city.

On the brink of these changes, the images in *Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua* offer a nostalgic hold on the imagination, but perhaps more importantly they provide a visual clue to the historic architectural importance of Portsmouth to the nation. William Laurence Bottomley in his introduction to the book regarded Charleston, Annapolis and Portsmouth as a trinity of eighteenth-century towns, "with much of their early work complete and extant," but of these, he wrote, Portsmouth "was the most complete." In 1937 this book brought that vision to the rest of the country. The exhibit opens for a reception on July 26 and runs until Mid-November.

WITH THIS ISSUE of the Athenæum newsletter, we bid a fond farewell to Darcy Scott, who after a decade of designing and producing this newsletter, has elected to move on to new endeavors. Her patience, dedication to detail, and creativity were no doubt stretched to the limit at times, but she was unerringly generous and always a professional. We will be forever grateful for the contribution this award-winning author made to the

edification and entertainment of our membership. Thank you, Darcy. Now you will have more time to dedicate to your Maine Island mystery series while you sail the Northern Hemisphere.

The Publications Committee is pleased to announce that the design of this newsletter is being graciously assumed by Proprietor Susan Kress Hamilton, co-owner of Phineas graphic design/printing in Portsmouth since the 1970s. As the Phineas website states, her love of design and good typography "comes from her early work as a letterpress printer and passion for looking at every well designed book she can get her hands on." Susan studied art history and studio art at Tufts University, the Museum School in Boston and at Dartmouth College. A passionate birder and gardener, she raises orchids and ferns indoors in the winter in her home on Cutts Island in Kittery Point. We know her as a valuable contributor to the graphic history of this august institution, and are thrilled she is willing to undertake this essential task.

THE EDITOR

Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter is published three times yearly.

Deadlines for articles are March 1, July 1 and October 1.

Contributions and queries may be directed to Publications Committee Chair/Editor Sherry Wood at sixswords@aol.com.

EDITOR:
Sherry Wood

DESIGNER:
Susan Kress Hamilton

CONTRIBUTORS:
Dick Adams, Douglas Aykroyd,
David Borden, Mike Dater, Tom
Hardiman, Peggy Hodges,
Jeffrey Hopper

1817 Impact Campaign Roars Toward Goal

DAVID BORDEN

BIG NEWS! Our 1817 Impact Campaign is very, very close to reaching its goal of raising \$550,000 by June of 2017, when we will celebrate the Athenæum's Bicentennial. To date we have secured \$411,605 in pledges and contributions from 137 generous donors, with just \$138,395 left to go.

These funds will pay off—in its entirety—the mortgage on the Irish Shop retail space, which we purchased in 2013. The unencumbered proceeds from rental of that space will generate over \$50,000 annually to support the Athenæum's operations. Imagine the possibilities.

Best of all, we've achieved our goal to date by embracing the time-tested Athenæum tradition of self-improvement and doing for ourselves. By relying entirely upon the talent, energy and generosity of our members, *we have raised these substantial funds without retaining a fundraising consultant. All of our donors' valuable dollars will go to support a secure future for our Athenæum.* Of equal importance, since the campaign's inception in 2013, our 14-member Board of Directors—just 4% of our membership—has emphatically stated “We believe!”, contributing \$133,090 to the campaign—nearly 25% of our total goal!

We've had amazing and unprecedented success thus far, but we still need everyone's help to push us over the top. You can become a part of Athenæum history by giving to the largest and most successful fundraising effort in our beloved organization's long life. Give a little or a lot, what matters is that we all participate. Please keep an eye out for pledge cards arriving in the mail, or call Tom Hardiman at (603) 431-2538 to make a donation. And thank you.

NATHANIEL ADAMS LEGACY SOCIETY

THE NATHANIEL ADAMS LEGACY SOCIETY is the brainchild of Ellie Sanderson. Named after the Athenæum's first President, it honors those who have included the Athenæum in their estate planning. The goal is to increase our endowment. Contributions toward the endowment provide the greatest impact to assuring our long-term sustainability. The Athenæum's modest endowment provides ongoing support for the organization and its mission-related programs. Gifts to grow the endowment foster growth and future vitality for our two-centuries-old library in three specific ways. First of all our endowment should prepare us to deal with unforeseen capital expenditures. Next it gives us the ability to weather economic downturns. Finally it helps us to be prepared for capital acquisitions.

Many schools ask their graduates to remember them so that the organization will thrive in the future. Contributions by bequest, gift annuity, life insurance, IRA or Charitable Remainder Trust demonstrate that the stimulating and collegial atmosphere of the Athenæum have had an impact on your life. Plans are being made to have a gathering later this year where a brief presentation will be made showing how uncomplicated it is to make the needed provisions, provide step-by-step instructions, and answer any questions that Proprietors and Subscribers may have.

Congratulations to the following Proprietors celebrating their long association with the Portsmouth Athenæum in 2016:

FORTY YEAR PROPRIETORS

James Ritzo, Share 155

THIRTY YEAR PROPRIETORS

Richard Griffin Adams, Share 54

Peter Cook, Share 246

Julian Fischer, Share 243

Jameson French, Share 245

Col. David Goodwillie, Share 235

Thomas Morgan, Share 237

Neil Rolde, Share 231

Dr. William F. Wieting, Share 227

QUARTER CENTURY PROPRIETORS

Dr. Robert L. Barth, Share 260

Michael A. Boccia, Share 270

Michael E. Chubrich, Share 179

Hon. R. Laurence Cullen, Share 298

Steven Eric Feld, Share 264

Frederick S. Gray, Share 64

Nancy Grossman, Share 361

John Alden Mason, Share 274

Jane C. Nylander, Share 105

Dr. Warren M. Pringle, Share 256

Sandra J. Smith, Share 257

Richard W. Snowden, Share 279

Joyce Geary Volk, Share 267

Patricia Q. Wall, Share 81

Thomas Roger Watson, Share 258

TWENTY YEAR PROPRIETORS

LTC Douglas S. Aykroyd, Share 176

Joan Fenwick Christy, Share 311

Barbara D. Hill, Share 312

Herbert B. Kingsbury, Share 164

Peter J. Loughlin, Share 236

James P. Munton, Share 316

Stephen V. Munton, Share 315

Paige Roberts, Share 317

Patricia Lynn Scholz-Cohen, Share 202

Ursula S. Wright, Share 310

TEN YEAR PROPRIETORS

Gary Ghigliotti, Share 339

Sara Delano, Share 288

Evelyn Lamprey, Share 148

Andrew Ritzo, Share 367

Mark Tarbell, Share 96

PORTSMOUTH—The North End exhibit is drawing appreciative crowds to the Randall Gallery, including descendants of those who once lived in the ethnically rich neighborhood destroyed by an urban renewal project in the late 1960s.

“It was a true melting pot, populated by Yankee-born as well as Italian, Greek, Polish, Chinese, Russian and other immigrants,” said James Smith curator of “The North End: A Lost Neighborhood,” which runs through July 2. Smith has been working on telling the story of the neighborhood since 2012, aided by Portsmouth Public Library’s Nicole Cloutier, now-retired Athenæum archivist Courtney MacLachlan and Valerie Capodelupo Koloshey of the Portsmouth Sons of Italy.

The Athenæum had few images of the North End in its massive photo archive and made a public appeal for pictures. “Soon we had a hundred photos, then 300-some,” Smith said. “We are still getting photos.” The exhibit features some of these photographs as well as paintings, architectural features salvaged from neighborhood houses, maps and a life-sized cutout of Gerlando Cumbo holding her grandchildren in the front yard of her home at 109 Deer Street.



Barber and beauty shops and other businesses were torn down at 119 Vaughan Street, July 1970. Thomas Minichiello photo, courtesy of Kevin G. Lafond.

North End Neighborhood Exhibit Draws Crowds



People entering the the home of Edmund and Josephine Zoffoli at 4 Russell Street while the Boston & Maine train pulls out of the Deer Street station heading north to Portland, July 24, 1946. Photograph is part of the Unprocessed Joseph Shaw Collection at the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

The urban renewal-era paintings of David Atwater are on loan from the Portsmouth Public Library and private collection of Bob Chase. “There’s one that’s never been seen in public before” Smith said. “It’s 1971. There are still some houses standing. There’s this bulldozer digging into the ground. Within this devastation, someone was able to find art.”

The intent of the urban renewal project was partly to bring people into downtown, he said. The area became the connector to the Interstate 95 Piscataqua River bridge, completed in 1972. Sixteen houses were saved, with 14 now on a site called “The Hill,” in the section of Portsmouth currently known as the Northern Tier.

The North End began in the 1700s as a maritime neighborhood of shipyards and ropewalks, a mix of merchants and tradesmen, Smith said. When the Eastern Railroad came in 1840, it was transformed. “There’s an influx of people,” Smith said. “Many existing homes became home to several families and new tenements were built. Businesses boomed,

with hotels and saloons coming into the neighborhood.”

The first wave of immigrants was Irish, but by the early 1900s, many of the people living in the North End were Italian. The neighborhood was dealt a serious blow when B&M Railroad suspended passenger rail service in January 1965 and the railroad station on Deer Street closed. City-owned properties were the first to be demolished. “The Vaughan Street Urban Renewal Project spread from Maplewood Avenue all the way to Congress Street,” Smith said. “Nearly a whole block of downtown businesses was destroyed, too.”

Smith, who received a Historic New England grant “to digitally repopulate the North End” is hoping the research on the neighborhood and its families will inspire more families to provide material and eventually lead to a permanent exhibition in the city. “Recently, I received an undated poem written by one North Ender reflecting both upon his youth and his neighborhood,” Smith said. “It was very moving. You can never relive your childhood, but to

be unable to revisit the setting of your youth makes those memories all the more precious.”

The exhibit is sponsored by Kennebunk Savings Bank, Sheraton Harborside Hotel, PortOne Architects and Karen Bouffard of The Real Estate Network Inc. For exhibit-related events, see the calendar on Page 7.

Hill Street, 1960. On the right is the William H.Y. Hackett house at 55-57 Hill Street, which was originally located at 133-143 Congress Street. An educator, lawyer and a banker, Hackett lived in that house for over 50 years. In 1891, the building was acquired by the YMCA and used for that purpose until 1903. Today, Sake Restaurant occupies the first floor of this building. The Hackett house was saved from demolition and moved to Hill Street and used as an apartment building. Courtesy of the Portsmouth Housing Authority.



A PERUSAL OF THE Directors’ minutes from the early years reveals a very sober and high-minded purpose underlying the establishment of the Portsmouth Athenæum in 1817. The incorporation document states that the institution was formed “[for the purpose of] promoting learning and diffusing serious knowledge by establishing a library and repository for valuable and rare production in the various arts and sciences and polite literature.” The books that were first acquired promoted that objective.

Nathaniel Haven’s 1819 report stated that there were almost 500 volumes in the collection and that the acquisition policy was to purchase books in three categories: “the natural and civil history of New Hampshire and the United States; standard works of English literature and of the history of Europe ancient and modern; and the most important works of contemporary literature and thought.”

By 1832 over 2,000 books were taken out, reflecting a very healthy interest in reading among the 100 proprietors, especially considering that the collection totaled only a little over 4,000 books at that time.

In an era when the transmission of relatively fresh news was mostly limited to newspaper reading (there were over 800

Arcana DICK ADAMS *Reading Habits Over the Years*

newspapers in the United States in 1825, and not fewer than 15 were founded in Portsmouth alone between 1800 and 1830), the Athenæum subscribed to 28 different papers. Some were dailies, others weeklies, yielding a total of 86 newspapers placed on high slanting desks each week in the Reading Room.

Despite the serious purpose underlying the foundation of the Athenæum, tastes in reading underwent significant changes as the 1800s progressed. Novels became popular in spite of warnings of august figures like Thomas Jefferson, who warned that they wasted time rather than enriching the mind. By 1833 novels represented 10% of the Athenæum’s collection.

The post-Civil War generation valued industry and the accumulation of wealth, and many came to look skeptically on the value of reading for its own sake. One local resident wrote “Are the great benefactors of the age great readers? Are the rich men of to-day great readers? It seems to me that there is a great deal to be done in this unfinished world besides reading. Reading is to most of us suggestive of slippered ease, warm firesides. It is an indulgence, an

entertainment for which I am grateful. But I assert that readers are not even the most intelligent persons.”

In a similar vein, Alexander Ladd observed in his diary upon the death of his friend Dr. Francis E. Langdon, “He was a true gentleman in every respect and courteous and affable—a great reader, but rather a lazy man.” [One wonders if, on balance, Langdon would have been pleased or offended by that characterization.]

Despite changing outlooks, readership at the Athenæum remained strong up until about 1910, when it underwent a precipitous decline. In the 25 years between 1909 and 1934 only about eighty books were purchased each year (a total of \$60 allocated in the years 1933 and 1934), and fewer than 30 proprietors took out books. This falling off in reading paralleled an overall atrophying of the Athenæum, described in a previous newsletter.

A resurgence beginning about 1950 and continuing to the present day has brought about a remarkable invigoration of the Athenæum as a whole. Last year \$6,000 was spent on book purchases, and more than 25,000 online catalog searches were made. These statistics offer ample evidence that the lofty aims of the founders are being admirably upheld.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Douglas Aykroyd
oakscouter@comcast.net

Prohibition of Electoral Political Activities

At our most recent Board of Directors meeting there was a great deal of discussion concerning politics and the Athenæum. At the end of the conversation the Board voted to prohibit electoral political activities from our organization. While there are programs which may educate about topics which may be seen as political, it was felt that showing support for a political candidate would not foster the conviviality essential to the fulfillment of our mission.

Athenæum Veterans

At the Athenæum, where we have an appreciation for what we are and how we have developed over the years, we need to recognize those among us who have been proprietors for significant periods of time. Without them we could not be the great institution we are. Their stability reflects our stability. Heading the list this year is James Ritzo who celebrates his 40th Anniversary this year. We have eight proprietors who celebrate their 30th Anniversary: Richard G. Adams (#54), Peter Cook (#246), Julian Fischer (#243), Jameson French (#245), Col. David Goodwillie (#235), Thomas Morgan (#237), Neil Rolde (#231) and Dr. William F. Wieting (#227). Additionally, we have a number of Proprietors who celebrate a Quarter Century, Twenty Years, and Ten Years of Proprietorship this year. The complete 2016 list will be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Certificates will be presented to all of these veterans at our annual summer

picnic. Any veteran who is unable to attend may have his/her certificate sent by mail upon request. Finally, we have a number of Certificates of Tenure which were not presented in previous years which are also available. Please contact me to make arrangements for delivery.

Social Committee Looking For Volunteers

The Social Committee did a great job this winter preparing the Holiday Gala in December and the reception following the Annual Meeting in January. All this was done by a relatively small number of volunteers. Best of all, these volunteers had fun putting these events together. With small numbers comes the risk that the absence of one person could have a large effect on what might otherwise be a great event. So the Social Committee is actively looking for new members to join up. Contact Cindy Knapp (jcknapp02@comcast.net) or Tom Hardiman to find out more. Join the band, and share the fun!

IRA Charitable Rollovers

There was a recent change in the laws governing IRA Charitable Rollovers. Congress passed The Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, and President Obama signed this bill into law on December 18, 2015. The bill included a permanent extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover. As a result, donors age 70½ or older may make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 from an IRA without first having to recognize the gifted amount as income so you may use your IRA to make a donation to the Portsmouth Athenæum without paying taxes on the funds. You should consult your financial or tax adviser if you have questions about how this change can be best put to use for you.

Bicentennial

We will celebrate the Bicentennial of the Athenæum on June 21st, 2017. A Bicentennial Committee has been put together with the specific task of shaping the ways we will celebrate during 2017. The committee is looking for volunteers to help formulate the plans and make 2017 a year to remember. If you would like to join in, please contact Tom Hardiman for more details.

Look for the 2015 *Portsmouth Athenæum Annual Report* on the 'About Us' page at www.portsmouthathenaeum.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I
NEH Grant

collections care planning. This spurred our efforts to obtain grant funding to address this issue. The Athenæum has now retained Robert Cummings of Robert Cummings & Associates of Bow, N.H., to conduct our fire risk assessment and, with input from staff and our collections conservator, to develop a fire safety plan. Cummings is a registered fire protection engineer for the state of New Hampshire.

This project is part of an ambitious, long-range plan to identify and document the preservation needs of our historic buildings and our collections, as the first steps toward design, planning and implementation of comprehensive environmental upgrades at the Athenæum.

The information and recommendations gathered through projects like this one will position the Athenæum for success in pursuing funding for these much larger endeavors. This is essential work for us, as we fulfill our role as stewards of our landmark buildings and collections.

Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum APRIL – JULY 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public. Reservations are requested since space is limited. Please call 603-431-2538x2 at least 48 hours in advance. For more current listings, check www.portsmouthathenaeum.org.

APRIL 1, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

APRIL 2, Saturday: Nicole Luongo Cloutier will give a talk in conjunction with the exhibit "The North End: A Lost Portsmouth Neighborhood": *A Digital North End: Portsmouth Public Library Archives*. 2 p.m. in the Research Library.

APRIL 5, Tuesday: Keeper Thomas Hardiman will give an illustrated talk *Send Lawyers, Guns, & Money: the Bonython Family of Maine in the English Civil War*. 7 p.m. in the Research Library.

APRIL 12, Tuesday: Blake Gumprecht will give a talk in conjunction with the exhibit "The North End: A Lost Portsmouth Neighborhood": *Bocce Ball & Olive Oil: the North End's Italian Enclave*. 7 p.m. in the Research Library.

APRIL 20, Wednesday: Curator Thom Hindle of the Woodman Museum in Dover, N.H., which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016, will discuss one of the most expansive and eclectic collections in the region. Dedicated to history, science and the arts, the collection includes a 10-foot stuffed polar bear and a saddle used by Abraham Lincoln. Hindle served on the Board of Trustees of the Museum for 15 years, is past-president of Dover's historical society and has taught at the University of New Hampshire. A professional photographer, he owns the "Images of

the Past" gallery and has a collection of over 100,000 historic New England glass plate negatives. 7 p.m. in the Research Library. Free to Athenæum Members/\$10 General Admission. The "Keeping the Past Alive" lecture series is sponsored by UBS Financial Services.

APRIL 28: Thursday Athenæum Open House for new members. 5:30 in the Reading Room.

APRIL 30, Saturday: Dr. Richard Candee & Robert Chase will give a gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibit "The North End: A Lost Portsmouth Neighborhood": *Portsmouth Preservation: The Fight to Save*. 10:30 a.m. in the Randall Gallery.

MAY 4, Wednesday: A concert by the Calliope Woodwind Quintet. 4 p.m. in the Reading Room.

MAY 5, Thursday: In honor of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, Thomas Carnicelli, professor emeritus of English at the University of New Hampshire will give a talk on *Early Modern English and the Bard*. 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

MAY 6, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

MAY 19, Thursday: Tour of the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk. Carpool leaves Portsmouth @ 5:15, tour begins at 6. Space is limited. Please call 603-431-2538 for reservations.

MAY 21, Saturday: Exhibit curator James Smith will give a gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibit "The North End: A Lost Portsmouth Neighborhood": *Reconstructing a Lost Neighborhood*. 7 p.m. in the Research Library.

JUNE 3, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

JULY 1, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

JULY 2, Saturday: "The North End: A Lost Portsmouth Neighborhood" exhibit closes.

JULY 26, Friday: Opening reception for the exhibit "Architecture of the Piscataqua: A Photographic Reflection".

Weaving the Fabric of New England History

New England Heritage Conference

Presented by Star Island & the Portsmouth Athenæum

Star Island, Isles of Shoals

Saturday, August 27 to Tuesday, August 30 or
Saturday, August 27 to Saturday, September 3

Discover how textiles and clothing both shaped and reflected civilization in New England over time. Through a variety of lectures and workshops, explore transitions from farm to factory, homespun to decorative arts and handcrafts to mill manufacturing.

Athenæum Members: If this is your first conference on Star Island, receive 30% off your room & board

For more information, please visit
starisland.org/newenglandheritage



THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
9 MARKET SQUARE
P.O. BOX 848
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. 03802
Return service requested

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

Officers & Directors

PRESIDENT: Karen Bouffard
VICE-PRESIDENT: Stephen H. Roberts
TREASURER: William Purinton
SECRETARY: Douglas Aykroyd
PAST PRESIDENT: John R. Shaw
Ronda Baker Hill
David A. Borden
Richard M. Candee
Mark Connolly
Ellen Fineberg
Margaret Hodges
Jeffrey Hopper
Sandra Rux
William F. Wieting

Staff:

KEEPER: Tom Hardiman
LIBRARIAN: Robin Silva
ARCHIVIST: Susan Kindstedt
OFFICE MANAGER: Patty Kosowicz
PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS MANAGER: James Smith
RESEARCH LIBRARIAN: Carolyn Marvin

AFTER MORE THAN 10 years, several venues and many rallying of staunch volunteers, the Athenæum's Annual Book Sale is undergoing some changes.

Recent years have seen the sale of a diminishing proportion of the several hundred boxes of books we collect; in 2015 we sold less than 17% of our stock. At the same time, the number of books donated has skyrocketed—a record 341 boxes of books in 2015—as our members downsize their libraries.

Decreasing revenue from the Saturday public sale, sagging used book prices, and the hundreds of volunteer hours necessary to sort and move books and then dispose of the remainders, have led the Library Committee to a painful

but necessary conclusion: the Book Sale, in its current incarnation, is not an effective fundraiser.



Book Sale Revamp

The 2016 Book Sale will feature only “better” titles of local and regional interest, including vintage and hard-to-find books, local imprints, ephemera, postcards, and current literary fiction. The sale will be held in the Athenæum Reading Room, date to be announced. Admission to this special sale will be \$10 for Athenæum members, \$15 for nonmembers.

Our process for accepting donated books is changing, too. Donations

can no longer be dropped off at the Sandersons' barn. Instead, please call the Athenæum at (603) 431-2538 to arrange for drop-off there. Please keep our new, limited categories of sale books in mind when donating—and feel free to call the Athenæum if you have questions.

The Library Committee extends heartfelt thanks to the many Book Sale volunteers who have helped out over the years. Special thanks go to Dave and Ellie Sanderson for allowing our sale books to accumulate for months in their splendid barn every year. It was a good run!

And stay tuned—a new fundraiser to support the Athenæum's excellent circulating library is in the works.