

Summer 2016

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

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Portsmouth Athenæum

NEWSLETTER

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THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ‘REFLECT BACK AT YOU’

SIXTY IMAGES OF 16 ANTIQUE HOUSES will be the highlight of “The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua, A Photographic Reflection.” The exhibit, curated by Proprietors Jeff Hopper, Sandra Rux and Kimberly Alexander, is a tribute to architect John Mead Howells and his 1937 masterwork *The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua*. It runs from July 22 to November 5 in the Athenæum’s Randall Gallery.

“Rather than a lot of words, it will use images to represent the book to a new audience,” Hopper said. “These images helped save Portsmouth and many other towns in this country.” In the 1920s, people were selling interiors of historic houses, and destroying the buildings. The Depression slowed the dismantling of historic structures “but Howells and other concerned citizens began to realize we were losing more than we were gaining,” Hopper said.

Some of the houses from the book will be familiar—the Gov. John Langdon House on Portsmouth’s Pleasant Street or the Warner House on Daniel Street. Others no longer exist, such as the Sparhawk House in Kittery. “There was a carved hawk in front of the house,” Hopper said, “that is going to be in the exhibit.” Other objects on display will include the dovecote door from Portsmouth’s Moffatt-Ladd House, a piece of circa 1716 roofing from the Warner House and a working model of the Col. Paul Wentworth house in Rollinsford.

The stars of the exhibit are the silver gelatin black and white photographs of the images Howells snapped with his camera nearly 80 years ago. “The photographic process makes for particularly striking reproduction,” Hopper said. “You get



Architect John Mead Howells included this silver gelatin print of the Portsmouth Athenæum in his 1937 classic Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua.

these really rich blacks and silvery tones, and if you’re lucky, the photograph starts to reflect back at you. That’s what makes it a magical process,” he said.

Finegold Alexander Architects and Phineas Graphic Design and Printing Solutions are the exhibit sponsors.



A DAY OF 19th-CENTURY “BASE BALL”

The 12th NH Volunteer Regiment Serenade Band will perform music of the Civil War on period instruments at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 20 at Portsmouth's Leary Field.

ENJOY A DAY of 19th-century entertainment on Saturday, August 20 at Leary Field. Sponsored by the Athenaeum and Federal Cigar Bar, the fun begins at 10 a.m. with a concert by the 12th NH Volunteer Regiment Serenade Band performing music of the Civil War on period instruments.

At 11:30 a.m., there will be a demonstration and explanation for children of the 1864 rules of the historic game of base ball, which makes for a lively, fast-paced competition. The Essex Base Ball Club will play a double-header starting at noon, dressed as the Portsmouth Rockinghams vs. the Whipple Club of Kittery.

Throughout the day, the newly restored steam fire engine *Kearsarge* will be on view. The *Kearsarge* gained national fame for saving the Old South Church during the Great Boston Fire of 1872. At 3:30 p.m., there will be a post-game reception at Federal Cigar Bar on Market Street.

CALL FOR KINDLES

FOR THE FIRST TIME, we have a local author/Proprietor and a doctoral graduate whose works will be of interest to Athenaeum readers, but are only available on Kindle as ebooks. While the Library Committee develops an ebook policy, might there be a few members out there willing to donate their unused Kindles or iPads to the library, so that we can make these titles available to our readership? It would be a nice tax write-off, good for your karma, and a great help! If you have a Kindle or iPad to spare, please call Tom Hardiman or Robin Silva at 603-431-2538 or email Robin at rsilva@portsmouthathenaeum.org. Help catapult the Athenaeum into the 21st century!

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 sixsword@aol.com.

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•Bicentennial Buzz•

IN 2017, OUR ATHENAEUM will be 200 years young and many of our volunteer committees are already working on special activities and celebrations.

The Publications Committee is working on a commemorative book with essays by many Proprietors. The Program Committee is lining up an extended lecture series relating to Athenaeum history and including a special collaboration with Pontine Movement Theater.

The ArtsAthenaeum Performance Committee is working on a unique musical celebration. The Arts-Athenaeum Exhibits Committee is planning five rotating exhibits in the Randall Gallery exploring Athenaeum history and collections and is putting together a sixth exhibit to run at Discover Portsmouth in the summer.

The newly formed Bicentennial Committee is hard at work planning a gala bicentennial dinner at the Wentworth-by-the-Sea in April and a spectacular parade through Portsmouth in October. All of these major projects will require many hands to make the year a successful celebration. If you would like to help contact Tom Hardiman at 431-2538; thardiman@portsmouthathenaeum.org



SAVE THE DATES

January 28: 2017 annual meeting and opening of first bicentennial exhibition

April 27: Dinner at the Wentworth

June 21: Anniversary of Incorporation

October 7: Parade

1817 Impact Campaign Draws Nearer Goal—*Help us reach the finish line!*

DAVID BORDEN

SINCE I LAST updated you on our progress, the 1817 Impact Campaign has been gaining by leaps and bounds. As you'll recall, I reported then that we had just \$138,000 of our \$550,000 goal left to raise by June 2017, when we will celebrate the Athenaeum's Bicentennial. Response to this news, and to board President Karen Bouffard's follow-up appeal letters, was immediate and enthusiastic—we are now less than \$90,000 from achieving victory!

In 2016 alone we have received nearly \$60,000 in cash contributions, and another \$80,000 in pledged funds. Over 160 donors—nearly half of our current Proprietors—

have generously supported this largest and most successful fundraising effort in Athenaeum history.

Many of our members took up the challenge and made an additional campaign contribution; others were inspired to give for the first time. Sincere thanks to all for their generous support.

Funds raised through the 1817 Impact Campaign will pay off—in its entirety!—the mortgage on the Ireland on the Square retail space, which we purchased in 2013. The unencumbered proceeds from rental of that space will generate over \$50,000 annually to support

the Athenaeum's operations. Imagine the possibilities.

I'm so very happy to report our unprecedented success to date. . . but we still need your help to reach the finish line. If you haven't yet made a gift to the 1817 Campaign, please consider becoming a part of Athenaeum history, and join your colleagues in assuring a secure future for our beloved organization.

Give a little or a lot—what matters is that we all participate. Please use the pledge card accompanying President Karen Bouffard's recent appeal letter, or call Tom Hardiman at 603-431-2538 to make a donation. And thank you!

Reading Room Renovations

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE upcoming Bicentennial, the Athenaeum will undertake the restoration of the Reading Room beginning this summer. The Reading Room and Façade Improvement Committee is hard at work getting price estimates from contractors to get a proposal to the

Board of Directors for approval so that work can get started as soon as possible. Principal improvements will include:

- Updated flooring
- Re-glazing of the windows and shutter repairs
- New track lighting along with expanded electrical outlets
- Plaster repairs
- Re-painting of the walls in an historically sympathetic color scheme recommended by Richard Nylander, Curator Emeritus of Historic New England
- Furniture placement plan developed by architect Anne Whitney in conjunction with the Committee to include more seating options and book shelves

Future plans for the façade will include repairs and paint to windows and trim as well as new signage. This work is proposed for 2017.

The Board plans to host an open house July 28th from 5:30-7:00 for refreshments and the unveiling of plans for renovations to the Reading Room.

During much of this work the Reading Room, the adjoining rear vestibule and the mezzanine will be inaccessible, as will the doors and stairways providing access to those spaces.

Access to the Research Library, the Library Room and Randall Gallery will be through the back atrium and elevator or, during public hours, by way of the stairs at the rear of the hallway at 6 Market Square that also serves Ireland on the Square.

While the Reading Room is closed, the newspapers, periodicals and new books ordinarily found there will be available on the Third Floor. Watch for further updates on the timing and progress of the work and come join us for the grand plan on July 28th!

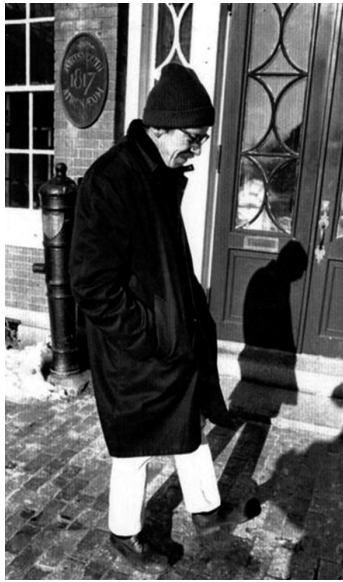
Q and A with Katherine Towler, Author of *The Penny Poet of Portsmouth*

Q. How did you meet Robert Dunn?

A. I met Robert when I moved to Portsmouth in 1991. By good fortune, he lived in the house next door to the house my husband and I rented on Whidden Street. My first encounters with him were there on Whidden Street, as a neighbor. I saw him at poetry readings in town and stopped to talk with him on the street. We discussed what we were reading and writers we loved and how our work was going. When Robert was appointed to the position of Poet Laureate in 1999, I was serving on the board of the Poet Laureate Program and drove him to board meetings.

Q. Robert was beloved by all in the Portsmouth Athenaeum. Did you get a sense of what role the Athenaeum and its members played in his life?

A. Robert was, as many of the Athenaeum newsletter readers will know, a man of few words. When we did talk, he did not share much of a personal nature. It was only when he became sick in the last years of his life and I became involved in helping him that I discovered how many friends he had in town, many of them through the Athenaeum. Once he became more confined to his apartment, I learned that Dick Winslow and other friends from the Athenaeum were regular visitors. Board members at the Athenaeum were instrumental in helping Robert qualify for disability and in arranging for him to move to the Feaster Apartments, where he lived for the last three years of his life. I think it was heaven for Robert to go to the Athenaeum each day and to be surrounded by books.



Beloved Athenaeum Proprietor Robert Dunn, who died in 2008, is the subject of Katherine Towler's Penny Poet of Portsmouth, A Memoir of Place, Solitude and Friendship. A new edition of Dunn's poems, One of Us is Lost, has been published by Hobblebush Press. The collection is a retrospective of his work going back to 1967, and includes 10 unpublished poems written in the last year of his life.

Q. What inspired you to write the book?

A. I learned a great deal from the experience of spending time with Robert at the end of his life. It was difficult to take on a role close to that of a family member with someone who was as private as Robert was. He wanted, up until the end, to stay in his apartment alone and to keep writing as much as he was able. Making this possible was a challenge as he was repeatedly hospitalized and then sent to Edgewood for rehabilitation. I needed to write about this time in order to process what I had experienced. I also wanted to capture Robert's utterly unique spirit and life, to memorialize someone I admired so much, and if I could, to share some of things I felt he taught me. I wanted, too, to write about the Portsmouth I dis-

covered when I moved here in 1991. Portsmouth has changed so much. I hoped to preserve a bit of the old Portsmouth along with Robert, as the two seemed inseparable to me.

*Minor poets have
more fun.*

Robert Dunn

Q. Do you have a favorite poem of Robert's?

A. I love so many of his poems and go back to them often. They hold up to repeated readings. But the one below is one of my favorites because, like many of his poems, it manages to capture an ordinary moment and something profound at the same time. I can imagine Robert in his room on Whidden Street when I read this poem. He liked to stay up through the night and sleep until mid-day. In this poem, he speaks of the disappointment of discovering that "nothing is ever quite/what we expect it to be." Yet the poem itself feels celebratory, the capturing of a beautiful moment with the moth on the table. The disappointed expectations are a simple fact of life, nothing to bemoan, and in fact might be reason for joy in the end.

Dawn again,
and I switch off the light.
On the table a tattered moth
shrugs its wings.
I agree
nothing is ever quite
what we expect it to be.

Q. What was his poetic process?

A. Robert told me a couple of years before he died that he composed all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum JULY – OCTOBER 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public. Reservations are requested since space is limited. Please call 603-431-2538 x 2 at least 48 hours in advance. For more current listings, check www.portsmouthathenaeum.org.

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

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

JULY 10, Sunday: Historic Portsmouth Chamber Music Series presents Central4 Piano Quartet, St. John's Episcopal Church. 3 p.m. \$20 suggested donation; \$75 series subscription; series Patron seating \$250 per person/\$500 per couple.

JULY 13, Wednesday: Poetry with Black Heritage Trail.

JULY 22, Friday: Opening reception for "The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua: A Photographic Reflection." The exhibition celebrates the classic John Mead Howells' book of Seacoast buildings as they were in the early 20th century.

JULY 27, Wednesday: Tour of the Woodman Museum in Dover, 5 p.m. Space is limited; please call 603-431-2358 to reserve.

JULY 28, Thursday: Athenæum Open House. Meet for refreshments and a convivial discussion of plans for renovations of our Reading Room. 5:30-7 p.m. in the Reading Room.

AUG. 5, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

AUG. 16, Tuesday: Annual Athenæum Pot Luck Picnic at the Seacoast Science Center

AUG. 20, Saturday: A day of 19th-century baseball and more at Leary Field: the Portsmouth Rockinghams play the Whipple Club of Kittery in a double-header starting at noon. At 10 a.m., there is a 12th NH Regiment Serenade Band Concert. (See story on page 2)

AUG. 21, Sunday: Historic Portsmouth Chamber Music Series presents Emily Daggett Smith & Tanya Gabrielian (violin, piano), New Castle Congregational Church, 3 p.m. \$20 suggested donation; \$75 series subscription; series Patron seating \$250 per person/\$500 per couple.

SEPT. 2, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

SEPT. 21, Wednesday: "A Museum for Curiosities, Both Natural and Artificial—The Early Athenæum Collection," related by Athenæum Curator Elizabeth Rhoades Aykroyd. The event is 7 p.m. in the Research Library, and free to Athenæum members. \$10 general admission. The "Keeping the Past Alive" lecture series is sponsored by UBS Financial Services.

SEPT. 25, Sunday: The Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival presents a series of cameo concerts, 1 to 5 p.m.

SEPT. 25, Sunday: Historic Portsmouth Chamber Music Series presents Omer String Quartet, North Church, 3 p.m. \$20 suggested donation; \$75 series subscription; series Patron seating \$250 per person/\$500 per couple.

SEPTEMBER TBA: Book signing in the Reading Room for Steven Grasse's new book *Colonial Spirits*. Steven Grasse is a former advertising man that opened his own advertising agency in Philadelphia, Pa., almost 15 years ago. In May 2015, he opened his own distillery in Tamworth, N.H., and has been producing locally focused spirits ever since.

OCTOBER TBA: A social reception for the Nathaniel Adams Society, the Athenæum's planned giving circle.

OCT. 7, Friday: The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Around Town.

OCT. 18, Tuesday: Proprietor Jeff Hopper will give a lecture in partnership with the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society on John Mead Howells, the celebrated architect and author of *The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua*, 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

OCT. 19, Wednesday: Barbara Moore, museum conservation consultant, presents "Preserving Family Heirlooms," 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.

OCT. 23, Sunday: Historic Portsmouth Chamber Music Series presents Abitare Piano Trio (piano, violin, cello), St. John's Episcopal Church. 3 p.m. \$20 suggested donation; \$75 series subscription; series Patron seating \$250 per person/\$500 per couple.



*Please join us for
The Twenty-fourth Annual
Portsmouth Athenæum Pot-Luck Picnic*



*The Seacoast Science Center
Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH
Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 5:30 pm
(In the tent, rain or shine!)*

Bring a dish to share, by last name:

A-C:	Salad
D-H:	Dessert
I-S:	Main Dish
T-Z:	Appetizer

Wine, beer, water, and punch are provided!

No RSVP - just come!

And please encourage a fellow Proprietor, Subscriber or Friend to join you!

Any questions? Call : Cindy Knapp 603 436 8748 or Tom Hardiman 603 431 2538

IT'S LIKELY THAT anyone who has become associated with the Athenaeum since 2000—and probably many who have been Proprietors or Friends well before that year—have little idea how much the efforts of a single individual have contributed to making the institution what it is today.

That person, Joe Sawtelle, whose bust is on display in the Reading Room, was a singularly self-effacing man of extraordinary vision and limitless optimism, one who could see a creative path to overcoming obstacles that others saw as insurmountable.

Joe was a director on the Athenaeum board from 1979 to 1981 and president from 1982 through 1985. In 1979, the Athenaeum's physical plant was a single structure, the 1805 building. Its endowment in 1982 was less than \$50,000, and its operating finances were precarious. Within 15 years, the Athenaeum occupied all or part of three separate structures and its endowment had soared to more than \$700,000, all in large measure through the vision and efforts of Joe Sawtelle.

How did he accomplish this? In the case of expansion of the property, Proprietor Richard Candee recalls chatting with Joe one day and saying

Arcana DICK ADAMS
*Joe Sawtelle,
A Man of Vision*

to him, "We ought to think about a way to acquire more space, because some day we're going to need it." He noted that two condominium units in the Peirce Block were up for auction, their owner having gone bankrupt in 1992 in the wake of the savings and loan crisis. The only hitch was that the Athenaeum had no money.

One week later Sawtelle purchased the two units. When the need for more space arose some years later, Joe offered them for the Athenaeum's use while covering the carrying costs. Today one is the Randall Room, our exhibition space, while the other on the floor above is a valuable two-bedroom apartment yielding a handsome monthly rent. The two units were deeded to the Athenaeum in 2002.

As for the remarkable growth of the endowment, in 1982 Joe assumed the role of sole manager of the account, personally guaranteeing a yearly return of not less than 10%. In his first year he realized an astonishing 46% and 25% the next. Years later when asked how he was able to achieve such impressive results he said, in his disarming way of making

the difficult seem easy, "I flew on a vacation to Alaska on Alaskan Airlines and saw the pilots helping to load baggage and the flight attendants cleaning the airplanes. I thought, any airline with management able to get their employees to pitch in like that is bound to succeed, so I invested in them." As usual, his hunch was correct.

Of course, Joe's contributions extended far beyond those to the Athenaeum. The Theater by the Sea, Cross Roads House, the Futures Foundation (which has enabled more than 100 students to attend college), the Albacore Museum—these and dozens more are examples of the extraordinary role one man played in the betterment of the community. Joe died suddenly of a heart attack in 2000, at the age of 71. At the time he was negotiating with the Navy to acquire the hulking, deteriorating prison at the Navy Yard. Asked how he could possibly make anything of the building he said, "Oh, it won't be hard," and then outlined just how he planned to go about it. Now, 16 years later, the prison still stands empty, despite the Navy's ongoing efforts to find someone with the courage and imagination to make something of it: clear proof that people like Joe Sawtelle are rare breeds indeed.

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The Penny Poet

of his poems in his head. He worked on them for a month or two, going over them in his mind, before putting anything on paper. Perhaps this accounts for their beautiful sparseness and clarity. I love to remember him

walking through Market Square, his head lowered, knowing that he was composing poems.

Q. If you had to create a Robert Dunn "bumper sticker," what would it say?

A. Robert already created it. I found a printed card in his apartment when

I went through his books with some of his poet friends. It said "Minor poets have more fun." One of the friends who had known Robert back in the 1970s and 1980s said he used to pass the cards out like calling cards. If he had a motto, this was surely it, and it would make a fine bumper sticker.



Proprietors, Subscribers, and Friends of the Athenaeum enjoy a past picnic. This year's is August 16 at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne Point.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Douglas Aykroyd
oakscouter@comcast.net

Annual Summer Picnic at Odiorne Point on August 16th

Ask Tom Hardiman which annual Athenaeum event he enjoys most, and he will answer without hesitation, the annual summer picnic. I do not think that Tom is the only Proprietor who enjoys this event so much. Its location under the tent at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne Point affords a great view of the ocean and the sailboats racing there. The ocean breeze really makes the temperature very comfortable. Then there is a great selection of potluck dishes with tasty beverages of all sorts. The biggest draw is the collection of Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends of the Athenaeum who provide the conviviality which we all enjoy. The picnic begins at 5:30 p.m. and continues until it starts to get dark. After dinner there will be a brief ceremony to present certificates of tenure to Athenaeum veterans in attendance. Make plans to join the fun!

Nathaniel Adams Legacy Society Update

The Nathaniel Adams Legacy Society honors those who have

included the Athenaeum in their estate planning. As noted in our last newsletter, we are working to make the members of the Athenaeum more aware of the Society, how easy it is to include the Athenaeum in estate planning, and the benefits of doing so. We are planning to hold a social event in early October to honor current members and to provide information to those who are interested in becoming a part of this group. Details will be provided as soon as the date is set. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Tom Hardiman.

Our Volunteers

Look at the list of employees of the Athenaeum on the back page of this newsletter. You will find six names listed there. Yes, we have six part-time employees. Look at the list of events that take place during a year. Add to that the number of hours the Athenaeum is open to the public. Then ask yourself how in the world six employees can make all this happen. There are two things of which to take note. First is that we have absolutely great employees who really make a lot happen. The second point is that we also have absolutely great volunteers who really go a long way in making the Athenaeum the wonderful place that it is. Our committees

are responsible for so much that happens on a routine basis, but I think you will find that most of the committees are understaffed. There is no committee in a position to turn away interested Proprietors and Subscribers. Participation on a committee happens to be one of the best ways to get to know others in the Athenaeum family. Interested in helping out but do not know where to start? Contact me or Tom Hardiman and we will help you connect with the appropriate committee.

Free Wine Glasses

Last year when we were ordering Athenaeum beer glasses, a shipment arrived from Florida with wine glasses which were intended for a Masonic function in California. When we offered to forward the glasses, our offer was declined by the company, who redid the order and they advised us to get rid of the glasses. We have started giving them away; 174 glasses remain. The glasses were produced by Libby. They serve 6 ounces, stand 8 inches tall and are packed in cardboard boxes which securely hold six each. There is no cost to anyone who would like a few or all of them. Let me know of your interest and we can arrange for their pickup. Any glasses remaining after the picnic will be given to charity

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/ *KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE: An Inside Look*

AFTER A SUMMER BREAK, the "Keeping the Past Alive: An Inside Look" program series resumes on September 21 with "A Museum for Curiosities, Both Natural and Artificial"—The Early Athenaeum Collection," related by Elizabeth Rhoades Aykroyd.

In 1820 the Athenaeum of Portsmouth sent a letter to local sea captains and merchants, soliciting donations of any "curiosities" that they might encounter in their travels around the world. The response was immediate, and all sorts of specimens were given to the young institution, many of which are still in the collection.

At the same time the "curiosities" were being collected, some of the Athenaeum's most important paintings and busts were being placed in the building, which was purchased in 1823, laying the foundation for the remarkable collection of today.

Aykroyd is the curator of the Portsmouth Athenaeum. She is a native of the Seacoast and received her BA from Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., and her MA from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. She has worked in a number of museums, including a U.S. Army museum in Germany.

On October 19, join Barbara Moore to consider that just as museum collections can tell the story of a region, our home collections can reflect our personal stories and interests.

"How should I preserve my historic maps?" "Where should I store my

grandmother's wedding dress?" "How should I protect my artworks from fading?"

Discover how to house and handle these important items from the past. Conservator Barbara Moore will speak about preserving family treasures, heirlooms, and antiques, with an emphasis on simple steps you can take to extend the life of these objects for future generations of your family.

Moore works as a conservation consultant for museums and other cultural institutions across the country. She studied conservation at the University of London and has headed conservation laboratories at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England, the Arizona State Museum, the Peabody Museum at Yale University, and the Strong Museum, Rochester, NY.

On November 16, several representatives of our local historical societies will discuss the state of the valuable organizations that collect, research, interpret and preserve historic information of our communities.

Led by moderator and Athenaeum Proprietor Peggy Hodges, this lively conversation will include topics such as collection items, visitor interests, community programs, challenges and strategies for collaboration. Members of the historical society discussion panel include:

- Nancy Borden, a 5th generation resident of New Castle and a founding member of the New Castle Historical Society. She has been president of the society for four years, encouraging the involvement of the community in celebrating local historic sites.

- Alex Herlihy is president of the Rye Historical Society and a charter member of the society, founded in 1976. He is a retired high school history teacher and has been the director of the Rye Town Museum for the last decade.
- Victoria Jones, president of the North Hampton Historical Society and a retired archivist, records manager, and librarian. She has also worked with local historical societies and historic preservation agencies.
- Betty Moore, executive director of the Tuck Museum and a past president of the Hampton Historical Society. Her interest in small museums prompted her to enroll in the museum studies program at Tufts University.
- Kathleen Soldati is executive director for Discover Portsmouth, the museum and visitor center of the Portsmouth Historical Society. She also promotes Portsmouth tourism for the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

Each program begins at 7 p.m. in the Research Library of the Portsmouth Athenaeum at 9 Market Square. Reservations for each program are required; please call (603) 431-2538, Ext. 2 for reservations; space is limited. Visit www.portsmouthathenaeum.org for more information.

Attendance at programs is free for all Athenaeum Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends. Guests and members of the public are welcome to attend the entire series by becoming a Friend of the Athenaeum for as little as \$25 per year, payable via mail or at the door. Admission to an individual program is \$10.

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
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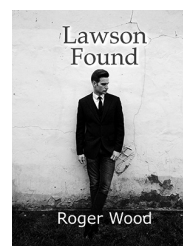
ATHENÆUM BOOK CLUBS

Why do people join book clubs? Perhaps for the chance to introduce the books they love to others who share their interests, and to be introduced in turn to the others' favorites. Possibly to fortify with discipline their private resolve to do more pleasure reading. Or maybe just to enjoy a social hour with friends exchanging diverse reactions to the same book.

To advance these and other worthwhile personal objectives, Athenæum Proprietors have formed two book clubs, to which new members are always welcome. The NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB meets on the third-floor Library Room on the second Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. Recent reads include Proprietor Jeffrey Bolster's *The Mortal Sea*, *Amazing Grace*, a biography of the British

abolitionist William Wilberforce, Paul Kalanithi's reflective and moving *When Breath Becomes Air* and Lynne Olson's *Citizens of London*. Anyone wishing to know more about the group or to be put on its mailing list contact Elaine Tefft, twopeel@aol.com.

THE COMMON READER, a club reading fiction only, meets on the first Monday of each month except July and August, also in the Library Room. This season's reading has included Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, John Updike's *The Centaur*, Kate Atkinson's *Life After Life*, Wallace Stegner's *Crossing to Safety* and Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend*. Those interested in learning more about the group or in getting its meeting announcements can contact Don Margeson at donaldsmargeson@gmail.com.



A 40-year veteran reporter and producer of radio, television, print and Internet news, Athenæum Proprietor Roger Wood has just written and published

his first novel *Lawson Found*. It is available as a downloadable e-book from Amazon. "I must admit to the similarities between the main character's life and that of my own," Wood says. "Urged by other notable authors to write about what you know, I took their advice, and this novel is the result." The Temple University graduate has won many reporting and news anchoring awards, and currently serves as director of podcasting and multimedia content for the nonprofit New Hampshire Center for Investigative Journalism and its website, InDepthNH.org