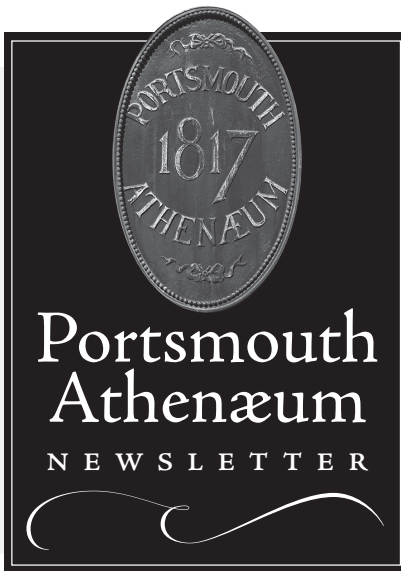


Autumn 2017

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

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
9 MARKET SQUARE
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WHO'S WHO?

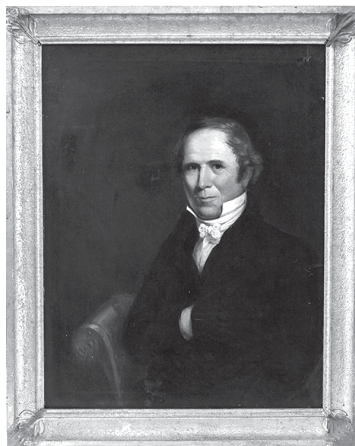
Recently, the Athenæum was fortunate to acquire a pair of portraits painted by Joseph G. Cole in 1829, when he was busily preserving for posterity the likenesses of more than four dozen Athenæum Proprietors and their family members.

The sitters in the pair of portraits were not identified, but based on facial resemblance to other identified portraits, they are believed to be Jacob Sheafe V (1784-1848) and his wife, Mary Haven Sheafe (1789-1839).

Sheafe purchased Share 65 from the estate of his brother-in-law, Joseph Haven, and surrendered it in 1837 when

he moved to Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Jacob's brother, uncles and cousins were also Proprietors, as were six of Mary's brothers and many of her nephews and nieces. Another clue is that the paintings were found in Eastern, Ohio, not too far from where the Sheafes lived in Pottsville. If you have any information about the identities of these individuals, please contact our curator, Elizabeth Aykroyd.

We are greatly indebted to Deborah and Tom Child, who drove out to Russellville, Ohio to retrieve the portraits. The paintings will need conservation, but they are currently on display in the 1805 building.



*These Joseph G. Cole portraits painted in 1829 are believed to be
Jacob Sheafe V (1784-1848) and his wife, Mary Haven Sheafe (1789-1839).*

Two Exhibits Cap Off Athenæum's Bicentennial Year

The Dec. 23, 1981 collapse of the Foye Building on Market Square—and the subsequent renovation that created the Portsmouth Athenæum's current space—could be seen as the fall and rise of our membership museum and library, according to Proprietor Richard Candee.

"In the last nearly 40 years we've gone from an accidental survivor of the 19th century to a modern research library," said Richard Candee, who is co-curating "Treasures of the Athenæum Part IV, 1980-2017: Renewal, Growth & A Public Research Library." The exhibit runs through Nov. 11 in the Randall Gallery at 9 Market Square.

The Foye building, adjacent to the structure the Athenæum has occupied since 1823, was undergoing basement renovations when its brick walls partially caved in.

"It took two years from the time the Foye building collapsed to the full

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

PROPRIETOR PROFILE:

Peter Randall

You studied history at the University of New Hampshire, from which you graduated in 1963. What was your first contact with the Portsmouth Athenaeum?

During the 1970s when I was Editor of New Hampshire Profiles magazine, I got to know Joe Copley and he urged me to become a Proprietor, which I finally did in the 1980s.

What has kept you engaged with the Athenaeum over the years? I have always had a love of history beginning when I was in grade school. For me the best birthday gift was one of the Landmark series of histories. I'm a past president of the Seabrook Historical Society, the author of the history of Hampton

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:

Robin Silva, Tom Hardiman, Dick Adams, Sherry Wood, Ann Beattie, Don Margeson, Doug Aykroyd.



(1888-1988), and a longtime member of the New Hampshire Historical Society, so joining the Athenaeum was a logical extension of my interests. Several of the 13 books I have written have used Athenaeum material.

Tell us about your work with the Portsmouth Marine Society. When Joe Sawtelle moved to Portsmouth he became interested in maritime history. He was also interested in publishing and he produced a book about Portsmouth's clipper ships. He was not pleased with the quality of this book. Meanwhile I met Joe and he offered me space for my fledgling publishing company in his office building. As a book collector Joe acquired, and was impressed by, the Marine Research Society publications about maritime Salem, Mass. He thought there was enough maritime history in Portsmouth to do the same series of books. Joe solicited donations from a hundred associates and a publishing fund was created for the Portsmouth Marine Society with me as the editor and book producer. By the time I retired, we had published 31 titles with several written by Proprietors Ray Brighton and Richard Winslow III, and others by Richard Candee, John Bardwell and Woody Openo.

You have known so many iconic Proprietors. How have they influenced you and your relationship to the Athenaeum? For several decades Joe Copley kept the Athenaeum going. He was there several days a week, greeting visitors, answering inquiries, and acquiring books, manuscripts, photographs and artifacts. From him I got a love for the Athenaeum and a belief in its importance as an institution. This has led me to serve as a board member, vice-president and a curator of three exhibits. Joe Sawtelle helped me and many others to see the big picture. He thought the Athenaeum could be so much more than it was. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the Foye building and its subsequent reconstruction, and he single-handedly increased the endowment from a few thousand dollars to several hundred thousand dollars. He also donated two condominium units, one of which is the Randall Gallery. Without Joe's leadership, the Athenaeum simply would not be what it is today.

What's your favorite object in the Athenaeum's collection? As a long-time photographer, I am impressed with the Athenaeum's large photography collection.

How did you come to be a Thursday volunteer? When I retired from my publishing business, I finally had time to be a volunteer. Over the years as a publisher I have scanned thousands of photographs, so I thought that I could offer that skill to the Athenaeum. We have some 28,000 images but not all of them have been scanned into the catalog. I am slowly working through the photographs and I'm always thrilled to see images of local scenes from times past.

THE MAKING OF THE BICENTENNIAL BOOK

As most *Portsmouth Athenaeum Newsletter* readers know, one of the Athenaeum's many undertakings to celebrate our bicentennial this year has been to publish a book, *Portsmouth Athenaeum: The Story of a Collection Through the Eyes of Its Proprietors, 1817-2017*. If we may say so, it's a handsome thing.

The clothbound book begins, appropriately enough, with a list of Proprietors and their share numbers as of Jan. 1, 2017. Within, 73 images leap vividly from its 113 glossy pages, thanks to the design work of Proprietor Susan Kress Hamilton of Phineas Graphics. The project was overseen by the Athenaeum's Publications Committee under the leadership of Sherry Wood, who also served as the book's editor.

As Publications Committee member Margaret "Peggy" Hodges writes in the introduction, the book is "a lively miscellany, in the truest sense of the term: 22 essays by 21 authors—all Proprietors or Athenaeum staff." Topics range from the Athenaeum building itself, to the objects it houses: curiosities brought back from the South Pacific; the fire buckets gracing the first-floor hallway; the ancient antlers over the Reading Room fireplace; poet Celia Thaxter's hand-decorated china on the Mezzanine; the rare books on its shelves and even the bookcases themselves.

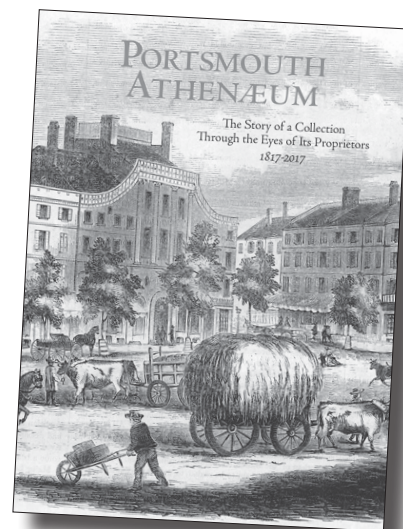
"I learned so much editing the essays for the book," said Wood, who has been volunteering at the Athenaeum since 1998. "And the tone isn't stuffy or scholarly—though there is plenty of scholarship. Even if you think you know every inch of the Athenaeum,

this book will give you fresh insights. And it's beautifully illustrated."

In November 2014, the committee settled on a unifying theme for the book: the objects in the collection of the Athenaeum and the Proprietors who had donated them. By Spring 2015, the committee had identified about 20 collection items as promising essay subjects. Appeals went out to the Athenaeum membership for essay writers. Over 18 months, the list of writers grew. Several chose a subject from the committee's list, while others picked a subject on their own, each choice reflecting the volunteer author's personal interest.

All members of the Publications Committee—Chairman Wood, Dick Adams, Jeff Hopper, Peggy Hodges Kimberly Alexander, Doug Aykroyd and Don S. Margeson—contributed essays. Other essayists were James L. Garvin, Tom Hardiman, Ursula Wright, Elizabeth Rhoades Aykroyd, Gerald W.R. Ward, Jane Molloy Porter, Sandra Rux, Pat Breslin, Susan Kress Hamilton, Richard M. Candee, Robin Silva, Ronan Donohoe, Capt. Rodney K. Watterson, USN (Retired) and Deborah M. Child.

"Everyone met the submission deadline of October 1, 2016," Wood said. "Then the editing began." By December 21, 2016, the text and images (photos from David J. Murray of ClearEyePhoto.com, Leanne S. Wood, Doug Aykroyd and the Athenaeum collections) were in Hamilton's hands. By March of this year, page proofs were being reviewed by Wood, committee members Hodges and Margeson and Keeper Tom Hardiman.



The book, with bookplates created by committee member Doug Aykroyd, was ready for distribution in time for the June 21st toast in honor of the Athenaeum's 200th birthday. "At all stages," Wood says, "serendipity ruled. And the rest is history—our history."

After completion of the project, Publications Committee member Dick Adams praised Editor Wood for her skilled leadership of the committee's meetings on the bicentennial book, for shaping the form it would take, for getting agreement on authors and subject matter coverage, and for achieving consensus on any number of editorial and production details.

For the committee, the capstone of the book project is to make sure all 400 Proprietors claim their complimentary copy; so far, about a third of Proprietors have done so. "We'd like to get this work of many hands into your hands," declares Editor Wood. Proprietors can pick up and sign for their copy at the Athenaeum or have it mailed to them for \$7 (see Secretary's Notes, page 8). Additional copies may be purchased for \$50. The bicentennial book is made possible in part by the Donald H. Margeson Fund. Anyone wishing to maintain the fund for future publications is welcome to make a donation.

Arcana

DICK ADAMS

Elite Company

It used to be asserted that the word “unique” did not allow for comparison: something was either one-of-a-kind or it wasn’t. Modern grammarians take a more permissive stance and sanction usages like “virtually unique” and “almost unique.”

Such describes the Portsmouth Athenaeum, sharing as it does the distinction of being a member-supported circulating library with “Athenaeum” being part of its name with only seven other institutions in the United States.

These eight athenaeums are in Boston, Salem, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, Newport, Providence, La Jolla, and Seattle.

All of the eight are housed in elegant buildings which vary considerably in size and appearance. Boston’s is the largest by far, while we are at the smaller end of the spectrum. All are structured administratively in similar ways, with a cap on proprietorships but with liberal public access. All have been in existence for about two centuries with the exception of La Jolla (1899) and Seattle (2016). Boston is the oldest (1807) while Salem (1810), Philadelphia (1814), and Portsmouth (1817) are close behind.

Other vestigial Athenaeums exist, but they are now either tax-

*...to promote learning
and advance useful
knowledge among our
constituents and the
wider community by
facilitating convivial
interchange and
intellectual discourse.*

supported libraries or museums. Alexandria (VA), Berkshire (MA), Nantucket, and St. Johnsbury (VT) are in the first category, while Hartford’s Wadsworth Athenaeum and Chicago’s Athenaeum are now museums. In 1731 Benjamin Franklin founded the world’s first membership library in Philadelphia, but it is now an independent research library and no longer can be considered a membership library.

The eight Athenaeums listed above share distinctive attributes with nine other membership libraries in this country, the only significant difference among them being that nine do not have the word “Athenaeum” in their names.

All can trace their mission to the template established by the world’s first Athenaeum, that of Liverpool,

England. Founded in 1797 by merchants and professionals, it was designed to be a ready source of information that could otherwise largely be gleaned only from conversations and newspapers in crowded and noisy coffeehouses. Its founding proprietors would doubtless be pleased to know that the eight Athenaeums and nine other membership libraries across the Atlantic all have mission statements remarkably similar to that of Liverpool and to each other’s. Our own is a fine example, stating in part, “[we] associate to promote learning and advance useful knowledge among our constituents and the wider community by facilitating convivial interchange and intellectual discourse.”

Membership libraries such as ours also share the distinctive quality of relying completely on member support, with no public funds assisting them. Public libraries offer some of the benefits available to membership library supporters, chief among them ready access to books, periodicals, and various other media. But in the main they do not provide the social forum that is the staple of a membership library’s existence, nor do they commonly play nearly such a significant role in the intellectual and cultural lives of their communities.



Portsmouth Athenaeum PROGRAM SERIES 2018

WORLD WAR I:

The war to end all wars...

One hundred years ago, the war to end all wars came to an end in Europe. Join us in exploring how this conflict that played out on a world-wide stage affected the lives of those in our region who fought overseas and the families who remained at home working to support them.

The Portsmouth Athenaeum 2018 program series shines a light on World War I soldiers from New Hampshire and the East Coast, the homes of war ship builders in Portsmouth, and the women who manned the factories to keep our country productive during this turbulent time.

Each program begins at 7 p.m. in the Research Library of the Portsmouth Athenaeum at 9 Market Square (unless otherwise noted). *Reservations for each program are required* as seating is limited; please call (603) 431-2538, Ext. 2. Attendance at programs is free for 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 at the door. Admission to an individual program is \$10. *The 2018 Program Series is sponsored by UBS Financial Services of Portsmouth.*

MARCH 21: RICHARD CANDEE presents *Atlantic Heights, Portsmouth's 1918 War Village*. At the beginning of World War I, the federal government authorized the establishment of shipyards to construct freighters. One such company was the Atlantic Corporation of Portsmouth.

After building 10 ships, the corporation went out of business but the unusual housing development constructed for the workers remains. Architect Walter Kilham designed what has been called the finest industrial community of the era.

A Proprietor of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Richard M. Candee is Professor Emeritus of American

and New England Studies at Boston University. He has served as an architectural historian at Old Sturbridge Village for a regional survey of New England textile mills and as a Trustee and officer of the Portsmouth Historical Society. Dr. Candee has been awarded Life Time Achievement Awards by both Massachusetts and New Hampshire for his service in architectural preservation.

APRIL 18: BYRON CHAMPLIN examines *Flying for America: Granite State Airmen and the War in the Air*. Entering the First World War woefully underprepared to fight in an air war, the United States rapidly expanded its

Air Service to meet the challenge. Men from the small city of Concord, N.H. played a surprisingly prominent role flying for Uncle Sam in the Great War. Hear the story of New Hampshire residents who were members of the 26th Infantry "Yankee" Division. Described by the *Concord Monitor* as having an "encyclopedic brain," Byron Champlin is a former journalist and independent historian who is currently writing a book exploring Concord as a microcosm of the American Experience in the First World War. In 2015, he was honored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council for his work with several regional organizations.

MAY 16: In *Over There: The Yankee Division and the Ground War in Europe, 1917-1918*, HUGH DUBRULLE tells how the 26th Infantry Division was assembled using National Guard units from every New England state. This so-called "Yankee Division" was the first American infantry division to be transported to France as a complete unit, and it spent more time on the Western front than any other American infantry division but one. Learn of the recruitment, training, and combat experience of this unit with a special emphasis on the 103rd Infantry Regiment, which included New Hampshire National Guardsmen. Dr. Hugh Dubrulle is a professor in the Department of History at Saint Anselm College, with particular interests in military history, the British view of the Civil War and modern European history. His book, *A War of Wonders: How Britons Imagined the American Civil War* is being published in 2018.

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World War I.....

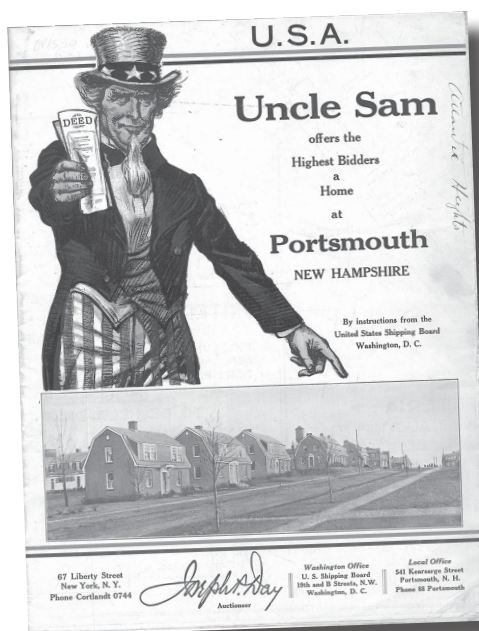
SEPTEMBER 19: L'MERCHIE FRAZIER presents *The Harlem Hellfighters: Powered Differently*. The contributions of the 369th Infantry Regiment of African American Soldiers that served in World War I, along with their courage, commitment and efforts, will be juxtaposed to their experience as black soldiers during the period of Jim Crow segregation. With that lens, the dynamics of their power relationships internationally, nationally and in their community will be explored to better understand the impact of their service and its reflection on contemporary society. L'Merchie Frazier has served as Director of Education and Interpretation for the Museum of African American History for 15 years. She is adjunct faculty in Massachusetts at Pine Manor College and Bunker Hill Community College. A fiber artist and holographer, she has served the artistic community for over 20 years as an award-winning national and international visual and performance artist and poet, and was recently chosen as resident City of Boston, AIR artist.

OCTOBER 17: CARRIE BROWN discusses *Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War*. A full generation before Rosie the Riveter, American women rolled up their sleeves and entered war industries where they had never been welcome before. They ran powerful machinery, learned new skills, and faced the sullen hostility of the men in the shops. Discover their courage and hard work and the impact "the Great War" had on their lives. Explore how these women helped

shape the work that their more famous daughters would do in the next World War. Carrie Brown is an independent scholar who holds a doctorate in American Literature and Folklore from the University of Virginia. She works as a freelance history curator for museums in New England and is the author of two books and many articles and exhibit catalogs. Dr. Brown delights in finding connections between changing technology and the evolution of popular culture.

NOVEMBER 11: At 4 p.m., DOUGLAS AYKROYD leads the program, *Poetry of the Great War*. One hundred years ago, on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, World

War I ended in Europe. The poetry written during or shortly after this war expresses a wide range of emotions and helps us to gain a deeper understanding of the personal impact of that conflict. Join us to explore the thoughts and feelings of those dramatically affected by the "war to end all wars." Douglas Aykroyd is a 1969 graduate of the United States Military Academy. Many of his 23 years of service in the Army were spent in Europe where, as a military historian, he had opportunities to visit the battlefields and cemeteries of WWI. He serves as the Secretary of the Portsmouth Athenaeum Board of Directors and has initiated several historical projects as a local Scoutmaster.



A talk by Richard M. Candee entitled "Atlantic Heights, Portsmouth's 1918 War Village" will be given on March 21, 2018 as part of the Athenaeum's Program Series. This auction flyer for the sale of the homes in Atlantic Heights in 1925 was published by the U.S. Shipping Board and is in the Athenaeum Ephemera Collection.

SAVE THE DATE & PARTICIPATE + December 2, 2017

Spread some Athenaeum cheer! Looking for volunteers to create, donate, and/or walk in the Athenaeum's walking unit for the annual Portsmouth Holiday parade. This year's theme is "Peace on Earth," and there will also be a food drive. First meeting is October 26 at 4:15 p.m. in the Research Library. For more information, contact James, jsmith@portsmouthathenaeum.org or (603) 431-2538.

Pair of Exhibits...



These Portsmouth Herald images show front and back views of the Dec. 23, 1981 Foye Building collapse during a basement renovation. The subsequent rebuilding created the expanded space the Portsmouth Athenaeum occupies today.

reopening of the newly expanded Athenaeum," Candee said. "By 1985 we suddenly had all this space and a new purpose, to reach out to the community to provide a safe repository for manuscripts, paintings, prints and ephemera."

Candee and Athenaeum Proprietor Deborah M. Child as well as Photographic Collections Manager James Smith selected a cornucopia of objects for the exhibit—from the original manuscript of Isles of Shoals poet Celia Thaxter's *Sandpiper* and her painted pottery to 1960s Theatre-by-the-Sea posters, the Smuttynose Island murder ax and a sampling of the Athenaeum's

nearly 28,000 historic images, as well as broadsides and ephemera.

"The exhibit features a slideshow of about 40 historic images, a minuscule sampling of all the prints, daguerreotypes, cabinet cards, glass-plate negatives, stereocards, Polaroids and slides from the ever-expanding collection that is available online," Smith said.

A Show of Shows

For the final exhibit of the Athenaeum's Bicentennial Year, the Arts Atheaneum Committee has planned a change from our usual Proprietors' Show. Opening on December 1 at 5 p.m., this special exhibit, "A Show of Shows," will offer

a look back at highlights from the 72 exhibits that have been presented in the Randall Gallery since its inception 22 years ago. There will be a sampling from many of the favorites, including paintings, portraits, posters, photographs and other artifacts. Most of the material will be drawn from the Athenaeum's collection, with a few items on loan.

"The breadth of topics covered in exhibits over the years is impressive, and we hope that members will enjoy this look back at some of the highlights," said Joan Graf, who is co-curating the exhibit with Proprietor Barbara Adams. "A Show of Shows" will close at the end of February 2018.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Douglas Aykroyd
oakscouter@comcast.net

Building Restrictions. Our current fire code occupancy restrictions have had little impact on our daily use of the Athenaeum's facilities. Still, for lectures, concerts, and other programs, we have had to more closely manage attendance. It is frustrating to have to turn away someone without a reservation, only to find that someone with a reservation fails to show up, leaving an empty chair. Please let us know at the earliest possible time if your plans have changed and you no longer need your reserved seat. By the same token, please let us know that you need to reserve a seat as soon as possible.

Annual Meeting. We will again face our building restrictions as we manage the annual meeting on January 28. We are looking for an alternative location for the meeting which will permit and promote participation by as many Proprietors as possible. As is our tradition, the meeting will be followed by a reception to welcome our new officers and directors.

Portsmouth Athenaeum: The Story of a Collection Through the Eyes of Its Proprietors. We released our bicentennial book on the 21st of June, and by all accounts it has been well-received. We have even received requests to purchase extra copies for family members. The cost of extra copies for Proprietors, Subscribers, and Friends is \$50. As of now about

one-third of the Proprietors have picked up their copies. In an effort to get more copies into the hands of Proprietors, we will mail copies anywhere in the States via media mail for \$7. Make sure we have your correct mailing address. We will include your personalized book plate. *Please note that as Subscribers become Proprietors, they will be given a copy of the book as well.*

Athenaeum Tote Bags. I know that many of you purchased a handsome forest green tote bag featuring the image of our front doors drawn by Colonel Henry B. Margeson. I know this because they sold out. They were re-ordered and when the new bags arrived, we found that they have a sturdy zipper at the top. When I asked about the change I found that our supplier did not have the un-zippered bags on hand and gave us the more expensive bags at no extra cost. We are passing the savings on to you! So buy a zippered Athenaeum tote for yourself or for friends for the amazing low price of \$20.

Volunteers. At our last new members' tea, I was asked how to get the most out of belonging to the Athenaeum. Using the library, attending programs, and just spending time in the building talking to friends are a great start. Becoming part of one of the committees provides a sense of belonging to the Athenaeum like nothing else can. Knowing that you are helping to make the library work better or taking care of our building or collections makes you a part of what makes the Athenaeum

so special. So find something that interests you and find out how you can help. Both you and the Athenaeum will be better off for your involvement.

ATHENAEUM AND PSO BICENTENNIAL CONCERT

In collaboration with the Athenaeum, the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra will hold a concert at The Music Hall in Portsmouth at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 5. The program includes the orchestral version of Maurice Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite," and "A Kennedy Portrait" which honors President John F. Kennedy, born a century ago this year. Jerome Meadows, the artist and sculptor who designed Portsmouth's African Burying Ground Memorial Park, will deliver the narration. At the close of intermission, Dr. William Wieting, chairman of the Athenaeum Performance Committee, will present the Portsmouth Athenaeum Prize in the Humanities to a Portsmouth High School student. The concert will resume with Samuel Barber's "Second Essay" and conclude with Claude Debussy's "La Mer."

Tickets—\$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$12 for students—can be obtained through the PSO website or directly from an orchestra member, and also in person or by mail from The Music Hall box office at 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth 03801. For a \$5 fee, tickets can be ordered from the box office online at www.themusichall.org/purchase or by telephone at (603) 436-2400. Seating for the concert is general admission.

Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum

OCTOBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

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.

OCTOBER 19, THURSDAY:

Mike Dater will give an author's talk and book-signing for his new book, *Mr. Obama Goes to Washington; And Then What Happened, Mommy?*, 5:30 p.m. in the Reading Room.

OCTOBER 22, SUNDAY:

Membership Libraries Group annual meeting.

NOVEMBER 3, FRIDAY:

The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Round Town, 5-8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 5, SUNDAY:

In collaboration with the Athenaeum, the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra will hold a concert at The Music Hall in Portsmouth at 3 p.m.

Tickets—\$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$12 for students—can be obtained through the PSO website or directly from an orchestra member, and also in person or by mail from The Music Hall box office at 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth 03801.

NOVEMBER 11, SATURDAY:

The exhibit "Treasures at the Athenaeum Part IV" closes.

NOVEMBER 15, WEDNESDAY:

Athenaeum Keeper Tom Hardiman presents, "Crowd-sourced Treasures: Selections from the Athenaeum's Collections," 7 p.m. in the Research Library. Free to Athenaeum members, \$10 general admission.

The "Secrets & Treasures: 200 Years at the Portsmouth Athenaeum" lecture series is sponsored by UBS Financial Services of Portsmouth. The Athenaeum's collections are largely the creation of its Proprietors and other civic-minded locals, who for 200 years have donated books, papers, art and artifacts they deemed of cultural, scientific and historical importance. Through stories of the history, ownership and gifting of selected Athenaeum treasures, Proprietor Tom Hardiman will show how this unique collection reflects the shifting intellectual interests of Portsmouth residents over two centuries.

NOVEMBER 30, THURSDAY:

John M. Lewis will speak about New Hampshire public school funding in the context of the Claremont litigation and like cases around the country.

This talk will deal with New Hampshire's struggle to provide sufficient funding to its public schools. It will focus on the Claremont litigation which recognized the State's obligation under its own State Constitution to both provide and fund an adequate education. It will also consider how other States have dealt with the funding challenge and the role the State Courts have played in assuring a positive constitutional right to an adequate education, 7 p.m. in the Reading Room.

DECEMBER 1, FRIDAY:

"Your Show of Shows," celebrating 22 years of exhibitions in the Randall Gallery opens, 5 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

DECEMBER 3, SUNDAY:

Athenaeum Holiday Gala, invitations forthcoming.

DECEMBER 7, THURSDAY:

Professor Thomas Carnicelli returns with more history of the English tongue. He will speak on "Old English, the Language of Beowulf," 5:30 p.m. in the Reading Room.

DECEMBER 11, MONDAY:

Holiday concert with Great Bay Sailor, 7 p.m. in the Reading Room.

JANUARY 21, SUNDAY:

Author Kristin Goodwillie will talk about her new memoir, *Kristin's Journey*, 3 p.m. in the Reading Room.

JANUARY 28, SUNDAY:

199th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, time and location to be announced.

JANUARY TBD:

Thursday Memorial Concert honoring Proprietors who have passed in 2017.

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THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
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A User's Guide to the Athenaeum's Redesigned Website

ROBIN SILVA
Athenaeum Librarian

www.portsmouthathenaeum.org

To celebrate our Bicentennial, the Portsmouth Athenaeum has redesigned and improved our website to be more colorful and interactive. This includes a more informative calendar of performances, exhibits and events, a full page on membership, and a direct link to our catalog.

One of the first online historic catalogs in the region, our catalog has been online since 2006. It is now even more fun and informative to explore the Athenaeum's vaults.

Click on "Search Catalog" to search our database of over 62,000 items

representing manuscripts, objects, books and photographs. See photographs of paintings and furniture throughout our Market Square building, and even the presumed ax used to commit the Smuttynose murders on the Isles of Shoals.

View manuscripts from the 17th century to the 20th century, including letters from the Frank Jones and Eldredge Brewing companies lamenting the detrimental effects of Prohibition on local businesses. You will also find a rare 1805 Portsmouth imprint of an illustrated children's book and a 19th-century dance card from the

"Shoe Makers Ball" hosted by the Portsmouth Shoe Co.

A popular feature is the "Random Images" button that displays a full page of images selected from the collection. You can lose yourself in viewing photographs from over 150 years of Portsmouth history, such as the family photos from the North End Collection. Or search for photos of your street from as long ago as the 1850s.

Many thanks to Proprietor Evelyn Lamprey who designed the original website as well as this redesign and to the N.H. Charitable Foundation.