



**Portsmouth Athenaeum  
206<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

## THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM

206<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 12, 2025

3 p.m.

In the Shaw Research Library and Via Zoom platform

### Agenda

- Welcome by the President
  - Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting
  - Necrology 2024
- Finances
  - Report of the Treasurer
  - Report from the Finance Committee
  - Approval of 2026 Assessment
- Reports on the Year
  - Report of the Keeper
  - Report of the President
  
- Report of the Nominating Committee
- Election of Officers and Directors
- Recognition of outgoing Director
- Other Business
- Adjournment

*Please note that Subscribers, spouses, and partners are welcome at the Annual Meeting, but only Proprietors may vote.*

Zoom meeting details:

Topic: 206th Annual Meeting

Time: Jan 12, 2025 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81964664673?pwd=GZCmay0hr0SvbBi4j8q15XQf1SEbuh.1>

Meeting ID: 819 6466 4673

Passcode: 206

# THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting  
Held at the Research Library and Virtually  
Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 3:00 pm

1. **Call to Order:** President Sally Gayer called the 205<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenaeum to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were accepted and will stand as read.
2. **Necrology:** Sally Gayer read the names of the Proprietors and former Proprietors who died in 2023. A moment of silence was held to honor those we lost during the year.
3. **Finances:**
  - A. **Report of the Treasurer:**
    - I. Cash Flow: After reviewing the Athenaeum's organizational financial strategy, Treasurer Jeff Keefe presented the financial summary for 2023, noting a net positive cash flow for the year. Income was \$81,873 over budget, with a projected \$20,505 deficit factored in; we were actually about \$102,000, or 19%, over budget on income. Expenses for the year were \$22,000 under budget. Overall contributions from membership were \$31,000 over budget.
    - II. Finance Committee: As chair of the Finance Committee, Jeff recognized the committee members, Steve Demarais, Lauren Buxton and Gail Drobnik, and thanked them for their service.
    - III. Investment Portfolio: Jeff summarized the overall market environment for the past year, which supported strong growth in the Athenaeum's investments. In 2023, the Athenaeum's investment portfolio grew 12.63%, beginning the year with a value of \$1,817,438. We took planned portfolio distributions of \$43,546 to support the operating budget, saw a gain in portfolio value of \$225,714, and ended the year with a portfolio value of \$1,999,566. For 2024, investment allocation will be a moderate growth portfolio of 60% equities and 40% cash, anticipating that fixed income will provide buoyancy and higher yields should equity markets be volatile.
    - IV. Board Reserves: Jeff reported a robust organizational cash reserve of \$622,000, which supports cash flow and capital projects, and provides operating income from interest earned. To take advantage of current higher interest rates, much of the cash has been invested in short-term US Treasury bills, which are currently paying about 5.2%. This has increased our cash income over the last year by more than \$25,000.
    - V. Bottom Line Summary: Jeff concluded that in 2023, the Athenaeum's total assets grew from \$3,458,774 to \$3,652,222, an annual increase of \$247,176 or 5.6%. After factoring in a 2023 inflation rate of 3.9%, we had a real return of 1.7%, driven by positive investment results and strong cash flow. In summary, the Athenaeum completed the year in a strong financial position, with a responsible budget in place for 2024. We are financially prepared to ride out future market volatility, we are positioned for opportunity, and we have a robust cash reserve. The Athenaeum's financial position continues to be strong thanks to Tom

Hardiman's and Stephanie Tabit's oversight, staff efforts, and the membership's generosity.

VI. 2024 Annual Assessment: Jeff requested the membership's approval of the 2024 Annual Assessment, which will remain unchanged at \$250. A motion to approve the 2024 rate was made and seconded; motion passed.

4. **Report of the Executive Director:** Director Tom Hardiman reflected on 2023 as a year of words, in which the membership discussed and debated the words for our mission, vision, values and goals. At three listening sessions, members vigorously promoted and defended the words—written, printed, spoken, and even implied—that they felt belonged in the Athenaeum's credos. Tom noted that it was also a good year for numbers. The Athenaeum's financial position is strong, and membership is currently at an all-time record, with a full complement of 400 Proprietors and 186 Subscribers and Friends. We also held a record number of events in 2023, three or four nearly every week, all with maximum or near-maximum attendance. Other achievements included the Athenaeum's contribution to the Portsmouth 400<sup>th</sup> celebration: the Historic Photo Program, in which Proprietors Anne Weidman and Ellen Fineberg, with help from staff, worked with downtown business owners to place enlarged images from our collections in storefronts. Tom noted that reference library statistics were up by 50% in 2023, for a total of 3,200 contacts. In response to rising inflation and our strong financial position, we will raise staff compensation over the coming year to regional scale.
5. **Report of the President:** President Sally Gayer noted that we have a remarkable, growing institution, led by a capable staff, enthusiastic members and committed volunteers. We appreciate the daily initiatives, projects and operation details performed by volunteers, members and staff. Their work is impressive, and volunteer commitment is growing. We now have over 100 active volunteers. They select books for the circulating library, serve on board and governance committees, review membership applications and investment goals, repair our historic buildings, produce exhibits and social functions, lead tours of the building, design program series, digitize and catalog manuscripts and photographs, write articles for our newsletter, and many more small and big jobs. Our main challenge is to find the perfect committee placement for our eager and talented volunteers—a good problem to have. Sally remarked that Athenaeum membership is valued; people are attracted to an institution that values local history, offers stimulating cultural programming, provides opportunities to meet and talk with other members, and cultivates quiet spaces in our beautiful, historic buildings. Following the Strategic Framework approved by the board in September 2020, the board focused on stabilizing our organizational and governance structure; clarified and revised admission policies; established a regularly-convened governance committee; revised the board nominating procedure to implement a year-long selection process; and reviewed and defined the decision-making policy for the board and Director. We made efforts to increase communication between committees and with the public. Over the past year, the board drafted new vision and mission statements to reflect where we are now and where we want to be, based on views expressed in the 2019 membership survey. Many survey respondents noted the public perception of the Athenaeum as a “closed” and “elite” organization, and felt that we should be more welcoming and accessible while retaining our original purpose as a membership library dedicated to preserving the history of the Seacoast. We have tried to

weave these thoughts into an renewed effort to be more open while retaining the goals of a membership library. Sally reviewed the purpose and work of the board and Executive Committee, and emphasized the board's commitment to listening to the membership to distill thoughtful development of policy. Sally offered special thanks to Tom for his partnership, wise guidance and counsel during her term as President. She also thanked the board for their energy, can-do attitude, and forward-looking vision. She closed with thanks to the membership for their support of the board and all the Athenaeum does.

**6. Report of the Nominating Committee:** Committee Chair Peter Lamb presented the following slate of 2024 Officers and Directors:

President (two-year term)	Jeff Keefe
Vice President (two-year-term)	Jan Dinan
Past president (two-year term)	Sally Gayer
Secretary (one-year term)	Peggy Hodges
Treasurer (one-year term)	Craig Steidle
Director (filling incomplete term)	Elizabeth Farish
Directors (2 <sup>nd</sup> three-year term)	Curt Springer
	Anne Weidman
Director (1 <sup>st</sup> three-year term)	Michael Labrie

Peter thanked Anne Weidman, Elizabeth Farish, Andrew Bagley and Sally Gayer for their service on the nominating committee. The membership first voted to approve the nomination of Michael Labrie and Elizabeth Farish to the board, and then to approve the new slate of officers. Nominations were accepted unanimously.

- 7. Recognition of Outgoing Directors:** Sally Gayer recognized Dick Adams, Peter Rice, and Brad Lown for their past service on the board. Sally also recognized outgoing chair of the Library Committee, Peggy Hodges; and Cindy Knapp, outgoing chair of the Social Committee, for their service. Cindy has chaired the Social Committee for over 20 years.
- 8. Recognition of Long-Term Proprietors:** Tom Hardiman recognized David Sanderson, who has been an Athenaeum Proprietor for 60 years. The only other 60-year Proprietor was the Rev. Charles Burroughs; both he and David have owned Share 17.
- 9. Other Business:** The floor was opened for comments. Proprietor Kinley Gregg expressed her reservations concerning the new mission statement. Sally thanked her for her thoughts, and reiterated that the board felt this was the time for a new mission statement, one that committed the organization to greater public access. Proprietor Phil Carling, who constructs archival boxes for books, offered his services to the membership, requesting a \$125 donation to the Athenaeum in lieu of payment to him. Craig Steidle thanked Sally Gayer for her work as President of the Athenaeum Board of Directors.
- 10. Message from the Incoming President:** Jeff Keefe spoke of the honor of taking on Sally's role, and thanked her for her tireless work and dedication. He hopes to provide continuity in advancing the strategy we've worked to put in place over the last several years. This year we

will focus on strategic goals. To that end, a membership services survey will be undertaken; data from the survey will inform how we can best use our resources to execute our goals. Jeff looks forward to working with Tom, the staff and the board.

**11. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Past President Sally Gayer closed the meeting at 3:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Hodges  
Secretary

## In Memoriam 2024

Robert L. Barth, M.D.	Share 260
Joan Christy	Share 311
Gerard Wesley "Wes" DeVries	Share 33
Felice Fullham	Share 44
Ruth Griffin	Share 36
Elinor "Liz" Lamson	Share 122
Robert M. Mennel	Share 165
Stephen Hall Roberts	Share 13
Richard Wilber Snowden	Share 279
Joyce Y. Hanrahan	Spouse former share 25
Katharine "Trina" Ingram	Spouse share 4
Joan Slavin Rice	Spouse share 22
Robin Snowden	Spouse share 279
Susan Thoresen	Spouse share 196

## Portsmouth Athenaeum 2024 Preliminary Financial Summary

REVENUE:	2024 Preliminary	2023 Actual
Proprietor/Subscriber Assessments	\$ 118,792	\$ 115,710
Annual Appeal	\$ 74,774	\$ 72,075
Miscellaneous Contributions	\$ 73,160	\$ 91,999
Investment Income	\$ 153,132	\$ 133,500
Other Operating Income	\$ 108,377	\$ 98,231
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investments	\$ 36,343	\$ 11,201
Receipts for Special Purposes	\$ 53,577	\$ 86,544
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(including gifts and grants)	\$ 618,155	\$ 609,260
EXPENDITURES:		
Staff & Related Costs	\$ 272,261	\$ 255,633
Collections	\$ 19,094	\$ 20,721
Utilities	\$ 61,745	\$ 60,031
Building, Maintenance & Renovations	\$ 44,626	\$ 51,163
Insurance, Office, Printing	\$ 57,199	\$ 54,053
Depreciation	\$ 56,278	\$ 53,050
Special Purpose Expenditures	\$ 42,351	\$ 74,806
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 553,554	\$ 569,457
NET SURPLUS	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$ 64,601	\$ 39,803
ENDOWMENTS & RESERVE ADDITIONS:		
Reserve Additions	\$ 9,895	\$ 5,908
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
ASSETS:		
Cash, including Savings Reserves	\$ 649,380	\$ 626,989
Invested Funds	\$ 2,208,474	\$ 1,993,870
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,646	\$ 480
Security Deposit for Storage Rental	\$ 3,187	\$ 3,187
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 9,893	\$ 10,102
Fixed Assets	\$ 1,098,748	\$ 1,102,751
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 3,971,328	\$ 3,737,379
LIABILITIES:		
Prepaid Proprietor/Subscriber Assessments	\$ 76,300	\$ 75,000
Deferred Income	\$ 6,665	\$ 1,700
Security Deposit	\$ 4,889	\$ 4,889
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,176	\$ 75
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 89,030	\$ 81,664
NET ASSETS	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$ 3,882,298	\$ 3,655,715

**2025 Slate for Portsmouth Athenaeum Board of Directors** (VOTE for those in **BOLD**)

President (to 2026)	2-year term	Jeff Keefe
Vice-President (to 2026)	2-year term	Jan Dinan
Immediate Past-Pres. (to 2026)	2-year term	Sally Gayer
<b>Secretary (to 2026)</b>	<b>1-year term</b>	<b>Peggy Hodges</b>
<b>Treasurer (to 2026)</b>	<b>1-year term</b>	<b>Craig Steidle</b>
Director (to 2026)	1st term	Christine Friese
Director (to 2026)	1st term	Alan Gold
Director (to 2026)	1st term	Donald Margeson
Director (to 2027)	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Curt Springer
Director (to 2027)	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Anne Weidman
Director (to 2027)	1st term	Michael Labrie
<b>Director (to 2028)</b>	<b>2nd term</b>	<b>Ann Beattie</b>
<b>Director (to 2028)</b>	<b>2nd term</b>	<b>Susan “Sooky” Lassen</b>
<b>Director (to 2028)</b>	<b>1st term</b>	<b>Bill Truslow *</b>

---

Slate to vote at 2025 Annual Meeting is in **BOLD**

Director Candidate for a first three year term is Bill Truslow.

Award winning commercial photographer Bill Truslow was trained as an architect but later turned to his true passion, photography. After a stint in California to study at the Art Center College of Design he returned to New Hampshire in 1986 to locate his photography business in Portsmouth. Working with clients nationwide, he specialized in business, healthcare, industrial and product and personal photography and is best known for his location portraiture telling the subject’s story through the photograph. Many remember his widely acclaimed 2013 “Portsmouth Icons” photographic exhibit. There are few Athenaeum Proprietors who have had such a view of the people and changes in our Seacoast community during the past 40 years. Bill and his wife Danna, a consultant in land & water resources, live in Rye.

Prepared by the Nominating Committee (October, 2024)

Peter Lamb, Chair  
Anne Weidman  
Andrew Bagley  
Elizabeth Farish  
Sayer Gayer

## Report of the Admissions Committee 2024

The admissions committee met on seven occasions in 2024 and unanimously recommended the following share transfer:

**Christopher A. Matthews** is a firefighter and EMT at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and is requesting a transfer of the share of his mother, Jillaine Bitomski. Chris lives in South Berwick with his wife, Michelle, and is interested in history and reading. He is recommended by Wendy Lull, Tom Hardiman, and his mother

They also recommended the following to be approved as Subscribers:

**David Anderson** is a Judge for the Hillsborough Superior Court (Northern District) and is interested in rare books and historic preservation. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Catherine, and is endorsed by Susan Lassen, Brad Lown, and John Seavey.

**Jessica Lee Anderson** is a Financial Advisor and Senior V.P. with UBS. She lives in York Beach with her spouse, Harold, and is an avid reader who wants to spend time in the library. She is recommended by Steve Demarais, Gary Ghigliotti, and Tom Hardiman.

**Penelope (Penny) Bartko** is a retired Educator and Social Worker in Portsmouth where she lives with her spouse, Max. She is interested in theater, performing arts, and literary events and is recommended by Fred Schubert, Mike Harvell, and Sooky Lassen.

**Gerald Lee Beauregard, Jr.** is Vice-President of R&D at IDEXX Laboratories, with nine patents in medical instrumentation. He is interested in Travel, History, Cooking, and Genealogy. He lives in Stratham with his wife, Diane, and is endorsed by John Rice, John Lamson, and Andrius Keturakis.

**Capt. John Michael Borden** is an Owner/Operator and commercial fisherman in Rye, where he lives with his spouse, Dr. Vikki Howard. John is interested maritime and local history, photography, and conservation. He is recommended by Cathy Hodson, Jill Jarvis, and Leo Axtin.

**Gary Cameron** works for the Portsmouth DPW and has a passion for local history and community involvement. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Patty, and is endorsed by Ted Alex, Christine Friese, and Jeff Keefe.

**Dr. Benjamin Roy Cole** is Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences, and Education at SNHU with a major interest in historic preservation, civic engagement, and higher education. He lives in Kensington with his wife Shannon, and is recommended by Ronan Donohoe, Dr. Ken Cohen, and Col. Lionel Ingram.

**Stephanie M. Dalgard** is Business and Marketing Consultant as well as owner of Dalgard Communications Group, and is interested in travel, hiking, walking, reading, arts & crafts, food, wine, and ancestry. She lives in Portsmouth and is endorsed by Tatiana Czaplicki, Andrew Bagley, and Anne Weidman.

**Wyatt Lane Davis** is an Independent Management Consultant with Clarkson Davis, LLC and is interested in Astronomy, Bicycling, Motorcycling, and Barbecue. He lives in Rye with his wife, Janet, and is endorsed by Tom Sherman, Bill Truslow, and Andy Jaffe.

**Michael T. Dunbar** is a Writer and Musician and Director of Content for Citizens Count. He is interested in Music, Literature, Poetry, History, Antiques, and Preservation. He lives in Hampton and is endorsed by Kathy Logan, Andrew Bagley, and Ceal Anderson.

**Christer Ericson** is a civil engineer with an interest in Portsmouth history and house history. He lives in the south end of Portsmouth with his wife Laurie, and is recommended by Susan Lassen, Susan MacDougal, and Martin Hanssman.

**Nancy Euchner** is a Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner with Focus on Aging. She is interested in Music, Travel, and History. She lives in New Castle, and is endorsed by Sooky Lassen, Charles Bickford, and Judy Nerbonne.

**Katherine (Kate) Fifield** is a self-employed Jill-of-All-Trades in Portsmouth, where she lives. She is interested in libraries, history, and historic spaces and is recommended by Anne Weidman, John Maher, and Mark McNabb

**Lisa Gainty** is a Business Development Officer for Bankprov and is interested in local and family history and is a past Volunteer of the Year Award winner. She lives in Portsmouth and is endorsed by Anne Weidman, Kathleen Soldati, Andrew Bagley, and Anthony Conti.

**Steven Hall Goldthwait** is CEO of Metem Corporation and has a deep passion for marine history and engaging with the community. He divides his time between Portsmouth and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He is recommended by Martha Fuller Clark, Susan Lassen, and Andrew Bagley.

**Robert Richard LeGros** is a lawyer with a long career with Sunoco, Inc. Bob lives in Portsmouth with his spouse, Barbara Franzoso, and is endorsed by Jim Munton, John Nelson, and Larry Gray.

**Jason Lenk** is a private practice orthodontist interested in home improvement, fitness, and financial literacy. He lives in Portsmouth and is recommended by Kathy Logan, Talia Sperduto, and Alan Gold.

**Andrew Charles Lord** is a Financial Advisor in Portsmouth where he lives with his wife, Nancy. He is an outdoors enthusiast and lover of history. He is recommended by Judy Nerbonne, John Dika, and Sooky Lassen.

**Vanessa Perez McElroy** is a Senior Director of Product Management for Footwear at Sperry Top-Sider. She lives in Portsmouth with her spouse, Peter, and is traveling, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. She is recommended by Amy Lou Bassett, Reagan Ruedig, and Allen McGee.

**Janice Marie Murphy** is a Marketing Director for many organizations, including Sail Portsmouth and St. Patrick Academy. She lives in New Castle and is interested in writing and history and wants to help the Athenaeum with marketing and planning. She is recommended by Kathy Logan, Sooky Lassen, and Ned Thompson.

**Robert Viking O'Brien** is Professor Emeritus of English Literature at California State University, Chico.. He is a Fulbright Scholar and Mellon Fellow interested in Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, and Modern Literature, as well as Local and Maritime History. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife, Katherine, and is endorsed by John Maher, Andy Jaffe, and Ken Goldman.

**Joseph William Pace** is a writer and public servant with interests in reading, writing, sports, history, and politics. He lives in Kensington with his wife Sarah, and is recommended by Ronan Donohoe, Dr. Ken Cohen, and Col. Lionel Ingram.

**Kathleen Soldati** is a Public Relations Professional and Marketing Strategist in Portsmouth with a long association with the Athenaeum through her work with the Portsmouth Historical Society and Portsmouth 400. She is interested in history, arts, culture, and music, and is recommended by Mary Ellen Burke, Susan Lassen, Andrew Bagley, and Tom Hardiman.

**Ashleigh Tucker** is the Associate Executive Director of the Music Hall and is interested in history, arts, and dance. She lives in Dover with her spouse, Evan Pollock, and is endorsed by Dudley Dudley, Susan Lassen, and David Ewing.

**Courtney Vaughn** is an attorney interested in family time, hiking, running, historical fiction, and other outdoor activities. She lives in Newfields with her spouse, Brian, and is endorsed by Gary Ghigliotti, William Mitchell, and Kimberly Masucci.

**Mellissa T. Walls** is a self-employed chef/bartender and proprietor of Maeve's Mobile Cocktail Hour, and is interested in community engagement. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Jason, and is recommended by Andrew Bagley, Douglas Aykroyd, Elizabeth Aykroyd, and Katie Maggio.

**Karen Alderfer Whelan** is recently retired as Admin Assistant in the Pathology Department at Portsmouth Hospital with an interest in history and was a founder of the women's group, "Art and Soul." She lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Peter, and is recommended by Kathy Logan, Mary Beth Herbert, and Susan Lassen.

**Richard Alan Yeager II** is an Architect and Director for Campus Planning at UMass Amherst. He lives in Kittery Point and is interested in sailing, golf, skiing, hiking, kayaking, classical music, opera, art, and cultural events. He is recommended by Keith Frisbee, Carrie Hurn, and Simone Shields.

**Stephen C. Yevich** is Finance Director at SDYMCA/Camp Lincoln and is interested in Appledore History, Railroads, and Marine Science. He lives in Newfields with his spouse, Terry Cook and is endorsed by Kate Cook, Dudley Dudley, and Anne Weidman.

**Robert Zimman** is a retired Commander in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service and naval contractor with a major interest in lighthouse history and preservation. He lives in Portsmouth with his wife Marilyn, and is recommended by Andrew Jaffe, David Random, and Ken Goldman.

Ed Caylor, Chair

## Art and Artifacts Collection Committee Annual Report – 2024

Most of the work of Art and Artifacts was centered on the care of the collection, which, of course, is a never-ending project and involves cleaning and minor repairs. We continued to monitor the temperature and humidity in the buildings to aid in the environmental care of the collections.

We were able to acquire a new frame for the portrait of John Haven which we had conserved last year. The new gilded frame was made for us by Perry Hopf of Kennebunk, Maine.

We lent a tray painted by Celia Thaxter to the Portsmouth Historical Society for their exhibit, “A Matter of Memory.” We also installed in the Old Library case a small exhibit on Lafayette’s visit to Portsmouth in 1824.

With the help of Building Committee, two very long wooden spears were removed from the attic and placed in the Old Library Room. These spears were part of the gift to the Athenaeum by John Collings Long in 1827. They came originally from Tubuai in the South Pacific and had been on top of a beam in the attic since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They have now been hung from the edge of the gallery in the Old Library.

Alan Bennett, a member of the committee and a builder of ship models, cleaned and repaired three of our ship models; The Granite State, the Flying Cloud, and the small model of a gundalow. The two larger models were part of the Proprietors Exhibit at the end of the year.

We received several gifts to the collection in 2024:

A cup and saucer and two plates painted by Celia Thaxter – Gift, Sandra Smith. These had been on loan to us and have now been made a gift.

A pencil drawing of a gull by Oscar Loughton - Gift, Carolyn Marvin

An early 19<sup>th</sup>-century tall clock – Gift, Peter Rice. The clock now stands in the Old Library.

An engraving of Joseph Whipple by CBJ Fevret de Saint Memin – Gift, Peter Rice

Portrait of a woman from the painted wall of the Foye Building, 1983 – Gift, Steven and Will Parker Feld.

The members of the committee are Elizabeth Aykroyd, Douglas Aykroyd, Alan Bennett, Pat Breslin, Judy Groppa, Cathy Hodson, Rebecca Mitchell, Tara Vose Raiselis, Steve Roberts, Carolyn Roy, Sandra Rux, Elaine Tefft, Hilda Versluys, and Tom Hardiman, Keeper.

Elizabeth Aykroyd  
Chair

## **Exhibits Committee Annual Report 2024**

The Randall Gallery hosted two exhibitions this past year. The first, entitled *First in the Nation: New Hampshire Presidential Primaries, 1920-2020*, opened on February 16, 2024. The Co-Curators were Mary-Jo Monusky, Ceal Anderson and Mara Witzling. The exhibition was a feast of political memorabilia, such as posters, signs, buttons, toys, jewelry and photographs, all produced to engage support for various candidates over the course of 100 years. The opening evening featured a gallery talk by A.P. photographer Jim Cole, who lent his candidate photos from several election cycles. Susan Roman also gave a gallery talk on October 26, 2024, which focused on her extensive memorabilia collection on loan for the exhibition. Dennis Kleiman produced a wonderful video montage of decades of presidential campaign songs, stretching back to FDR. There were many loans from local people, sharing their photos of candidates at their homes or businesses. Barbara van Buskirk knitted us a reproduction of Bernie Sanders famous mittens. The exhibits committee decided to extend the exhibition to the end of the year, and made the closing just after the presidential election of 2024, on November 9th.

The second exhibition of the year was the Proprietors' Art Show, an annual exhibition that opens at the Athenaeum's Christmas Party, held this year on December 6th. It will close at the Annual Meeting on January 12, 2025. This year the show included paintings, photographs, prints, sculpture, ceramics, toy soldiers, as well as books and articles written by our members. Our thanks to Joan and Frank Graf and Mara Witzling for helping to hang the show. Thanks to Librarian Robin Silva for organizing the books and articles for the exhibition, as well as for her support throughout the year as we research topics for exhibitions.

Our thanks to the new Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Sharon Nichols for organizing the Gallery Sitters for each exhibition.

Thanks to Ceal Anderson for agreeing to be Co-Chair of the committee.

Committee Members: Co-Chair Ceal Anderson, Elizabeth Aykroyd, Linda Cheatham, Ronan Donahoe, Dudley Dudley, Ken Goldman, Joan Graf, Nancy Hammond, Sherry Wood, Ellen Fineberg, John Mayer, Mary-Jo Monusky, Mara Witzling, Judy Groppa

Ex.officio: Sooky Lassen, Sharon Nichols, Tom Hardiman

Judy Groppa  
Co-Chair, Exhibits Committee

## **Portsmouth Athenaeum Lecture Committee 2024 Annual Report**

The members of the committee are Douglas Aykroyd, Greg Brackett, Irene Bush, Tom Hardiman, Jacob Lehoux, Don Margeson, Marjorie Smith and Richard Yeager.

*Authorization and mission.* The Athenaeum Bylaws establish as a standing committee of the organization a Programs Committee, one purpose of which is “to promote learning and advance useful knowledge among the proprietors and the wider community by conducting programs that edify, educate or instruct those attending . . . .” The Bylaws specify that there be several “subcommittees” of the standing committee, including a “Lecture Subcommittee,” referred to for simplicity as the Lecture Committee. This committee advances the cited purpose of the standing committee through its sponsorship each year of a series of lectures on subjects primarily concerning Portsmouth, the Piscataqua and Seacoast regions, the State of New Hampshire or the New England region. Lectures are held in the Athenaeum’s Shaw Research Library, generally at 5:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each of the months constituting the lecture series season.

*Developing and presenting the lecture series.* For each annual series, the Lecture Committee performs the following:

- Receives suggestions of the members for possible lecture subjects and possible presenters on those subjects.
- Identifies, among subjects found to be promising, a possible theme for the series. Ideally the theme relates to that of other program committees, notably the Exhibits Committee.
- Designates for each proposed lecture subject a committee member to contact the suggested presenter(s) on that subject.
- Solicits, from each of those accepting the committee’s invitation to present, a lecture title, a brief description of the lecture, a biographical sketch and a list of possible dates.
- Prepares a presentation schedule.
- Prepares announcements of the series to appear as an article in the Atheneum Newsletter, as notices in the Athenaeum’s online calendar and the weekly “Latest News” email alerts of upcoming events, and as a poster list of the lectures distributed to local community bulletin boards.
- On the day of a lecture, sets up audiovisual and other equipment for the lecturer, folding chairs for the attendees and a station at which a committee member greets the attendees as they arrive and accepts payment by attendees from whom that is required.

*Lectures presented in the 2024 series.* April 17 - “An Insider’s Take on NH’s Presidential Primary.” Thomas Rath, a former NH Attorney General, is a prominent attorney and has been a leading political advisor to Republican candidates and a political analyst for many years. He argued forcefully for the contribution that an early Presidential primary in a compact state composed of politically engaged voters makes to the introduction of many new faces to the American electorate. He pointed out that Granite Staters’ preference for personal contact with

candidates benefits the candidates themselves by enabling them – indeed, requiring them – to learn about voters’ thoughts and concerns unmediated by the media. And he urged New Hampshire to continue its fight to retain the first-in-the-Nation Presidential primary.

May 15 - “Granite State Politics and First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary: a Journalist’s Perspective.” James Pindell, a newspaper journalist and commentator on politics, shared Mr. Rath’s view that candidates’ direct engagement with voters is important for both the candidates and the electorate, and that such engagement has traditionally characterized campaigns in our state’s Presidential primary. He noted, however, that several developments have worked against such immersive campaigning. One development, of course, is the increasing importance of fundraising, which places extravagant demands on candidates’ time. Another is the emerging use, first by the Republican party in 2015, of candidates’ standing in the polls to determine their eligibility to participate in Presidential debates, again pushing candidates away from retail politicking in small states and toward giant rallies in big ones.

June 19 - “Civics 101: What We’re Taught and What We’re Not.” Hannah McCarthy and Nick Capodice co-host New Hampshire Public Radio’s podcast “Civics 101.” The podcast has covered a wide range of topics including Presidential transitions, “originalism,” workers’ rights, ballot design and the federal income tax. McCarthy and Capodice discussed what civics education is, the state of civics education in America today, and what their podcast does (and doesn’t) teach and why (or why not). It is their opinion that while contemporary civic education is serving school students well, the nation’s adults could use some help.

September 18 - “Misreading the Public: the Failed Promise of Public Opinion Polling.” David W. Moore, formerly a UNH political science professor and a managing editor of the Gallup Poll and currently a Senior Editor with the Carsey School at UNH, spoke on the challenges and defects of contemporary public polling. Among the challenges he noted were the difficulty of finding samples of respondents who accurately represent the larger population and the problem of wording a question in a way that does not influence respondents’ answers. He further argued that the news media’s takeover of public polling has subordinated concern with the quality of reported “public opinion” to the production of compelling news stories.

October 16 - “The Paradox of Franklin Pierce's Politics.” Hugh Dubrulle, chairman of the UNH Department of History, has taught courses on modern Europe and military history for over twenty years and published a book on Britain’s perspective on the American Civil War. He addressed the aspects of Pierce’s personal and political background that may have explained those decisions of his Presidency that lead scholars today to see that Presidency as a failure, or even a disaster. He noted that Pierce had inherited from his father a commitment to the Democratic party that, combined with his skyrocketing success in New Hampshire as a young Democratic politician, led him to view the party – including its slaveholder elements – as the only ready means of saving the Union.

November 13 (postponed from the original March 20 date) - “General Benjamin Butler: Rapsallion Reformer.” Ann Beattie, a Board Director of the Athenaeum and an independent scholar who researches the history of the Isles of Shoals, spoke on the remarkable life of Benjamin Butler. Born in Deerfield NH, Butler grew up in Massachusetts, studied law with a lawyer there and was admitted to the MA bar at age 21. His early clients included working girls whose employers had withheld their wages, which he succeeded in recovering for them. He won appointment to the Maryland militia as a commandant after raising money for that militia. During the Civil War he became a general and, though not originally an abolitionist, freed slaves in Virginia on grounds that, having joined the Confederacy, the state’s slaveholders could not invoke the federal Fugitive Slave Act. Later, he formed the first unit of black troops in the Union forces. At the same time he was accused of dubious financial transactions and unlawfully appropriating the property of civilians. He served five terms as a Massachusetts Congressman and one term as the state’s Governor.

November 20 - Levi Woodbury: From ‘Baby Judge’ to U.S. Supreme Court (and the Threshold of the White House).” Jack McGee, a Portsmouth lawyer and former President of the Athenaeum, gave us the biography of Levi Woodbury, himself a member of the Athenaeum. Like Franklin Pierce, Woodbury enjoyed spectacular early success as a jurist and Democratic politician in New Hampshire, being named to the State Supreme Court at 26 and elected Governor at 33. After holding various positions in the cabinets of Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Polk. At his death in 1851 he was the leading Democratic party contender for the Presidency in 1852.

*Acknowledgments.* The Lecture Committee wishes to express its deep gratitude for the generous gift to the Athenaeum of \$1,000 to support the 2024 lecture series; the gift was donated by Whole Wealth Management and its Principal, Athenaeum President Jeff Keefe. The committee also wants to thank Sooky Lassen, chair of the Standing Committee on Programs, for the support for the Lecture committee that she has voiced on numerous occasions at Board meetings. The committee is also grateful to the Board itself for its support of advancing the appointment of Sharon Nichols as Program and Volunteer Coordinator, in which position she has already taken steps that may enable enhancement of lecture program outreach in the future. Last but far from least, the committee thanks Tom Hardiman, James Smith and the other staff members who have contributed mightily to the committee’s planning, publicizing and other work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Margeson, Committee Chair

## Report of the Library Committee

The Library Committee supports the work of Athenaeum staff and committees in fulfillment of the Portsmouth Athenaeum's mission to "welcome all who seek knowledge to experience culture and share in the history of the Piscataqua region so that together we may find meaning in the past to illuminate the present and the future".

The Athenaeum staff continues to digitize records for the library's catalog on an on-going basis. During 2024 the Athenaeum received a grant from the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists to digitize some church and court records. In addition, Athenaeum staff are working on another project with New England Historic and Genealogical Society to digitize other church records which was postponed from the fall until early 2025.

The library completed a major software upgrade (from PastPerfect 4 to PastPerfect 5) during the fall, which took a month to complete with additional minor issues currently being addressed.

Athenaeum staff continue to move rare books off-site and anticipate a major deaccessioning project for the circulating collection next year.

A special thanks to our very dedicated Athenaeum staff and 2024 library and archival volunteers: Cindy Bufithis, Phil Carling, Nancy Hammond, Joan Hammond, Christine Green, Lynne Crocker, Steve Fowle, Jon and Joanne Wyckoff and Ira Schwartz.

## Research Library

Archivist Katy Sternberger reported the below reference statistics for 2024:

### Reference Sheets (in-person & phone) - January to December 2024

Nonmembers	1930	76.1%
Members	606	23.9%
<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>2536</b>	
Gallery visitors	1133	55.5%
Building visitors	295	14.5%
In-person reference	613	30.0%
<b>Total in-person interactions</b>	<b>2041</b>	
Phone reference	87	17.6%
Other phone interactions	408	82.4%
<b>Total phone interactions</b>	<b>495</b>	

### Asana (online) - January to December 2024

Research + Feedback + Acquisitions	145	54.1%
Images	123	45.9%
<b>Total online interactions</b>	<b>268</b>	

---

### **All interactions (in-person + phone + online) - January to December 2024**

In-person	2041	72.8%
Phone	495	17.7%
Online	268	9.6%
<b>Total all interactions</b>	<b>2804</b>	

---

**Reference-related interactions - January to December 2024**

In-person reference	613	63.3%	
Phone reference	87	9.0%	
Online reference	268	27.7%	
<hr/>			
<b>Total reference</b>	<b>968</b>	34.5%	of all interactions

*Circulating Library*

Librarian Robin Silva reported the below statistics for 2024:

- 175 books added to the collection (109 purchased and 66 donated), which represents a slight decrease from 2023.
- 731 books circulated, consistent with last year's totals.
- 68,107 catalog searches, an increase of approximately 10%.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Cronin, Chair  
Library Committee

## **Annual Report of the Performance Committee for 2024**

The mission of the Performance Committee of the Athenaeum is to provide musical concerts, poetry readings, and other performances of outstanding quality for its members, and for the wider public. This year the committee fulfilled its mission with an expanded and enriched program that engaged ever larger audiences. It also undertook long-term planning for the future that led to significant new program initiatives.

We take this year-end opportunity to offer our profound thanks to all those friends of the Athenaeum whose contributions supported an outstanding season of music and other cultural offerings.

### **Long-Range Planning**

The committee began the year by reviewing its past history to provide a foundation on which to plan for the future. In this, the 30th year since its founding, the committee learned that in the past it had offered a more eclectic range of cultural offerings beyond the current focus on high quality performances of classical and other musical genres. This history helped guide the committee towards a more ambitious set of programs in the years to come.

In May the committee met for a day-long retreat to consider future directions. The discussions were lively, wide-ranging and positive (see attached reportii). High on the list of priorities for the future was a decision to expand our audiences to include people of various ages within and beyond the traditional Athenaeum community. More specifically, we decided to initiate a poetry reading event every year (see below) and to enrich our range of musical offerings. We will also endeavor to broaden our communication efforts with the Athenaeum membership.

### **ArtsAthenaeum Concerts**

Our season opened on 26 April with an intimate performance of classical music by the Like Minds Ensemble based at the University of New Hampshire. This concert took place in the Sawtelle Room and was enjoyed by a select group of Athenaeum members and friends. The concert helped us to strengthen ties with the UNH community and, in particular, its students.

The major event of the spring season was the Memorial Concert for proprietors of the Athenaeum who had died during 2023. Anticipating a large attendance because of the unusually high number of decedents, 11 in all, we scheduled the event for the gracious setting of the Immaculate Conception Church in Portsmouth on 24 May. William Wieting read the life stories and Eli Kaynor, cello, and Carrie Kourkoumelis, harp, provided moving musical tributes. The event was greatly appreciated by the record number of 90 attendees comprised of family members, members and friends of the Athenaeum, and other well-wishers.

On 22 September we sponsored a concert at the request of Sebastian Baverstam, an internationally known cellist who has performed for us several times before. He asked that we provide a venue for him and colleagues to play a new work that he had just completed, a sonata for cello and piano. Indeed, this was only the second time that it had been played in public so this was essentially an extension of its public premier. A large audience delighted in this

opportunity to hear a new work by an outstanding composer who melds traditional musical appeal with contemporary novelty.

The final ArtsAthenaeum event of the year was a Holiday concert at South Church on 12 December given by the Portsmouth Symphony Brass Quintet. The concert was billed as a gift from the Athenaeum to the Portsmouth community and is fast becoming a traditional event on the Seacoast musical calendar. This year the quintet proposed an entirely new program that included arrangements of traditional carols and excerpts from popular movies. The lively, joyous and uplifting concert was greatly enjoyed by the record number of 120 members of the public who attended. Once again the audience included many young families, thus fulfilling our objective of reaching out to a wider range of music lovers in the Seacoast region.

### **Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music Series (PACM)**

Thanks to the support of a record 57 generous patrons, numerous subscribers and the broader public, we organized four concerts this year. They were:

- 25 August, Sunday, Neave Piano Trio, Kittery Dance Hall
- 6 October, Sunday, Piano Duo (E. Ozel, A. Horowitz), St. John's
- 27 October, Sunday, Balourdet String Quartet, South Church
- 17 November, Sunday, ASMI Piano Trio, St. John's

The musicians came mainly from Boston and New York and the quality of their playing was extraordinary. Our enthusiastic and engaged audiences, averaging 70-90 per concert, deeply appreciated these performances. Patrons had an opportunity to meet the musicians at receptions held afterwards at the Athenaeum.

The musicians who play for us delight in this close relationship with our knowledgeable audiences. Accordingly, they routinely ask to play for us again. Furthermore, we receive ever more requests from top notch ensembles across the nation, seeking to be included in our chamber music series. Thus, we are able to build each year's series from an extraordinarily talented and broad range of musicians.

As part of our effort to encourage more Athenaeum members to attend, we offered free tickets to one of these concerts to each new member of the Athenaeum.

As in past years the PACM concert series was highly successful financially. Total income received was \$21,236, against expenses of \$15,640, so ending with a positive balance of \$5,596. The Athenaeum provides a budget of \$5,000 each year for the ArtsAthenaeum series. Generous donations for this series, however, amounted to \$3,289, thus covering two thirds of the outlay of \$4,920 for these events. Taking both sets of income and expenses together, and after offsetting in full the ArtsAthenaeum subvention, at the end of the year we transferred a surplus of \$3,965 to the Athenaeum.

### **Poetry Reading**

As part of our commitment to expand the cultural offerings of the Performance Committee, we hosted a poetry reading at the Athenaeum on 12 July. This was an additional contribution to the ArtsAthenaeum program for the year. The featured poet was Tom Carnicelli, Professor Emeritus at UNH and a distinguished regional literary eminence. He read selections from his poetry, old and new, to an enthusiastic and most appreciative capacity audience of 30 people. The event was so successful that we are planning to include a poetry reading in our annual program of cultural events for the foreseeable future. This marks the resumption of an element of the ArtsAthenaeum programming that had lapsed in the last decade or so.

### **The Work of the Committee**

The Performance Committee has met every month from February through December to organize these concerts and other events. The 14 members of the committee were Past President Sally Gayer, Kristin Goodwillie, Sharon Griffin, Bruce MacIntyre, Andrew Moore, John Moore, Janice Murphy, Susan Noerdlinger, Dan Pettengill, Alice and Chris White, William Wieting, and Sooky Lassen and Keeper Tom Hardiman both *ex officio*. The committee is imbued with a strong sense of commitment and service that ensures Athenaeum members, friends, and lovers of music and literature across the Seacoast benefit to the full from the enrichment our programs provide.

Respectfully submitted.

Andrew Moore

Chair

## **Athenaeum Publications Committee 2024 Annual Report**

Committee members: Dick Adams, Douglas Aykroyd, Donald Margeson, Peggy Hodges, Kimberly Alexander, and Sherry Wood.

The Athenaeum newsletter, edited by committee Chairman Sherry Wood, continued to enjoy strong readership. A total of 20 authors penned 46 articles and contributed 29 images to the year's total of 30 pages. Designer Tom Lynch packaged this content with creativity and style.

Thanks go to: Dick Adams, Douglas Aykroyd, Curator Elizabeth Aykroyd, Irene Bush, Richard Candee, Judy Groppa, Executive Director Tom Hardiman, Special Projects Librarian Susan Kindstedt, Susan Lassen, Tom Lynch, Don Margeson, Research Librarian Jessica McClain, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Nichols, Linda Posson, Librarian Robin Silva, Photographic Collections Manager James Smith, Talia Sperduto, Assistant Librarian/Cataloger June Spezzano, Archivist Katy Sternberger, Chris White and Sherry Wood.

There were also 12 monthly At the Athenaeum columns in the Portsmouth Herald (seacoastonline.com), ranging in subject from Portsmouth's 1924 winter wonderland; the city's African School; a socialite's scrapbooks; a vanished estate; a quarry tragedy; and an exhibit on New Hampshire's Presidential Primaries. The authors include James Smith and Sherry Wood, with research assists from Smith, Robin Silva, Richard Candee, Peter Randall and Susan Kindstedt.

Newsletter deadlines are March 15, June 15, and Oct. 1. Contributions and queries may be directed to Sherry Wood at [sixswords@aol.com](mailto:sixswords@aol.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Publications Committee Chairman Sherry Wood

## **Report of the Social Committee 2024**

The Social Committee is comprised of 15 members, and is responsible for hosting the Annual Meeting, two New Member Teas, the Annual Summer Picnic, and the Annual Holiday Party. The committee provides food and beverages for all events, designs the holiday invitation, and decorates the Athenaeum for the party. In addition, committee members interact with the Seacoast Science Center events coordinator to organize the picnic, and work with the outside caterer, White Apron, for The Holiday Party.

There were 10 official meetings of the Social Committee in 2024, in addition to supplemental event-related activities.

**New Member Teas:** the goal of these Teas is to welcome new members to the Athenaeum, introduce them to committee chairs, and encourage them to participate in Athenaeum activities. The Social Committee is exploring changes in order to boost attendance.

**Annual Picnic:** was held at the Seacoast Science Center on August 27th. It was a beautiful evening, and was attended by 125 members. A new Athenaeum member, Melissa Walls, the owner of Maeve's Mobil Cocktail Hour and a certified bartender, once again generously donated her services.

**Annual Holiday Party:** was held at the Athenaeum on December 6th to a packed house. The Social Committee was able to beautifully decorate the Athenaeum, and managed to make it festive without interfering with operating hours. White Apron catered the delicious passed hors d'oeuvres, and, as always, did a great job navigating the crowds. Social Committee members augmented the White Apron food with tables filled with shrimp cocktail, smoked salmon, cheese and charcuterie boards, and various desserts. Douglas Aykroyd and his merry band of wine stewards kept spirits flowing throughout the evening.

**Committee members:** Kathleen Logan, Mary Beth Herbert, Cindy Knapp, Douglas Aykroyd, Elizabeth Aykroyd, Jan Dinan, Andrew Bagley, Talia Sperduto, Cliff Hodgson, Curt Springer, Mark Ankarberg, Sandra Smith-Wiese, Mike Harvell, Katie Maggio, Ceal Anderson.

## **Special Collections Annual Report 2024**

A key purpose of the Athenaeum is to collect, protect, and make available to the public original materials documenting the history of Portsmouth and its environs. In addition, we encourage institutional deposits and accept gifts of family papers, photographs, ephemera and other materials.

We also purchase such materials when we can afford to bring them back home. The committee is again indebted to J. Dennis Robinson, Kinley Gregg, and Tom Hardiman for following websites that brought us five new collections in 2024.

We are totally indebted to our fine Athenaeum staff who find, catalog, process, and digitize images of the collections for the Athenaeum excellent online catalog.

While Special Collections does not include the general library book collection, we owe a huge debt to our Librarian Robin Silva for her extraordinary management of the digital catalog on our Athenaeum website.

Photographic Collections Manager James Smith is outstanding in his continued efforts to put huge numbers of our photograph collections online for digital access. He has become, by dint of his years of service and a keen visual memory, the key person for those seeking information about local properties. For many visitors, he is the face of the Athenaeum's public access.

Our photographic holdings were increased by some 22 gifts and purchases in 2024. Among the key additions was a first purchase from the Thom Hindle Collection --mostly local glass plate negatives --the first of others he may offer. Second, a gift of a group of Lotti Jacobi photographs of Strawberry Banke museum in the 1960s donated by Richard Thorner Esq. of Manchester. We also purchased this year a CDV by Carl Meinert, one of the city's first photographers, to join our growing pre-Civil War collection of his work.

The Kennebec Historical Society also transferred to us 34 cabinet cards primarily of the 1881-82 students at Miss Morgan's School on Miller Avenue. Historian Janet Polasky also brought James Smith 60 photos to add to P0028, The South Church photo collection. Mark Hubbert, Andy Jaffe, Paula Lewinski, Peter Randall, James Shanley (all Proprietor volunteers) assisted processing this work, as did Linda Benton.

Athenaeum archivist Katy Sternberger and Susan Kindstedt, special projects librarian, report some 31 new accessions (up from last year's 28) processed over the past year. These new collections are primarily gifts from Proprietors (as usual), plus additions to existing deposit collections; and the transfer of title from the California State Parks in Monterey of the Samuel Larkin Diaries (1839-1848).

The archival staff also worked closely with ten institutions on their deposit collections here, and assisted Tom Kaufhold and a UNH intern to improve online access to the Seacoast LGBT History Project (now MS 148). In addition, all 80 linear feet of the Single Items and Small Collections were moved down from the fourth floor to the second floor vault.

Assistant Librarian / Cataloger June Spezzano has been working productively on identifying names in early manuscripts that can be added to our online catalog. These archival projects were also assisted by volunteers Nancy Hammond, Joan Hammond, Mark Hubbert, and Christine Green.

In addition, while Robin Silva has taken on processing of ephemera that Carolyn Marvin did before her retirement last year, her successor Jessica McClain is now working on updating the cataloging for our 1895 diary of Portsmouth sail maker Lemuel T. Davis (SO849).

Rare books, manuscripts and ephemera are important categories of Special Collections. Tom Hardiman keeps an eye out for useful additions from dealers and collectors, as does Dennis Robinson from online sources. Kinley Gregg not only identifies many Portsmouth manuscripts of interest online, but buys, transcribes and donates them to the Athenaeum!

Finally, you will be surprised to learn that we will soon add a rare new member to the Special Collections Committee. Proprietor Dane Morrison, now retired from the Salem State University History Department, has agreed to add his expertise to our work. We welcome him to our deliberations!

Richard M. Candee  
Chair, Special Collections Committee