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Reminder: Patriots' Day

The Library will be closed for Patriots' Day on Monday, April 21, 2014.

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New Website Launched

After 4½ years (which might as well be a decade in web years) our website was beginning to show signs of its age. It was a bit too wordy for this era of instant gratification and short attention spans; it was not very engaging in terms of images and overall visual appeal; it was becoming more and more disorganized as new content was added; it did not scale appropriately on smaller-screens; and, the technology behind the website was outdated.

To improve the aesthetics of the website we used more images overall. The goal was to highlight the architecture and atmosphere of the building, the collections of books and artwork, the engaging cultural programs, and the Athenæum's vibrant membership and community. We also sought to improve the aesthetics by standardizing the styling of individual pages in order to make the site more cohesive.



In order to make the site more user-friendly and accessible, the update also included a reorganization of the website's menus and overall structure. Textual content was weeded, pages were rearranged, content was combined, and links were duplicated when we felt it would be beneficial to visitors of the website. Most importantly, we made the website mobile-friendly; the site is now designed for cell phones, tablets, and multi-sized desktops. Go ahead; visit us on your cell phone!

And, although not visually apparent, the website needed a technical refresh. The back-end application was upgraded improving the manageability and security of the site.

Featured Events

Please check the [calendar](#) or your booklet for the entire spring program. If you find these subjects interesting, you may want to check out a list of [books related to the events](#).

Book Talk: Adrian Tinniswood, *The Rainborowes*
Thursday, April 3,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Concert: New England Conservatory
Monday, April 7,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Lecture: Lee Pelton, *Can Higher Education Save Itself?*
Tuesday, April 8,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Joan Breton Connelly, *The Parthenon Enigma*
Thursday, April 10,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: *Redefining Boston: One Year Later*
Monday, April 14,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Concert: Handel and Haydn Society: *Rowe's Lane Quartet*
Wednesday, April 16,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: John Demos, *The Heathen School*
Thursday, April 17,
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Exhibition Opening Reception: *Rare Books and Manuscripts*
Wednesday, April 23,
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Concert: Aaron Jackson: *The Book of Wandering*
Thursday, April 24,

Some key new features:

- Slideshows! The site now utilizes appealing image slideshows. The slideshow on the home page will change frequently, focusing on selected highlights of the Athenæum. Slideshows are also present on the Paintings & Sculpture page and the Archives page.
- Image Carousels, as seen on many of the Collections pages as well as the Featured section at the bottom of the home page. The various collections carousels display highlights from the Athenæum's extensive collections. They serve as tempting reminders of items the Athenæum maintains in-house and online. The Featured carousel focuses on other selected highlights of the Athenæum, similar to the home page slideshow.
- Color-coding on the Calendar makes it easier to locate events by the type of event, whether it is a lecture, book talk, children's event, etc.
- A multitude of access points to reach the catalog, to join or renew, to donate, to attend an event, and the list goes on.
- And, of course, many more beautiful photos!

We hope you enjoy exploring the new website and, perhaps, discover something new about the Boston Athenæum.

Andria Lauria
Assistant Systems Administrator

Electronic Resources: Online Music

As of May 31, 2014, Naxos will no longer be available among the Athenæum's electronic resources. Naxos offers several subscription options to individuals; however, there are many ways to listen to music on the go without paying. The suggestions below may require users to register and will include advertisements. If you wish to find a specific piece, **YouTube** will offer the ability to search, stop, start, etc. Some of the suggestions below allow searching but many act as online radios and may lead you to new pieces.

[Livestreaming of Multiple Genres](#)

Grooveshark
Jango
Live365 Internet Radio Network
Pandora

[Classical Music](#)
WWFM Classical Network
99.5 WGRH Classical New England

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Francine Prose,
*Lovers at the Chameleon Club:
Paris 1932*

Monday, April 28,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Mona Simpson,
Casebook: A Novel

Tuesday, April 29,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Lecture: Anne Bromer, *Elizabeth
Agassiz: Ahead of Her Time and
of Her Time*

Wednesday, April 30,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Readers Advisory

The Athenæum staff
recommendations for spring
2014 are available.

Selected New Books at the
Athenæum.

Civil War Discussion Group

This winter the [Civil War
Discussion Group](#) decided to
read books by authors speaking
at the Athenæum. Join the
conversation about one of the
most controversial and poignant
events in U.S. history.

The group meets the 4th
Wednesday of every month at
6:00 p.m.

Children's Library

Lego® & Chess Club

Saturday, April 19,
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lego® & Chess Club

91.5 KUSC (Los Angeles)

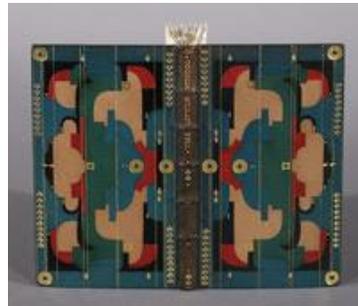
[Jazz](#)
[Jazz24.org](#)
[Jazz 88.3 \(San Diego\)](#)

Happy Listening!

Mary Warnement
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

Collecting for the Boston Athenæum in the 21st Century: Rare Books and Manuscripts

This exhibition, which **opens
April 23, 2014** and runs
through August 9, 2014, is a
celebration of some of the
most beautiful and important
rare books and manuscripts
acquired by the Library since
2000. Some were gifts to the
Athenæum by generous
donors. Most were purchased
using the income from the
numerous endowed book funds established by members and
friends of the Library. These named book funds have been
essential to the growth of the Library's book collections and
continue to honor the memory of those people who realized
that important collections need to grow.



As befits the Athenæum's extensive Rare Book and
Manuscript Collections, these recent additions range widely
in date and place of production. Many of the books to be
exhibited are handsomely illustrated such as Thomas
Pattison Yeats' *Institutions of Entomology* which is celebrated
for the individual life-size paintings of insects that were
added to the pages of the book by Louisa, Countess of
Aylesford. *La Création*, which was printed in Paris by
Francois-Louis Schmeid in 1928, is illustrated by numerous
multicolored art deco woodblock prints.

Fine bindings will also be featured in the exhibit. A
particularly unusual one of engraved tortoise shell, dating
from 1693, covers *The Truest and Largest Account of the
late Earthquake in Jamaica*. Sybil Pye, a self taught English
binder who was active in the first half of the 20th century,
created the distinctive binding for T. Sturge Moore's *The
Little School* which was printed by the Eragny Press on
vellum in 1905. This binding is illustrated on the cover of the
Boston Athenæum's wall calendar for 2014 which features

Monday, April 28,
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Earth Day at the Athenæum:
Flower Pressing and Terrariums
Saturday, April, 26,
10:00 a.m. - noon

Young Readers' Book Group

Monday, April 28,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fellowships due 4/15

The Boston Athenæum offers short-term fellowships to support the use of Athenæum collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects.

Interested scholars, writers, teachers, etc., can find more information on the [fellowship webpages](#).

some of the books that will be part of this exhibit.

The magazine *Fine Books & Collections* featured this upcoming exhibition in a [recent online post](#).

Stanley Ellis Cushing
Anne C. and David J. Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts

Credit for image above: T. Sturge Moore, *The Little School*, (London, 1905), Athenæum purchase, John Bromfield Fund, 2002.

Watch Online

Missed an event? Trying to remember exactly what was said during the lecture you attended last fall?

Certain events from 2013 and 2014 are available to view **online**, in the comfort of your own home. You will need to use your name and membership identification



number (which appears on the front of your membership card) to login, discover the password, and then select what you want to watch.

Amanda Pirog
Technology Coordinator for Events/Development

Farewell and Hail

We bid farewell to Jayne Giudici who joined the staff of the Technical Services Department in November 2002 and has been cataloging new books ever since. She toiled on the third floor but her work took center stage on the new book shelves in the first floor bow room. Jayne had an eye for beautiful gardening and garden-related books, and you can see why from this relaxed photo of her among her own plants (and perhaps a few weeds). Her retirement took effect the last day of February, probably so that she would have time to plan her own plot. Her smile this summer will no doubt be even larger when she need not contemplate commuting to work. Her dedication, hard work, and sense of humor will be missed.



Kaelin Rasmussen started as a cataloging intern in October 2011. Her primary responsibility consisted of resolving problems in the online catalog and barcoding circulating materials. She received her B.A. in literary studies from Middlebury College in Vermont and graduated with an M.S. from Simmons College in library and information science just in time to be ready to replace Jayne as catalog assistant. Her personal interests include rare books, in particular medieval manuscripts, and make her a welcome addition to the staff.



Robert Kruse
NEH Head of Technical Services

Credit for image above: Jayne Giudici in her Maine garden, (John Giudici, 2013).

Credit for image below: Kaelin Rasmussen on the third floor, (Alexandra Winzeler, 2014).

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