2019 by the numbers

12,705 books loaned
814 items digitized
177 items conserved
100 events

3,594 active memberships

$1,171,469 in unrestricted revenue

3,259 reference inquiries
32 video event recordings
30 audio event recordings

2,158 books acquired
1 exhibition
12 research fellowships awarded
2,208 rare materials consulted

546 new memberships
46 Trustees and Emeriti
69 volunteers
22 discussion groups
20 interns
Boston Athenæum
Reports for 2019


SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Amy E. Ryan, Stanford Calderwood Director, Interim
Christopher Boudrot, Director of Business Operations & Augusta Thomas Director of Finance

ADMINISTRATION
Emily Cure, Chief of Staff
Emmy Lx, Accounting Assistant
Hannah Ovaska, Human Resources Manager

CONSERVATION AND DIGITAL PROGRAMS
Patricia Boulos, Digital Programs Librarian
Tatiana Coke, Paper Conservator
Graham Patten, Book Conservator
Dawn Walas, Chief Conservator

DEVELOPMENT
Dawn Burrus, Director of Annual Giving
Michael Jugenheimer, Major Gifts Officer
Bridget J. Keane, Chief Development Officer
Madison Mott, Development Coordinator
Rachel Wentworth, Grants and Annual Fund Associate
Francis Wyman, Advancement Systems Manager

FACILITIES
Adriana Agudelo, Building Custodian
Gloria Brea, Building Custodian
Jose Brizuela, Building Caretaker
Tatiana Keane Forero, Building Custodian
Ismar Hochen, Building Caretaker
Nazrul I. Quader, Assistant Facility Manager
Christopher Silva, Director of Facilities

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Andrew Hahn, Director of Information Technology
Brian James Wanders, Assistant Systems Administrator

MEMBER AND VISITOR SERVICES
Maria Daniels, Director of Communications and Patron Services
Molly Jarvis, Member and Visitor Services Coordinator
Arin Lustberg, Member and Visitor Services Coordinator
Libby Miserendino, Member and Visitor Services Coordinator
Victoria O’Malley, Director of Events
Emmalie Snyder, Events Assistant
Elsa Vernon, Manager of Events
Hannah Weisman, Director of Education

READER SERVICES
Dani Crickman, Children’s and Young Adult Services Librarian

James P. Feeney, Jr., Howard Lang and Barbara Lang Hacker Head of Circulation
Carolle R. Morini, Caroline D. Bain Archivist, Reference Librarian
Elizabeth O’Meara, Reference Librarian
Arnold Serapilio, Reader Services Assistant
Mary Varnenent, William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

SECURITY
Bruno Faria, Security Officer
Sosthenes Kituvi, Security Officer
Tyrome Smith, Director of Safety and Security
Prince Smith, Security Supervisor
Durrell Thomas, Security Officer

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
John Buchtel, Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections
Melissa Krook-Horton, Collections and Exhibition Technician
Lily Pelekdas, Special Collections Registrar
Theo Tyson, Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art and Culture

TECHNICAL SERVICES
Daniel Axmacher, Rare Materials Catalog Librarian
William K. Evans, National Endowment for the Humanities Chief Librarian in Charge of Technical Services
Adriene Galindo, Rare Visual Materials Catalog Librarian
Thomas Gearty, Serials Librarian
Kaelin Rasmussen, Rare Materials Catalog Librarian
Ryan Reed, Catalog Assistant
Anthea Harrison Reilly, Acquisitions Librarian
Virginia Rundell, Catalog Assistant
Graham Skinner, Rare Materials Catalog Librarian

INTERNS
Jacqueline Bateman
Bailey Brunick
Samantha Dodgen
Samantha Gill
Kurt Grewal
Danny Norton
KL Pereira
Ashley Runnals
Greta Llanes Serrano
Carly Stevens

Boston, December 31, 2019

DIRECTOR’S PREFACE

I became the interim Stanford Calderwood Director in September, just a couple of weeks before the close of the year detailed in this report. For years my engagement with the Athenæum was as a member, and then as a Proprietor. Even in my first few weeks I truly learned about the heartbeat of the Athenæum. The Boston Athenæum is greater than the sum of its parts. It is a community of learners, teachers, readers, scholars, and curious thinkers planning for the future, with values deeply rooted in the past.

Our Board of Trustees, composed of members from different walks of life and professional experiences, has contributed to the Athenæum’s ongoing success. Our Proprietors are also committed members whose esteem of their historic shares demonstrates their appreciation for the Athenæum’s important role in Boston’s cultural and intellectual life. And it is our members who breathe life into this building at 10½, who come to the library for a myriad of reasons from writing a book to reading one, sharing ideas on topics ranging from poetry to mysteries, and always enjoying the sanctuary of the beautiful historic building with extraordinary special collections.

This annual report details the progress made, challenges faced, and achievements reached in 2019. A noteworthy milestone was the negotiation of the lease at 14 Beacon Street, an agreement that will fulfill the increasing need for adjacent space. After years of research, planning, and deliberation, the Board of Trustees voted to officially expand into the building next door, where additional meeting areas and appropriate office and work space will be created. Our beautiful reading spaces in 10½, currently occupied by staff offices, will be freed up for member use.

In the Calderwood Gallery, we opened a major exhibition, Required Reading: Reimagining a Colonial Library, which showcases...
TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES

The Board welcomed one new member, James Tracy, at the Annual Meeting in March. Two Trustees, John Wigglesworth Everets and Thomas D. Gill Jr., attained Emeriti status.

JAMES TRACY

James “Jim” Tracy is proud to be both a Life Member and a Proprietor of the Boston Athenæum. He received a Ph.D. in American History from Stanford University as well as an M.B.A. (with a concentration in Nonprofit Management) and an Ed.M. (in Higher Education Administration) from Boston University.

Mr. Tracy has been a Board Member of the Bostonian Society, a Visiting Fellow at Yale University, and a Board member of Boston University’s Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future. He is currently a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society and a Board member of the Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges. Mr. Tracy is a frequent speaker on the interplay among technology, education, and workforce development, most recently as a keynote speaker for Mass Technology Leadership Council’s annual “Transform” conference. This interest is also reflected in his roles as Co-Chair of the MassRobotics Work of the Future Committee and as a Board member of the Boston “edtech” convener and accelerator LearnLaunch.

Mr. Tracy has published and edited several books and numerous articles. He is currently co-authoring a book for MIT Press on the implications of AI/robotics for the future of education. He has been Headmaster of several independent schools and President of the Woodrow Wilson Graduate School of Teaching and Learning, founded in collaboration with MIT.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Athenæum maintains its special collections to preserve and document the past, to foster delight and wonder, and to cultivate an appreciation for excellence in the making of books and
art. We hold rare and significant materials in trust for the understanding and enjoyment of our patrons today and for those in generations to come. By providing access, we enable members and researchers to experience a tangible connection with history, whether for curiosity’s sake, as part of a systematic effort to produce new knowledge, or as inspiration for creativity.

**Acquisitions**

The Atheneum acquired 684 objects for special collections, of which 62 were generously donated. A complete list of all items acquired is available on the Publications page of the website.

The outstanding acquisitions of the year were the Harriet Hayden albums, a pair of photograph albums compiled in the 1860s containing 87 cartes de visite and tintypes, mostly portraits of African Americans living in Boston. The photographs, formerly owned by abolitionist Harriet Hayden, are almost all identified in a contemporary hand, possibly Hayden’s. These extraordinary survivals provide a remarkable window into the social networks of black abolitionists during the Civil War.

The single most noteworthy addition to the rare book collection was a pair of intricate embroidered bookbindings designed by the highly influential fin de siècle French bookbinding duo Marius Michel on Gaston Tissandier’s two-volume history of ballooning, *Histoire des ballons et des aéronautes célèbres* (1887-90). Purchased in part with funds donated by Joyce M. Bowden and Adam M. Lutynski in honor of Stanley Ellis Cushing on the occasion of his retirement last year, the bindings are among the most important embroidered bookbindings to have been produced after the 17th century. The acquisition complements other works in the collections, including an album of original binding designs drawn by Marius Michel and an original drawing of balloons by Gaston Tissandier’s brother Albert.

Other items acquired for the rare book collection feature the work of internationally recognized contemporary book artists, including fine bindings by Peter Jones and Robert Wu, fine printing by Russell Maret, and mezzotints by Judith Rothchild. Custom wa-

Top: [Virginia L. Molyneaux Hewlett Douglass; wife of Frederick Douglass, Jr.]. [Boston, Mass.]: [Photographed by G.H. Loomis], [ca. 1869]. Bottom: [Frances L. Clayton dressed in a Union Army uniform as Jack Williams]. [Boston, Mass.]: [Photographed by Samuel Masury], [between 1863 and 1867?]. Two albumen print cartes de visite from the Harriet Hayden Albums. Purchase; James Cummins, Howe, Hunt, Sammarco, Steiner, and Bromfield Funds; December 13, 2018.


Sont Premières les [Alouettes], 1940–1941. Hand-made illustrated manuscript book conveying the activities, spirit, and patriotic-religious devotion of a troop of Catholic Girl Scouts living in a suburb of Brussels during the first years of Nazi occupation. Purchase, Wick Fund.

Purchase, Andrew and Peter Oliver Funds.


Silver halide print.

Brent Budsberg and Current Projects, Replica of the King's Chapel Library bookcase. 2019. Modified scale replica of the wood and glass bookcase built to house the collection in 1883.
terms in handmade paper form the illustrations in works by both Mary Heebner and Katharine Nix. Leslie Gerry’s *Venice Reflections*, with its vivid digitally painted inkjet prints, won the 2019 Best Digital Book in the British Book Design & Production Awards. *Five Poems* by the late Toni Morrison—her only book of poetry—was designed and printed by Peter Rutledge Koch and illustrated with silhouettes by Kara E. Walker; the Athenæum’s copy is one of only nine to include an extra suite of the prints. Each of these outstanding works was selected for the collection on principles such as the excellence of the execution, the wonder evoked by their imaginative use of form and materials, and the degree to which the original artifact is irreducible to digital form; these works must all be seen in person to be fully appreciated.

The BA’s considerable strength in artists’ books produced by printers, printmakers, and bookbinders trained or residing in New England was augmented by a number of notable examples by such artists as Leonard Baskin, Daniel Kelm, Rebecca Goodale, Julie Stackpole, Gabrielle Cooksey, Thorsten Dennerline, Peter Bogardus, and Alan James Robinson. The latter two were represented by special, nearly unique copies containing, respectively, an original aquatint photogravure copper printing plate in *Going to Gansu* (2018) and a set of original drawings for the illustrations to D. H. Lawrence’s *Tortoises: Six Poems* (1983).

Historic works added to the rare book collection include examples of publishers’ cloth bindings designed or produced in Boston such as a rare, red-striped “candy cane” binding by Benjamin Bradley on the first American edition of Izaak Walton’s *The Complete Angler* (1847); an ephemeral folio pamphlet in which Thomas Bray reported to his benefactors on his success in creating book collections for the British colonies such as the King’s Chapel Library (ca. 1700); and a number of scarce 19th-century Boston imprints on such lively topics as “cookery in the public schools,” china painting, and spiritualism.

Regional social history, art, and graphic arts themes dominate additions to the ephemera collections as well. These include an unsuccessful printed proposal for an elevated railway in Boston by the Riley Railway Construction Company (1887), a substantial group of anti-vivisection materials by Albert Leffingwell, and various printing-related advertising broadsides, cards, and catalogs. A notable exception to the Boston-related themes are two rich groups of ephemera produced during both world wars, added as a complement to the BA’s noteworthy poster collections.

Newly acquired manuscripts included unpublished colonial American verse: a funeral elegy (ca. 1768) written by Peter Oliver, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay prior to the Revolutionary War; the papers of George Miles, Jr., documenting international maritime trade based in Boston in the early 19th century; an 1851 fair copy of the 1834 memoirs of the colorful adventures of Englishman Thomas Dixon during the Napoleonic wars prior to his settlement in Boston; and the diary (1865-1873) of Kate Birckhead, a Newport socialite with close ties to prominent Beacon Hill residents Ellen and Ida Mason, as well as their friend Sarah Orne Jewett.

In addition to the Harriet Hayden albums, noted above, works on paper that joined the Athenæum’s collection include an album of landscape drawings and town views attributed to Massachusetts artist, illustrator, and architect Hammatt Billings (1818-1874); a bulk-priced sample book of steel engraved cards for sale by the Robinson Engraving Company (Boston, 1883-1884); and a full complement of 56 “marbled graphics” consisting of figural and representational designs in marbled paper by Taiwanese-Canadian book artist Robert Wu.

Two major gifts of work by Boston artists rounded out the additions to the art collection. A gift by Jean Gibran of drawings by her late husband, the Lebanese American sculptor Kahlil George Gibran, includes portraits, studies for works of sculpture, and sketches for unrealized monuments to Gibran’s relative and namesake, the poet Gibran Kahlil Gibran. The Karin Arntz Dumbaugh and Charles T. Dumbaugh Fund for acquisitions on the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall made possible the purchase of a preparatory drawing by the sculptor Murray Dewart for a temporary sculpture he erected on Boston Common for First Night in 1990. The purchase led the artist to donate three more drawings as well as a bronze cast of the hand
Reports for 2019

Exhibitions

After more than a year of planning, the Calderwood Gallery reopened on September 17, 2019 with the major exhibition Required Reading: Reimagining a Colonial Library. Organized by John Buchtel in collaboration with numerous colleagues, the show celebrated the earliest surviving colonial library in Boston, the King’s Chapel Library, as well as the magnificent colonial revival cabinet built in 1883 to house the collection. The exhibition began with the story of the collection’s arrival from England in 1698 as one of the Reverend Dr. Thomas Bray’s “Provincial Libraries” intended for the use of Anglican ministers in the British colonies. The centerpiece of the show was a full-scale replica of the 1883 cabinet, funded in part by a grant from the Chipstone Foundation and by other generous donors. The replica was faithful to the original in every detail save one: it was split lengthwise to create display spaces and to symbolize the opening of the collection, as well as the Athenæum’s own openness. In an unusual move, the Athenæum invited 10 community partners to curate the contents of the replica cabinet, each responding to the same question Thomas Bray asked himself more than 300 years ago: what constitutes essential knowledge for your community?

Research for the exhibition identified four surviving King’s Chapel volumes in other collections, two of which were previously undocumented, and one of which was borrowed for the show. Research also uncovered three volumes in the Athenæum’s collections that had gone unrecognized as part of the King’s Chapel Library since the volumes’ arrival in 1823.

While the Calderwood Gallery was closed, smaller displays were installed in the Long Room and Sitting Room. “Stampato a Venezia / Printed in Venice,” curated by John Buchtel, presented a selection of books produced in the island republic from 1471 to 1551. The companion display “Ecco Venezia! / Behold Venice!” curated by Rare Books and Manuscripts Research Assistant Adriene Galindo, highlighted books depicting and describing Venice from the 19th through 21st centuries. The paired displays were on view from October 2018 to March 2019.

From May to August 2019, “This Just In! Recent Acquisitions

Loans

The art collection received international attention with a major loan to the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, Sweden on the occasion of its reopening following a five-year renovation. John Singer Sargent’s 1890 portrait of Annie Adams Fields was displayed from October 2018 through January 2019 as part of the first significant presentation of Sargent’s work in Scandinavia.

The work of Boston artist Allan Rohan Crite, including two noteworthy paintings from the Athenæum’s collection, featured prominently in an exhibition of national importance: I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100. Crite’s The News (1945) and Harriet and Leon (1941) were on view at the Columbus Museum of Art (Columbus, Ohio) from October 2018 through January 2019.

The Athenæum loaned works to two other exhibitions: William McGregor Paxton’s 1894 portrait of his wife, Elizabeth Vaughan Okie, 1894—purchased in 2007 to mark the Athenæum’s Bicentennial—graced the walls of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis, Tennessee (April to July 2019) and then of the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio (August to November 2019) for the exhibition William McGregor Paxton and Elizabeth Okie Paxton: An Artistic Partnership. It was the first examination of William Paxton, a member of the Boston School of painters, in over 40 years, and the first individual exploration of Elizabeth Vaughan Okie’s work.

Lillian Baynes Griffin’s photograph, “Winslow Homer at the Door to his Studio, Prouts Neck, Maine,” along with a selection of other photographs, traveled to the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester for the exhibition Homer at the Beach, which opened in August 2019.

of poet Robert Pinsky. Coincidentally, Gibran and Dewart both displayed work in the same group show at the Athenæum in 1981.
of the Boston Athenæum” showcased gifts and purchases from the previous year. The display included fine bindings, artists’ books, and Boston-related ephemera, manuscripts, drawings, and photographs.

Special Collections Staffing

The reconfiguration of the department that began in June 2018 with the filling of the new position of Head of Special Collections continued with the creation of positions designed to meet new opportunities and existing challenges. Lily Pelekoudas joined the Athenæum on a full-time basis as Registrar in October 2018, and Melissa Krok-Horton started as Collections and Exhibition Technician in February 2019. A national search was begun to fill two new assistant curator positions, redesigned to foster integrated, interdisciplinary, and collaborative approaches to the curation of the Special Collections.

The Polly Thayer Starr Trust responded favorably to our request to create a second two-year Polly Thayer Starr Fellowship in American Art and Culture. The new fellow, Theo Tyson, started at the Athenæum in March 2019.

Other Special Collections Activities

Additional accomplishments included standardizing our loans process and mitigating the impact of renovations in 14 Beacon on the art collection, including such preventive measures as rehousing and relocating a large portion of the decorative arts collection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Group Moderator(s)</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Based on the Book</td>
<td>Grant Schaumburg</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Deanne Sullivan and Linda Velgouse</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td>Nancy J. Tarulli</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>Cashman Kerr Prince</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dante</td>
<td>Todd Boli and Andrea Pokladowski</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickens</td>
<td>Claire Laporte and Clive Martin</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Grant Schaumburg</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary Conversations</td>
<td>Katherine Florio and Clive Martin</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics, Technology &amp; Society</td>
<td>Scott Guthery</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mystery</td>
<td>Toni Whitmore</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Seminar</td>
<td>Peg Wheeler</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Randall Albright</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Creelea Pangaro</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proust Reading</td>
<td>Hollie Harder and Elizabeth Murray</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proust Selected Studies</td>
<td>Hollie Harder and Elizabeth Murray</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
<td>Michael Almond</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipped In</td>
<td>Eva Grizzard and Jennifer Pellecchia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trollope</td>
<td>Bill Pope</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reports for 2019

Arnold Serapilio worked with 29 moderators of 22 discussion groups, which continue to be an active example of engaged membership, connecting with each other and our circulating collection. Tipped In is the newest group, offering an opportunity for professionals in the arts to network and generate ideas pertinent to libraries, museums, and Boston institutions. Poetry’s June meeting included a visit to the Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room to view Derek Walcott’s watercolor and typescript for “The Last Carnival,” given to the Athenæum after the staged reading of his play here in 1984. Attendance varies from group to group but one constant remains: a literate membership disposed to spirited conversation with each other and an unwavering drive to read.

READER SERVICES

Circulation

The Athenæum circulated 12,705 books during the period of this report, and we mailed 706 books to members who requested that service. We retrieved 85 books from off-site storage for staff, members, and researchers. Library orientation tours for new, long-term, and occasionally prospective members set off from Circulation twice a week introducing about 52 members in 26 tours on Wednesdays and 120 members in 40 tours on Saturdays.
Reference

Librarians answered more than 3,282 questions from members and researchers. One member has studiously been using the microfilm reader to pore over Lydia Maria Child’s collected correspondence, though our microfilm holdings are slim.

The Reader Services department recommends books every day but delights especially in featuring our own on the website every month. The following were this year’s class of “Athenæum Author”:

Fritz Holznagel by Elsa Vernon
Justine Chang by Robert Sanford
James McNaughton by Carolle Morini
Gesa Kirsch by Mary Warnement
Sara Georgini by Carolle Morini
April Fools: Dr. Ambitious by Arnold Serapilio
Anna Ross by KL Pereira
Desiree Taylor by Hannah Weisman
Clennon King by Mary Warnement
Lynne Benson by Kaelin Rasmussen
I.E. Fiedling [fictional—a new BA ghost] Arnold Serapilio
Dan Breen by Mary Warnement

Reader Services sponsored the third annual Holiday Pop-Up Bookstore, an afternoon of tea, cocoa, cookies, and conversations about books in the Long Room. Harvard Bookstore sold the recommendations made by librarians Dani Crickman, Will Evans, Carolle Morini, and Mary Warnement. Members responded so positively to this event that we added a Summer Reading Pop-Up Bookstore with suggestions from Dani Crickman, Graham Skinner, Kaelin Rasmussen, and Mary Warnement.

On a monthly basis, Elizabeth O’Meara offered evening ses-
sions geared toward helping members “Make the Most of their Memberships.” We prepared instructions for topics like searching the Historic Boston Globe online and searching our online catalogue, Athena. Members were interested in learning about how to request holds in Athena and how to access recordings of our book talks.

The Atheneum requested 585 items for members through interlibrary loan and filled 264 requests out of the 974 active ones from other institutions. The main reasons we could not send items: the book does not circulate (233), the book is too new (200), and we do not have that specific item (124). Amherst College, once again, loaned us more than any other library. The request to travel farthest this year: Alaska. Members were interested in a variety of subjects, such as state and federal law, archives, library and information science, early education, world history, gender studies, art, exhibition catalogs, business, money management, and novels in foreign languages. We ordered textbooks, articles, microfilm, DVDs, CDs, and large print books for members as well.

Reader Services said goodbye to our hardworking 2019 interns Daria Hafner, Robert Sanford, and Christopher Russell, and welcomed Jackie Bateman, Carly Stevens, and Kurt Grewal. James P. Feeney has an excellent nose for new talent. He interviews and helps train our “apprentice” librarians.

Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room

Last year’s report held a tease about an upcoming improvement in using the Charlotte and Arthur Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room. As our Information Technology colleagues note elsewhere in this report, the Boston Atheneum implemented a new, easier way to request appointments to see special collections materials directly from our online catalog or digital collections: the Aeon automated request system.

Mary Warnement in Reader Services, Andria Lauria in IT, and Pat Boulos in Digital Programs coordinated customization from June through October of the last fiscal year. For three days in November 2018, two representatives trained over 20 staff, and the new system went live November 14. Aeon replaces our online form, paper registration, and request slips. All researchers create accounts in order to use the reading room or order photographic reproductions, and it allows users to:

- Request items directly from our website via Athena, our online catalog, or our Digital Collections database
- Save requests as they plan research visits
- Submit orders for reproductions
- Track the status of request and access information on past requests

As of the close of fiscal year 2019, the new system has been adopted fully and works beautifully. Aeon not only improves the experience for users but allows staff to track items more efficiently and securely. The room was used by 372 researchers to see 952 requests. There were 58 classes, presentations, or pop-up reports that gave people an opportunity to view 417 rare items.

The following staffers supervised in the reading room: Daniel Axmacher, Carolle Morini, Lily Pelekoudas, Kaelin Rasmussen, Ryan Reed, Graham Skinner, Mary Warnement, and Hannah Weisman. These colleagues served as back-up supervisors: Pat Boulos, John Buchtel (as of June), Dani Crickman, Will Evans, Adriene Galindo Tom Gearty, Rachel Lanza, Anthea Reilly, Virginia Rundell, Arnold Serapilio, and Theo Tyson.

Fellowships 2019-2020

The Atheneum awarded seven different types of fellowships, three of them in conjunction with another institution and one as a member in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. The search committee comprising Mary Warnement, Carolle Morini, and Hannah Weisman considered 36 applicants, of which 14 were NERFC proposals. Mary served on that body’s membership subcommittee and enjoyed attending the October meeting at the Connecticut Historical Society and the March meeting at the Burns Library of Boston College. Below are all the year’s fellows:
Mary Catherine Mooney Fellowship  
Cynthia Smith, Ph.D. candidate, Miami University Ohio, “Sentimental Sailors: Rescue and Conversion in Antebellum U.S. Literature”

Caleb Loring, Jr., Fellowship  
Ariane Liazos, Ph.D., Research Advisor, Harvard University, “‘Our Common Humanity’: Moorfield Storey and Struggles for Racial Justice, Self-Determination, and Human Rights”

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship  
Lance Boos, Ph.D. candidate, Stonybrook University, “Print and Performance: The Development of a British Atlantic Musical Marketplace in the Eighteenth Century”

The American Congregational Association-Boston Athenæum Fellowship  

The Suzanne and Caleb Loring Research Fellowship (Jointly with Massachusetts Historical Society)  

The Boston Athenæum Community Fellowship  
Nicole Breault, Ph.D. candidate, University of Connecticut, “Setting a Watch: Governing the Night in Early Boston”  
Joey S. Kim, postdoctoral fellow, Boston University, “Romanticism and the Poetics of Orientation (1772-1848)”  
Elliot Portman, independent artist, “Classical Illustrations of the Interior of the Boston Athenæum—Reflecting Boston’s Artistic Style and History within American Art”

The New England Regional Fellowship  
Emily Clark, Ph.D. candidate, Johns Hopkins University, “Renouncing Motherhood: Women’s Sexualities and Labors in Eighteenth-Century New England”  
Amber Hodge, Ph.D. candidate, University of Mississippi, “The Meat of the Gothic: Animality and Social Justice in United States Fiction and Film of the Twenty-First Century”  
Matthew Marsh, Ph.D. candidate, University of North Dakota, “Open Source ebook project: Byzantium in the Long Late Antiquity”  
Peter Wirzbicki, Assistant Professor, Princeton University, “The Abolitionist Nation: An Intellectual History of Nation, Democracy, and Race during Reconstruction, 1863-1877”

The following fellows presented their work in Field Reports: Ariane Liazos, Kevin Hooper, Robert Riter, Jean Franzino, Bennet Parten, C. Ian Stevenson, and Kristina McComb.

Children’s Library  
Books from the Children’s Library made up about 9% of all books borrowed, and 196 volumes were added to the Athenæum’s collection in this area. Children’s and Young Adult Services Librarian Dani Crickman continued to develop and provide programs for people ages 0 to 18 and their families. The Children’s Library congratulated graduating intern Hannah Knight in May and welcomed Samantha Gill as the new Children’s Library Intern in June. Volunteers Karla Rojas, Bea De Monaco, and Daniel Berk offered invaluable assistance. Throughout the year, 480 children and their accompanying caregivers attended 170 story times, a 17% increase from the previous year. We welcomed 57 attendees of programs for older children and teens, a 21% increase from the previous year. The weekly children’s e-newsletter reached 427 families as of September 2019. New book lists and themed displays were created each month, and special features included summer reading recommendations by kids for kids and a selection of books about climate change at the time of the September 20 Climate Strike, which
brought hundreds of young people past our doors on Beacon Street.

The year’s most popular public children’s program was a book talk on the graphic memoir *Hey Kiddo* with author-illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka in conversation with Proprietor and author Jack Gantos. Other public children’s events included the annual winter craft-making party, the annual pajama story time and “stuffie” (stuffed animal) sleepover, a superhero party and screening of *Incredibles 2*, and a workshop where teens studied photographs of the Athenæum in special collections and then captured their own shots around the building. Educational outreach included a total of 99 story times for children at the Commonwealth Children’s Center and Park Street School.

Archive

Throughout the year, archivist Carolle Morini answers questions about our history and the history of the collections. For example, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Nottingham, England, Colette Davies, looked at Minerva press books and the Archive of the Boston Library Society and Boston Athenæum. She read library catalogs, *Books Borrowed* ledgers, and other records dating from the 1794 founding of the BLS to 1820. Davis’s working title is: “The Minerva Press, Women Writers, and Authorship: 1780–1820.” Carolle Morini showcased *Books Borrowed* and older shares at the Proprietors’ luncheon in November. Member Daniel Breen gave a talk about William Smith Shaw, our first librarian, that same month, having researched the Shaw papers extensively for a couple of years. Morini organized a staff visit in January to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston’s Library to see a bookplate exhibit. We recognized many familiar historic names there. Conservation Evening secured care for five volumes of *Boston Athenæum Library Letters, 1898–1901* including letters from individuals such as the editor and author Lilian Whiting; the author, orator, and advisor to presidents Booker T. Washington; George Bernard Shaw; and the lawyer, teacher, civil servant, journalist, historian, and civil rights activist John Wesley Cromwell.

Acquisitions

Acquisitions Librarian Anthea Harrison Reilly accessioned 2,406 books, manuscripts, prints, and photographs for the Circulating and Special Collections, of which 163 were gifts. Anthea oversaw the selection of books for the Circulating Collection, leading a group of dedicated volunteer members that meets monthly. Additionally, she worked with the staffers who serve as bibliographers: Dani Crickman, Will Evans, Andy Hahn, Carolle Morini, Anthea Reilly, Arnold Serapilio, Mary Warnaement, and Hannah Weisman.

Cataloging

Cataloging Assistants Ryan Reed and Virginia Rundell continued their primary responsibilities of copy cataloging new acquisitions for the open shelves, including books, standing order series, and reference works. Together they cataloged 2,284 books. Ryan processed all the bindery shipments for the library’s new paperback monographs.

Rare Materials Catalog Librarians Kaelin Rasmussen, Graham Skinner, and Daniel Axmacher cataloged 828 new and long-held Special Collections items, including books, manuscripts, periodicals, prints, and photographs. Highlights of the new acquisitions included 87 carte de visite portraits of African American abolitionists in two albums compiled by Harriet Hayden (-1893) of Boston that involved in-depth cataloging and genealogical work, and the diary of Newport socialite and frequent Boston visitor Kate Birckhead (1843-1925), who numbered the New England writer Sarah Orne Jewett (1849-1909) among her circle of friends. The papers of Boston scion, experimental theater founder, and gay rights activist Prescott Townsend exemplify the many long-held materials to receive enhanced cataloging; that collection now has a greater probability of discovery by researchers due to the efforts of the rare materials catalogers.

All the catalogers, including Catalog Interns KL Pereira and Bailey Brunick, contributed to upgrading 620 brief bibliographic records in Athena, and the team made more than 3,386 edits to existing records to improve access to materials. The entire roster of catalogers also worked together in improving the bibliographic records of over 1,500 volumes of foreign language fiction (such as the complete works of Tolstoy in the original Russian) prior to sending the works to offsite storage. Their efforts will assist in retrieving the correct item from offsite for members should they wish to read of Pierre Bezukhov’s and Nastasha Rostova’s travails in Vóina i mir, for example.

At the very end of the previous fiscal year in September 2018, the Athenæum was awarded a grant of nearly $123,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to catalog 1,959 posters that form part of the Richard W. Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection. With this funding we hired Visual Material Cataloger Adriene Galindo to a two-year position. To date Adriene has cataloged some 642 posters, with help from her colleagues.
Serials

Serials Librarian Tom Gearty, with the assistance of Serials Intern Ashley Runnals, managed approximately 450 print resources, including magazines, journals, and newspapers, as well as more than 20 electronic databases, to which the Athenæum subscribes. In addition to checking in issues, contacting publishers for claims of non-receipt, and processing bindery shipments of periodicals, Tom and Ashley delivered in a timely manner all the print materials to their customary spots on the first and second floors of 10½ as well as the Art Department. The team also fielded many requests from members for issues that are in storage or missing.

Digital Programs

Digital Programs Librarian Pat Boulos, and Digital Interns Michelle Slater and Samantha Dodgen fulfilled hundreds of digitization requests from staff, members, and clients in 2019.

Among the largest projects of the year was creating digital surrogates of the posters in the Richard W. Cheek WWII Graphic Arts Collection. To date, there are 375 of a collection of 1,959 posters available for viewing online, with many more to follow. Another sizable, ongoing project involved the Boston Transcript Obituaries, 1830-1874. Back in 1966, volunteer Dorothy Wirth started transcribing the obituaries in that now-defunct Boston newspaper, generating what would become 38 boxes filled with typescript. As of this writing 15 of the boxes—almost 7000 images—are finished. Perhaps one of the more complicated projects involved the Hayden Albums, comprised of 87 cartes de visite portraits of African American abolitionists compiled by Bostonian Harriet Hayden. In anticipation of the scholarly interest these albums are likely to generate, the recto and verso of each carte de visite was photographed, and an additional image was taken of each portrait within the context of the albums.

Staff requests included digitizing and processing images for promotional materials for the Athenæum’s fall 2019 exhibition, the previously mentioned Required Reading: Reimagining a Colonial

When finished, the transcripts will be made available to researchers through their website.

Conservation

Chief Conservator Dawn Walus, Book Conservator Graham Patten, Paper Conservator Tatiana Cole, and Associate Conservator Evan Knight continued to care for and repair the Athenæum’s treasures. Ably assisted by von Clemm Fellow and Driscoll Family Fellow in Book Conservation, Allie Rosenthal, her successor von Clemm Fellow in Book Conservation, Greta Llanes, and steadfast volunteer Brian Bassett, the team conserved 206 Special Collections items and 94 circulating books, and constructed 251 enclosures/encapsulations. They also assisted in the preparations for Required Reading: Reimaging a Colonial Library.

Among the many objects from the Athenæum’s collections that found their way to the Conservation Lab this past year, some of the more notable include a seventeenth-century Mercator atlas, the aforementioned “Diary of Kate Birkhead” and Hayden Albums, a daguerreotype of seaman, shipping magnate, and Charlestown native James Hunnewell (1794-1869), and a chromolithograph after noted maritime painter James G. Tyler (1855-1931).


Not to be outdone, Dawn was in interviewed by Jeff Emtman for...

the podcast *Here be Monsters* in which she discussed the history, care, and ethics of the Athenæum’s infamous “Skin Book.”

**DEVELOPMENT**

Thanks to the generosity of members, proprietors, and friends of the Athenæum, fundraising for FY19 reached $1.76M. Nine hundred forty-five committed donors gave $1,171,469 in unrestricted funds. Of these donors, 528 increased their giving from the previous year and 110 gave for the first time. Two hundred fifty-five donors gave at a leadership level of $1,000, and above, an 11% increase from last year. To be expected in a year of leadership transition, the Annual Fund saw a decrease of ~6% from last year; however, the average gift increased by $85. Annual Fund gifts support our annual operating budget and are the backbone of our philanthropic endeavors. The entire library family—from curators to conservation, reference to security, and patron services—use operating funds to carry out the day-to-day work of the Athenæum. As our membership dues account for less than one fifth of the operating budget, private donations play a critical role serving our members and community each year.

The Library received more than $87,000 in support of its conservation efforts. Notable gifts for conservation this year include, the second of a three-year commitment by long-time member and Proprietor David L. Driscoll to fund the Driscoll Family Fellowship in Conservation. Additionally, for the sixteenth year in a row, the Michael and Louisa von Clemm Foundation has funded the Von Clemm Fellowship in Book Conservation. Both positions are held by recent graduates of the North Bennet Street School book-binding program and affirm the library’s essential role as a center of learning for conservation professionals. Finally, the last year occasioned our most successful Conservation Evening, an event in which our generous members helped us raise approximately $50,000.

Thirty-six members and friends of the Athenæum continued the institution’s legacy of subscription-supported campaigns by donating more than $44,000 in direct support of *Required Reading: Reimagining the Colonial Library*, an exhibition featuring the King’s Chapel Library Collection. Lead donors included The Chipstone Foundation, Hemenway & Barnes LLP, Lynne E. and Mark V. Rickabaugh, and Susan A. and Matthew B. Weatherbie. Their gifts helped the Athenæum share the unique colonial-era collection for the first time publicly, reminding visitors and members alike of the everlasting, essential role of libraries and books past and present.

Long-time member and new Proprietor James C. Buttrick generously donated $100,000 to help the Athenæum make critical enhancements to the Library’s task lighting. His goal: make it easier for members to read. Over the course of this past year, the Athenæum placed numerous additional lamps throughout the building and began the installation of new overhead lamps in the fifth-floor reading room. The Athenæum will dedicate the remaining funds to reappoint new member reading spaces that will open following the expansion into 14 Beacon Street, and other key lighting projects.

Proprietor Virginia Beatty, widow of William Kaye Beatty, who was a distinguished librarian, medical historian and accomplished scholar, established an endowment in his name. As Mrs. Beatty thought about honoring her husband’s legacy, she returned his share accompanied with a $50,000 endowment to cover its annual assessment in perpetuity.

The Boston Athenæum was fortunate to receive a number of grants this year. The Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust funded a two-year graduate fellowship, enabling the Athenæum to appoint Theo Tyson in March. The Highland Street Foundation renewed its commitment to funding Free Fun Friday, a single summer day when more than 500 visitors experience creative and engaging activities from our Children’s Library, special tours of the building, and gallery talks.

The Athenæum received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of $123,000. This federal government support is helping us catalog and prepare for exhibi-
tion 1,959 posters contained in the Richard W. Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection. The Cheek collection contains thousands of posters and maps from the Second World War, as well as ephemeral material such as board games, playing cards, pin-ups, calendars, and other realia that vigorously chronicle American culture of the mid-20th century and provide a visual and textual record of the country’s values, reflecting wartime attitudes about national identity and the nation’s role abroad.

Trustee John Everets facilitated a gift from Newman’s Own Foundation, an organization committed to supporting programs that provide equal access to human rights and contribute to the development of a civil society. The foundation granted $250,000 over five years to support the proposed Empowering Interns Program to recruit, train, and support our interns and provide them with an equitable entrance into their desired professions. Inclusive recruitment practices, movement towards a livable wage, a supportive organizational culture, and meaningful professional connections will economically and socially empower new professionals from all backgrounds to succeed in the museum, library, and cultural non-profit management professions.

The Atheneum received one notable bequest from the estate of F. Washington Jarvis in the amount of $48,000. Rev. Jarvis served as the headmaster of The Roxbury Latin School for over 30 years and held BA Share 238.

Over the last year, as the board explored the opportunity to expand into 14 Beacon, the development team moved swiftly into inviting early support of a capital project. Currently, we have $5.3 million in commitments with an additional $2.4 million in gift requests pending.

PATRON SERVICES

Membership

The Athenæum welcomed more than 546 new memberships during the year. Of those, 74 were individual memberships, 138 were family memberships, 107 were young patron individual memberships, and 66 were young patron family memberships. In total, 3,365 memberships were begun or renewed during the year for a revenue total of $1,140,794.

In April, the Board of Trustees announced membership repricing to reduce the library’s reliance on its endowment for operating revenue. (In fiscal year 2018, less than 17% of operating income came from membership dues, while about 60% came from the endowment.) The repricing—$460 for individual members and $525 for family members, with reduced rates for young members (ages 35 and under) of $310 for individuals and $375 for families—went into effect July 1 following discussions among Board members, Proprietors, members, and staff. The membership team—Molly Jarvis, Arin Lustberg, and Libby Miserendino—strove to provide excellent service throughout the year, answering daily questions and requests from Proprietors, members, and visitors and improving paperwork and processes. They implemented a well-received installment billing option enabling members to pay the annual fee over 12 months.

Communications

Many staffers contributed to our marketing and communications work via digital channels, as we sought to reduce print and mailing expenses. The bimonthly color newsletter and events listing was redesigned to fit more photos and news, and cost less to deliver. We shifted periodic event promotions from printed postcards to email. Other regular Proprietor and member mailings kept the community informed about news and events including the major Required Reading exhibition, the 14 Beacon Street expansion, the appointment of Amy Ryan as interim director, and the director search. Members, visitors, and staff contributed to a notable social media project in April, during National Poetry Month, with 19 volunteer readers presenting 25 poems in videos that showcased the BA’s architecture and reading rooms. The videos were viewed more than 9,100 times on Facebook, and engaged the Poetry Discussion Group, a range of members and staff, and Advanced Poetry students from UMass Boston, who wrote
sonnets about the Athenæum. One favorite line, from UMass poet McKenzie Hurder: “Sure, I didn’t know what ‘Athenæum’ meant prior. I learned it means magic.” Over the course of the year, our communities on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram grew a combined 15.6%, from 13,118 to 15,160 followers.

Media

Most of the year’s headlines were, appropriately, about our special collections. The Required Reading exhibition, our largest endeavor, was featured or reviewed in The Magazine Antiques in print and online; the Boston Globe, the Beacon Hill Times, the Boston Guardian, and the Boston Book Blog.

In October, WCVB/Channel 5’s “Chronicle” aired a Halloween-time segment about the 1837 Narrative of the Life of James Allen, notorious as the “skin book”—a special collections item we’d be glad to publicize less. In future, we will point curious people to the video segment online (as well as to the digital images of the book on our website).

The Boston Globe, Publishers Weekly, Fine Books & Collections Magazine, and the Beacon Hill Times wrote about the expansion into 14 Beacon Street in February. Stanford Calderwood Director Lizzie Barker’s departure was covered by the Boston Globe on February 8. In March, Chief Conservator Dawn Walus was interviewed about the James Allen book for a podcast titled Here Be Monsters. John Buchtel and Jim Feeney appeared on WCVB/Channel 5’s “Chronicle,” in a clever feature on the George Washington Library Collection. The second and fifth floor reading rooms served as backdrop for a photo shoot in March featuring Boston activist Thelma Burns, for the cover story of Boston Seniority magazine, produced and distributed around town by the mayor’s Age Strong Commission.

In April, Theo Tyson was interviewed about the Harriet Hayden albums on WCVB/Channel 5’s “CityLine.” The online edition of Smithsonian Magazine published a major feature on the albums in May, quoting John Buchtel and running a photo of Theo showing them to visitors. In June we saw ourselves listed as one of the

“World’s Best” libraries by academic/journalist website The Conversation, and the article was reprinted by Australian website ArtsHub. In August, we were part of Free Fun Friday promotional coverage in the Boston Globe, Boston.com, NBC10 Boston and Inbound/Boston.

Programming

The events team is led by Victoria O’Malley, aided by Elsa Vernon and Rachel Lanza (who departed and was replaced by Emmy Snyder in the last quarter of the fiscal year). The team supported the library’s mission by creating 100 wide-ranging opportunities for members and visitors to satisfy curiosity, experience joy, build community, and participate in civil discourse. Gratifyingly, those programs attracted 5,720 attendees. Audiences engaged with historical and present-day issues; heard inspired writers and incisive ideas; joined together for social gatherings and conversation; and examined notable items from the library’s special collections. Many events were planned in series that explored broad themes, often aligned with curatorial initiatives. They also reflected the frequent, excellent suggestions the team receives.

Knowledgeable staff from several departments led collections-based presentations throughout the year, starting in September with events related to the two Venice installations detailed above. We arranged a panel discussion on books of Renaissance Italy plus Eye of the Expert sessions that offered participants up-close experiences with three exceptional Venice-related items. These were a superb copy of John Ruskin’s Examples of the Architecture of Venice (1851); an enormous panorama showing elevations of the Grand Canal (1828); and a copy of John Craig’s Venice (Whittington Press, 2015) specially bound by James Brockman, all items too large to fit into the display cases and demanding of interaction that vitrines do not allow.

We initiated a well-received Veterans Day celebration with speeches, music, refreshments, and an opportunity to examine unique items lent by collector Richard W. Cheek, including a massive World War II-era Blue Star Banner that we displayed from the
first-floor gallery railing. We scheduled previews of the newly-acquired Harriet Hayden albums, hosted a successful Conservation Evening, and planned special sessions tied to lectures and centered on items that rewarded close viewing, such as our Abraham Lincoln-signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation and materials related to John Singer Sargent in the circle of Annie Adams Fields. Springtime Eye of the Expert sessions focused on three items with “Troubled Histories,” including the children’s story of Babar the Elephant; an 1839 political caricature of John Quincy Adams, Haitian diplomats, and Massachusetts abolitionists; and World War II posters depicting women on the American homefront. The fiscal year ended with opening festivities for the Required Reading exhibition in mid-September.

Special panels brought together experts and members for lively interactions: in November, we hosted a timely discussion of cybersecurity with Robert Mook, Jeff Pegues, Debora Plunkett, and David Sanger. In December, we welcomed creators from public radio’s The Moth Story Hour for a session on storytelling. In May, a “What’s It Worth?” panel about art and value featured the lively insights of scholars and critics from Christie’s USA, Harvard, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Boston Globe.

Partners such as the Royal Oak Foundation, GrubStreet, Vilna Shul, Boston Lyric Opera, the Boston Literary District, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, the English-Speaking Union, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the Somerset Club, as well as curators from the Cape Ann Museum, helped us create a roster of dynamic, varied programs. Nearly every month, a Member’s Choice event brought together attendees to learn about one member’s passion, from Julius Caesar to bitcoin. In May, joining the statewide ArtWeek celebration, we spotlighted our 170-year-old façade in glowing colors as part of a “Light Up the Night” salute to the arts.

Over the year we explored two major program themes. First, Undermining Racism brought us insightful programs with Brandon M. Terry, Clennon King, and Gretchen Sullivan Sorin, who each examined the ways Americans navigated and changed social structures designed to limit their civil rights. Second, A Brick In Hand: LGBTQ Liberation Past and Present examined societal strides toward inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness, from the Stonewall Riots to the state of the movement today. That series featured Michael Bronski, Catherine Bell, Casey Dooley, Kate Sosin, and Robert W. Fieseler, who wrote his book, Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Upstairs Lounge Fire and Gay Liberation, in our reading rooms.

Endowed lectures addressed the art of Winslow Homer and the interactions of land, water, and climate change in Boston. Long Room audiences appreciated hearing from prominent authors including Stephen Greenblatt, Jarrett Krosoczka, Jack Gantos, Susan Orlean, Nathaniel Philbrick, Steven Pinker, Mary Norris, Emily Bazelon and Adam Foss, Elizabeth Cobb, and Evan Thomas with Oscie Thomas.

Community events were held throughout the year: director’s and president’s coffee hours; three Room to Flourish presentations detailing expansion plans into 14 Beacon Street; two pop-up book shops featuring the librarians’ expert advice on holiday and summertime reads; the third annual Trivia Night, a Martini Movie Night with the Alfred Hitchcock classic, Rebecca; special events for Proprietors, donors, and volunteers; and an Open House that attracted more than 500 people.

The team managed an exceptional year of rentals, generating $191,000 in revenue from 15 events large and small, while striving to minimize disruptions to members. We hosted some annual guests like the Lafayette Society and, at the very end of the fiscal year, welcomed a Netflix crew for a forthcoming family movie, The Sleepover.

Education

The Athenæum’s Education work, directed by Hannah Weisman, provides regular opportunities for people to tour the historic landmark building, engage closely with the special collections, and explore the stories our collections have to tell.

Docents and staff engaged more than 1,000 visitors and members through public Art and Architecture and Up Close tours. On
August 23, staff from all departments and volunteers welcomed more than 500 visitors to the first floor during the Athenæum’s fourth annual Free Fun Friday, sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation.

Docents and staff led 58 private tours for groups including 4th and 5th graders from Devereaux at Waring School, UMass Boston graduate students, two Boston City Councillors, and Temple Israel’s Lifelong Learners. Twenty-three of those group visits included viewing or working with materials in special collections.

Emma Newcombe, Ph.D., returned to the Athenæum in July as the Mudge Education Fellow to co-lead, with Mary Warnement and Hannah Weisman, a two-day workshop for educators on teaching with primary sources. Nine regional educators representing primary, secondary, and higher education from public and independent schools participated in “Primary Sources in the Classroom: Teaching the Civil War:”

Elise Faucher, Haggerty School
Brittanie Weatherbie Greco, University of Massachusetts Boston
Ann-Marie Keltner, Park Street School
Barbara Lewis, University of Massachusetts Boston
Janis Marchese, Waltham High School
Jennifer McDonald, Upper Cape Regional Vocational Technical High School
Sarah Novogrodsky, Haggerty School
Sean Smith, Weston High School
Lia Xu, University of Massachusetts Boston

Doctoral candidate Arthur Kamya served as the Academic Programs Intern thanks to a renewed partnership with Boston University Center for the Humanities. During his internship, Kamya prepared the syllabus for our 2020 workshop on women’s history.

The education team worked closely with the curatorial department on the exhibition Required Reading: Reimagining a Colonial Library. Weisman coordinated the engagement of ten community partners to curate the replica cabinet at the center of the exhibition. Each of the ten partners—Boston City Council President Andrea Campbell, Chinese Historical Society of New England, Hebrew College, Institute for Human Centered Design, King’s Chapel, Museum of African American History, North Bennet Street School, Twelfth Baptist Church, University of Massachusetts Boston, and Women’s Foundation of Boston—provided its own “required reading” list reflecting organizational perspectives and values. The titles from the partners’ lists populated the replica cabinet, broadening the discussion of what constitutes “essential knowledge” and offering exhibition visitors an opportunity to reflect on their own understanding of it in the context of other contemporary views. Programming with community partners continued throughout the exhibition’s run.

Several docents and Rare Materials Catalog Librarian Daniel Axmacher trained with Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections John Buchtel and Weisman to lead gallery talks in the exhibition, also offered weekly for the exhibition’s duration.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For anyone searching for Systems department news, look no further. The Systems department changed its name to the Information Technology department at the start of the fiscal year.

We made various changes to library software over the year. First and foremost, the Boston Athenæum implemented special collections management and tracking software, Aeon, from Atlas Systems, gaining a more granular view of the movement of objects in special collections. The scheduling system is well known to scholars and has been implemented by many other libraries housing rare materials. Not long after our own adoption of Aeon, IT aided staff of the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum in their switch to Aeon. In addition to this new software, the digital collections website, which runs on CONTENTdm from OCLC, was upgraded to a responsive design that is both easier to navigate and faster to load.
We updated some of the research tools available via the website. We resolved an issue with exporting entries from Athena, the online catalog, to RIS format for use with such applications as EndNote and Zotero. Various electronic resources including Project Muse were updated to use secure connections via https.

In May our Internet service provider replaced some network infrastructure equipment in an effort to resolve connectivity issues that would arise occasionally during inclement weather.

Website

A “what’s on view?” feature was added to the Paintings & Sculpture Online section of the website. Now website visitors can discover what paintings and sculptures are currently on display throughout the library. The most popular pages on the website were Hours & Admission, Join or Renew, the Calendar, and Mission & History.

We added 32 new video recordings and 30 audio recordings of events over the course of the year.

SECURITY

To demonstrate our commitment to safety and security we made significant advancements in this area in 2019. We developed a program called the “Fast Track Program” designed to train and develop security officers to perform at a high level. Our security officers are highly visible and patrol the interior and exterior, responding to emergencies, observing and reporting suspicious persons and or activities, providing assistance, and maintaining a presence during hours of operation and after hours when necessary.

Security conducted annual internal audit(s) and risk assessments, and provided comprehensive data with recommendations to address our needs for the future to better safeguard our collection. This included reviews of the Vendor Management practices and developing procedures for proper vetting and accountability thus limiting risk and exposure. We conducted quarterly after hours testing of our systems including alarm monitoring, and selected a new vendor to provide those services going forward.

Security expanded the Life Safety platform with a new course, “The First Five Minutes,” offered for staff who want to be prepared when caught in the wrong place at the wrong time when a random violent act or natural disaster takes place. This course covered a variety of topics including how to stay safe and recognize and manage life-threatening emergencies if they occur to you or others. This will become part of our annual model which includes First Aid/CPR/AED, Active Shooter, MOAB, and Evacuation training.

Security created new policies and procedures for emergency access, employee access, employee onboarding and out-processing. We revised Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery Plans as well as the communication process. We introduced Dialmymcalls, an emergency notification and warning system used to alert staff that emergency conditions exist that threaten health and/or safety; and to provide protective action recommendations.

We began strategic planning in preparation for the 14 Beacon expansion—security design, vendor selection and security for both spaces during construction. We identified outsourcing needs for security support of the project and established system integration plans with our landlord.

We maintained relationships with the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, the Boston Police Department District A-1, and Crime Prevention/Neighborhood Watch programs. We renewed membership affiliation with American Society for Industrial Security and International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection for security training, workshops and professional development.

FACILITIES

Director of Facilities Chris Silva continued proactive projects to maintain and protect our building. We went through our first full year with the new chillers and cooling plant, resulting in savings and improved reliability. Since their installation we’ve seen an encouraging decrease in our utility expenses; electricity cost us
$50,000, which is 16.5% less than the prior year, and steam expenses were $28,000, down 18%. While fluctuations are caused partly by factors we can’t control, i.e. weather and utility rates, the current costs are headed in the right direction.

We made multiple updates to our Engineering Computer Control Systems (Apogee/Siemens), providing fine-grained control and reliable, precise readings of conditions in our collection spaces. We completed an extensive evaluation of the building’s exterior and developed a comprehensive approach to its preservation and repair.

Facilities staff worked with colleagues to initiate a sustainability program, seeking to use renewable resources throughout the building where possible. To control spending, we continued to consolidate maintenance contracts and seek out opportunities for savings.

The Facilities team earns plaudits especially for their tireless work planning for the 14 Beacon expansion and protecting the Athenæum’s spaces, holdings, and people. The building’s owner, Faros Properties, commenced demolition projects to update interiors during the fiscal year, including the removal of stubborn terracotta tile from walls abutting 10½. This work necessitated the relocation of some collections items in storage to protect them from vibrations, dust, or other hazards.

The facilities staff worked with colleagues and Boston Code Enforcement to address accessibility and safety upgrades to the building.

Finally, we applied fresh coats of paint to the main stairwell, the Calderwood Gallery, and the Sitting Room.

PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS

Transitions and Milestones

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Barker stepped down as the Stanford Calderwood Director. At a festive party in early March, the staff and Athenæum community honored and thanked Lizzie for her accomplishments and dedication throughout her four years as director.

In September 2019, Amy Ryan stepped into the role of interim Stanford Calderwood Director. Ryan brings greater than thirty years of library leadership experience and serves on both the facilities committee and the search committee for the new director.

After working for more than two years as the Executive Assistant to the Director, Emily Cure was promoted to Chief of Staff.

The Development department welcomed Madison “Maddie” Mott to the team as the Development Coordinator. Mott graduated from Brown University with a Master’s degree in Public Humanities. Rachel Wentworth, who had been working as the Development Intern, was hired as the Grants and Annual Fund Associate, a new position that focuses on revenue generation.

Andria Lauria, who worked in the IT department for eight years, most recently as the Systems Administrator and Web Developer, left to pursue a position in higher education. Brian James Wanders was promoted from Systems Technician to the Assistant Systems Administrator.

The Finance department parted ways with Jeff Ferguson, who worked as the Accounts Receivable Assistant.

During the past year, the Special Collections department welcomed two new employees. In February, Melissa Krok-Horton started in a new role as the Collections and Exhibition Technician. Krok-Horton holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and History of Art. Theo Tyson was appointed as the Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art and Culture for two years. Tyson is a curator and scholar who brings decades of experience in clothing, fashion, and art, in addition to holding a Master of Arts in Luxury Fashion and Management.

After six years as the Associate Conservator in the Conservation Lab, Evan Knight concluded his time at the Athenæum and accepted a Preservation Specialist role at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The staff threw an afternoon tea party to wish Evan well in his new role. The department was joined by Graham Patten, who started as the new Book Conservator. Patten graduated from Buffalo State College with his Masters of Arts,

Technical Services received an IMLS grant to fund a new position devoted to cataloging posters from the Richard Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection. Adriene Galindo, who has worked at the Athenæum since 2014, accepted the Rare Visual Materials Catalog Librarian role and has been working diligently to catalog all the posters.

The Events department wished Rachel Lanza good luck as she transitioned to a role at the Brattle Film Foundation after working as the Events Assistant for almost two years. Emmalie Snyder, who holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a certificate in Event Management, joined the department as the new Events Assistant in the summer. After four years of working as the Technical Coordinator of Events, Deborah “Elsa” Vernon was promoted to Manager of Events.

After Ismael Alvarado accepted another job, the Facilities department welcomed Jose Brizuela as the new Building Caretaker. Brizuela brings over a decade of maintenance experience.

Tyrone Smith, previously the Director of Security, was promoted to the Director of Safety and Security. The Security Department parted ways with Officers Cindy Bistoury, Zoë Burnett, Courtney McIntosh, Kyle Myles, and Nelson Navarro Salguero. We also bid farewell to Elizabeth McCullough, a Security Officer of three years, who moved to Spain. The department welcomed three new Security Officers, Bruno Faria, Sostheng Kituyi, and Durrell Thomas, and a new Security Supervisor, Prince Smith. Faria holds a Masters in Music Composition. Kituyi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Thomas brings more than four years of security experience. Smith has over thirteen years of Security experience throughout various industries.

Athenæum employees have been fortunate to work alongside the following individuals over the past year:

**Interns**
Jacqueline Bateman  
Bailey Brunick  
Olimpia Carias  
Adam Derington

Samantha Dodgen  
Samantha Gill  
Kurt Grewal  
Daria Hafner

**Conservation**
Arthur Kamya  
Hannah Knight  
Keri Lehtonen  
Jenni McDonald  
Daniel Norton  
KL Pereira  
Ashley Runnals  
Christopher Russell  
Robert Sanford, Jr.  
Michelle Slater  
Carly Stevens  
Rachel Wentworth

**Temporary Staff**
Tatiana Cole

**Driscoll Family Fellow**
Allison Rosenthal

**Von Clemen Fellows**
Allison Rosenthal  
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Mark A. Plakias and Carolyn S. Plakias
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Ann and Frank Porter
Anne and François Poulet
Nancy D. Israel and Lonnie A. Powers
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Barbara S. Rappaport
Richard W. Ray
Robert Redfern-West
Jay Reeg
Donna Maria Regis
Sally Reid and John Sigel
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Timothy P. Roach
Laura Selene Rockefeller
Nancy Roosa and Alex Moot
Joanna and Daniel Rose
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Paul Greenfield and Sandra Steele
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Diana T. Strange
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Harbourne W. Stuart, Jr.
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Carolyn King and Thomas Tarpey
W. K. Tchou
Karen O. Teller
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Judith Ogden Thomson
John L. Thorndike
Michael and Nancy Tooke
Paul J. Tortolani and Beth C. Tortolani
Bruce Twickler
John W. Tyler
Joseph Peter Spang
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Michael Zoob
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Alex Aho
Robert Allison and Nancy Sullivan
Laura Richardson
AmazonSmile Foundation
Sally B. and David Ames
Nancy and James Anderson
Nancy Axmacher
Stewart Barns
Ingrid Bassett and Robert Morris
Barbara and George Putnam Beal
Karin Waterman and Thomas R. Beecher
J. Kermit and Glenys G. Birchfield
David Bonnett
John and Betsy Burbank
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Reports for 2019

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David Wean
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Nancy Zimmermann

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Terence Janericco
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The Overlook Fund
Sheafe Satterthwaite
Jane Moulton Stahl
Ann B. Teixeira
Deborah Jackson Weiss and Scott T. Weiss
Kathryn and Robert G. Windsor

Other Giving

Gifts to Conservation
Anonymous
Katharine and Rodney Armstrong
W. Timothy and Ruth S. Carey
Professor Debbie Chachra
Maria Daniels
Deborah Coleman Diggins and Timothy W. Diggins
Amy Conklin and Mark Dolny
David L. Driscoll
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Stephen O’Brien
Connie and Arthur Page
Jennifer Pellecchia and Konstantine Prevas
Loumona Petroff

Bequests
The Boston Athenæum received a bequest from the following estate. Many people who leave these types of gifts are members of the John Bromfield Society.

Estate of F. Washington Jarvis

Tribute Gifts
Gifts were made in memory of the following people during the fiscal year:

Ruth Abrams
Suzannah C. Ames
Deborah Brewster Berg
Leo E. Driscoll
Kahlil G. Gibran
Tom McCormick
David Murphee
Gifts were made in honor of the following people during the fiscal year:

- Eric Bacon
- John and Barbara Hanify
- Terence Janericco
- The Staff of the Boston Athenæum
- Mary Warnement
- Rachel K. Wentworth

Matching Gift Programs
Many companies and foundations provide a program that encourages their employees or trustees to make philanthropic gifts to charities of their choice. As they made gifts to various initiatives this year, our members and friends participated in matching gift programs provided by the following:

- Anonymous (2)
- Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Fiduciary Trust Company
- Google, Inc.
- John Hancock Financial Services
- Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- Millennium Pharmaceuticals Matching Gift Program
- Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts
- Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.
- State Street Matching Gifts Program
- Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation

Anonymous (15)
- Lyn Ackerly
- James Aisner
- Philip R. Bishop/Mosher Books
- Zoe Burnett
- Andrew Cameron
- Carolee Campbell/Ninja Press
- Daniel Campbell-Benson
- William Clendaniel
- Lina Coffey
- James Connelly
- Rose F. Connelly
- Thomas G. Connolly
- Stanley E. Cushing
- Jessica Dello Russo
- Will Evans
- Owen Gallagher
- Gilbert Family
- Robert Glauber
- Richard J. Guthrie
- John Hanson

Beverly Heinle in memory of Charles A. S. Heinle
- Bonnie Howard
- Elizabeth Jarcy
- Liza Ketchum
- Stephen K. Krause
- Stephen Kunian
- Craig Lentz
- Arthur Licata
- Robin Lincoln
- Peter Logan
- Sally Makacynas
- Maureen Marcucci
- Franklin B. Mead
- Marlene Meyer
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Sidney and Geoffrey Kenyon
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Dave Edmond Lounsbury, M.D.
Jennifer Pellecchia and Konstantine Prevas
Amy E. Ryan and Harold J. Carroll

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Dale and Thomas Bray
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Katherine Dimancescu
Darlene and Mark Jarrell
Kendra and Patrick O’Donnell
Elizabeth and Robert Owens
Lawrence T. Perera
Jay Reeg
Elizabeth and Peter Thomson
Nancy Bailey Riegel

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Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.
Alan M. Cody
Basie Gitlin
Andrea Golden and J. Barry McManus
Ellen M. Harrington
Pamela Ikauniks
Michael P. Jugenheimer and Joseph T. Giorgianni
Bridget J. Keane and Ryan Kiessling
Richard Kopley and Amy Golahny
Sue and Chris Livesay
Melinda A. Merino and Gary E. Riccio
Alicia and Peter Moore

Gifts in Kind
Philip R. Bishop
Carolee Campbell
Jessica Dello Russo
Murray Dewart
Jean Gibran
Liza Ketchum
Peter L. Stern

Gifts to Required Reading: Reimagining a Colonial Library
Curator’s Circle
The Chipstone Foundation
Exhibition Loyalists
Hemenway & Barnes, LLP
Susan A. and Matthew B. Weatherbie
Lynne E. and Mark V. Rickabaugh

Reports for 2019
We are presenting here a summarized financial report. This format enables us to save the considerable costs required to reproduce the statements, notes and supplemental schedules in a print-friendly format. The complete financial statement package, exactly as received from our auditors, is available on the Publications page of our website.

The endowment ended the year valued at $89,920,850—a decrease of $2,215,770 from the prior-year value of $92,136,620. The decrease is the result of a total investment return, net of fees, of $2,209,753, transfers of $237,447, and contributions to the endowment of $68,712, offset by appropriations for current operations of $4,731,682.

The year ended with a significant operating deficit in assets without donor restriction before depreciation and amortization of ($325,441). This follows a prior year operating deficit of ($24,743). The current year deficit was driven by decreases in contributions, gifts and grants, without donor restriction; decreases in membership dues revenue; and increases in salaries, payroll taxes, and fringe benefits. While overall contribution gifts and grants—a category that includes non-operating contributions and contributions with donor restrictions—increased $3,739,657, or 200%, from $1,861,425 in 2019 to $5,601,082, this was primarily due to gifts designated for the capital campaign. Contributions gifts and grants without donor restriction, as well as revenue from membership dues, decreased. These reductions are partly the result of a continuing decline in the number of active memberships and a consequent contraction of the donor pool. The decreases in membership dues were partially offset by an increase in membership rates. Operating revenue from contribution, gifts and grants without donor restriction decreased $150,688, or 11%, from $1,322,157 in 2018 to $1,171,469 in 2019. Membership dues revenue decreased $51,898, or 4%, from $1,192,692 in 2018 to $1,140,794 in 2019. Salaries, payroll taxes, and fringe benefits increased $438,896. Approximately $225,000 or 51% of that increase was due to one-time or temporary costs associated with staffing transitions. Ap-

†Deceased as of September 30, 2019
proximately $90,000 or 21% of the increase was due to the addition of fully grant-funded positions. Approximately $80,000 or 18% of the increase was due to cost of living adjustments for existing staff. Approximately $45,000 or 10% was due to the net effect of position vacancies in either year, increases in benefit premiums, changes in benefit enrollments, and other changes.

To improve operating results in the FY2020 budget, management is focusing more intently on member recruitment, member retention, and donor development efforts. To limit expenses, staffing has been reduced through attrition and reorganization.

We recognize that the library needs to decrease appropriations from the endowment for its long-term health. For the year ended on September 30, 2019, the Boston Athenæum relied on the endowment to cover 59% of operating expenses. To reduce this draw, the organization will continue to strengthen revenue from other sources, acquiring and retaining dues-paying members, rebuilding the community to the size it was five years ago, and continuing to rent library spaces for carefully-considered private events.

With the ongoing commitment and vision of our generous members, we will continue to sustain the vital mission of the Boston Athenæum for generations to come.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, gifts and grants</td>
<td>$1,171,469</td>
<td>$1,322,157</td>
<td>-150,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues revenue</td>
<td>$1,140,794</td>
<td>$1,192,692</td>
<td>-51,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and other program revenue</td>
<td>$93,133</td>
<td>$102,271</td>
<td>-9,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental and other non-program revenue</td>
<td>$186,403</td>
<td>$118,076</td>
<td>$68,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations from board-designated funds</td>
<td>$73,775</td>
<td>$135,953</td>
<td>-62,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>$299,859</td>
<td>$135,953</td>
<td>$163,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$2,919,133</td>
<td>$2,923,149</td>
<td>-4,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, payroll taxes and fringe benefits</td>
<td>$4,904,974</td>
<td>$4,466,078</td>
<td>$438,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and occupancy (excluding depreciation)</td>
<td>$1,167,093</td>
<td>$1,297,717</td>
<td>-130,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services, legal, audit and professional fees</td>
<td>$658,338</td>
<td>$616,203</td>
<td>$42,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptions, travel and entertainment expenses</td>
<td>$364,178</td>
<td>$379,866</td>
<td>-15,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, office and postage expenses</td>
<td>$14,220</td>
<td>$13,250</td>
<td>$970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations from the endowment -5,057,123</td>
<td>4,731,682</td>
<td>4,316,553</td>
<td>-36,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets released from restrictions -325,441</td>
<td>-24,743</td>
<td>-300,704</td>
<td>-276,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$7,976,256</td>
<td>$7,264,445</td>
<td>$711,811</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decrease in Net Assets</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decrease from operating activities before appropriations from the endowment</td>
<td>$2,923,149</td>
<td>$2,923,149</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations from the endowment</td>
<td>$2,919,133</td>
<td>$2,923,149</td>
<td>-$4,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in Net Assets</td>
<td>$2,919,133</td>
<td>$2,923,149</td>
<td>-$4,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- This statement includes operating revenue without donor restriction and operating expenses only.
- All other funds are accounted for separately.
- The market value of the endowment on September 30, 2019 was $89,209,499.