DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As the days shorten and cool, 10½ Beacon Street offers a welcome refuge. In the Long Room this month, we welcome essayist and cultural critic Ilan Stavans; English professor George Hovis; and Brazilian ensemble Choro Bastardo. In the gallery, we present an exhibition of Maps, Charts, & Plans; and in the art department, a new installation of painted and sculpted portrait miniatures.

On the website, we've recently completed the digitization of the Boston Directory, and -- just in time for the holiday shopping season -- enriched our staff and reader-to-reader book recommendations. Of course, for anyone interested in history, art, literature, and ideas, a one-year Athenæum Membership is an incomparable gift.

We look forward to seeing you here in person the days ahead, and we hope, too, that you'll take the Athenæum with you in your travels, by taking advantage of our remote offerings, including event recordings, the book mailing service, and discounted admission to more than 800 other cultural institutions through North America. Happy Holidays!

Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.
Stanford Calderwood Director

P.S. Did you know that Membership dues cover less than 19% of our annual operating
expenses? We rely on Annual Fund support to make possible everything we do. Thank you for considering including the Boston Athenæum in your philanthropic priorities this year.

**GLIMPSED AT 10½**

During last month's "Eye of the Expert: An Evening of Mystery and Mayhem" program, Stanley Ellis Cushing, Anne C. and David J. Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, discusses a print of the front elevation of the Massachusetts State Prison in Charlestown where James Allen (alias George Walton), the highwayman of the BA's infamous "Skin Book," died.

Due to popular demand, this program will be repeated in the new year on Thursdays January 7 and February 4.

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**Selected UPCOMING EVENTS** (click each title to read full details)

- **M**-Members only
- **P**-Open to the Public
- **R**-Reception
- **F**-Free event

**DREAMS OF THE RED PHOENIX**

Thursday, December 3, 12-1 pm
Book talk with award-winning novelist Virginia Pye
*This event will take place at the Congregational Library & Archives at 14 Beacon Street.*

**LET'S GET SPIRITED**
*Young Patrons Sponsored Tasting Event*
Tuesday, December 8, 6-7:30 pm
Reception featuring samples from local distilleries, Bully Boy, Short Path Distillery, and GrandTen Distilling

**QUIXOTE**
*The Novel and the World*
Book talk with Amherst College Professor, essayist, cultural critic, and translator Ilan Stavans

**CHORO BASTARDO**

Wednesday, December 16, 6-7 pm
Concert of original compositions and arrangements

P R  Members $15  Non-Members $30

**AFTERNOON TEA**

Thursday, December 17, 3-4:30 pm
An afternoon complete with scrumptious sweets, delectable treats, and freshly-brewed teas

M  Members $75

**ORNAMENT MAKING**

Saturday, December 5, 11 am-12 pm
Stop by to decorate the Athenæum tree, and make ornaments to take home. Recommended for families with children ages three and older.

View a complete listing of upcoming Children's Library Events.
The Athenæum recently acquired *Interior with Figure, Antwerp* by Otto Grundmann. Grundmann, who had his earliest artistic training in his native Dresden, came to America in 1876 to accept the directorship of the new School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. He served in that role, and as a highly respected teacher, until his death in 1890. He specialized in genre painting (scenes of everyday life) in the tradition of seventeenth-century Dutch masters such as Vermeer. This recent acquisition, the first painting by this important Boston artist to enter the Athenæum's collection, is in every way characteristic of his work. The painting can be viewed in the sitting room off of the hallway leading to the Children's Library.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

- **PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE CHECKLIST** For the first time ever, complete
checklists of the Athenæum's collections of paintings and sculpture are available online -- a first step towards our long-term goal of making a searchable online catalogue available to members and researchers around the world.

- **ART PERIODICALS** The organization of art periodicals is complete! Readers will find their favorites in an attractive, well-organized, and freshly painted space outside the Upper Pilgrim elevator, just steps from their former location in the art reference section.

- **CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE** The Athenæum is proud to support Cradles to Crayons again this year. Help promote youth literacy! Drop off new and gently-used books in the Athenæum's vestibule by Friday, December 18. Items donated this holiday season will be used throughout the year to create KidPacks that are hand-selected with care to meet a local child's specific needs.

- **SATURDAY TOURS** In addition to twice-weekly tours every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 pm, the Athenæum is pleased to offer three additional Saturday tours this month on December 5, 12, and 19. The tours are free an open to the public. Registration is required. Space is limited; register today!

- **PHONE BOOTHs** Looking for a place to sneak away to make a phone call? Try out our vintage-phone-booths-re-purposed-as-mobile-phone-use-stations that have been installed in the hallway leading to the Children's Library. Phone calls can also be placed in the vestibule of the building. Otherwise, elsewhere in the building, including the outdoor terraces, talking on mobile phones is prohibited.

- **NEW FACE** The Athenæum is pleased to welcome Graham Skinner, Cataloging Assistant (formerly a Digital Programs Intern) to the staff.

- **TERRACES** As of Monday, November 30, the second and fifth-floor terraces have been closed for the season.

**DOWN IN THE DUMPS**

*Reader to Reader Recs*

In Athenæum jargon, the "dump" refers to re-shelving area on every floor. Members in the know have been perusing these shelves for years. Can't make it into the building for this serendipitous search? Don't fret. View our weekly list online for reader-to-reader recommendations.

Recent titles found down in the dumps, include:

*Free Food for Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee; *Hard Times Require Furious Dancing: New Poems* by Walker Lee, foreword and illustrations by Shiloh McCloud; and *Not I: Memoirs of a German Childhood* by Joachim C. Fest.
JUST UPLOADED

Miss Mary Beard last month? Watch her presentation on Vimeo or listen to it on SoundCloud or iTunes.

Recordings of most 2015 events are now available. Future recordings will typically become available within 48 hours after the events.

CLOSURES

Thursday, December 3, Fifth Floor Only, Closed All Day
Friday, December 4, Early Closing at 2 pm
Thursday, December 24, Early Closing at 1 pm
Friday, December 25, Christmas Day, Closed All Day
Thursday, December 31, Early Closing at 1 pm
Friday, January 1, New Years Day, Closed All Day