



## In This Issue

[Lincoln-related Materials](#)

[New Reader Space: Third Floor](#)

[Recently Cataloged: WWI Sketchbooks](#)

## Announcement

Please note: the Athenæum will be open regular hours on the weekend of Saturday, April 4, and Sunday, April 5.

The Athenæum will be closed Monday, April 20, for Patriots' Day.

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[Children's Library](#)

## Director's Letter

As the days grow longer, and green shoots sprout from chilled soil, the Athenæum is preparing for a colorful spring. The introduction of additional reader seating on the quiet third floor is already proving to be successful, even before the finishing touches of furniture and lighting are fully in place. Our project in the vestibule remains on schedule for late spring completion, and in response to members' requests, we will freshen the fifth-floor lounge with a clean coat of paint. Heeding your candid comments, we have returned the freestanding new books shelves to the Bow Room, and arranged to keep newspapers and many magazines in the Gordon Room, where we hope you will continue to read beginning at 8:30 each morning.



I am myself immersed in timely reading, of the verbatim transcripts from the recent visioning sessions, and of the nearly 250 pages of survey contributions—texts that comprise an invaluable resource for our operational planning. To all of you who participated by those means, or who made the time to write or speak with me: Thank you. I look forward to reporting periodically (in this newsletter, in the events booklet, and on the operational planning pages of our website) on our progress in bringing your good ideas to fruition, and to returning to you as additional questions related to those ideas arise in the months and years ahead.



In the meantime, I hope we will see much of you in the immediate future. The month of April features several appealing programs presented by Athenæum colleagues, including no fewer than three offered by Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings and Sculpture and Director of Exhibitions, Dr. David B. Dearing: an Evening with a Curator presentation of works from the collection; a gallery talk about the American Neoclassic

## Exhibitions

## Events Calendar

### New Locations for Art Reference and Travel

The Athenæum's reference books on architecture and art have been moved from the basement to the second floor, where the main reference collection resides.

The 14-day travel books have been moved from the second floor to the first-floor Bow Room, in the alcove by elevator #2, next to the new book stands.

### Featured Events

Please check the [calendar](#) or your booklet for the full winter schedule. If you find these events interesting, you may wish to browse these [books related to events](#).

Book Talk: Laura Snyder, *Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing*

Tuesday, Apr. 7,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Octavia Randolph, *Unlucky in Love: John Ruskin's Disastrous Romantic Life*

Wednesday, Apr. 8,  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Lecture: Matt Wrbican, *The Curious, Yet Extensive, Contributions by Andy Warhol to the Discipline of*

Sculpture exhibition (recently mentioned in the [New York Times](#)), and an [illustrated lecture](#) on Boston's public sculpture. Catharina Slautterback, Curator of Prints and Photographs, will lead another [Evening with a Curator](#), and Chief Conservator Dawn Walus will offer a tour of the Conservation Lab.

Grammarians will delight in [Mary Norris's](#) "Confessions of a Comma Queen." Historians will relish [Terry Golway's](#) consideration of Tammany Hall and [Kirsten Downey's](#) reassessment of Isabella of Castile. Admirers of artists' books can savor [Matt Wrbican's](#) consideration of Andy Warhol's book designs. Lovers of art will enjoy [Laura Snyder's](#) talk on Vermeer's use of lenses, [Octavia Randolph's](#) exploration of Ruskin's romantic travails, and [Carol Troyen's](#) consideration of Georgia O'Keefe and Rebecca Strandt.

Families with children are invited to gather for songs and stories, the [Young Readers' Book Group](#), a talk by author [Lynn Cullen](#); and a meeting of the [Lego, Chess and Puzzle Club](#). Animal lovers, design aficionados, and Anglophiles can converge on [Gareth Williams's](#) lecture on dogs in the English country house. [Afternoon tea](#) and an oyster and wine tasting round out the month's offering of events. At 10½ Beacon Street, April promises to be anything but "the cruellest month."

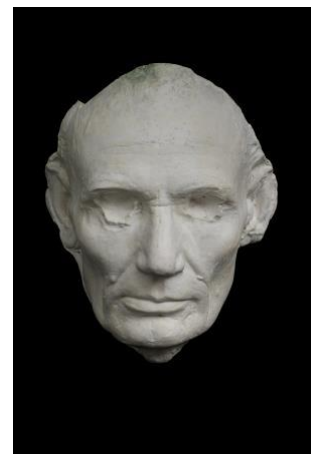
Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.  
Stanford Calderwood Director

Credit for image above: Elizabeth E. Barker on the second floor spiral staircase (Mark Ritter, 2014)

Credit for image below: New laptop table on third-floor gallery in Bow Room (Mary Warnement, 2015)

### Lincoln-related Materials on Display

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, a selection of Lincoln-related material from the Athenæum's collections is on view in the Art Department (basement level) through May 31. Among the objects in the installation are a cast of the life-mask of Lincoln made in 1860, several engravings related to the assassination, and a selection of mourning pins issued at Lincoln's death.



David B. Dearing, Ph.D.  
The Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings & Sculpture and  
Director of Exhibitions

### the Book

Thursday, Apr. 9,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk in conjunction with  
Royal Oak Society: Gareth  
Williams, *House and  
Hound: Dogs in the  
English Country House*  
Monday, Apr. 13,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Mary Norris,  
*Between You & Me:  
Confessions of a Comma  
Queen*  
Tuesday, Apr. 14,  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Lecture: David Dearing, *Here Today, Gone  
Tomorrow: Boston's  
Public Sculpture on the  
Move*  
Wednesday, Apr. 15,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Afternoon Tea**  
Thursday, Apr. 16,  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Evening with a Curator:  
Catharina Slauterback,  
**Curator of Prints and  
Photographs**  
Tuesday, Apr. 21,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Lecture in conjunction with  
the Polly Thayer Starr  
Charitable Trust: Carol  
Troyen, **The Sisterhood of  
the Traveling Palette**  
Wednesday, Apr. 22,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Terry Golway,  
*Machine Made*  
Thursday, Apr. 23,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Children's Book Talk: Lynn  
Cullen, *Dear Mr.  
Washington*  
Saturday, Apr. 25,

Credit for image above: Leonard Wells Volk (1828-1895), Life Mask of Abraham Lincoln, 1860. Plaster. Boston Athenæum, Gift of the Subscription Fund to Purchase the Original Cast by Volk for the US Government, 1886

## New Reader Space: Third Floor

Two laptop tables have been added to the third-floor gallery level in the Bow Room.



A larger table with two chairs is now located in the first alcove to the right through the archway from the third-floor Bow Room into the Long Room.



And chairs are provided in the first and second alcoves on the left in the Long Room

11:00 a.m. - Noon

Book Talk: Kirsten Downey,  
*Isabella: The Warrior Queen*  
Thursday, Apr. 30,  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

### How to Request a Book

The Athenæum collects widely in the humanities (see our [collection development policy](#)) and welcomes suggestions for purchase from its well-read members. We ask for a book review but are happy to help you find one. You can submit something to the binder at the Circulation Desk or use the [online form](#) to request it from the comfort of your home.

If you supply your name, we can let you know whether the book has been ordered, and you can put a hold on it. If it is not ordered, you can always request it through [interlibrary loan](#).

### Fellowships

The Boston Athenæum offers competitive fellowships to those interested in using its collections for research or creative purposes. Please note the due date for the five fellowship is April 15.

Check the [fellowship webpage](#) for details, requirements, and conditions of each.

### Past Exhibition: Over Here

Did you miss seeing the



We hope you enjoy using these new areas as we continue to experiment with what works best.

### Recently Cataloged: Lucien Jonas WWI sketchbooks

While enhancing cataloging records for Athenæum rare materials, I came across five reproductions of World War I sketchbooks of the artist Lucien Jonas (1880-1947). Jonas, who at the age of 35 enlisted as a military painter attached to the Musée de l'Armée, was sent to the Front where he painted 800 panels in oil and produced almost 4,000 drawings, many of which were ultimately widely reproduced during the war. A series of thirteen volumes of facsimile sketchbooks from these drawings were published in Paris by Librairie Dorbonainé from 1915 to 1918. The editions were limited to approximately 500 copies (the number varied by volume), some being in black and white, some in color, and deluxe editions containing both color and black and white images. The Athenæum purchased three black and white and two color volumes. Each volume has a linen cover with the title printed to mimic the hand-written, signed cover by the artist. The drawings are chiefly portraits of soldiers and military leaders but also scenes of villages, battlefields, etc. Jonas was an accomplished artist who also produced posters, four of which were shown at the recent exhibition *Over Here: World War I Posters from around the World* held in our gallery from September 2014 through January 2015. After the war Jonas decorated public buildings in France, illustrated books, menus; designed banknotes for the Bank of France; and was the recipient of numerous awards throughout his life.



Robert Kruse  
National Endowment for the Humanities Head of Technical Services



WWI Poster Exhibition? Or, did you enjoy it so much you'd like to revisit it?

Now you can view *Over Here: World War I Posters from around the World* on the website.



Credit for image above: Lucien Jonas, Verdun, mars-avril 1916 (Paris: Librairie Dorbon-aîné, 1916), leaf 34. Boston Athenæum, Purchase, Fine Arts Fund, 1916

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