



## In This Issue

[New Staff Member](#)

[Charleston Library Society Exchange](#)

[New Discussion Groups](#)

[Fellowships Announced](#)

## Announcements

The Athenæum will be closed Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4; however, please note that regular hours will resume on Sunday, July 5.

The Athenæum will remain open weekends in July and August:

Saturdays,  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sundays,  
Noon - 4:00 p.m.

## Follow the Athenæum!



## Quick Links

[Contact Us](#)

[Renew Membership](#)

## Director's Letter

Answer July -  
Where is the Bee -  
Where is the Blush -  
Where is the Hay?

Ah, said July -  
Where is the Seed -  
Where is the Bud -  
Where is the May -  
Answer Thee - Me -



Emily Dickinson, Poem 386 (ca. 1862)

As the heat of summer arrives, pushing into memory the fragile blush of spring, the Boston Athenæum remains an oasis of compelling ideas, intelligent company, and elegant surroundings. This year, we're delighted to remain open as usual throughout this sunny season: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 8:00, Friday from 9:00 to 5:30, Saturday from 9:00 to 4:00, and Sunday from noon to 4:00 (with the Gordon Room opening thirty minutes earlier on weekdays).

Our programming, likewise, continues apace. This month, Austen Barron Bailly will present "Thomas Hart Benton and the Modern American Woman," a lecture made possible with generous support from the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust. Laura Auricchio will speak about her acclaimed biography, *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*, and Summer Teen Fellows from Grub Street's **Young Adult Writers Program (YAWP)** will read from their work. New Members will be welcomed in a **special reception**; exhibition curator Dr. David B. Dearing will deliver two gallery talks on *Lafayette: An American Icon*; and families with children will enjoy weekly Family Story Times and Stories, Songs, and Activities.

A **summer cocktail soirée**, organized in conjunction with the well-received **Lafayette exhibition**, will celebrate the arrival in Boston of *l'Hermione*, a reconstruction of the tall ship that once carried the French hero of the American Revolution to our shores. Authentic cuisine by celebrity chef Walter Staib and period music will distinguish this special event to benefit the

Find a Book

Ask a Question

Children's Library

Exhibitions

Events Calendar

## Featured Events

Please check the **calendar** or your booklet for the full spring schedule. If you find these events interesting, you may wish to browse these **books related to events**.

Reception: **Summer Cocktail Soirée**

Saturday, July 11,  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Fee: \$250 per person

Lecture in conjunction with the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust: Austen Barron Bailly, **Thomas Hart Benton and the Modern American Woman**

Monday, July 13,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Reception: **New Members**  
Wednesday, July 15,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Book Talk: Laura Auricchio,  
**The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered**  
Tuesday, July 21,  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Gallery Talk: David B. Dearinger, **Lafayette**  
Wednesday, July 22,  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Special Reading with

Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America and the French Cultural Center.

Our operational planning process has entered the final stages; we look forward to publishing the plan online (and to getting to work on its implementation) in the weeks ahead, following its review and approval by the Board of Trustees.

The vestibule refurbishment project is nearing completion, after the successful removal of the former security desk and refinishing of the marble floor. In the days ahead, the statue of our wise namesake will return to pride of place at the head of the stairs, and custom millwork lockers will be installed to allow efficient, secure, and attractive storage of coats and bags.

The testing of our forthcoming smartphone App is almost finished. Once launched, it will use digital beacon technology to provide an illustrated written and verbal guide to selected artworks displayed in public spaces on the first floor. This discreet, handheld "GPS for connoisseurs" promises to become an increasingly useful interpretative tool in the months and years ahead, as our expert curators continue to enrich its contents. Members will have the opportunity to name the App as part of a contest, details of which will be announced in a future e-Newsletter.

This week, members may wish to collect weekend reading earlier than usual, since the Athenæum will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday on Friday, July 3rd, and Saturday, July 4th. Next week, too, will reward advance planning. On Thursday, July 9th, and Friday, July 10th, the online catalogue (*Athena*) will be offline to permit the completion of an important technical upgrade. During those days, our friendly, knowledgeable reference librarians, located on the second floor, would be delighted to assist members in identifying and locating collection materials.

In anticipation of my own holiday weekend, I've gathered a tantalizing stack of volumes: a Henry James novel, an exhibition catalogue about Boston's storied Merrymount Press, and a collection of poems by Tino Villanueva reimagining the Odyssey from Penelope's perspective. I wish you equally satiating reading, harvested from the fruitful stacks of the Boston Athenæum throughout the long, warm days ahead.

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

Credit for image above: Elizabeth Barker before the Palazzo Farnese, Rome, a source of architectural inspiration for the Boston Athenæum (2015)

**New Staff Member: Hannah Weisman**

GrubStreet: **Young Adult Writers Program (YAWP) Summer Teen Fellows**  
Thursday, July 30,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### Online Catalog Maintenance

Starting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, *Athena*, the online catalog of the Boston Athenæum, will be unavailable until 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 10, because of a system migration. Members will still be able to check out and return books; however, they will be unable to look up books via the online catalog. Please **contact a reference librarian** for assistance finding materials while the catalog is unavailable.

### Children's Library

Family Story Time  
Saturday, July 11, 18, 25  
10:30 a.m.

Stories, Songs, & Activities  
Thursday, July 2, 9, 16, 23,  
30,  
10:30 a.m.



Looking for the best books your children will want to read? See the Athenæum's **suggestions for summer reading**.

### Now Online: American Neoclassic Sculpture

Miss the exhibition? Now you

The Athenæum proudly announces not only a new staff member but a new position: Hannah Weisman is the Director of Education. A graduate of Mount Holyoke, Hannah received her bachelor of arts in German Studies and Holocaust Studies. She pursued her master's in Museum Studies in the Cooperstown Graduate Program at the State University of New York College at Oneonta and has worked at the Children's Museum (West Hartford, CT), the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the New York State Historical Association, the Farmers' Museum (Cooperstown, NY), the Shelburne Museum (Shelburne, VT), the Nichols House Museum (Boston), and most recently at Historic Newton (Newton, MA).



Hannah will assist in developing collections-focused programming, coordinate the docents, create a new program of overarching educational activities for interns. Her office is located on the first-floor Gallery where she will be able to enjoy views of members and visitors using the Athenæum. Please welcome her when you have a chance.

### Visiting Binder from Charleston Library Society

The Conservation Laboratory is pleased to announce the arrival of Brien Beidler who is here to learn and work in the lab for four weeks this summer as part of an institutional exchange with the **Charleston Library Society (CLS)**, another membership library. In October, I will travel to South Carolina to do the same at the CLS Bindery and Conservation Studio. This project is an incredible opportunity for like-minded persons and institutions to share information. I am so thankful to Jerrold and Ann Mitchell (members of both the Boston Athenæum and the CLS) and the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) for funding this endeavor.



Since August 2012, Brien has been serving as the Director of the Bindery and Conservation Studio at the CLS, where he oversees the conservation of their collection and various other binding projects. After meeting **Jim Croft** in 2012, he has been interested in rediscovering old-world technologies and materials, and in finding ways of applying them to modern conservation. He also enjoys making hand tools and giving them to his friends

can see it [online](#).



Credit: Harriet Hosmer (1830-1908), Will o' the Wisp, ca. 1856. Marble. Boston Athenæum, Gift of Julia Bryant (Mrs. Charles J.) Paine, 1876

### Staff Recommendations

Perhaps you want a book to take to the beach with you or perhaps a read that will take your mind off the sizzling temperatures. (Yes, last winter should spare us any seasonal discomforts for years to come, but Nature heeds no call to fairness.) Perhaps the current exhibition has stirred the Francophile within you. Members will find something for these or other desires among the [Athenæum staff book recommendations](#).

Dawn Walus  
Chief Conservator

Credit for image above: Brien Beidler in the Athenæum Conservation Lab (Dawn Walus, 2015)

### New Discussion Groups

The **Dickens Discussion Group** will meet for the first time on September 3, and regular meetings will be held the first Thursday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees' Room, unless otherwise specified. Taking its keynote from the memorable Nabokov introduction in which he announced, 'We are now ready to tackle Dickens. We are now ready to embrace Dickens. We are now ready to bask in Dickens;' the group seeks to create a welcoming literary space where members may tackle, embrace, and bask in Dickens for years to come. At its first meeting the group will determine the reading list for the coming year, based on the interests of its members, with individual books discussed over an appropriate number of sessions thereafter.

The **Film & Text Seminar** will meet for the first time on September 12, and regular meetings will be held the second Saturday of every month from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Trustees' Room, unless otherwise specified. Each month this group discusses a film and a related text. Main themes for the first season could include movies about movies and the love of movies (*Cinema Paradiso*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Day for Night*, *Sullivan's Travels*, *Be Kind Rewind*), movie musicals (Busby Berkeley, Fred Astaire, MGM musicals), Viktor Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning* (related movies could include *It's A Wonderful Life*, *About Time*, *Groundhog Day*), and seasonal favorites (*Easter Parade*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*). The material on the schedule is subject to change, based, in part, on the group's interests.

Arnold Serapilio  
Circulation Assistant

### Fellowship Winners Announced

The Boston Athenæum is pleased to announce the **2015-2016 fellowship recipients**. In the next year, ten scholars and teachers will study various topics, topped by the American Civil War and slavery (in one case, from the perspective of a graduate student in Scotland) but also including *Godey's Lady's Book*, changing attitudes toward death in America, and a consideration of the Biochemistry of



Boston Harbor as seen through land use as evidenced in prints and photographs.

These short-term fellowships are intended to support the use of Athenæum collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. Each fellowship pays a stipend for a residency of twenty days (four weeks) and includes a year's membership to the Boston Athenæum.

Scholars, graduate students, independent scholars, teaching faculty, and professionals in the humanities as well as teachers and librarians in secondary public, private, and parochial schools are eligible. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals holding the appropriate U.S. government documents. Fellows have the opportunity to offer presentations on their work-in-progress. These are announced online and all members are encouraged to attend.

Mary Warnement  
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

Credit for image above: Vershbow Special Collections Room Panorama (Mary Warnement, 2015)