In October of 1924, Mayor James Michael Curley presented Charles K. Bolton, Librarian of the Boston Athenæum, with the gift of over two dozen "ballots of elections held in former days in Massachusetts." The gift augmented the Athenæum's holdings of nineteenth century ballots and enriched the institution's significant local history collections.

Viewed as a whole, the collection of 19th-century ballots provides a sweeping history of the political and social forces of the nineteenth century.

Will Evans
Chief Rare Materials Catalog Librarian


Fruits of their Research
On June 16, Athenæum member Maya Parry, age twelve, will represent Massachusetts in Washington DC for the National History Day finals. As part of an elective class at Putnam Avenue Upper School, Cambridge, Maya wrote a dramatic monologue in the character of Abigail May Alcott, mother of Louisa M. Alcott and wife of Bronson Alcott (both of whom also read at the Athenæum). Maya researched extensively and studied books in the Arthur & Charlotte Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room at the Athenæum. She also visited various sites around Boston and Concord and performed drafts of her monologues to experts in the field. Speaking as Abigail, Maya explores the rights and responsibilities of women in the late nineteenth century, taking particular exception to the historical tendency to define women through their relationships with men rather than as people in their own right. Maya has had great fun with this presentation, capturing some of the orneriness and dry wit of Abigail’s character.

We wish her the best of luck in the contest and look forward to helping her explore future projects.

Mary Warnement
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services


Fellowships Announced

The Boston Athenæum is pleased to announce the 2014-2015 fellowship recipients. Ten scholars and teachers will study topics as varied as the cultural history of the Civil War as seen in art and children’s stories, Haitian history, and maritime history through the lens of religious history.

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...
Cocktails & Cabaret: La Vie en Rose and Other Colors: A Cabaret Night
Wednesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. 'til the end

Rare Books and Manuscripts

“This is a show about books and manuscripts that are visually appealing," says Stanley Cushing, the Boston Athenæum's Anne C. and David J. Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, of his exhibition "Collecting for the Boston Athenæum in the 21st Century: Rare Books and Manuscripts."

Visit and see for yourself, the exhibition will be open until August 9, 2014 in the Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery.

Or read more about it.

Discussion Groups

Discussion groups meet 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


Readers' Advisory: Travel

Traveling somewhere exotic in the coming months? You may want to use one of the many travel books available at the Athenæum; the latest editions are shelved in the computer room on the second floor. Or perhaps you want to see what it would have been like to travel there in 1880 or 1922? Those guides are located, for the most part, in Drum 2 Up.

To reach either location, as you pass the table in front of the reference desk, you may enjoy flipping through the catalog of the National Geographic's world travelling photographers. This publication celebrates the 125th anniversary of the magazine. Each of the three volumes' slipcases convert into a book stand. The amazing images will be on display in the coming months, but they will always be available on the reference shelves.

Carolle Morini
Caroline D. Bain Archivist, Reference Librarian

monthly and are open to members only. A few take a break for the summer months, but many still meet. Browse their webpages and compare to your own reading list. No doubt you have something to share:

- Civil War
- Classics
- Fiction
- Mystery
- Philosophy
- Shakespeare
- Trollope
- World History
- WWI

information. You are receiving this message because you have granted permission to send Athenæum-related news and information to this email account.

If you would like to unsubscribe from this e-newsletter or change your email address, please click here, and we will gladly update your information for you. Please allow approximately two weeks' time to process the update. Membership changes may also be made by calling the Membership Office at (617) 720-7629.