



In This Issue

[Exhibition: Lafayette an American Icon](#)

[Deadline Extended](#)

[Summer Reading](#)

Follow the Athenæum!



Quick Links

[Contact Us](#)

[Renew Membership](#)

[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](#)

Director's Letter

And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days ...

James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

In this month of perfect days, we anticipate keenly one long-awaited evening: that of the opening of ***Lafayette: An American Icon***. This once-in-a-generation exhibition will unite works separated for centuries and shed new light on a timeless hero.



As a means of conveying the show's key ideas to a larger group than would fit comfortably in our intimate galleries, each iteration of the *vernissage* will include a new addition: on June 17 and again on June 23, the exhibition's curator, Dr. David Dearing, will offer brief illustrated remarks in the Henry Long Room beginning at 5:45 p.m., a special treat before the usual gallery visit and delectable reception.

The exhibition has also inspired our first summer *soirée*: a black-tie-optional cocktail gathering on Saturday, July 11, featuring historically-inspired hors d'oeuvres, remarks by celebrity chef **Walter Staib**, live music from the Age of Revolution, and brief reflections on the French hero's tall ship **Hermione** by the organizers of its reconstruction. We hope you will consider joining us for this memorable occasion, and for other delights of spring at 10½ Beacon Street

In addition to the daily pleasures of our sanctuary from the urban bustle and our increasing selection of good things to read and see, our programs in June offer something for every taste. Music fans will bask in songs from the age of Lafayette performed by the Boston Camarata. Art lovers will enjoy an exhibition gallery talk and a consideration of John Singer Sargent's relationship with his beloved muse by husband-and-wife biographers Daniel Williman and Karen Corsano. History devotees will relish a study of Churchill's war cabinet by prize-

events.

Reception: Young Patrons
Sponsored, **Hops to Wheat Beer Tasting**

Monday, June 1,
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Book Talk: Jonathan
Schneer, **Ministers at War:
Winston Churchill and His
War Cabinet**

Wednesday, June 3,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Fellow Work-in-Progress
Presentation: Paula
Connolly, "Stories of
Slavery, Stories for Children
Monday, June 8,
Noon - 12:30 p.m.

Book Talk: Torrence C.
Harder Endowed Lecture:
Marc Shell, **Speaking from
the Shore: Islands,
Literature, and the Fate of
Geography**

Wednesday, June 10,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Karen Corsano
and Daniel Williman, **John
Singer Sargent and His
Muse: Painting Love and
Loss**

Thursday, June 11,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Exhibition Opening
Reception: **Lafayette: An
American Icon**

Wednesday, June 17,
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Concert: The Boston
Camerata, **Patriots and
Heroes: Music of the
Young Republic**

Thursday, June 18,

winning historian Jonathan Schneer. Readers inclined to literature, geography, or the environment will revel in an examination of the melting of the world's great ice islands in the Athenæum's annual Harder Lecture by MacArthur "genius" award recipient and Harvard professor, Marc Shell. Bibliophiles will relish an Evening with a Curator lead by Stanley Ellis Cushing, the Athenæum's Anne C. and David J. Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts. Young members will devour stories and songs, the Young Readers' Book Group, and the Lego, Chess, and Puzzle Club. Zythologists will savor a Young-Patrons-sponsored beer tasting.

During your visits, you will observe our progress on the vestibule project (on schedule for midsummer completion) intended to enhance the historic elegance and improve the functionality of our entrance. You will also have an opportunity to try the new iPhone app we will begin testing mid-month as an optional, unobtrusive, intuitively designed way to learn more about the collection objects displayed on the first floor. I look forward to seeing you here!

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

Credit for image above: Elizabeth E. Barker on the second-floor terrace (Mary Warnement, 2015)

Exhibition: Lafayette: an American Icon

The Boston Athenæum celebrates Lafayette and his role in the founding of the new United States with an **exhibition** of portraits and other images of Lafayette (paintings, sculptures, and engravings) as well as a small selection of contemporary documents, manuscripts, and maps. The exhibition is inspired by the recent historic reconstruction of Hermione, the frigate that brought Lafayette back to America in 1780.



That ship, with its game-changing news, made landfall in Boston in April of that year, and its modern descendant will visit the city in July 2015. The Athenæum's exhibition will feature works borrowed from a number of major American museums and libraries including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the American Numismatic Society, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Cornell University, and Lafayette College.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Evening with a Curator:
Stanley Cushing, **Books
and Manuscripts**
Thursday, June 18,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Exhibition Opening
Reception: **Lafayette: An
American Icon**
Tuesday, June 23
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Gallery Talk: David
Dearing, **Lafayette: An
American Icon**
Wednesday, June 24,
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Children's Library

Family Story Time
Sat., June 6, 13, 20, 27,
10:30 a.m.

Stories, Songs, & Activities
Thurs., June 4, 11, 18, 24,
10:30 a.m.



Young Readers' Book
Group
Mon., June 15,
6:00 p.m.

Lego, Chess, & Puzzles
Sat., June 20,
2:30 p.m.

Terraces Open

From the Athenæum's fifth-floor terrace, enjoy the view of Boston's skyline over the Granary Burying Ground, now shielded by a green canopy of leaves.

These objects will join some of the Athenæum's own Lafayette-related treasures, notably Jean-Antoine Houdon's great bust of Lafayette, acquired by the Athenæum in 1828 from Thomas Jefferson's descendants. Lectures by scholars of the American Revolution and biographers of Lafayette; curatorial gallery talks; an audio gallery guide; and concerts of period French and American music are among the programs that will enhance the visitors' experience and help to celebrate the achievements of this great patriot, "Our Marquis."

David Dearing, Ph.D.
The Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings & Sculpture
Boston Athenæum

Credit for image above: Jean-Antoine Houdon (French, 1741-1828), Marquis de Lafayette, ca. 1785, plaster bust, painted white, Athenæum purchase, 1828

Deadline Extended: Mudge Teacher Fellowship

The Boston Athenæum offers the **Mudge Teacher Fellowship** which is open to Boston-area public, parochial, and independent school teachers and librarians. This fellowship supports the use of Athenæum collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects.



The fellowship carries a stipend of \$1,500 for a residency of twenty days (four weeks) and includes a year's membership to the Boston Athenæum. The deadline for applications has been extended to June 15. Please see the [website](#) for more details and how to apply online.

Mary Warnement
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

Credit for image above: Vershbow Special Collections Room (Megan Manton, 2011)

Summer Reading

What's your reading pleasure once the sun breaks through the clouds and the longest day of the year arrives? Do you remain as serious as ever and take home Proust or Tolstoy or Pynchon? You'll want to investigate the drum stacks. If your imagination demands a little treat, such as a cozy mystery set in England, then look for examples of the new paperback *British Library Crime Classics* on the new





book shelves in the first-floor Long Room. Eager to travel vicariously by looking at books with full-page photographs of English country houses or Italian villas? Ask for directions to Lower Pilgrim where moveable stacks hold volume after volume to fulfill your heart's desire.

Perhaps you would like to share your ideal summer reading list with Boston Athenæum Readers on **Goodreads**. If you're not already registered, you can easily sign up and join the conversation.

Arnold Serapilio
Circulation Assistant