COLLECTING FOR THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM IN THE 21ST CENTURY: PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS

brings together an exquisite selection of materials from the institution’s rich collection of works of art on paper, including posters, daguerreotypes, political cartoons, engravings, and linocuts. The fourth in a series that celebrates recent Athenæum acquisitions, this exhibition will showcase items from the Prints & Photographs Department acquired since 2000. The exhibition will display more than 70 items that document the region’s built and natural environment, its peoples, politics, and pastimes from the 19th century to the present.

OPENING RECEPTION
Tuesday, April 5, 5:30-7:30 pm
No reservations required

EXHIBITION DATES
April 6 to September 4

GALLERY TALK
Wednesday, April 20, 10-11 am
Registration begins April 6 at 9 am
Talk with the Curator of Prints & Photographs, Catharina Slautterback
Limited to 12 participants

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
As spring arrives, with its days “fresh-washed and fair” (as Amy Lowell phrased it), the Athenæum offers much to refresh and invigorate the mind. Lectures range from John Singer Sargent and the Great War to the concept of reflectivity in Italian painting to reproductions of sculpture in 19th-century America to libraries—the newly renovated Bodleian and our own Boston Athenæum. Our annual Conservation Evening combines the elegance of a chic reception with the opportunity to learn about and sponsor treasures in need of care. Our celebration of National Poetry Month includes a three-day poetry writing workshop, a featured presentation by the Poet Laureate of the City of Boston, and a series of compelling readings. Beginning in March and concluding in May, a five-part series will explore the art of the book.

Our next exhibition, Collecting for the Boston Athenæum in the 21st Century: Prints & Photographs, will open in April and feature highlights from the more than 1,100 prints and photographs acquired since the year 2000. Between exhibitions, from March 10 to 13, we will host our first annual Spring Sale, with a vast array of discounted post cards, catalogues, books, and other Athenæum gifts available for purchase. We look forward to seeing you here.

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

Glimpsed at 10½

Political Editor of The Boston Globe
Shira T. Center asks Matthew Viser, a Washington bureau reporter for the paper, a question during last month’s panel discussion, The Race for the White House in 2016: The New Hampshire Primary and Beyond.
COLLECTIONS CORNER
Recently Digitized

NOW ONLINE
The Athenaeum recently digitized Pierre Attaingnant’s 1532 collection of masses, *Primus Liber [Septum librorum] Viginti missarum*, which consists of seven volumes that were issued separately throughout the year 1532. Collectively, the set includes a total of 20 mass settings, most of which were written by French composers active at the time of the publication. Acquired in 1809 as part of the library of General Henry Knox, the first U.S. Secretary of War, the Athenæum’s collection, now bound into one volume, is available for viewing on the Digital Collections page or by appointment in the Special Collections Reading Room.

Fascinated by the Primus Liber?
Save the date! Join us on May 25 at 6 pm for *Liber chronicarum*, a concert with the New England Philharmonic which will perform two original pieces based on the Primus Liber.

DOWN IN THE DUMPS
Reader to Reader Recs

In Athenæum jargon, the “dump” refers to the 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 on the “Book Recommendations” page under the “Library” tab of the website for these Reader to Reader Recommendations.

Recent titles found down in the dumps, include:


Bray, Robert C. *Reading With Lincoln*, Library of Congress E457.2 .B834 2010


Blatch, Harriot Stanton; with a foreword by Theodore Roosevelt. *Mobilizing Woman-power* Cutter DYR .B61

NEWS YOU CAN USE

PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE ONLINE For the first time, an illustrated searchable online catalogue of the Athenæum’s paintings and sculpture collection is now available to members and researchers around the world. Readers will find basic information—artist’s name, title, date, etc.—for each of the nearly 600 objects in the institution’s collection. The catalogue can be accessed on the “Paintings and Sculpture Online” page under the “Collections” tab of the website.

ENDNOTE Attention researchers: properly citing materials is now easier than ever! Athena, the Athenæum’s online catalog, has recently been updated with the ability to export records in Reference Manager (RIS) format, allowing you to load catalog entries directly into products such as EndNote and Zotero to manage your sources.

OXFORD MUSIC ONLINE Members now have remote, anytime, anywhere access to Oxford University Press’ Oxford Music Online, a gateway offering users the ability to access and cross-search multiple music reference resources in one location, including Grove Music Online, the Oxford Dictionary of Music, and the Oxford Companion to Music. This resource includes over 60,000 articles written by music scholars covering the vibrant history of music from all around the world and is updated three times a year.

NEW TOURS With the recent expansion of the docent program, members and the public are now welcome to join the Athenæum on one of four weekly tours: Sundays at 1 pm; Mondays at 5:30 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 pm. Monthly tours will also be offered in French and Spanish. These tours would not be possible without our dedicated team of 24 docents, including our most recent class: Judy Gates, Fritz Holznagel, Sidney Kenyon, Dale Linder, Susan Ostberg, Karla Rojas, Annie Silverman, and Sherley Smith.

NEW FACES The Athenæum is pleased to welcome new Security Officer Denita Ritter to the staff; and announce the promotions of Dawna Burrus, Executive Secretary to the Executive Director/Development (formerly, Administrative Assistant, Advancement); Will Evans, National Endowment for the Humanities Head of Technical Services (formerly Chief Rare Materials Catalog Librarian); Catherine McGrath, Coordinator of Member Services (formerly Director’s Executive Secretary); and Kaelin Rasmussen, Rare Materials Catalog Librarian (formerly Cataloging Assistant).

SPRING GIFT SHOP SALE As most of our members know, the Boston Athenæum gift shop is more an idea than an actual place, unless one counts the narrow display cabinet in the first-floor Membership office. But beyond that cabinet, or rather beneath it in some of 10½’s secret recesses, lie boxes full of unsold gift-shop items—some added to our inventory a decade or more ago and rarely seen in recent years—which will go on sale this spring. Watch for details, but in the meantime mark your calendars for March 10 through the 13, the dates of our 2016 Spring Sale!
GREAT PIANISTS AND COMPOSERS

Concert with prize-winning international keyboard artist
Sara David Beuchner

Thursday, March 3, 6-7 pm
Registration will begin February 18 at 9 am
Members $15  Non-members $30

Leading keyboard artist Sara David Beuchner will perform classic piano concertos such as “Fantasia No. 3 in D minor” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and pieces written by 20th-century composers such as “Kickin’ the Clouds Away” by George Gershwin.

FROM A BRIDGE TO THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY

Lecture by prize-winning architect Jim Eyre

Tuesday, March 8, 6-7 pm
Registration will begin February 23 at 9 am
Members Free  Non-members $15

Jim Eyre, founding director of Wilkinson Eyre, will give a talk about the Weston Library at the Bodleian, a recently renovated special collections library located in the historic core of Oxford’s campus. The lecture will focus on the Bodleian’s architectural journey and what the project means for libraries around the world.

DISTILLING THE AMERICAN FLAVOR

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Juliana Force, and the Creation of the Whitney Museum

Lecture by author and art historian Avis Berman

Wednesday, March 2, 6-7 pm
Members only  Open to the public  Reception to follow  Free event  Wait list

In this lecture, Avis Berman will discuss the careers of two extraordinary women who transformed the history of American art—Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875-1942) and Juliana Rieser Force (1876-1948). She will share how their partnership brought about the formation of the Whitney Museum of American Art, and how they were instrumental in elevating many artists, including John Sloan, Stuart Davis, Charles Sheeler, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Edward Hopper, Thomas Hart Benton, and Isamu Noguchi. Now celebrated, these artists were largely unknown and un-credentialed before they benefited from the Whitney largesse. Berman will illustrate her lecture with photographs of Whitney and Force, museum exteriors and interiors, and images of touchstone works of art bought by the two women.

This lecture is presented in conjunction with the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust.

Fascinated by museum history? Learn about the Athenæum’s role in the founding of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston by picking up a copy of Hina Hirayama’s With Eclat.
SARGENT’S WAR

Lecture by independent scholars and archive fiends Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman

Wednesday, March 9, 12-1 pm
No reservations required

For John Singer Sargent, Corsano and Williman argue, the Great War changed everything, particularly after the death of Robert André-Michel, the husband of Sargent’s beloved niece Rose-Marie Ormond. During most of the war, Sargent busied himself with efforts in London and eventually went to America to escape the realities of war. When Rose-Marie herself was killed in the spring of 1918, Sargent promptly left Boston and traveled to France to paint. Corsano and Williman will discuss Sargent’s reflections on the war, which can be viewed in the murals of the Boston Public Library and Harvard’s Widener Library, among other works.

Fan of Sargent? View two of his original works in the Bayard Henry Long Room on the first floor.

A CONSERVATION EVENING
An auction to benefit the Conservation Department

Saturday, March 12, 6-8 pm  Live auction begins at 6:45 pm
Registration begins February 26 at 9 am
Members and Non-members $100*

The curators and conservators of the Boston Athenæum have hand-selected treasures from the collection, including rare books, maps, prints, and paintings, all of which are in need of conservation. Help ensure these special materials are preserved for generations to come and join us for a rare opportunity to sponsor one of these choice items through a live and silent auction.

Expert staff will be on hand to discuss the items, their significance, and the treatments they each need. A complete list of items available for sponsorship can be found online. Starting bids for the 16 lots range from $700 to $5,000. Please contact Chief Conservator Dawn Walus at 617-720-7632 or walus@bostonathenaeum.org with questions about these items.

Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Cocktail attire is recommended.

*An estimated $25 of each ticket will constitute a tax-deductible contribution.
All proceeds to benefit Conservation. 10½ Circle privileges do not apply.

WINE TASTING
A Young Patrons’ Sponsored Event

Wednesday, March 16, 6-7:30 pm
Registration begins March 2 at 9 am
All attendees must be 21+
Members $35

Join us for our annual wine tasting event. Local winemakers and vendors will be on hand to serve samples and discuss their creations with members and their guests. To complement these offerings, we will serve cheeses, appetizers, and sweets.

www.bostonathenaeum.org
THE NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE OF FIGURAL MIRRORING IN RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE ART

Lecture by European art expert, author, and curator David Derbin Nolta

Monday, March 21, 6-7 pm
Registration begins March 7 at 9 am
This year’s John Hubbard Sturgis Eaton Endowed Lecture will present the concept of reflectivity as it recurs in Italian painting from the 15th through the 18th centuries. Focusing less on the literal presence of the mirror in art—a topic widely explored—this talk will take on the more mysterious and intriguing connotations of the repetition of figure and pose in painted narratives from Piero della Francesca to Pietro Longhi. Artists considered will also include Botticelli and Caravaggio, each an insightful and original experimenter and exploiter of the human figure as mirror, as well as the potential of figural reflectivity.

The John Hubbard Sturgis Eaton Lecture is sponsored by Isabelle and Scott Black in honor of Isabelle’s late father.

COLLECTING CULTURE

A PechaKucha-powered presentation moderated by Athenæum archivist Carolle Morini

Wednesday, March 23, 6-7:30 pm
Registration will begin March 9 at 9 am
Members $15

This event is an exploration of what, why, and how cultural institutions and private collectors collect art and artifacts. PechaKucha is a lively and engaging presentation format in which presenters share 20 images for 20 seconds each. Multiple concise presentations allow the audience to consider a range of perspectives on a single topic or theme and spark spirited conversation between presenters and audience members. The Boston Athenæum’s own Carolle Morini, Caroline D. Bain Archivist and Reference Librarian, will moderate the event; presenters will be Darren Brown (Beverly Historical Society), Manuel López, Ayodeji Ogunaika, Maia Perez, Michael Rose (Providence Art Club), and Wilder Wohns.

THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM Past, Present, Future

Lecture by the Athenæum’s Stanford Calderwood Director Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.

Thursday, March 24, 6-7 pm
Registration begins March 10 at 9 am
Members Free Non-members $15

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EMMANUEL MUSIC

Concert with Joshua Gordon and Sarah Freiberg Ellison

Tuesday, March 22, 12-1 pm
No reservations required
Gordon and Ellison will perform selections by Johann Sebastian Bach, including “Suite No.6 in D Major” and “Suite No. 3 in C Major,” two of the most frequently performed and recognizable solo compositions ever written for cello.

ORDER, HARMONY, AND JUST A LITTLE SURPRISE

An Apologia for Traditional Typography

Lecture by bookmaker and typographer John Kristensen

Monday, March 28, 12-1 pm
No reservations required

According to John Kristensen, proprietor of Boston’s Firefly Press, beauty should not be a goal but a by-product of a well-made book. In his lecture, Kristensen will consider what properly constitutes beauty in book-making and share with the audiences why what he calls the “New England manner” of bookmaking is still so influential today.

This is the first in a series of five events dedicated to explorations of different aspects of the art of the book. Join us for the remainder of the series on April 14, 19, and 28, and May 18, noted by the book icon seen above.

AMERICAN CHARACTER

A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good

Book talk with award-winning journalist and author Colin Woodard

Thursday, March 31, 6-7 pm
Registration begins March 17 at 9 am
Members Free Non-members $15

The struggle between individual rights and the good of the community as a whole has been the basis of nearly every major disagreement in America’s history, from the debates at the Constitutional Convention and the run-up to the Civil War, to the fights surrounding the agendas of the Federalists, the Progressives, the New Dealers, the civil rights movement, and the Tea Party. In American Character, Colin Woodard traces these two key strands in American politics through the two and a half centuries of the nation’s existence, from the first colonies through the Gilded Age, Great Depression, and the present day, and he explores how different regions of the country have successfully or disastrously accommodated them.

Fascinated by American History? Peruse the stacks on the fourth floor for your next read.
The legendary nightclub Maxim’s comes alive in this salon-like event exploring the intersection of dance and operetta in Lehár’s The Merry Widow. Learn about the historical influences of dance in opera and operetta, listen to BLO artists perform tuneful selections, hear from BLO’s choreographer Kyle Lang on his perspective and influences, and even experience the operetta yourself by learning a few steps from the famous “Merry Widow Waltz.”

Interested in the history of the Boston theater scene? Make an appointment to explore programs and playbills from the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the Boston Athenæum Theater Collection, including the program from a November 1908 Tremont Theatre production of The Merry Widow featuring Oscar Figman and Virginia Foltz.
CHILDREN’S MUSICAL STORYTELLING
Saturday, March 19, 11 am-12 pm
No reservations required

Join a classical musician from New England Conservatory for a fun-filled Musical Storytime! Young listeners will be entertained by an interactive performance that includes an instrument demonstration, songs, musical games, and stories. All ages welcome, although this event is most suitable for ages 3-8.

TALL TALES
Stories and songs from old New England and a hands-on shadow puppet workshop
Saturday, April 9, 11:30 am-2 pm
No reservations required. All ages welcome, best for 4+

Ever wanted to sing along with a sea shanty? Or dive deep into a fox’s den? Join Brad Shur and Chris Monti from Puppet Showplace Theater for a whirlwind tour of New England’s lesser-known folklore. Discover a giant sailor, a fashionable bear, and the world’s largest wheel of cheese. Drawing from 300 years of stories, songs, and local history, this show is a delight for audiences of all ages. Following the performance join the workshop to construct your own shadow puppet characters and practice animating them on a shadow screen.

GIAMBATTISTA BODONI
His Life and His World

Book talk with independent scholar, author, and translator Valerie Browne Lester

Thursday, April 28, 6-7 pm
Registration begins April 14 at 9 am
Members Free  Non-Members $15

The 16th- and 17th-century Italian printer Giambattista Bodoni’s genius was for design and punchcutting, especially of the exotic foreign alphabets needed by the papal office to spread the faith. In this lecture, Lester will discuss her book, the first English-language biography of Bodoni. The book examines the life and times in which Bodoni lived, the turbulent and fragile political climate, the cast of characters that enlivened the ducal court, and the unique position the city of Parma occupied.
The Boston Athenæum presents these events in celebration of NATIONAL POETRY MONTH. Browse the stacks or schedule time in the Vershbow Reading Room to dive into the Athenæum’s rich and diverse poetry collection, which includes everything from Alexander Pope’s translation of Homer’s Odyssey to the poems of Phillis Wheatley, from the works of Emily Dickinson to contemporary poetry by Zubair Ahmed and Alice Walker.

EYE OF THE EXPERT

Tuesday, March 15 and Monday, April 25, 5:30-7:30 pm
Registration begins March 1 and April 11 at 9 am
Members $75*
Registration is limited to 12 participants.

Get up close with artworks and rare materials from the Athenæum’s special collections as members of our expert staff explore stories of censorship and arbitration of taste and morals.

The program is presented by members of our special collections team and will be followed by an opportunity to continue the discussion over wine and light hors d’oeuvres.

*10½ Circle privileges do not apply

www.bostonathenaeum.org

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP

Interactive workshop presented in partnership with GrubStreet

Thursdays, April 14, 21, 28, 12-1 pm
Registration begins March 31 at 9 am
Members $150* for all 3 sessions

Whether you regularly write poetry, have always wanted to try but didn’t know how, or simply want an opportunity to flex your creative muscles, this workshop series is for you! Join GrubStreet faculty member David Blair for a three-part poetry writing workshop to spark or invigorate your own creative process. Bring a bag lunch and an open mind to each session. Members are asked to commit to all three sessions when registering.

*10½ Circle privileges do not apply.

GRAFFITI

New Poems

Reading with award-winning poet Rosanna Warren

Thursday, April 14, 6-7 pm
Registration begins March 31 at 9 am
Members Free Non-members $15

Rosanna Warren will read poems from her most recent collection, Ghost in a Red Hat, and from a forthcoming chapbook, Graffiti. In Ghost in a Red Hat, Warren draws inspiration from her life and from the works of other artists, classical and contemporary, real and imagined. Warren explores the political and the personal through myth, history, elegy, and erotic lyric. She traces themes, both ancient and modern, in a voice compelling and deeply persuasive.

ARTICULATIONS OF AMERICA

Lecture by Poet Laureate of the City of Boston Danielle Legros Georges

Thursday, April 21, 6-7 pm
Registration begins April 7 at 9 am
Members $15 Non-members $30

In 1782, Frenchman-turned-American Jean de Crèvecoeur asked “What is an American?” in his Letters From an American Farmer. Beginning with de Crèvecoeur’s question, Georges will explore the work of noted American poets, including Emma Lazarus, Langston Hughes, and Joy Harjo, who all pursued and tested the idea of a national ethos, and looked to America for a reflection of it and of themselves.

OPINEL

Poems

Poetry reading with Tufts University professor Rebecca Kaiser Gibson

Tuesday, April 26, 12-1 pm
No reservations required

Opinel is the name of a workaday knife wielded by shepherds and farmers in the high pastures of the Alps. Like the knife, these poems cleave away the false and deceptive to reveal a startling and unifying wonder. In language radiant, lovely, and disturbing, Gibson explores the linkages between the uncomfortable familiar and the curiously intimate strange, making unexpected connections between phenomena. Arranged by association rather than chronology and connected by a sensual intelligence, this collection wanders from Maryland and India to Boston, France, New Hampshire and Ireland—from Ezekiel’s Flight and the Book of Kells, to tales of the Tamil goddess, Meenakshi.