GRANT RECEIVED FOR WORLD WAR II POSTERS

Libraries everywhere allocate substantial budgets toward the proper care of their holdings, and special collections require special attention—especially ones with the richness and depth of ours. Because of this, we’re proud to announce an award of nearly $123,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This federal government support will help us catalog and prepare for exhibition 1,959 posters contained in the Richard W. Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection.

The posters provide dramatic documentation of the role of domestic propaganda in civilian and military perceptions of World War II. Their dynamic visual characteristics offer the potential to engage scholars and school children alike. “We look forward to sharing a selection of these stunning, thought-provoking artifacts with our members and the Boston community in an exhibition next year,” says Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections John Buchtel. “The funding assistance from the IMLS will enable us to make the entire collection accessible online.”

Cheek’s gift adds luster to our reputation as a center for military history research. The posters will join other special collections resources including the personal libraries of George Washington and Henry Knox, an extensive collection of Confederate imprints, and nearly 2,000 posters from the First World War.

ANNUAL FUND SURPASSES $1.3 MILLION

It’s one for the books! We closed an inspiring year for the Annual Fund. Through the generosity of our members and friends, we raised just over $1,329,000 from 1,058 donors in the 2018 fiscal year (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018)—more than $190,000 over last year, and a record for the Annual Fund.

Your generosity helps us preserve and improve our landmark building, care for our collections, and strive for excellence in the day-to-day services we offer you. We express sincere gratitude for the dedication of those who gave this past year, and to those who continue to give generously.

To donate, contact Director of Annual Giving Dawna Burrus by calling 617-720-7629, at burrus@bostonathenaeum.org or visit us online.

Join Us FOR A VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

On Monday, November 12, help us celebrate the IMLS grant and the Cheek collection, along with the men and women who have served our country. We’re still planning the details as this newsletter goes to press; seek further information on our website or at the Circulation Desk, or call Visitor Services at (617) 227-0270.

Director’s Note

In November, as daylight dims and the reading rooms shine against the gloaming light, my thoughts turn to gratitude. I’m thankful for the capable new staff who further our mission and engage enthusiastically with our members. I’m thankful for all of my colleagues’ tremendously skilled work behind the scenes, on every level of our cherished edifice. I’m thankful for each member who walks through the door and shares thoughts, book lists, questions, and appreciation. I’m thankful for the many insightful contributors to our strategic planning process of the past year. And I’m especially thankful that our work has led to an inspiring vision of the future, built on six elements: member focus, collections visibility, program expansion, talent development, diversity reflection, and governance enhancement. I’m looking forward to sharing details with you in our winter letter to Members.

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

“...collected here—and in all libraries—and not only my time, my life, but all human time as well.”

Susan Orlean
The Library Book (2018)
Introducing MARIA DANIELS

We welcome Maria Daniels, our new Director of Communications and Patron Services, who brings deep strategic and creative expertise to our team.

We are grateful to the dedicated members of the Search Committee: Trustees John Wigglesworth Everets and Austin Shapard; director Elizabeth E. Barker; and member Sheila Leyne. Thanks are also extended to our communications advisor, Andy Miller.

Collections Highlights

Shirley Ann Whitaker’s *Ashes to Ashes* (Connecticut River Valley: SAW Press, 2018) is Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections John Buchtel’s first official acquisition for the Athenæum’s collection of fine press and artists’ books. This beautiful and challenging work memorializes the victims of lynching in America. Each etching in this book’s series of powerful portraits is paired with a moving first-person letterpress narrative. The book is accompanied by a stunning, separate etching of a tree overprinted with the names of known victims. Once cataloged, it will be available for consultation in the Vershbow Reading Room.

ON VIEW SOON: THE KING’S CHAPEL LIBRARY

Slated to open in March 2019, the first installment of a three-part exhibition exploring the King’s Chapel Library will investigate the colonial history of a superb collection of books that came to Boston in 1698. The oldest intact colonial library in Boston, the King’s Chapel Library has been safeguarded at the Athenæum since 1823, and housed in a magnificent bonneted bookcase on the third floor since 1883. Thanks to a partnership with the Chipstone Foundation, this exhibition will delve into the meanings and contexts revealed by this collection.

AFTER THE FIRE

On September 21, members joined Stanford Calderwood Director Elizabeth E. Barker for an open conversation, informed by the Athenæum’s collections, about the tragic fire that devastated Brazil’s Museu Nacional in early September, destroying in a matter of hours an estimated 18 million artifacts collected over two centuries. Members discussed the surprising late-19th century ties to Boston that helped shape the collection, the circumstances surrounding the tragedy, and the global response.

Welcome Back

One of the true gems of our collection, *Interior of St. Peter’s, Rome*, by Giovanni Paolo Panini (1691-1765), has returned to 10-1/2. The painting traveled to three venues over the past year in an exhibition organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum. “The Panini,” as we lovingly refer to it, has been rehoused in the Gordon Reading Room so it can be viewed up close by all. No appointments necessary!
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018 Selected Events

Please visit our website to learn more about these and other upcoming events

BOSTON SAXOPHONE QUARTET
Performance with members of the Boston Saxophone Quartet
Monday, November 5, 6 pm
Members $20, Visitors $30
Registration required

This unique quartet delivers a tremendous range of repertoire and individual experience in wind performance. Its members have performed with the Boston Pops, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and leading theaters throughout New England.

THE GATSBY AFFAIR: SCOTT, ZELDA, AND THE BETRAYAL THAT SHAPED AN AMERICAN CLASSIC
Book talk with cultural historian and author Kendall Taylor
Wednesday, November 7, 6 pm
Members $10, Visitors $15
Registration required

The romance between F. Scott Fitzgerald and Zelda Sayre has been celebrated as one of the greatest of the 20th century. But Zelda’s liaison with a French aviator, Edouard Jozan, had an even more profound impact on the two—and on Scott’s writing. In The Gatsby Affair, Kendall Taylor brings a fresh perspective to the dalliance between the southern belle and the French pilot.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN
Conspiracy (Theories) and Espionage

With Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s ongoing investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 US Presidential election, and mounting concern over further interference in the 2018 midterms, cybersecurity questions abound as voters prepare to head to the polls. How can we apply intelligence and policy to limit meddling in our elections and our culture at large? What is already being done in the field of cybersecurity to defend our digital democracy? This event series offers a glimpse at forces that wittingly—or unwittingly—shape our views.

PANEL DISCUSSION:
Cybersecurity, Russian Interference, and the 2018 Midterm Elections
Thursday, November 1, 2018, 6 pm
Members $20, Visitors $30, Registration required

In the precarious early decades of the Boston Athenæum, no one did more to keep the fledgling institution alive than its first librarian, William Smith Shaw. In telling the colorful and tragic story of Shaw’s life, Daniel Breen will look behind the portrait to find the glowing strengths that helped sustain the Athenæum in its infancy—and may inform our mission in the future.

THE UNKEMPT BIBLIOMANIAC OF TREMONT STREET: WILLIAM SHAW AND THE LIFE OF FEDERALIST BOSTON
Lecture with Senior Lecturer in Legal Studies at Brandeis University Daniel Breen
Thursday, November 8, noon
Members Free, Visitors Free with admission ($10)

In the precarious early decades of the Boston Athenæum, no one did more to keep the fledgling institution alive than its first librarian, William Smith Shaw. In telling the colorful and tragic story of Shaw’s life, Daniel Breen will look behind the portrait to find the glowing strengths that helped sustain the Athenæum in its infancy—and may inform our mission in the future.

PROPRIETORS’ AUTUMN MEETING & RECEPTION
Thursday, November 29, 3:30 pm
Free, This event is by invitation only

Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum are cordially invited to join the Board of Trustees for the autumn meeting. Stanford Calderwood Director Elizabeth Barker will present the history of Share No. 640 in partnership with the New England Historical Society. A formal invitation will follow.

www.bostonathenaeum.org
NEW BUILDING IN OLD CITIES: ARCHITECTURE AND CONSERVATION IN HISTORIC SETTINGS  
Lecture with Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame Steven Semes  
Monday, November 19, 2018, 6 pm  
Members $15, Visitors $20  
Registration required

How do we reconcile contemporary design and historic architecture? The central paradox of preservation lies in harmonizing old and new structures, maintaining a distinction between historic fabric and new work, along with a continuity of character. This talk will examine strategies for relating work of the past and “the architecture of our time.”

Presented with the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, New England Chapter.

TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT  
please call 617-720-7600 or email events@bostonathenaeum.org

MEET THE MOTH  
A Conversation with the Makers of The Moth Radio Hour  
Monday, December 17, 2018, 6 pm  
Members $10, Visitors $15, Registration required

In an age where information is disseminated with lightning speed and in ever-smaller bits, what accounts for the renewed popularity of straightforward, uninterrupted storytelling? Join three members of the acclaimed arts organization The Moth for a discussion about the power of personal narrative. A director, a producer, and a storyteller/host will share thoughts on the resurgence of the art form, tracing the development of an idea into a fully realized tale on the Moth stage.

THE LIBRARY BOOK  
Book talk with author and The New Yorker staff writer Susan Orlean  
Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 6 pm  
Free, Registration required

With her signature wit, insight, compassion, and talent for deep research, Susan Orlean investigates the legendary fire at the Los Angeles Public Library to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives. Along the way, she reveals how these buildings provide much more than just books — and that they are needed now more than ever.
IN THE HURRICANE’S EYE
Book talk with New York Times bestselling author Nathaniel Philbrick
Monday, December 3, 6 pm
Members $15, Registration required

In this gripping narrative, Nathaniel Philbrick relates the events of 1781, an epic and suspenseful year in our nation’s history. From Washington’s headquarters on the Hudson River to Lafayette’s brilliant series of maneuvers across Tidewater Virginia, Philbrick details the year right through to its triumphant conclusion.

NATURE’S DESIGN:
LAND, WATER, AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN BOSTON
William Orville Thomson Endowed Lecture with Robert Zimmerman, Jr.
Monday, December 10, 2018, 6 pm
Members Free, Visitors $15
Registration required

Many of us are lulled into the notion that climate change is a problem for future generations. But in truth, significant changes are already upon us, and the threat from catastrophic precipitation-based flooding increases annually. Join Bob Zimmerman, former Executive Director of the Charles River Watershed Association, for an in-depth evaluation of our options.

EYE OF THE EXPERT:
Ecco Venezia, Behold Venice
Tuesday, December 4, 12 pm
Members $20, Registration required

Join Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections John Buchtel and William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services Mary Warnement for a journey to Venice via the special collections. An intricate, hand-colored panorama of the Grand Canal, a thoughtfully assembled photo album, and other rare objects will transport participants to the city and help explain why it has captivated artists, writers, and travelers.

APP
SoundPrint
Tired of shouting to converse in noisy restaurants? SoundPrint turns your cell phone into a decibel meter, allowing you to rate places based on their sound levels then share the measurements with those of others on a city map. Plan your next feast, date night, or family outing around a great venue where you can hear your companions.

PODCAST
Last Seen
A true-crime podcast produced by The Boston Globe and WBUR about the theft of 13 irreplaceable artworks from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

BOOKS

Member’s Choice
Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 pm
Free, Registration required, Trustees’ Room

In her new book Aged Healthy, Wealthy & Wise, Athenæum member Coventry Edwards-Pitt explores aging well in our time of increased longevity, ensuring that our later years have a positive impact on our families.

Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 pm
Free, Registration required, Trustees’ Room

In his multi-media art book Earth Gazes Back, Douglas Zook explores appealing reflections in window glass through images captured in Boston, Prague, and Krakow.

To schedule an event, contact Director of Education Hannah Weisman at 617-720-7617 or weisman@bostonathenaeum.org and share the essentials: title, description, speaker biography, and illustration.
Please visit our website and subscribe to our Children’s Library e-newsletters to learn more.

Unless otherwise indicated, events are free to members, registration not required.

TO REGISTER FOR KIDS EVENTS EMAIL crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

TEEN BOOK TALK:

HEY, KIDDO
Saturday, November 10, 3 pm
P Members Free, Visitors Free with admission ($10)

In this talk about his National Book Award longlist graphic memoir for teens, Jarrett J. Krosoczka will describe the steps he took to create this moving, raw book and present a multi-media reading, followed by a conversation with guest author Jack Gantos (who makes a cameo in Hey, Kiddo) about writing and the saving power of creativity and literature.

www.bostonathenaeum.org
### SEPTEMBER 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acquired</strong></td>
<td>170 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cataloged</strong></td>
<td>118 new circulating items, 54 already-held circulating items, 10 new special collections materials, 106 already-held special collections materials, 411 catalogue edits, deletions, additions, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Circulated</strong></td>
<td>976 books, including: 136 children’s library books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendance</strong></td>
<td>2,520 members, 92 members’ guests &amp; 228 visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs</strong></td>
<td>9 events, 13 public tours, 4 private tours &amp; 2 1st floor interpretive programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Our Vision**

The Boston Athenæum aspires to spark conversations of critical importance, foster an engaged, diverse membership, and cultivate our library’s dynamic collections for research and enjoyment.

**Where Has All the Artwork Gone?**

Those curious about the empty stairwell walls will be satisfied to know that we’re tackling three projects simultaneously: adjustments to the climate control of that area, which we discovered was not on par with the rest of our building; an opportunity to re-hang artworks with new curatorial input; and the need for a fresh coat of paint. Thank you for your understanding.

**Book Displays**


Thank you to all who checked out books from our “While You Wait” displays featuring red-cover books versus blue-cover books, left-handed authors, Hadrian’s Wall, and fire.

**Transitions**

We welcome new colleagues KL Pereira, catalog intern, and Rachel Wentworth, development intern.

Congratulations to Emily Cure, promoted to Chief of Staff; Lily Pelekoudas, hired as special collections registrar; and Tyrone Smith, promoted to Director of Safety and Security.

**Annual Fund**

Wrapped at $1,329,090

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**In Memoriam**

**Jack Jackson**

Former Librarian Jack Jackson passed away in February at the age of 92. Born in Gary, Indiana, Jack arrived in Boston to pursue a career in banking. He soon discovered the Athenæum and applied for a job as a custodian, but it quickly became apparent that he was brilliant, engaging, and passionate about the arts and humanities. Thus began his career of nearly 40 years among our collections and stacks.

**William Hennessey**

Bill Hennessey, a docent for 15 years, left this world in April. He will be remembered for his love and enthusiasm for all things related to the Athenæum, which he brought to every tour he conducted, offering interesting tidbits about our collections, rare volumes and our building itself.

**News Discussion Group**

Looking for fellow museum, library, and arts professionals? A new group for members working in the cultural sector will begin meeting monthly on second Tuesdays. Please join us for the inaugural meeting of Tipped In on Tuesday, January 8, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Arnold Serapilio with questions: serapilio@bostonathenaeum.org.

With gratitude we bid farewell to Noe Alvarez, security officer; John Delaney, development intern; Brooke Hobson, development assistant; Emily Moore, interlibrary loan intern; Charlotte Emans Moore, Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art; Natalie Naor, Driscoll Family Fellow; Emma Newcombe, academic programs intern; Casey Riley, assistant curator; and Travis Werlen, digital programs intern.

**Happy holidays to you and yours from all of us at the Athenæum!**

Both terrace areas will be secured for the winter effective Friday, November 9.