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Reminder

The Library closes at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, and remains closed Thursday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday; however, the Library will be open usual hours Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

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Director's Letter

"Fashion fades, only style remains the same." - Coco Chanel

For members who value style in letters as highly as Coco Chanel prized style in clothing, the Athenæum's latest electronic resource is sure to fly off the metaphorical racks. The Chicago Manual of Style Online includes the full text of both the 15 and 16th editions, and can be browsed page-by-page, searched by keyword, or consulted via a succinct Question and Answer section. The print edition remains available, as always, in the reference stacks, near the research librarians who would be delighted to help you navigate this essential writer's tool in whatever format you prefer.

Seeking a different sort of style? You'll find current issues of the World of Interiors, Country Life, and the Burlington Magazine displayed on the lowest level of our building, near the art books. Older volumes (with their marvelous period advertisements) are equally easy to see: just make an appointment in the Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room. Or browse the extensive virtual offerings, which include the Burlington Magazine, of another electronic resource, JSTOR, a gateway to online editions of more than 1,900 academic journals.

We wish you happy reading, writing, and discovering!

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

Credit for image above:

New Digital Collection: The Boston Directory
Featured Events

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

Book Talk: Belinda Rathbone, The Boston Raphael
Thursday, Nov. 6, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Jack Gantos, Living in the Library
Monday, Nov. 10, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Daniel Klein, Travels with Epicurus
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Concert: Duncan Cumming and Melinda Cestaro
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Nicholas Wapshott, The Sphinx: Franklin Roosevelt
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Children’s Event: Ornament Making
Saturday, Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m.

The Boston Directory appeared in 1789 and was published irregularly until 1825, when annual publication started. Various publishers were involved over the many decades of its existence.

The title page in 1789 promised “A List of the Merchants, Mechanics, Traders, and others of the Town of Boston; in Order to enable Strangers to find the Residence of any Person.” The 1789 Directory also included a map of Boston, lists of public offices, lawyers, medical professionals, bankers, and lists of the names and homes of engine-men (firefighters). Over the years, the format evolved into a familiar one with public offices listed in front, residents in the middle, and businesses at the end. Advertisements appeared in 1820, were expanded after 1846, and helped defray the costs of printing volumes. By 1858, the price of $1.50 was listed and compared with higher rates in other cities: $3.00 in New Orleans; $2.00 in Baltimore; and $4.50 in New York. By 1902, The Boston Directory cost $6.

The earliest volumes are shelved with the rare books, but photocopies of years 1789 through 1846 are shelved with volumes 1846 to 1981 in the reference stacks on the second floor. Now fifty-eight volumes, 1789 through 1862, are available online and include not only the listings but also the advertisements, which offer valuable information to researchers. Volumes are made accessible as digitized and eventually all volumes through 1900 will be online.

A generous donation from Scott Guthery, an Athenæum proprietor and docent, enables the Athenæum to digitize this collection and make it available online.

Mary Warnement
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

Credit for image above: Title page for The Boston Directory, (1789).

New staff member: Reader Services Assistant

I am very happy to introduce Arnold Serapilio, whom many members may have met since he began work as Reader Services Assistant on October 14, 2014. Working at the Circulation Desk, Arnold has the chance to meet members who come into the Library. His other duties include...
Members will find, on the book recommendation webpage, the autumn list of books read and enjoyed by members of staff.

Volunteer: Athenaeum Encyclopaedists wanted

Enjoy researching history? Ferreting out the facts? Whether you like tracking information online, taking home a stack of books to devour, or settling into a seat to study archival materials, the Athenaeum wants you. Here is an opportunity to volunteer for the Athenaeum which seeks people willing to help fill in some gaps regarding history and collections of the Athenaeum among the extensive listings of Wikipedia.

You can carry through the process from beginning to end or volunteer for one (even small) part of the process of creating an entry: researching, writing, editing, proof-reading, linking, or updating. We have compiled a list of possible research projects, or you may choose your own.

If you are interested, contact Mary Warnement, Head of Reader Services

Children's Library

The Athenaeum prepared a list of books related to WWI for its members and offers as well a brief list of books on WWI for children.

acting as liaison with the sixteen discussion groups and creating webpages for those groups, book recommendations, and Athenaeum Authors.

Arnold has been in the Boston area since 2004. Currently living in Somerville, he grew up in suburban upstate New York. In 2008, Arnold graduated from Emerson College with a B.A. in Writing, Literature and Publishing. After working in an office environment for a while, he is refreshed to come and work in such a beautiful building and is happy to join the Athenaeum team!

Stop by and welcome him next time you are in.

James P. Feeney
Howard Lang and Barbara Lang Hacker Head of Circulation

Credit for image above: Arnold Serapilio at the Circulation Desk, (Mary Warnement, 2014).

From the Cataloging Trenches

As part of the Cataloging Department's ongoing effort to bring to light the resources held by the Library that were not included in Athena when we converted from the Cutter card catalog, I recently cataloged a series of a half-dozen rare folded World War I maps that the Athenaeum purchased upon publication during and shortly after the War. Compiled by Alexander Gross and published in London by Geographia, Inc. between 1917 and 1919, the maps range from Europe, Alsace-Lorraine, Central and South Africa, Egypt and the Near East, and Palestine, and they offer a strong visual representation of troop movements, battles and territories occupied by the allies and by the Germans. This map of Europe shows activities between August 26, 1914, and November 11, 1918, including the farthest advances of the armies, the line of fighting before armistice, and the Austro-German territories in which Poles were the majority, among others. The timing of my cataloging of these maps was fortuitous, being as it is the centenary of the beginning of World War I and coinciding with the Athenaeum's current exhibition Over Here: World War I Posters from around the World, on display until January 31, 1915.

Robert Kruse
National Endowment for the Humanities Head of Technical Services