2018 by the numbers

14,885 books loaned
700 items digitized
228 items conserved
121 educational programs
158 archive inquiries

3,300 items cataloged

$1,322,157 in unrestricted revenue

3,600 reference inquiries
38 audio event recordings
45 Trustees and Emeriti

2,369 books acquired
45 video event recordings
2 exhibitions
15 research fellowships awarded
2,323 rare materials consulted

2,323 rare materials consulted

633 new memberships

1,058 annual fund donors

3,300 items cataloged

2,369 books acquired

22 discussion groups

3,979 active memberships

94 volunteers

24 interns
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BOSTON ATHENÆUM

Reports for 2018

Boston, Massachusetts
January 2019
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### Senior Administrative Staff

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**Christopher Boudrot, Director of Business Operations & Augusta Thomas Director of Finance**

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- Kaelin Rasmussen, *Rare Materials Catalog Librarian*
- Ryan Reed, *Cataloging Assistant*
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- Virginia Rundell, *Cataloging Assistant*
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- David Caredo
- Denise Caredo
- Jessica Caredo
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- Cheryl Guaino
- Gail Ministeri
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#### Readers
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- Jessica Caredo
- Joshua Caredo
- Cheryl Guaino
- Gail Ministeri
- Guy Ministeri
The past year was marked by progress, growth, and preparation for even better things to come.

William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services Mary Warnement and Director of IT Andrew Hahn completed preparations to upgrade the online library collection catalog with an integrated software product, Aeon, which simplifies special collections management.

National Endowment for the Humanities Chief Librarian in Charge of Technical Services Will Evans added essential positions in Conservation and in Cataloging with generous support from individual donors and a national grant-making agency.

Director of Business Operations and Augusta Thomas Director of Finance Christopher Boudrot completed a major project to integrate the fundraising and accounting databases, improving the library’s systems for recording income and eliminating redundant labor.

Following an intensive national search aided by leading figures in the library and museum fields, the Athenæum recruited Dr. John Buchtel, a distinguished scholar of the history of the book and seasoned curator, to serve as Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections. Highly credentialed, energetic, and warm, John is the perfect person to continue the important work of recent years to integrate the Special Collections into a comprehensive department and to build a team reduced by the unexpected departure of curators Catherina Slatterback and David Dearinger.

Director of Education Hannah Weisman and the talented Events team maintained the high quality of programs, including more than two dozen book talks and panels; a sold-out evening
discussion featuring leading figures in the rapidly developing field of biotechnology; and numerous special collections and exhibition-related previews, gallery talks, Eye of the Expert sessions, and conservation-related events.

Under the capable leadership of Facilities Director Chris Silva, the Athenæum progressed in implementing a rigorous building maintenance program, and developed achievable plans to address long-standing challenges to the preservation of our historic landmark home. The early-hours weekend project to replace critical pieces of mechanical equipment on the rooftop penthouse—a complex process requiring street closures and a crane—has already yielded energy savings and achieved stable environmental conditions for people and collections.

Tyrone Smith, promoted to the expanded role of Director of Safety and Security, collaborated with colleagues across the organization on projects to modernize the employee key access system, update security cameras, and strengthen the vendor vetting process.

In the final weeks of the fiscal year considered in this report, we welcomed two new colleagues to the senior management team. Bridget Keane, a seasoned fundraiser with a proven record of success in cultural institutions, arrived as Director of Development, succeeding Bob West, who remains involved in a consulting role.

Unusually, the Board approved a one-time deficit budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 to allow the organization to invest in fundraising efforts that will help to ensure the Athenæum’s financial stability over time. Early indicators point to success: despite a transition in Development leadership and a negative news story about the organization, the Athenæum closed the fiscal year with more contributions than ever before.

Maria Daniels assumed the new position of Director of Communications and Patron Services, bringing years of pertinent experience in public television, academia and museums, and nonprofit organizations, as well as infectious warmth to our communications about this cherished library.

Colleagues at every level of the organization participated in refining the phrasing—without altering the core meaning—of our
mission and vision statements, which now sparkle with our passionate commitment to upholding the Athenæum’s unique place in Boston’s intellectual and cultural history.

Our staff launched critical conversations about diversity, equity, access, and inclusion—defining issues of our day, and ones which we approach with open hearts and open minds.

At the time of this writing, the Boston Athenæum is poised to sign a thoughtfully negotiated long-term lease for three floors of the adjacent office building at 14 Beacon Street. These exciting plans for contiguous expansion (which occupied much of my own time over the past year) will more than double the spaces available to members in the historic building while creating better-configured workspaces in which to catalog, digitize, conserve, and research the library’s extraordinary collections. We owe thanks to the many Trustees, employees, and trusted advisors who participated in that effort, and to the visionary leaders in our community who have already stepped forward with commitments of financial support.

As 2019 approaches, the Boston Athenæum has an organizational structure that fosters collaboration, a talented senior management team, and compelling, achievable plans for a transformational expansion. The pieces are in place for long-term success. Together, we will realize the aspirations of our vision statement:

*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.*
The Proprietors elected Arthur B. Page, a Trustee since 2017, as Secretary of the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting in March. The Board welcomed four new members, Roger Haynes, Darlene C. Jarrell, John G. Palfrey, Jr., and Catherine Powell, while two Trustees, Charles A. Coolidge III and James F. Hunnewell, Jr., attained Emeriti status. With this report the Board mourns the passing of devoted Trustees Emeriti Jill Ker Conway and Ferdinand Colloredo Mansfield.

Roger Haynes

A Virginian by birth and a Bostonian by choice, Roger Haynes has been a commercial insurance broker for over thirty years. He began his career at Johnson & Higgins in Boston, specializing in the risk management needs of financial services companies. He is coauthor of the authoritative manual, Bank Insurance and Risk Management, and has several times been a speaker the American Banking Association’s Insurance Risk Management Forum. He founded and ran the North American Management Liability Practice for the Sedgwick Group and today is Area Executive Vice President for Gallagher in Boston.

Roger is a Vietnam veteran, serving with the Army Security Agency as a traffic analyst and French/Cambodian language specialist. For the last year of his service there, he provided the daily signal intelligence briefing to the command staff and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service.

After graduating cum laude from Brandeis University, Roger entered graduate school at the University of Virginia, where he studied textual criticism and bibliography in the program founded by Fredson Bowers. He and a team of graduate students and faculty built a working replica of an eighteenth-century wooden printing press that is still used today in the curriculum of the Rare Book School at UVA. He graduated with a master’s degree in English.

Roger had his first guest card at the Athenæum in 1970 and
today is a Proprietor and active discussion group participant. Besides the Boston Athenæum, Roger is also passionate about golf and his family. He and his wife, Adelaide, live in Milton and enjoy books, theatre, music, art, and holidays with their children and grandchildren.

**Darlene C. Jarrell**

Darlene C. Jarrell, a native of New York City, came to Boston three years ago after seven years in Portland, Maine. She has a lifetime of experience in a variety of positions related to education, history, and culture.

A licensed Speech and Language Pathologist for 25 years, Darlene has practiced in hospitals, schools, and university clinic settings with a focus on language disorders in young children. She also has a lengthy history of service to museums and historic sites having served as a volunteer in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in Maine at the Portland Museum of Art, and most recently in Boston at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Darlene earned her BA in Art History from Barnard College and her MS in Speech and Language Pathology from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a proud member of the Athenæum and serves as an active docent. She lives in Wellesley with her husband and their three children.

**John G. Palfrey, Jr.**

John Palfrey assumed the role of Phillips Academy’s 15th Head of School on July 1, 2012. Prior to joining the Andover community, he was the Henry N. Ess III Professor of Law and Vice Dean for Library and Information Resources at Harvard Law School. He served as executive director of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society from 2002 to 2008.

Palfrey has published extensively on how young people are learning in a digital era, as well as the effect of new technologies on society at large. He is the author or co-author of several books, including *Safe Spaces, Brave Spaces: Diversity and Free Expression in Education*, *Born Digital: How Children Grow Up in a Digital Age*, *BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of*

Outside of his work at Andover, Palfrey is chair of the board of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and LRNG. He serves on the boards of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and School Year Abroad. He is a former board member and the founding chair of the Digital Public Library of America and has served on the board of the Mass2020 Foundation, the Ames Foundation, Open Knowledge Commons, and Data & Society, among others.

Palfrey joined the Harvard Law School faculty after practicing law at the Boston law firm Ropes & Gray. He was a visiting professor at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland during the 2007-2008 academic year. He also served as a special assistant at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the Clinton administration.

A teacher, author, and innovator, Palfrey has earned praise for his books and scholarly work, as well as his teaching. The Bok Center at Harvard recognized him in 2007 for Distinction in Teaching. In 2005, he earned a Dean’s Commendation for Excellence in Teaching from the Harvard Extension School. Palfrey holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge, and an A.B. from Harvard College.

**Catherine Powell**

Catherine Powell is a principal at Abakas, a software consulting firm. Her focus is on helping clients effectively build and use their technology organizations to further their strategic goals. Prior to Abakas, she worked at a number of Boston-area software firms, and spoke and wrote extensively on software development methodologies.

Catherine is a member of the Board of Governors of the Handel & Haydn Society, and is active in several other New England non-profit organizations. She can frequently be found in the history section at the Athenæum, parsing political science journals from the 1960s, or browsing 1930s detective novels. She holds a degree in Busi-
ness Administration from the University of California, Berkeley, and resides in Boston with her husband Dan (also a Proprietor).

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Athenæum maintains its special collections to preserve and document the past, to foster delight and wonder, and to cultivate an appreciation for excellence in the making of books and art. We hold rare and significant materials in trust for the understanding and enjoyment of our patrons today and for those in generations to come. By providing access to them, we enable members and researchers to experience a tangible connection with history, whether for curiosity’s sake, as part of a systematic effort to produce new knowledge, or as inspiration for creativity.

Acquisitions

In 2018, the Athenæum acquired 1,665 objects for special collections, of which 1,592 were generously donated. A complete list of all items acquired in fiscal year 2018 is available on the Publications page of the website. Items accessioned in 2018 build on several of the library’s great strengths:

The collection of artists’ books has grown in both strength and importance. Especially noteworthy are items attesting to the ongoing influence of the late Leonard Baskin on the production of artists’ and fine press books in New England. First among them is a fine copy of the Gehenna Press edition of Anthony Hecht’s *Presumptions of Death* (1995) containing Baskin’s striking woodcuts in a modern take on the “dance of death” motif. This is joined by a collaboration with another internationally recognized poet, Robert Bringhurst, in an impressive folio produced by Baskin’s former associates at the Two Ponds Press. Joseph Goldyne’s masterly depictions of waterfalls both inspired Bringhurst and were in turn refined in response to his poems in the final burnished aquatints. The Athenæum has acquired one of ten deluxe copies that include a portion of Bringhurst’s manuscript and color...
Anthony Hecht (1923-2004)

*Presumptions of Death*

([Rockport, Me.]: The Gehenna Press, [1995]).

Binding by Gray Parrot. Purchase, Vershbow Fund.
Robert Bringhurst and Joseph Godyne
Letterpress, aquatints, monoprints.
Purchase, Proprietors’ Fund.
Shirley Whitaker
Etchings, letterpress.
Purchase, J. Mitchell Fund.
John Craig
*Venice*
(Risbury, Herefordshire: Whittington Press, 2015)
Binding by James Brockman.
Purchase, Vershbow Fund.
Housekeepers’ Friend: Containing Valuable Receipts, Ladies’ Needlework Companion, Almanac 1881.
(Boston: Press of Mills, Knight & Co.)
Purchase, Bromfield Fund.
Spanish Forger, [Seated Queen with Female Saint and Falconer, not before 1925?].
Color tempera and gold leaf on vellum.
Purchase, Hofer Fund.
Anti-Cruelty Society (Chicago, Ill.), Call the Anti-Cruelty Society . . . , [between 1920 and 1960?].
Photomechanical print.
Purchase, Ruth Seaman Brush Fund.
Die cut advertisement booklet.

Purchase, Bromfield Fund.

T.E. Dougherty Co. Fairy's Pie

(Chicago, Ill. & Port Byron, N.Y.: T.E. Dougherty, [1895?])

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A. Thiebaut, The Patriotic North, [1863].
Hand-colored tinted lithograph. [New York: Published by Caldwell & Co.].
Purchase made possible through a gift from Joyce M. Bowden and Adam M. Lutynski.
From group of 11 photographs of Perkins family members. Albumen print of Charles Bruen Perkins standing next to a penny-farthing bicycle.
Gift of Maria Luisa Mansfield.
Otto Goldschmidt (composer) and S. G. Ward (lyrics).
“Far Away and Long Ago”
Manuscript musical score, 1857.
Gift of Maria Luisa Mansfield.
Unknown artist.
Watercolor on ivory. Purchase.
monoprints by Goldyne. A third item is the first artist’s book by Shirley Whitaker, a physician and community activist who studied printmaking with Baskin. Part of a larger project to memorialize victims of lynching in the United States, Whitaker’s powerful etchings depict individual victims, each accompanied by first-person narratives that describe the circumstances of their murders. In all three books, the juxtaposition of text and image that treat the same subjects goes beyond mere illustration to encourage readers to contemplate the ancient principle of *ut pictura poesis* (“as is painting, so is poetry”)—to what degree do the written word and the visual arts evoke the same, or different, emotive powers?

Newly added rare books include a group of spectacular publishers’ cloth bookbindings designed by Boston-born book designer A. A. Turbayne, as well as items related to Boston, such as a scarce 1830 instructional manual, *Easy Lessons in Perspective*, attributed to a woman artist, Louisa Davis Minot.

Manuscripts include a Medieval-style illuminated miniature on vellum produced by the celebrated Spanish Forger, complementing the Athenæum’s existing holdings of his work, and a little manuscript notebook compiled by a New England leather tanner in the 1830s.

Ephemera—the scarce and fleeting cultural documentation that issued from the printing press but that, unlike books, were intended only for immediate use rather than long-term preservation—are represented by broadsides, such as a flyer advocating the prevention of cruelty to animals, advertising mechanisms such as an 1845 trade catalog for a Boston fruit and seed merchant, and an admission ticket to the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago (an anonymous gift).

A purchase made possible through a gift from Joyce M. Bowden and Adam M. Lutynski is *Gems of Art* (ca. 1867), a compendium published by Boston lithographers Bufford Brothers that contains a number of sample prints and even more advertisements full of information for both social historians and historians of printmaking. These join a variety of other lithographs, early photographs (including a substantial gift from Ron Polito and an album of 1860s-1880s images of Newburyport), photographic doc-
umentation of the New England landscape and of Boston architecture (including several images of the Athenæum), and the second installment of the Richard W. Cheek World War II Graphic Arts Collection.

A gift from Maria Luisa F. Mansfield in memory of her late husband, John Howard Mansfield, consists of intriguing items that descended through branches of the Ward and Perkins families. These include books from the library of Charles Callahan Perkins, one of the earliest supporters of the Museum of Fine Arts, including his own annotated copies of proofs of the illustrations for his art history monographs *Tuscan Sculptors* (1864) and *Italian Sculptors* (1868). The gift includes several other noteworthy association items. Among them is the scarce Japanese translation of *Letters from Ralph Waldo Emerson to a Friend, 1838 to 1853* (Tokyo 1901) bound with an autograph letter from its Japanese publisher to the editor of the first American edition, Charles Eliot Norton, along with a copy of that edition (Boston 1899). The volume is inscribed by “the Friend to whom these letters were addressed,” Samuel Gray Ward, to his grandson George Cabot Ward and Justine Ward. Another Samuel Gray Ward association item is a manuscript musical score by composer Otto Goldschmidt with song lyrics by Ward, inscribed by the composer to his American friend. Goldschmidt was the husband of Jenny Lind, the 19th-century singing sensation known as the “Swedish Nightingale”; they were married at the home of Samuel Gray Ward on February 5, 1852.

The year’s acquisitions were rounded out with a miniature on ivory for the paintings collection: an early 19th-century watercolor portrait of one of the Athenæum’s founders, Rev. Joseph S. Buckminster.

**Loans**

One of the treasures of the art collection, Giovanni Paolo Panini’s painting *Interior of St. Peter’s, Rome, during the Visit of the Duc de Choiseul*, made a triumphant return after touring the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and the
Cleveland Museum of Art. The Athenæum’s curatorial team took the opportunity to re-hang this masterpiece in the Gordon Room, where members can view it more easily.

Several other works went out on loan:

- The lithograph “Amérique septentrionale état de Massachus- setts: View of Boston and the South Boston Bridge” (1828), by Victor Adam and Jacques Milbert, traveled to the Massachusetts Historical Society for the exhibition *Entrepreneurship and Classical Design in Boston’s South End: The Furniture of Isaac Vose & Thomas Seymour, 1815-1825*.

- The J. Paul Getty Museum borrowed two albums containing early salted paper print photographs by John Adams Whipple for *Paper Promises: Early American Photography*.

- The Cape Ann Museum displayed 13 prints in its exhibition *Drawn from Nature & on Stone: The Lithographs of Fitz Henry Lane*.


**Exhibitions**

The Athenæum presented two major exhibitions, each accompanied by a short illustrated catalogue. *Thomas Buford Meteyard (1865-1928): Travels Through Impressionism* ran October 25, 2017-February 24, 2018. Organized by David B. Dearinger, Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings & Sculpture, the exhibition presented a wide range of paintings, watercolors, and works on paper, as well as publications to which Meteyard contributed designs and illustrations. These works reveal the influences of the Arts and Crafts movement, Symbolism, and Impressionism; the impact of picturesque locales such as Giverny, France, and Scituate, Massachusetts; and the artistic communities in which he participated. The exhibition was made possible through loans from the Meteyard family.
and from scholar and collector Nicholas Kilmer, who generously
donated a substantial group of Meteyard’s works to the Athenaeum
while the exhibition was being planned.

Subscription Campaigns: Contributions in Support of Community (April 11-September 1, 2018) relied on the Athenaeum’s rich
archives to explore the history of “crowd funding” to support cul-
tural organizations, to collect and commission artwork, to publish
books, to support artists and writers, to conserve artwork and pre-
serve historic structures, and to aid those in need. Starting with
the original subscription list for the Athenaeum’s predecessor in-
stitution, the Anthology Reading Room, and the original certifi-
cate for Boston Athenaeum Share No. 1, Curator Charlotte Emans
Moore, Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art, showcased and
contextualized objects from across the Athenaeum’s collections. In
a few cases, she juxtaposed them with key objects on loan from
the Cape Ann Museum, the Wilson Museum, the Harvard Art
Museums, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. This imaginative
and well-integrated exhibition made a compelling case for the
power of philanthropic community to achieve a shared vision.

Staff from several departments curated a number of smaller
installations in the Long and Sitting Rooms. Among them were a
retrospective of noteworthy acquisitions for the Athenaeum’s rare
book collections by retiring Curator of Rare Books Stanley Ellis
Cushing, a display of Japanese crepe paper books published by
Hasegawa Takejirō, a showcase of the Conservation Lab’s work to
safeguard the special collections, and a spotlight on the artist’s
books of Jeffrey Morin to mark Pride Month.

Other Special Collections Activities

The Eye of the Expert series continued as an opportunity for
members to engage up close with selected objects presented by
knowledgeable staff. The curatorial team and colleagues from
other departments continued the “It’s Complicated” series and in-
troduced “Backs and Bottoms,” focusing on the fascinating stories
revealed by the markings on the non-public sides of objects from
the collections.
Assistant Curator Casey Riley and Director of Education Hannah Weisman led a workshop focusing on the interpretation of photographic albums, drawing on a selection of 19th-century examples from the Athenæum’s extensive holdings. Scholars from more than a dozen institutions discussed topics such as race, national identity and migration, and accessibility.

*Archive*

The archive received typical inquiries about the collection. For example, researchers were interested in founder and first librarian William Smith Shaw, gallery exhibition catalogs from all time periods, and the *Books Borrowed* ledgers. On display for the New Proprietors’ Reception in the autumn were a range of Boston Athenæum Shares and letters from Proprietors to the Librarian. For the Eye of the Expert exploration of “Backs and Bottoms,” manuscripts from the Boston Library Society records, Boston Athenæum Shares, and the Boston Athenæum scrapbook of stationery were discussed. The *Subscription Campaigns* exhibition featured many rarely-displayed items from the archive, for example, the long 1806 list of signatures for the “Proposal for the Establishment of a Reading Room in Boston, to be called The Anthology Reading Room,” which became the Boston Athenæum; Share #1; record and scrapbook for Marcel Huiban (the “godchild” assigned to the library in 1917 through an American World War I relief organization, Fatherless Children of France); and a variety of letters pertaining to portrait paintings and marble bust commissions. Five graduate students with an Archive Management concentration in the Library & Information Science program at Simmons University interviewed Caroline D. Bain Archivist Carolle Morini for class projects. The archive continues to grow with materials from each department.
READER SERVICES

Reference

Librarians answered more than 3,600 questions from members and researchers. One recurring type of inquiry, helping a reader select a book, is known among librarians as “readers advisory.” Mary Warnement, William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services, and her staff tried to anticipate these questions with thoughtful book displays: “New on Two” (on the second floor) and “What’s Up” (by the elevator on the first and fifth floors). These featured older books on a variety of timely, whimsical, or commemorative topics such as Brazil’s National Museum fire, the invention of the fork, and an anniversary of Jack Kerouac’s On the Road.

Each month, a writing member starred in an online feature, “Athenaeum Author,” published among the book recommendations under the website’s “Library” menu. This year featured authors Sheila Cordner, Stephen Davis, Cullen Murphy, Heidi Gearhart, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Ray Anthony Shepard, Doctor Bow and Mister Long (April Fools), Donald Kelley, Lesego Malepe, Robert Fieseler, Arda Cataltepe, and Nicole Collins.

Reader Services sponsored the second annual Holiday Pop-Up Bookstore; Harvard Bookstore sold the recommendations of librarians Dani Crickman, Will Evans, Carolle Morini, and Mary Warnement.

On a monthly basis, Elizabeth O’Meara offered evening sessions geared toward helping members make the most of their memberships. We prepared instructions for topics like searching the Historic Boston Globe online and searching our online catalogue, Athena. Members asked about reserving books in Athena and how to access recordings of our book talks.

The Athenaeum requested 446 items through interlibrary loan for members and filled 260 requests out of the 974 active requests from other institutions. The main reasons we could not send
items: the book did not circulate (233), the book was too new (200), or we did not have that specific item (124).

Reader Services staff congratulated graduating intern Emily Levine, who worked as Interlibrary Loan Intern until September when she was replaced by Danny Norton, a Reader Services Intern since January 2017 who eagerly took on the meticulous work of ILL. The team welcomed new intern Christopher Russell in June.

**Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room**

The Charlotte and Arthur Vershbow Special Collections Reading Room was visited 563 times by 104 members and 85 guest researchers. During the fiscal year, librarians shelved 2,323 items requested by members and guest researchers—a slight increase over last year. For the 50 weeks a year the room was available, on average, 8.6 members and 4.6 guest researchers per week made appointments.

**Children’s Library**

Books from the Children’s Library made up 11% of all books borrowed, and 151 volumes were added to the Athenæum’s children’s and young adult collection. Children’s and Young Adult Services Librarian Dani Crickman continued to deliver programs serving audiences from ages 0 to 18. Throughout the year, 411 children and their accompanying caregivers attended story times. We welcomed 47 attendees of programs for older children and teens. Nursery Rhyme Time for babies 0-18 months proved to be one of the most successful new programs, cultivating literacy skills for the very youngest future readers. The weekly children’s e-newsletter reached 457 families as of September 2018. New book lists and themed displays were created each month.

Monthly public children’s and teen programming included book talks by Katherine Paterson (*My Brigadista Year*), Ray Anthony Shepard (*Now or Never!: 54th Massachusetts Infantry’s War to End Slavery*), and Nancy Tupper Ling (*The Yin-Yang Sisters and the Dragon Frightful*). Other events were a winter craft-making
party, a screening of *The LEGO Batman Movie*, a pajama story time and stuffed-animal sleepover, and a pop-up panel on gun violence centering teen perspectives. Educational outreach included a total of 86 story times for children at the Commonwealth Children’s Center and Park Street School.

The Children’s Library was pleased to welcome teens who received memberships through special circumstances, including a donor-sponsored essay contest at Boston Latin School and the Athenæum’s sponsored prize for exceptional use of primary sources at the 2018 Massachusetts National History Day competition.

*Circulation*

The Athenæum circulated 14,885 books from October 2017 through September 2018, and we mailed 722 books to members who requested that service. We ordered the delivery of 45 books from off-site storage. More than 80 orientation tours took place at noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays to explain to 350 new and long-time members all the services available in the building and online. James Feeney worked his magic to make space for more art books in the basement and for new art books to be displayed in the first-floor Bow Room along with the new book stands.

Arnold Serapilio worked with moderators of 22 discussion groups. One new group, *Longevity in Literature, Science, and Society*, met for a few months but did not garner a steady, loyal following and chose to disband. Out of the ordinary this year: *Shakespeare* and *Mystery* decided to join forces for one meeting, and *Based on the Book* changed its name from *Film and Text Seminar*. Grant Shaumburg took over as moderator for this group as well as Fiction. Tom Filbin is a new moderator for Philosophy. Mystery is the oldest group, while Literary Conversations attracts the most members—in fact, more than the room can hold. Fiction, Philosophy, New England Seminar, and Shakespeare all discuss literary topics and welcome new participants. Those who cannot always find time to come to 10½ are directed to the Boston Athenæum Readers group on Goodreads, a social media site where visitors
can read others’ reviews and share theirs with fellow members or even the world at large.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Group Moderator(s)</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Based on the Book</td>
<td>Grant Schaumburg</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Deanne Sullivan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td>Nancy J. Tarulli</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>Cashman Kerr Prince</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dante</td>
<td>Todd Boli/Andrea Pokladowski</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickens</td>
<td>Claire Laporte/Clive Martin</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>Grant Schaumburg</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary Conversations</td>
<td>Katherine Florio/Clive Martin</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology &amp; Society</td>
<td>Scott Guthery</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mystery</td>
<td>Toni Whitmore</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Seminar</td>
<td>Peg Wheeler</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Tom Filbin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Creelea Pangaro</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proust Reading</td>
<td>Hollie Harder/Mary Haskell</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proust Selected Studies</td>
<td>Hollie Harder/Mary Haskell</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
<td>Michael Almond</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trollope</td>
<td>Bill Pope</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td>Susan Rosefsky</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War I</td>
<td>Dave Herder</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>Dan Moulton</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writers’ Workshop</td>
<td>Sophia Garmey</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fellowships 2017-2018**

The Athenæum awarded seven fellowships, three of them in conjunction with another institution and one as a member in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. This year the library added the Boston Athenæum Community Fellowship, formalizing a process to offer an annual membership to applicants whose projects were excellent and yet not the top pick. The search committee, comprising Mary Warnement, Carolle Morini, and
Hannah Weisman, considered 49 applicants, of which 15 were New England Regional Fellowship Consortium proposals. Mary served on NERFC’s membership subcommittee and enjoyed visiting potential new members Chapin Library, Williams College and the Newport Historical Society. This expanding collaboration among a variety of libraries from small historical societies to large research universities is a satisfying way to help researchers and gain insight from colleagues. Below are all the year’s fellows:

Mary Catherine Mooney Fellowship
Robert B. Riter, Assistant Professor, “The University of Alabama, The Archival Sensitivities of Daniel Berkeley Updike”

Caleb Loring, Jr., Fellowship

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
Whitney Barlow Robles, Ph.D. candidate, Harvard University, “Curious Species: How Animals Made Natural History, 1700-1820”

The American Congregational Association-Boston Athenæum Fellowship
Erin Fulton, Ph.D. candidate, University of Kentucky, “Vestry Meetings and Vestry Music in New England, 1841-1848”

The Suzanne and Caleb Loring Research Fellowship (Jointly with MHS)
Jean Franzzino, Visiting Assistant Professor, Beloit College, “Dis-Union: Disability Cultures and the American Civil War”

The Boston Athenæum Community Fellowship
Reed Gochberg, Lecturer, Harvard University, “A House of Ideas: Museums, Science, and Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century America”
Heather Treseler, Associate Professor of American Literature, Worcester State University, “Thesaurus for a Year of Desire”
Conevery Bolton Valencius, Professor of History, Boston College, “On Shaky Ground: The Untold Story of the Largest Earthquake Surge in Modern History”

The New England Regional Fellowship

Christina Casey, independent scholar, “Lady Governors of the British Empire”
David Faflik, Associate Professor of English, University of Rhode Island, “Passing Transcendental: Harvard, Heresy, and the Modern American Origins of Unbelief”
Kate McIntyre, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University, “Maroon Ecologies: Albery Allison Whitman and the Place of Poetry”
Gwenn Miller, Associate Professor of History, College of the Holy Cross, “‘You Will Bring Opium to Canton’: John Perkins Cushing and Boston’s Early China Trade”
Ian C. Stevenson, Ph.D. candidate, Boston University, “‘The Summer-Home of the Survivors’: The Civil War Vacation in Architecture and Landscape, 1878-1918”
Kari Winter, Professor, State University of New York, Buffalo, “Fourteenth: Vermont’s Struggle For and Against Democracy, 1775-1875”

The following fellows presented their work in Field Reports: Katie Hickerson, Whitney Robles, Dan Gavin, Leon Kogan, and Scott Martin.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services Department fulfills the mission of the Athenæum by making accessible the library’s collections of circulating, open-shelf, and rare materials, primarily through Athena, the online catalog.
Acquisitions

Acquisitions Librarian Anthea Harrison Reilly accessioned a total of 2,369 items of circulating, reference, and rare materials of which 259 were gifts. She assisted in augmenting the circulating collection by supervising the volunteer members of the Book Selection Committee, as well as working with staff bibliographers John Buchtel, Dani Crickman, Stanley Cushing, David Dearinger, Will Evans, Andrew Hahn, Carolle Morini, Arnold Serapilio, Catharina Slautterback, Mary Warnement, and Hannah Weisman. Members are encouraged to recommend books for inclusion into the Athenæum’s circulating collection either by means of a binder located at the Circulation desk or via the online form found on the website under “Book Recommendations.”

Cataloging

Over 2,300 new circulating and reference books were cataloged and added to Athena by two Cataloging Assistants, Ryan Reed and Virginia Rundell. Rare Materials Catalog Librarians Kaelin Rasmussen, Graham Skinner, and Daniel Axmacher processed over 1,000 newly acquired and long-held special collections items, consisting of books, manuscripts, periodicals, prints, and photographs. All the catalogers, including Cataloging Interns Elizabeth Jarcy, Bailey Brunick, and KL Pereira, replaced 1,069 brief bibliographic records in Athena with greatly enhanced records, and the cataloging staff made a total of 5,700 edits to existing records as part of the department’s sustained efforts to improve access.

Serials

The Athenæum subscribed to more than 450 print continuing resources, including magazines, journals, and newspapers, as well as 20 electronic databases, covering current events and the humanities, all managed by Serials Librarian Tom Gearty. He received able support from Serials Interns Victoria Johnson and Ashley Runnels in checking in, claiming, and locating back issues of publications.
DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Digital Programs fulfilled more than 500 digitization requests from staff, members, and clients in 2018. New additions to the digital collections include the virtual edition of the Athenæum exhibition Subscription Campaigns: Contributions in Support of Community, which opened in April 2018. We digitized, processed, and published 200 items in the ongoing Publishers’ Bindings project, over 100 pieces in the Pro-Civil War Sheet Music, 1853-1876 collection, and numerous additions to the Rare Books, Manuscripts, Prints, and Photographs collections. The Suffrage Centennial Project, a collaboration among Reader Services, Cataloging, Conservation, and Digital Programs, made subject-specific materials available to suffrage researchers online. The major change in our operation this year was the design, testing, training, and implementation of the Aeon software, which allows much more efficient handling and tracking of requests fulfilled by Digital Programs.

CONSERVATION

Collections Maintenance

Lab staff continued the painstaking day-to-day work of caring for the Athenæum’s collections, conserving 115 circulating books and 113 special collections materials. The team took up additional projects: cleaning shelves on the fourth floor, reporting on light levels throughout the building, assisting with the delivery and unpacking of new acquisitions, educating library staff on the care and handling of collection materials, helping create a manual for couriers handling materials on loan, providing lab tours, plus conducting exhibit prep on objects for in-house exhibitions and loans.

Chief Conservator Dawn Walus attended the annual meeting of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Houston, Texas from May 28-June 1, 2018. The theme of the meeting was Material Matters. Dawn presented A Brief History of (a) Time: Reflections on 53 Years of Leather Conservation at the Boston Athenæum.
Associate Conservator Evan Knight traveled to the Cleveland Museum of Art to guide installation of the massive Panini painting, *The Interior of St. Peter’s*. Conservation assisted in the delivery, installation, and condition reporting of the Panini upon its return.

Dawn continued to work on an assortment of tasks: collecting information for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant from data loggers placed inside and outside of the building; purchasing and installing additional temperature and humidity sensors in the locked room spaces; and completing and submitting the final performance report and white paper to NEH in December 2017. Conservation Evening, the annual fundraising event, took place on May 8, 2018, raising approximately $36,000. The lab hosted Fiona Rutka, Painting Conservation Fellow from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, who examined Florine Stettheimer’s *The White Curtains*, providing the opportunity to move the painting from the Trustees Room to the lab, remove it from its frame, line the frame rabbet with felt, and reframe the painting.

The following images show some of the significant objects treated in the laboratory during the past year.

*Plantae selectae…*. Printed book, 1750-1777 (before treatment)

(after treatment)
Les ruines de Balbec, printed book, 1757.
Reports for 2018

ADVANCEMENT

Thanks to the generosity of our members, Proprietors, and friends, fundraising for FY18 reached $1.86 million. A total of 1,058 committed donors gave $1,322,157 in unrestricted funds. Of these donors, 609 increased their giving from the previous year and 102 gave for the first time. 222 donors gave at a leadership level of $1,000 and above. Giving to the Annual Fund increased 10.3% over the prior year, providing needed support for ongoing operating expenses. The entire library family—from curators to conservation, reference to security, and patron services—uses operating funds to carry out the day-to-day work of the Athenæum. Membership dues account for less than one-fifth of the operating budget. Therefore, additional private donations play a critical role in keeping the red doors open each year.

The Athenæum received $468,518 in restricted contributions, including more than $47,000 to bolster existing endowed book
funds. Revenue from the book funds fully supports the purchase of thousands of new titles each year. The library’s robust acquisitions would not be possible without the generosity of members and friends, past and present.

The library received more than $117,000 in support of its conservation efforts, including a three-year major gift commitment from long-time member and Proprietor David L. Driscoll to establish a new fellowship. The Driscoll Family Fellowship affirms the library’s essential role as a center of learning for conservation professionals. Proceeds from this year’s Conservation Evening were used to fully fund a part-time Paper Conservator to focus specifically on prints and photographs—the first time in a decade this kind of position has been supported.

In June, the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust continued its generous support with a new two-year grant to fund a graduate fellowship in American art and culture. The fellow will honor the artistic legacy of the late Boston-based artist Polly Thayer Starr by furthering research pertinent to the careers and accomplishments of individuals and/or communities historically underrepresented within art history and its allied fields.

During the term of this report the Athenæum received $69,750 in bequests. These came from the estates of Life Member Marjorie D. Moerschner and members Sargent Bradlee, Jr., and Marilyn L. R. Peterson.

The Boston Athenæum was fortunate to receive an award from the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati to preserve a rare volume from the library of General Henry Knox; support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, including a Cultural Investment Portfolio Projects grant to support musical concerts and a Universal Participation (UP) Innovation and Learning Network grant to support staff professional development in inclusive culture, universal design, and accessibility; as well as continued support from the Highland Street Foundation.

Over the course of the year, as the board explored the opportunity to expand into 14 Beacon Street, the development team moved swiftly into inviting early support of a capital project. As of the printing of this report, we have $4.8 million in commitments with an additional $1.25 million in gift requests pending.
PATRON SERVICES

Membership

The Athenæum welcomed more than 633 new memberships during the year. Of those, 99 were individual memberships, 151 were family memberships, 154 were young patron individual memberships, and 75 were young patron family memberships. In total, 3,979 memberships were begun or renewed during the year for a revenue total of $1,192,692.

Communications

The library continued to mail a bimonthly color newsletter and events listing, event reminder postcards, and regular electronic mailings to keep members informed about news and events. Our social media presence grew to reach a total of 13,118 people; Instagram gained the most visibility during the year, just about doubling the follower count from 1,331 to 2,631. Facebook continued to be a primary channel for member interactions; the community there grew by 8.6%, ending the year at 5,851 followers. Twitter advanced most slowly but still saw a 5.8% increase in followers, to 4,626.

Media

Press coverage included a negative article in the Boston Globe in February, “Turmoil strikes Boston Athenæum.” Positive mentions continued throughout the year, including a place at number 38 on Boston Magazine’s “100 Best Buildings in Boston,” inclusion in the Globe’s “Places to find peace and quiet,” a listing in the story of a worldwide library tour on The Daily Beast, and a mention on Boston Magazine Weddings’ list of “Seven Unforgettable Places to Propose in Boston” (“Most Intellectual: The Boston Athenæum”). Events were highlighted in Boston Magazine, the Chinese-English bilingual paper Sampan, and even appeared once in the Boston Herald. The library was covered in the Globe as part of Instagrammer Kate Weiser’s “Boston Bucket List” and appeared in Atlas Obscura twice. Items from the special collections were mentioned in
Events and Programming

Throughout the year, events and interpretive programming connected members and visitors with the library’s unparalleled collections and the people who steward them; welcomed audiences to consider new perspectives on historic and contemporary issues; and created opportunities for members to participate in the Athenæum community. The tally of the year’s events, excluding those led by docents, was 121 programs attended by 6,720 people.

A primary theme of the year’s programming centered on special collections and exhibitions. Two exhibition previews, three related lectures, six gallery talks, five Eye of the Expert sessions, a Conservation Lab tour, and the much-appreciated annual Conservation Evening brought attendees closer to the important and interesting objects in the library’s care.

A staple on the calendar, literary events, including 28 compelling book talks and panels, featured Stephen Greenblatt, Jhumpa Lahiri, Cullen Murphy, Katherine Paterson, Domenico Starnone, a group of prominent editors sharing behind-the-scenes stories about producing fiction and journals, and the talented fellows from GrubStreet’s Young Adult Writers Program, among others. Audiences came to the Long Room for four endowed lectures on topics such as systems thinking in public health, the role of bees in the future of the planet, and slavery in the British country house.

Two Nobel Laureates visited for two highly engaging evenings: biochemist Dr. Craig C. Mello joined distinguished panelists Dr. David Meeker and Dr. Adam Koppel in a discussion of biotechnology and its impact on Boston, and economist Robert Shiller lectured on the transformation of the American Dream.

Continuing the presentation of topics from a variety of perspectives, the events team produced successful programming including the “Golden Door or Border War?” event series on immigration, which was paired with a temporary installation of relevant special collections materials. Thought-provoking installations in the series included a panel discussion on the Chinese Ex-
clusion Act, in partnership with the Chinese Historical Society of New England; a moving performance by the Poets’ Theatre; and a lecture by Boston Globe staff writer Neil Swidey.

Member’s Choice events were instituted on the second Tuesday of the month, enabling members to organize programs on topics of personal interest and share them with the Athenæum community. Eight such lectures were offered and quickly became popular.

Events with a community focus populated the schedule, including a dozen Listening Sessions welcoming broad participation to help build strategic imperatives for the Athenæum’s future; three receptions for new members; and quarterly coffee hours with Director Elizabeth Barker. A handful of community social events took place, including Art and Wine Night, in which Athenæum staffers presented four artworks from the special collections paired with four wines; a special historic Boston cocktail tasting; and the second annual Trivia Night, with docent and former “Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions” winner Fritz Holznagel serving as Quiz Master. Special luncheons and receptions were held for Proprietors, donors, and volunteers.

Regular children’s programming included a few special book talks, such as one for young adult readers from Newbery Medal and National Book Award-winning author Katherine Paterson.

Staff from all departments welcomed 520 visitors to the first floor on July 27 for a day of reading, collections-based conversations, and crafting, part of the Highland Street Foundation-sponsored Free Fun Fridays program.

Docents facilitated Athenæum experiences for nearly 1,800 members and visitors through programs such as public and private Art and Architecture Tours, Up Close Tours on the first floor, and gallery talks in Thomas Buford Meteyard (1865-1928): Travels through Impressionism and Subscription Campaigns: Contributions in Support of Community.

Adam Derington, education intern, came to the Athenæum in January to complement his graduate studies in public history at UMass Boston. In partnership with the Boston University Center for Humanities, the Athenæum welcomed Academic Programs Intern Emma Newcombe for the summer of 2018. Having recently completed her PhD in American studies, Emma laid the ground-
work for a new professional development workshop for teachers which will be held in July 2019.

SYSTEMS

The Systems department, directed by Andrew Hahn, continued to improve software and computer systems. The team implemented a new help desk ticketing tool to aid in fielding staff requests, finding such success that several other departments initiated their own help desks. Systems staff protected the organization from a variety of computer security vulnerabilities, including WPA2 KRACK and Spectre-Meltdown. In addition, antivirus software was migrated to a new, more easily managed product with improved scanning and patching capabilities.

In collaboration with other departments, Systems staff purchased and began implementing special collections software, Aeon, from Atlas Systems, which is built to handle and streamline the special collections reservation process as well as rights and reproductions requests. Library employees were trained in GSuite, Google’s cloud-based office package with email, calendar, spreadsheet, word processing, instant messaging, and other functions; cyber security training presented participants with advice to help them stay safe online. The Human Resources and Events departments improved work flows and record keeping with an e-signing solution now in use for personnel documents and speaker release forms. The Membership office gained a second point-of-sale station, similar to the one at the Circulation desk, to facilitate processing members’ payments.

In February, Rosati Acoustics + Multimedia, Inc. performed an acoustical study of the Henry Long Room, issuing a detailed report on the space’s acoustical characteristics with recommendations for improvements to the audiovisual system as well as architectural mitigations. Thirty-eight audio and 45 video event recordings were added, attracting a total of 20,434 viewings. A sold-out 2015 talk by classicist Mary Beard again took laurels for the most popular recording, demonstrating the longevity and value of these resources.
Reports for 2018

Website

Online event listings received a new, more user-friendly registration page, reflecting changes in the Net Community platform as well as collaboration from a number of departments. Traffic decreased across the site by 4% from last year, but visitors spent slightly more time on Athenæum web pages (+2%). Making the website easier to navigate, Plan Your Visit was broken into two separate pages: “Hours & Admission” and “What to Expect.” This impacted the top pages, which were (in order): Hours & Admission, Join or Renew, Calendar, Upcoming Events, Mission & History, What to Expect, and Take a Tour.

SECURITY

Under the leadership of Tyrone Smith, Security continued to pursue its main objectives of protecting people, property, and assets, and minimizing potential risks. To assess the operating landscape, the team conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. The department accomplished a complete overhaul of the key security structure, paramount to establishing physical security and minimizing exposure at the highest level. A re-keying initiative was successfully completed on all interior and exterior doors throughout the facility. In conjunction, an electronic key control system was installed to house all building keys, requiring them to be returned daily.

Security provided education in Life Safety, introducing first-time Active Shooter and Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB) trainings, mandatory for security personnel and open to the entire staff. These were well received, and will be included as part of an annual training model along with First Aid/CPR/AED.

New policies and procedures were developed over the course of the year, including a Member Conduct Policy to foster healthy staff and member relations. We incorporated a security help desk tool, instrumental from a documentation, recordkeeping, and auditing perspective.
Security staffers maintain relations with area agencies Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), the Boston Police Department, and Crime Prevention/Neighborhood Watch programs. Affiliations are maintained with the American Society for Industrial Security and the International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection, linking the Athenæum team to ongoing security training, workshops, and professional development.

FACILITIES

Facilities, led by Christopher Silva, adopted a newly proactive approach to resolving building issues. At the beginning of the year, plans were drawn up to replace the failed cooling and conditioning system. Designs responded to the findings of the Image Permanence Institute, which identified the full replacement of the rooftop chillers as a key component to facility improvement. These liquid-filled units convert street and returned water to super cold temperatures, providing cooling to the building and helping keep the collections within safe ranges for their long-term preservation. In a tremendous team effort, Security, Conservation, and Systems all contributed to the significant task of removing old units from inside and atop the building and installing new ones, which each weigh in excess of 6.5 tons. The cost savings provided by more efficient and reliable units was documented immediately.

The Facilities team worked with the engineering firm of Simpson, Gumpertz, and Hegar to address the deterioration of the façade and create a comprehensive plan to resolve elevated moisture readings within some of the locked collection storerooms. A thorough examination of the exterior with water testing was performed, laying groundwork for future repairs to the landmark building. New humidity sensors were installed within the collection rooms and programed into the Facilities Insite/Onsite system, delivering real-time readings within the rooms and allowing for timely conditioning corrections.

Ismar Hochen came to the Facilities team as Building Caretaker, and became instrumental in improving building upkeep with constant painting and plastering. Facilities completed a 20-
year report on an equipment replacement timeline, helping anticipate future projects and tracking repairs. A proactive approach to addressing maintenance saved time and money while safeguarding the collections.

PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS

Transitions and Milestones

A number of transitions took place in Development. Bob West moved from Director of Operations to Chief Development Officer with a plan to retire before the next fiscal year. Dawna Burrus, formerly the Manager of Membership and Development, was promoted to Director of Annual Giving. Brooke Hobson came on board for a short time as the Development Assistant, but left for a position more in line with her background. Michael Jugenheimer, who had previously worked at the Athenæum as the Director of Communications, rejoined as a Major Gift Officer. After one year as Advancement Systems Manager, Makesha Uditnarain accepted a position at St. Francis House. Francis Wyman took over the role, bringing many years of prospect research experience.

The Athenæum conducted an extensive search to find a new Chief Development Officer. In late August, Bridget Keane started in the role, arriving from Citizen Schools, where she was the Chief of External Engagement, and bringing years of experience in academic and nonprofit fundraising.

Christopher Boudrot was promoted to Director of Business Operations and Augusta Thomas Director of Finance. After working for the Athenæum in various roles over three and a half years, Hanna Bertoldi accepted a Collections Database role at Snite Museum of Art in Indiana. Emmy Ly, who had worked as the Development Intern, graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and Design and was promoted to Accounting Assistant in mid-June. The Finance department hired Jeff Ferguson as the Accounts Receivable Assistant. Ferguson brings extensive customer service and database experience.

The year brought many changes in the Special Collections de-
partment. In January, Stanley Cushing retired as the Anne C. and David Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts after almost 47 years at the Athenæum. Staff, members, and friends gathered at a disco-themed party before his final day to celebrate his accomplishments. Cushing remains Curator Emeritus of Rare Books. David Dearinger decided to leave his post as the Susan Morse Hilles Senior Curator of Paintings and Sculpture after 13 years at the institution. Catharina Slutterback departed in March, deciding to conclude her role as the Curator of Prints and Photographs. Slutterback worked at the Athenæum for nearly 28 years and remains Curator Emerita of Prints & Photographs.

After a nationwide search to fill the post of Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections, Dr. John Buchtel accepted the position, arriving in June from the Georgetown University Library, where he was the Director of Special Collections. Lily Pelekoudas was hired as temporary Curatorial Assistant and later promoted to Special Collections Registrar. Casey Riley worked as the Assistant Curator in Special Collections until accepting a position as curator and head of the Department of Photography and New Media at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Dr. Charlotte Emans Moore, the Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Arts, ended her fellowship in the Fall.

Catherine McGrath retired after 20 years of dedicated service in various roles, the most recent as the Coordinator of Member Services. The staff held a celebratory party to thank her. The Member and Patron Services department added one full-time coordinator, Molly Jarvis, and one part-timer, Libby Miserendino, to provide more hours of membership services for members. Jarvis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Arts Management. Miserendino has a Bachelor of Arts in History and American Studies. The Events department welcomed Rachel Lanza as the new Events Assistant. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature.

Hannah Gersten, the Manager of Communications, accepted another position and left in October. The role was reconceived as a Director of Communications and Patron Services. After a thorough regional search, Maria Daniels accepted the post and began at the end of the year, in mid-September. Daniels built her nonprofit communications experience working for Swanee Hunt
Alternatives as the Director of External Affairs, for WGBH/AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, and for the Perseus Project at Harvard and Tufts Universities.

After 14 years as a Building Caretaker, Eduino Barbosa said farewell to colleagues, leaving to pursue a new career path. The Facilities department welcomed Tatiana Keane Forero as a Building Custodian, and Ismael Alvarado and Ismar Hochen as Building Caretakers.

The Conservation department received funds from Conservation Evening to support a temporary Paper Conservator position in the lab. Tatiana Cole, a highly experienced staffer with a Master of Science in Art Conservation, joined the team in June.


Athenæum employees have been fortunate to work alongside the following individuals over the past year:

**Interns**

Bailey Brunick  
Adam Derington  
Nicole Critchley  
John Delaney  
Daria Hafner  
Elizabeth Jarcy  
Victoria Johnson  
Hannah Knight  
Keri Lehtonen  
Emily Levine  
Emmy Ly  
Jennifer McDonald  
Emma Newcombe  
Daniel Norton  
Kim Lauren Pereira  

Allison Rosenthal  
Ashley Runnals  
Christopher Russell  
Michelle Slater  
Morgan Stewart  
Alyssa True  
Darrell Ung  
Rachel Wentworth  
Travis Werlen

**Temporary Staff**

Tatiana Cole

**Driscoll Family Fellows**

Natalie Naor
Von Clemm Fellows
Natalie Naor
Allison Rosenthal

Book Selection Committee
Jacob D. Albert
Alexander Altschuller
Lina H. Coffey
Pamela Ikauniks
Laura T. Kent
Andrea Pokladowski
Mary O. Stevens

Cataloging
Peter B. Little

Children’s Library
Nicole Collins
Rachel Handler
Karla Rojas
Meredith Zielonka

Circulation
Margaret Bratschi

Conservation
Brian Bassett
Sophie Gardiner
Markus Tran

Development
Luke Diggins

Discussion Group Moderators
Randall H. Albright
Michael Almond
Todd Boli

Mary J. Cronin
Thomas Filbin
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Bequests
The Boston Athenaeum received bequests from the following estates. Many people who leave these types of gifts are members of the John Bromfield Society.

Estate of Sargent Bradley
Estate of Robert L. Halfyard
Estate of Marjorie D. Moerschner
Estate of Marilyn L. Peterson

Tribute Gifts
Gifts were made in memory of the following people during the fiscal year.

John H. Brandt, M.D.
Shirelle Farmer
Kirtland C. Mead
Elizabeth Muir
Robert Pease Severy

Gifts were made in honor of the following people during the fiscal year:

Rodney Armstrong
Stanley Ellis Cushing
Rose Concetta Di Lillo
Scott B. Guthery
Maureen Marcucci

Matching Gift Programs
Many companies and foundations provide a program that encourages their employees or trustees to make philanthropic gifts to charities of their choice. As they made gifts to various initiatives this year, our members and friends participated in matching gift programs provided by the following:
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Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation
FM Global Foundation
Google, Inc.
Millennium Pharmaceuticals
Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.
State Street
Wellington Management

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Hanna and James T. Bartlett
Francisco Unger and Noelle Bodick
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Stanley Ellis Cushing
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Mr. Nicholas Kilmer
Maria Luisa Mansfield
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Abraham and Alain Schechter
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Sizer
The Architectural Heritage Foundation
The Folio Society

The following individuals and organizations supported a variety of initiatives not included in the above categories.

Joyce M. Bowden and Adam M. Lutynski
Cynthia and John W. Everets
Estate of Sargent Bradlee, Jr.
Estate of Marjorie Moerschner
Torrence C. Harder
Highland Street Foundation
Rachelle Linner
Weston and Mary Naef
Estate of Marilyn L. Peterson
Loumona Petroff
Santander Bank N.A.
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FINANCE

As we did in 2017, we are presenting in this book a summarized financial report. This format enables us to save the considerable financial costs required to reproduce the statements, notes and supplemental schedules in a print-friendly format. The complete financial statement package, exactly as received from our auditors, is available on the Publications page of our website.

The endowment ended the year valued at $92,136,620, an increase of $2,409,818 over the prior-year value of $89,726,803. The increase is the result of a total investment return, net of fees, of $6,865,257 plus contributions to the endowment of $98,560, offset by appropriations for current operations of $4,316,553 and appropriations for capitalized costs of $237,447.

The year ended with a slight decrease in unrestricted net assets from operating activities, before depreciation and amortization of ($24,743). This follows a prior year operating surplus of $231,077. The current year decrease is the result of a budgeted deficit. In an effort to reduce the Athenæum’s reliance on the endowment, it was decided to make a strategic investment in Advancement staffing. It was also assumed that the additional staff expense would lead new giving by some months, due to the time required for recruiting, training, and process implementation. Contributions, gifts, and grants increased approximately 10% to $1,322,157, from $1,198,879 in the prior year.

We recognize that our organization continues to be overly dependent on appropriations from the endowment. For the year ended on September 30, 2018, the Boston Athenæum relied on the endowment to cover 59% of our operating expenses, before depreciation. To reduce this draw, the organization will continue to strengthen revenue from other sources, such as Membership dues, which covered only 16% of our operating expenses before depreciation.

For the year ended September 30, 2019, the organization revised our endowment spending policy. In past years, we appropriated for distribution each year 5% of the endowment fund’s
### Schedule of unrestricted revenue and expenses

**September 30, 2018**, with comparative totals for 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, gifts and grants</td>
<td>$1,322,157</td>
<td>$1,198,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues revenue</td>
<td>1,192,692</td>
<td>1,243,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and other program revenue</td>
<td>102,271</td>
<td>99,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental and other non-program revenue</td>
<td>118,076</td>
<td>98,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations from board-designated funds</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>135,953</td>
<td>145,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,923,149</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,837,209</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease from operating activities before allocation of five percent (5%) from endowment</td>
<td>(4,341,296)</td>
<td>(4,048,809)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Net Assets</td>
<td>(24,743)</td>
<td>231,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

This statement includes unrestricted revenue and expenses only. All other funds are accounted for separately.

Full audited financial statements are available on our website: www.bostonathenaeum.org.

The approximate market value of the endowment on September 30, 2018 was $92,136,620.
average fair value over a rolling 12-quarter period. Commencing with the fiscal year 2019, the Athenæum adopted a policy of increasing the distribution by the published CPI-U rate for Boston-Cambridge-Newton, averaged over 12 months, plus 1%. The organization believes that limiting the appropriation to a 1% “real” increase annually will allow long-term growth and encourage further revenue diversification, while providing a more predictable appropriation for long-term financial planning.

With the ongoing commitment and vision of our generous members, we will continue to sustain the vital mission of the Boston Athenæum for generations to come.
2018 by the numbers

14,885 books loaned
- 1,058 annual fund donors
- 228 items digitized
- 228 items conserved
- 121 educational programs
- 158 archive inquiries
- 3,300 items cataloged
- $1,322,157 in unrestricted revenue
- 1,058 video event recordings
- 38 audio event recordings
- 2,369 books acquired
- 3,600 reference inquiries
- 45 exhibitions
- 15 research fellowships awarded
- 2,323 rare materials consulted
- 45 Trustees and Emeriti
- 94 volunteers
- 2,369 books acquired
- 45 video event recordings
- 38 audio event recordings
- 2 exhibitions
- 15 research fellowships awarded
- 2,323 rare materials consulted
- 45 Trustees and Emeriti
- 94 volunteers
- 22 discussion groups
- 24 interns

3,979 active memberships

633 new memberships