

## THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

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# Salem Athenæum

# Newsletter

Fall 2009

FOUNDED AS THE SOCIAL LIBRARY IN 1760

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Concerts

**October 24: Candlelight Concert** featuring women composers of 17th and 18th Centuries. Presented by the **Cambridge Society for Early Music**. Saturday, at 8:00 p.m. \$30. \$25 for seniors and Athenæum members. Free to all students with ID and all children 17 and under. (See article on page 7)

### Lectures

**October 29: Too Good to Be True: The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff.** Lecture by author **Erin Arvedlund**. Thursday at 7:00 p.m. \$15. \$10 for members \$5 for students. (See article on this page)

**November 3: The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today.** Hear co-author **Ron Soodalter** Tuesday at 7 p.m. \$15, \$10 non-members; \$5 students. (See article on page 7)

### Concerts

**December 12: O'Carolan, Etcetera**, a North Shore ensemble, will provide background music for a reception honoring the exhibit **Outbound! From Salem to the Farthest Ports in the Golden Age of Sail**. 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (See article on page 3)

**January 16, 2010: Carthage Consort of Viols**, featuring music from the time of Henry VIII. 8 pm. Sponsored by the **Cambridge Society for Early Music**. 8 p.m. (See article on page 7)

**February 27: Baroque flutist Chris Norman** and violinist **David Greenberg** playing the music of Scotland and maritime Canada. **Cambridge Society for Early Music**-sponsored series. 8 p.m. (See article on page 7)

### Bicentennial Ball

**March 6: Celebrating the Year 1810: An Athenæum Bicentennial Ball** at Hamilton Hall. Watch for Details. ( See pages 2 and 3)

IMPORTANT DATES cont'd on page 2

## The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff

Despite all the headlines about Bernard Madoff, who pleaded guilty earlier this year to running a \$65 billion Ponzi scheme, the man is still shrouded in mystery. When and why did he turn his legitimate business into a massive fraud? How did he fool so many smart investors for so long? Who among his family and employees knew the truth?

Author **Erin Arvedlund**, an investigative journalist who has written for *Barron's*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *TheStreet.com*, and *Portfolio.com*, takes a good stab at these questions in her new book *Too Good to be True: The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff*. She'll present details from her investigation at the Salem Athenæum on Thursday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m.

Arvedlund may be among the best educated about the Madoff scandal, having raised the first alarm bell about Madoff's practices in her article for *Barron's* in 2001, based on more than 100 interviews – including one with Madoff himself. Her suspicions might have prevented a lot of misery, had anyone taken them seriously, including the SEC. In a sweeping narrative of Madoff's career—from his youth in Queens, New York, to his early days working for his father-in-law, to his time as chairman of the NASDAQ exchange, and

finally to infamy as the world's most notorious swindler—Arvedlund offers us a view of Madoff that no other journalist has.

Almost no one was willing to believe



anything bad about "Uncle Bernie"— so humble, so generous to charities. Arvedlund demonstrates that Madoff was no ordinary liar, but a master of deception in the extreme. He kept his clients at a distance and allowed handsomely paid friends to solicit new ones for him. But, Arvedlund asks, did he start off as a legitimate money manager or was he a fraud from the beginning? Were there indications of larceny at the very start of his career? Why did Madoff's biggest supporters within the industry ignore the warning signs that were

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## IMPORTANT DATES Cont'd

### Course

January 21 through March 4: **Orientalism in British Literature** course by Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf. 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays (See article on p 3)

**Spring 2010: Founders Symposium.** Early American historians give talks about the Athenæum's founders: Edward Augustus Holyoke, William Orne, Moses Little, John D. Treadwell, John Pickering, Jr., Benjamin L. Oliver, Leverett Saltonstall, Nathaniel Silsbee, and Samuel Putnam. Date not yet confirmed, but will be a Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, with a break for lunch and an afternoon segment from 2 to 4 p.m. (See article on page 3)

**April 12 through May 10: William Bentley's Salem,** led by Donald Friary. 7 to 10 p.m. Mondays.



## Planning Continues for the Bicentennial

We are well into planning for the Bicentennial in 2010, and the first event to add to your calendars is an Athenæum birthday celebration slated for Saturday evening, March 6, 2010 in Hamilton Hall (note the date change from the originally planned March 13, altered to accommodate school vacation schedules). We won't divulge all the details, but plan to be immersed in the early 19th century!

# President's Letter



Dear Athenæum Members,

It's always a pleasure to start off a letter with good news about Athenæum activities!

We've gotten Fall off to a smashing start with a lecture by **Katherine Howe**, author of *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane*, on September 15, and then the first meeting of our terrific new fall course (with 25 eager students) on Darwin's *Origin of Species* on September 17th, taught by Professor James Morris of Brandeis and Harvard Universities. (Sue Schopf, our programs maven, was especially delighted to tell about one couple who actually changed their plans to return home to California from summering in Marblehead just so they could attend the course. Now that's worth applauding!) Then came our annual book sale on October 3; and author Hobson Woodward (associate editor of the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society) talking about his book, *A Brave Vessel*, on October 6. On October 15 the Massachusetts Poetry Fest was launched in our library.

Also well worth noting is the addition of a terrific new kids program that began at the Athenæum this fall. It's Shakespeare on Tuesdays, an after-school program for children 7 to 10 years old, thanks to a group of devoted parents and to Keri Cahill of Rebel Shakespeare.

As I write, we're preparing for a concert by **La Donna Musicale** on October 24, playing the music of women composers of the 17th and 18th centuries (courtesy of the wonderful **Cambridge Society for Early Music**). And then we wind up October with a close look at the infamous Bernard Madoff provided by author **Erin Arvedlund**, journalist and author of *Too Good To Be True: The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff*. See the article about this talk on page 1 in this issue.

It's as full a Fall calendar as ever (and not a word about Halloween in the lot!), and you don't want to miss a single event. Remember that Athenæum members can attend these events at a reduced ticket price.

DO visit the Athenæum this Fall, pick up a bestseller, enjoy our bright new floors, new lighting, and the continuing beauty of our garden in fall. All are welcome!

*Francie King*  
President,  
Salem Athenæum

# Outbound: From Salem to the Farthest Ports in the Golden Age of Sail

A new exhibition now on display features books of voyage, commerce and history that helped merchants, captains and missionaries plan their journeys and wing chair travelers satisfy their curiosity. The exhibition features profiles of early Athenæum proprietors and spectacular examples of our wonderful voyage and travel collection. Elaine von Bruns is honorary curator.

A reception honoring the exhibition and its curator will take place during the annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 12 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This year's open house will also feature a performance by **O'Carolan, Etcetera**. The North Shore ensemble brings its audiences instrumental music from Old and New England, Scotland, Ireland, and Nova Scotia; early English dance tunes that Jane Austen would have known; 18th century Celtic airs, and reels that will set your toes a-tapping. Their December 12 visit to the Athenæum will include several seasonal pieces from these traditions.



Musicians:  
Trish DeCaprio (fiddle), Cindy McIntire (orchestra and Irish wooden flutes), Dick Luecke, (guitar), Herb Smooth (octave fiddle and concertina).

—Jean Marie Prociuous  
Director

## More Upcoming Events

### Founders Symposium

Plans for the 2010 bicentennial celebration continue to shape up with three very special offerings in the works. The first is a **Founders Symposium** in which a group of Early American historians will be invited to give talks about the Athenæum's founders--Edward Augustus Holyoke, William Orne, Moses Little, John D. Treadwell, John Pickering, Jr., Benjamin L. Oliver, Leverett Saltonstall, Nathaniel Silsbee, and Samuel Putnam—as well as other prominent members during the Athenæum's early years, such as Joseph Story. While these names are familiar to many of us, the details of their lives and contributions to the Athenæum are not. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the founding members to whom we owe so much.

Since the Salem Athenæum represented a merger in 1810 of the Social Library of 1760 and the Philosophical Library of 1781, another subject that will be addressed at the symposium is the composition of the original book collection, including the famous Kirwan Collection, captured by a privateer from Beverly and sold at auction in Salem. The complete catalogue of holdings was recorded in 1811 and consisted of a remarkable group of works that ranged from the latest scientific treatises, moral philosophy and theology, and works of poetry and fiction, to the literature of travel and exploration, ancient and modern history, and world geography. The nature of this collection tells us a great deal about the social values and intellectual interests both of our founders and of the age in which they lived.

While the date has not yet been confirmed, the event is being planned for a Saturday and will consist of a morning segment, from 10:00 until 12:00 with a break for lunch, and an afternoon segment from 2:00 until 4:00, including a panel discussion and Q&A session. Members and the public will be informed once the participants and the date have been confirmed.

### New Course

Also added to our winter line-up is a new course, "**Orientalism in British Literature and Visual Culture**," which will be taught by Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf, Athenæum trustee, Associate Dean and Lecturer on English Literature in Harvard's Division of Continuing Education. The course will run for seven consecutive Thursdays, beginning January 21 and ending March 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Tuition for the course will be \$175 for members and \$195 for non-members. Schopf describes the course as "a tribute to the obvious interest in travel, the exotic, and the ancient world reflected in the book collection of the founders and other nineteenth-century Athenæum members."

The subject of "Orientalism" in Western art and literature has been highly controversial since the publication of Edward Said's 1978 book, *Orientalism*. Said maintained that much of the West's dealings

Continued on page 6



Now available at the library.

Members who want to use their laptops while doing research or just reading can now access the Internet via the free WiFi service during business hours.

## Preparing the Athenæum in order to Refinish the Floor



Protecting Lord Byron



Protecting the Mural



Repaired Gate

See next page for the results

# Athenæum Welcomes Fall with Many Improvements

We've made good progress on our building and grounds during the past summer toward maintaining a welcoming place for our members to gather, and an attractive venue for our programs. Here are the highlights:

### Main Reading Room

During the summer, substantial work was done to enhance the appearance of the Main Reading Room. As reported last month, the floor has been refinished, restoring the original brightness of the room. Windows were repaired and the lighting enhanced. Additionally, the large reading tables have been steadied through the careful refurbishment of their legs. All the carpets have been cleaned. Thanks to major efforts by volunteers from both the Building and Grounds and the Collections Committees, all work was done without any risk to the collections or furniture; and all work was completed on schedule and within budget.

### Building Exterior

The railing at the building's rear entrance stairway has now been repaired. It had been found to have significant rot and insect damage, and had shown signs of deterioration and instability. When opened for repair, evidence of carpenter ants was visible in the wood.

During the repair work, the underside of the porch showed damage from carpenter ants, and extermination was done to protect against further damage. The structure of the back porch and railings is sound, and should serve for many years.

The brick sidewalk in front of the building on Essex Street has been re-

laid to eliminate the puddling of snowmelt in the winter. Bricks were taken up, a sloped sub-surface was installed, and the existing bricks were replaced. Also, the stairs and columns in front have been re-pointed to prevent moisture penetration.

Bricks in the rear wall of the building will also be re-pointed to seal them against moisture. Re-pointing will be limited to areas showing visible signs of moisture penetration.

### Grounds

We have also pruned the rhododendron bushes along the south path in the back of the building, and trimmed the lilacs along the east border of the property. Following the pruning, two "Lady in Red" lace-cap hydrangeas were planted to fill in the space.

The back gate has also been repaired to provide easy access to the grounds, and a permanent sign has been added inviting passive usage of the grounds. The new sign is in keeping with the revised building use policy currently being developed by the trustees.

### Ongoing Work

Going forward this fiscal year, there are no further improvements planned for the building. Budget constraints will allow only necessary repair work through the rest of the year. Repair work on our damaged antique clocks may be postponed. Current studies are underway on the severity of the collapsing ceiling in the rare book room.

—Dick Jendrysik, Chair  
Building and Grounds  
Committee

# The Main Reading Room's Resurfaced Floor Ready for the Upcoming Season



Before: Empty Reading Room



After:

Note the new lighting fixtures that were installed recently.



## Katherine Howe Casts a Spell

Author **Katherine Howe** entertained and edified a packed Athenæum house in her September 15th talk about her new book, *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane*. Howe devoted much of her lecture to the psychological and sociological background of the Salem Witch Trials. She said that she had become fascinated with how the world view of people in the 17th Century differed from ours in the 21st Century.

## BOOKS



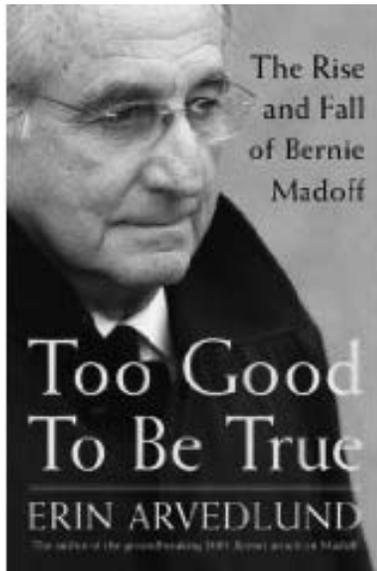
## David Brody Discusses Pre-Columbian Visitors to New England



In a July 31st salon, author David S. Brody shared his views of the possibility of pre-Columbian visitors to New England and North America. The subject was the theme of his recently published novel, *Cabal of the Westford Knight: Templars at the Newport Tower*.

## Madoff continued from page 1

industry ignore the warning signs that were so apparent and simply choose to remain ignorant as long as their commissions rolled in?



At the Athenæum, Arvedlund will offer a riveting glimpse of Madoff the man—an individual with little ambition who transformed himself into a star with a talent for trading, a reputation for innovation, and an unmistakably erratic nature.

Tickets for Arvedlund's talk are \$15, \$10 for Athenæum members, and free for students with IDs. Reservations are strongly recommended. Call Jean Marie Procius at the Athenæum at 978-744-2540.

—Francie King

## Grand Tasting Hosted

by Salem Wine Imports

Come sample a variety of wines with 75-80 varieties to choose from, as well as light refreshments.

Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Sq.

November 12, 2009

6:30-9:30pm

Proceeds to benefit Historic Salem, Inc.,  
Historic New England, and the Salem Athenæum.

Tickets:

\$25 for HSI, HNE, and Athenæum members.

\$35 for General Public

Purchase tickets at Salem Wine Imports,

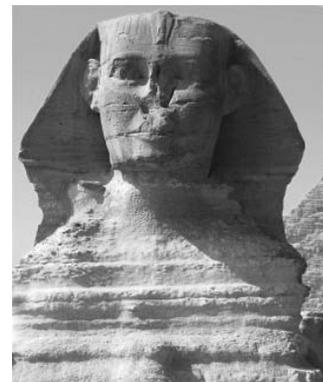
32 Church St. or

the Phillips House, 34 Chestnut St.

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with the Middle East have been shaped by cultural misrepresentations that can be traced to the 18th and 19th centuries. The rise of Orientalism in Britain can be attributed to a variety of causes: increased travel to exotic locales in Turkey, Palestine, and Egypt; published memoirs recounting these journeys and imaginative literature with Eastern settings; translation of *The Arabian Nights* tales; a revolution in studies of the Bible and ancient languages; military campaigns that also brought back scientific specimens, drawings of monuments, and magnificent artifacts; and romantic paintings of harem women, turbaned carpet merchants, and camel caravans, both by artists who actually visited these locales and those who only imagined them. Collectively, these writings and artworks presented a view of the East that combined fact and fantasy, admiration and revulsion, and a complex of ideas often serving darker political motives rooted in the notion of Western superiority.

The course will examine a range of texts, genres, and visual media—largely British—reflecting Orientalist influence and the "Egyptomania" inspired by Napoleon's campaign in Egypt. Works by authors such as Beckford, Sheridan, Byron, Shelley, Burton, and Lady Stanhope; and painters such as Ingres, Delacroix, David Robert, William Holman Hunt, and John Frederick Lewis will be explored as we attempt to unearth the meanings, motives, and implications of these diverse representations.



## Travel Opportunity to Egypt

In conjunction with the version of this course that Schopf will also be offering at Harvard Extension this spring, she has designed and will lead a 12-day trip to Egypt, March 11-22, which she is also making available to Athenæum members and course-takers. The trip will provide participants the opportunity to experience more directly the monuments and landscapes that influenced the Orientalist phenomenon.

Designed in collaboration with Collette Vacations, the tour will include visits to Cairo, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, the Colossi of Memnon, the Temple of Horus, the Nubian city of Aswan, Memphis and the 40-foot statue of Ramses II, and the Pyramids of Giza. Part of the tour will be on land in a private motorcoach, but the trip also includes a four-night cruise down the Nile on *M/S Mirage I*. In addition, participants will sail by traditional felucca to Kitchener Island for a stroll through the fabulous botanical gardens. The cost of the tour is a remarkable \$3929 (double occupancy) and includes round-trip airfare from Logan Airport, inter-Egypt flights from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo, hotel and cruise accommodations, hotel transfers, admission to sites, and most meals. An Egyptologist will travel with the group throughout the tour, and Sue Schopf will provide commentary about the writers and artists of the 18th

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## Events continued from page 6

and 19th centuries who traveled in and wrote about the sites.

Reservations and a deposit of \$250 are due by November 11, and final payment will be due by January 22, 2010. The trip will be limited to only 50 passengers, and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Color brochures and registration forms are available upon request from Sue Schopf's assistant, Peter O'Malley. He can be reached via email at: [peter\\_omalley@harvard.edu](mailto:peter_omalley@harvard.edu), and by telephone at (617) 495-9417.

One of the most significant portions of the Athenæum's founding collection were the accounts of journeys made to "Eastern" destinations such as China, Egypt, Siberia, Greece, Turkey, and Africa. And it was exactly this kind of travel that led to the Orientalist craze in art and literature. We hope you will join us in a course that will explore this phenomenon and in the trip of a lifetime. □



## Three Concerts in the Cambridge Society of Early Music Series



The Salem Athenæum will present the first of three concerts in the popular Chamber Music by Candlelight series, sponsored by the Cambridge Society for Early Music and featuring La Donna Musicale, a vocal and instrumental ensemble, on Saturday, October 24, at 8 p.m.

La Donna Musicale, led by 2009 Radcliffe Institute Fellow Laury Gutiérrez, devotes itself to the re-discovery of long-hidden works by women composers from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The October



24 program will include opera arias and expressive chamber music by three little-known Venetian women: Anna Bon, Antonia Bembo, and Barbara Strozzi.

The Candlelight chamber music series was presented last year at the Athenæum, to great acclaim. The Athenæum offers an acoustically excellent performance space, although seating is limited and tickets sell out quickly. Advance reservations are strongly advised.

The series will continue on January 16, 2010, with the second concert featuring Carthage Consort of Viols, with music from the time of Henry VIII. Haunting chansons and elegant polyphony from the Renaissance English court will be brought to life by the other-worldly sounds of three viols in consort.

The third and final concert in the series will present baroque flutist Chris Norman and violinist David Greenberg on February 27, 2010. From bannocks to Bach, and from refined to rollicking, this program of music from Scotland and maritime Canada promises to be a delight for the whole family.

Tickets to the concerts are \$30 for general admission, and \$25 for seniors and Athenæum members. Subscriptions to all three programs in the series are also available for \$70, a significant discount. Parents and educators should take special note that admission to the concerts is FREE to all students with ID and all children 17 years and under.

For more information about this chamber music series and to order tickets, visit the Cambridge Society for Early Music at [www.csem.org](http://www.csem.org) or call 617-489-2062. Or contact Jean Marie Procius at the Salem Athenæum at 978-744-2540. □

### Hear Ron Soodalter, co-author of *The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today*

On Tuesday, November 3rd, hear author Ron Soodalter discuss modern-day slavery. Slavery does indeed exist in America today. A few sensational cases make the headlines, but slave labor has an active underground existence in domestic service, prostitution, farm labor, factories, light industry, prisons and mining operations. Soodalter has teamed with Kevin Bales, author of *Disposable People* and President of Free the Slaves, to document just how pervasive slavery is throughout our country and the world, where as many as 27 million people are its victims. This is a riveting new book, which goes beyond documenting modern-day American slavery to focus on causes and solutions, and what ordinary individuals can do to help sever the links that create and hide human bondage. Presented by The Salem Award Foundation for Human Rights and Social Justice, The Salem Athenæum, and The First Church in Salem, Unitarian.

Purchase tickets at [www.salemaward.org](http://www.salemaward.org) or by mail from the Salem Athenæum. For more information, call 978-744-2540. \$15 members; \$10 non-members; \$5 students. □

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- Winifred Wilkens



**Welcome to the following new members:**

- Maureen Bingham
- George and Ellen Brandenburg
- Edmund and Elizabeth Dawes
- Irving W. and Lynne P. DeVoe
- Michael Gibbons
- Barbara Maitland
- Jeremy Murphy
- Jenn and Gary Santo
- Mr. David Shayeb
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