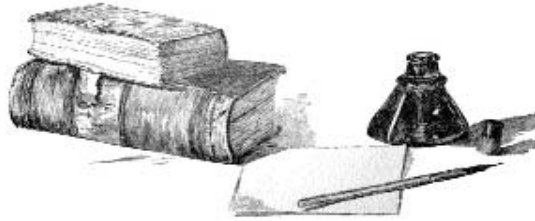


AUTUMN 2005

337 Essex Street, Salem MA 01970
(978) 744-2540
Fax:: (978) 744-7536
WWW.SALEMATHENAEUM.NET



DIRECTOR: Jean Marie Prociuos
NEW E-Mail:
Info @ www.salemathenaeum.net



LIBRARY HOURS:

Tues - Wed. - Fri: 1 PM to 5 PM
Thursday: 5 PM to 9 PM
Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM

THE SALEM ATHENÆUM NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATES!

See inside flyer, back cover, our web site, or call – for much more information on these and other great programs.

September 22, 7 PM - Megan Marshall on *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*

September 24, 2-8:30 PM - J. D. Crossan, 3 seminars on “The Past of the Historical Jesus and the Future of American Christianity”

September 25, 4 PM - J. D. Crossan, BENTLEY LECTURE - “Empire and Bible: From Ancient Rome to Modern Washington.” (at First Church, Unitarian)

September 30, 7 PM - BOOK SALE Preview (Members only; free)

October 1 - BOOK SALE (Public) (free)

October 5, 7 PM - Margot Livesey on *Banishing Verona* (free)

October 15 2 PM - Ali Asani, Part I of UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: “What is Islam? Who is a Muslim?”

October 22, 2 PM - Ali Asani, Part II of UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: “Movements of Reform and Revival in Contemporary Muslim Societies”

October 27, 7 PM - June Beisch, *Fatherless Woman*

November 17, 7 PM - Charlotte Gordon, *Mistress Bradstreet*

December 1, 7 PM - Lawrence Buell, *Emerson*

FALL BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1



We are NOW looking for donations of saleable books (hardbound and paperback). Any subject is OK. Proceeds will benefit the Athenæum collections.



You can drop off items for the sale during the hours that the library is open. Charitable donation receipts can be signed for titles you list for us (but we will not estimate their value). The Director may add donations to the Library at her discretion, and also may discard any unsold volumes.

In addition to books, we will need assistance in advance for sorting and pricing; come any Saturday 10-2, and weekdays before the sale. We can also use lots of sturdy boxes for storage and transport, and folding tables for display. On sale day we need helpers to take money and be friendly to those who come to buy. This is an excellent opportunity for public outreach, and will be publicized in local newspapers, radio, etc.



There will be a PREVIEW FOR ATHENÆUM MEMBERS ONLY on Friday evening, September 30, from 7 to 9 PM. You will have a chance to view the assortment and to purchase special items that are especially handsome or interesting; as well as to socialize and enjoy the refreshments.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

The Salem Athenæum is a contemporary and historic library, dedicated to enriching the lives of its members and its North Shore community by lending, preserving, and adding to its collection of books and documents, by maintaining and enhancing its historic building and grounds, and by offering cultural and educational programs that provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and life-long learning.

Dear Members and Friends,

Among the Athenæum's myriad gems is our original Minute-Book, a beautiful oversized volume bound in leather, worn and softened with almost two centuries of use. Only a cold-hearted reader could leaf through the carefully penned records contained in that treasure-trove and fail to take pride and inspiration from the vision and accomplishments of our founding members. Care, concern and affection for our library is evident throughout. To read those faded pages is to be reminded that it has never been easy to establish and maintain a not-for-profit cultural institution, perhaps especially one dedicated to literature and reading.

The Athenæum was formed out of the realization that neither the Social Library of 1760 nor the Philosophical Library of 1781 was likely to flourish over the long term on its own, although taken together they formed the most outstanding private library collection in the Americas, excepting only Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia Library Company. In combining those two organizations to form the Athenæum in 1810, Edward Augustus Holyoke and his colleagues were looking to the future and adapting to the times, and so must we.

We're making progress. Over the last two years alone our membership has sharply increased as the Athenæum increasingly attracts enthusiastic and appreciative new members from Nahant to Beverly Farms and beyond, as well as from Salem.

While our membership base is broadening and deepening, the ranks of our volunteers are swelling with dedicated helpers with all kinds of skills: from gardening to book conservation to membership development to public relations. Every volunteer is vital and we will reach out to those who have offered their services but have not yet been contacted.

Sadly, we must say farewell to two of our most loyal and dedicated Proprietors. **Tim and Linda Jenkins** are leaving us for Virginia. We could fill this entire newsletter with the things one or the other, or both, did for the Athenæum.

As a member of the board, Tim has exemplified what it means to serve as a trustee. With unflagging energy he has scrutinized and helped shape our investment portfolio and financial operations. He has shovelled our snow, taken out our trash, supervised our contractors, and on countless occasions, responded to our alarm in the dead of night; and he did all of these things and many more with a smile. Linda, a gifted and published poet, organized and charmingly ran our first poetry night, which is becoming an

enchanting tradition. She founded the popular Scrabble Club, and also devoted her formidable analytical powers and experience in the business world to help us improve our management skills. Hoping their departure will not be permanent, your Board has voted to extend to Tim and Linda lifetime privileges of membership as a token of our gratitude and affection.

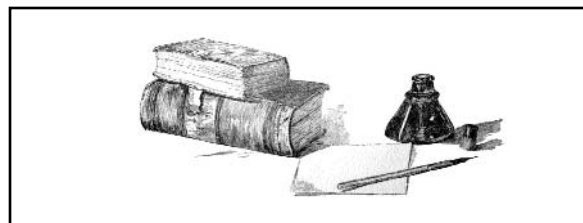
The painting of the exterior of our building has been completed, returning the facade to the splendor it deserves. Inside, the stacks of our rare book room have been mapped and cleaned with the skilled and loving care of **Winnie Wilkens, Marla Gearhart** and **Elaine von Bruns**. **Jim Austin's** thoughtful attention is evident throughout the building. In the garden, **Pamela and Richard Jendrysik** have watered and weeded all summer to keep us in shape. **Jessica Barnett** is doing a wonderful and much-needed job with publicity.

The outstanding line-up of programs and activities planned for the coming year (detailed on the inserted pages) is founded on more than a decade of efforts by trustees, proprietors, subscribers and, of course, our esteemed librarian emeritus, John Adams. Success such as this does not happen overnight. Particular tribute must be paid to **Dr. Sue Schopf** and her Education Committee for this unprecedented array of stimulating and ground-breaking offerings to our members and the public.

Your trustees are especially proud to have been able to hire from among many strong candidates a talented and resourceful new director, **Jean Marie Prociou**s. Working together we will continue to conserve and enhance our treasured collection, improve the physical amenities of our building and grounds, develop and expand our programs, and diligently seek to find ways to stabilize and increase our endowment.

With the help and support of us all, Jean Marie will lead us into our third century with every reason to believe that for all its achievements in the past, the Athenæum's best days lie ahead.

Francis T. Mayo



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wanted: Volunteers and donations of books for our BOOK SALE on October 1st! Please see article on the front page.

We need volunteers throughout the year for the following general activities: preparing mailings, setting up/cleaning up after events, and research on our approaching bicentennial. Also you collectors are encouraged to talk to us about exhibiting your treasures, or helping show off ours.

The Athenæum is now a wireless hotspot! Members and their guests are invited to bring their laptops and relax in our reading room or on a bench in the garden.

Jean Marie

INTERVIEW WITH OUR DIRECTOR

Jean Marie Prociuous is a friendly person who is interested in people as well as books. She has had many varieties of library experience since receiving her Master's degree from Simmons College in Boston in Library Information Science, with a concentration in Archives Management. She recently worked at the Baker Library of Harvard Business School, and until February 2004 was Reference Librarian at the Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

Jean Marie is happy to be involved in keeping up the momentum generated by members of the Board of Trustees. She looks forward to building on the plans of John Adams (now retired from our service) and the team who filled in for him while a successor was being recruited. She will continue to work with the Collections Committee in care and preservation of our books and manuscripts; moving the Kirwan Collection

to a safer place is a top priority. Another important activity is submitting grants for special funds for our many needs. She is skilled with computers and databases, and has worked with John Owen, her husband of three years, to reorganize and update the Athenæum's Web pages.

Jean Marie looks forward to working with the Athenæum members who have offered to help in various ways, and then to expanding this pool of volunteers. (See her column at left for information about ways to help.)



HAWTHORNE CIRCLE MEMBERS

The Board would like to express its gratitude to all who included an extra donation with annual renewals and assessments. We are delighted to list current members of the Hawthorne Circle, who gave an additional gift of at least \$100 in the current year.

Mr. & Mrs. C. Meade Camenga

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Clarke

Hannah Diozzi

Lynn L. Frothingham

Eric & Dorothy Hayes

Joan C. Jordan

Darrow Lebovici & Meg Twohey

Francis & Martha Mayo

Peter & Betsy Merry

Morris & Sue Weaver Schopf

Richard & Jeanne Scott

Robert N. Shapiro

Mr. & Mrs. Willis Stinson, 3rd

Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Tufts

Elisabeth Endicott Weil

Edward & Winifred Wilkens



NEW BOOKS ON ORDER



Fiction

Bushnell, Candace. *Lipstick Jungle*.

Doctorow, E.L. *The March*.

Erickson, Carolly. *The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette*.

Gabalton, Diana. *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. *Memories of My Melancholy Whores*.

Glantz, Margo. *The Wake*.

Goldberg, Myla. *Wickett's Remedy*.

Grafton, Sue. *S is for Silence*.

James, P.D. *The Lighthouse*.

Karon, Jan. *Light from Heaven*.

Nonfiction

Alda, Alan. *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed: And Other Things I've Learned*.

Basbanes, Nicholas A. *Every Book Its Reader: The Power of the Written Word to Change the Way We Live*.

Delbanco, Andrew. *Melville: His World & Work*.

Harr, Jonathan. *The Lost Painting*.

Kidder, Tracy. *My Detachment*.

Powers, Ron. *Mark Twain: A Life*.

Smiley, Jane. *Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel*.

Sobel, Dava. *The Planets*.

Winchester, Simon. *A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906*.

Trustees:

Francis Mayo – President, Board of Trustees
Blake Anderson – Finance Committee
Jean Dennis – Treasurer
Julie Lutts – Children’s Programs
Patricia Roka – Members’ Committee
Sue Schopf – Education Committee
Richard Scott – Vice President
Winifred Wilkens – Clerk; Collections Committee
Vacancy – Building & Grounds

Some of our Volunteers:

Nancy TenBroeck – Editor, Publisher of Newsletter
Richard Scott – Associate Editor of Newsletter
Mary Costello – Assistant Editor, Newsletter
Jessica Barnett – Publicity
Jim Austin
Marla Gearhart
Elaine von Bruns
Pamela & Richard Jendrysik



The **Scrabble Club** meets on Thursdays, 7 to 9 PM.



Writers’ Group, led by J. D. Scrimgeour -
2nd and 4th Wednesdays.



Book Discussion Group

This informal group started its new year on September 15. It will meet monthly on the second Thursday of each month. The first book is *The Sex Lives of Cannibals: Adrift in the Equatorial Pacific* by J. Maarten Troost – a humorous travelogue. To order copies of books or for more information, call Jean Marie at (978) 744-2540.

SEXTON NEEDED

The Trustees need recommendations for an assistant for the care and maintenance of the building and grounds; approximately 5 hours per week. Scheduling can be flexible and may include additional hours depending on skill level and projects assigned. Required are: snow removal, general cleaning, lawn care, use of ladder to reach light bulbs and clean gutters. Desired: experience with minor plumbing and electrical repairs.

THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

337 Essex Street
Salem, MA 01970

