

MHS Miscellany

Number 90 / Spring 2006

MHS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW DIRECTOR is a rare event at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Since 1940, when the Society's Council created the office by combining two senior positions, only six people have held the title. Dennis Fiori, the MHS's sixth director, received a warm greeting at 1154 Boylston Street on January 17 when he assumed his new responsibilities.

Fiori brings more than three decades of experience and a winning spirit of enthusiasm to his new assignment. After graduating in American Studies from St. Michael's College in 1971, followed by pursuing an M.A. in American Cultural History through a collaborative program of the University of Vermont and the Shelburne Museum in 1973, he moved to Toronto. As the Director of Curatorial Services for National Heritage, Ltd., he led a team of curators, registrars, conservators, and art handlers who recreated an early 19th-century trading post at Thunder Bay, Ontario. In 1976 he moved to Augusta, Maine, where he served as the Deputy Director of the Maine Arts Commission, responsible for developing and managing several programs and reviewing grant proposals. He also served as the Curator of the State House and the Governor's Mansion. After four years in Augusta, in 1980 he moved again, this time to Washington, D.C., and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, where as Deputy Director for Programs his duties included overseeing grant programs.

Fiori was in Washington for only two years when, in 1982, the Concord Museum offered him the opportunity to serve as its Director. Over the next 12 years his responsibilities included care of the furnishings of Ralph Waldo Emerson's study, the largest collection of Henry David Thoreau

artifacts, and important relics from the Battle at the Bridge on April 19, 1775. Through a successful capital campaign he substantially increased the museum's facilities.

In 1994, the board of the Maryland Historical Society recognized Fiori's accomplishments in Concord when it appointed him its director and chief executive officer. In Baltimore, he was responsible for a library, a publishing house, and education programs, as well as a large and active museum. He also organized and implemented an ambitious capital campaign, which expanded the Society's facilities and added significantly to its endowment. He resigned from the Maryland Historical Society at the end of 2005 in order to accept the invitation of the MHS to serve as its director.

A native of Maine, Dennis welcomes the opportunity to return to New England as well as the challenges he will face in his new position. "There could not be a more exciting time to become director of the MHS," he explains. "Thanks to my immediate predecessors, Bill Fowler, Len Tucker, and Steve Riley, I have come to a place that has nurtured its resources and begun the transition to making its invaluable collections and scholarship available to a wider public. While the MHS education programs and website are still in their adolescence, they hold great potential. I have also joined a strategic planning process, set to chart a course and identify necessary infrastructure and financial support to assure these new initiatives have adequate funding and the Society has a sound future."

Fellows, members, and friends of the Society will have many opportunities to meet Dennis at MHS events over the coming months.

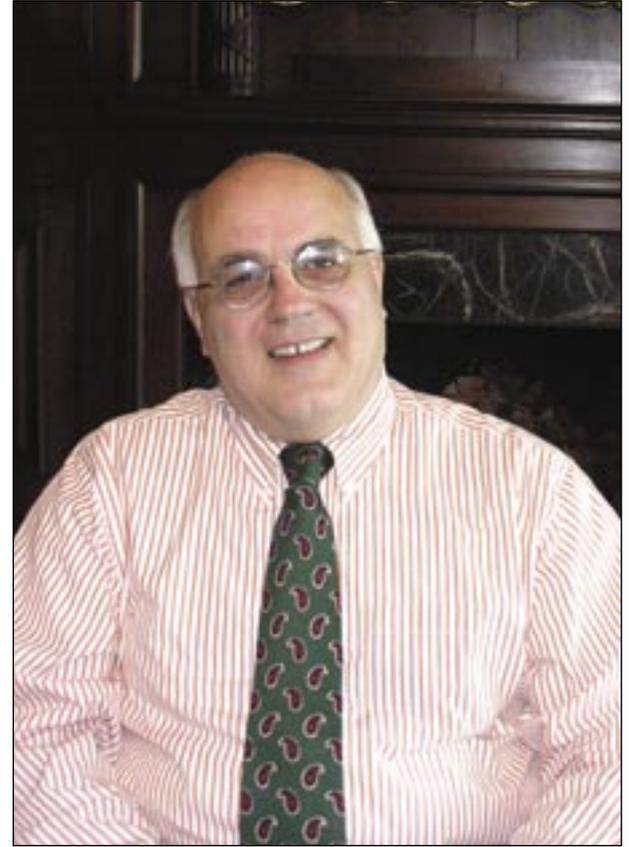


LONG-RANGE PLANNING AT THE MHS

Near the top of Dennis Fiori's to-do list when he arrived on January 17, he found an on-going long-range planning initiative. In July 2004, President Amalie M. Kass had formed an ad hoc committee to review and update the Society's current strategic plan, dated January 20, 2000. The committee included senior staff and Council members as well as several MHS members and fellows. Consultants from Technical Development Corporation (TDC) in Boston, already familiar with us and our previous strategic plans, returned to facilitate the process and conduct field research that could form the basis for future decisions.

A review of the 2000 document showed that we had achieved many of its goals, particularly with respect to the bylaws and other governance matters. However, the pace of external change, such as the rapid development of web technology and cyber-communication, had significantly altered the landscape. Moreover, less than a year after the committee began work, Director William M. Fowler, Jr., announced his resignation.

In June 2005, in preparation for the appointment of a new director, the Council asked the Long-Range Planning Committee to continue its review and commissioned TDC to work with the committee to develop a comprehensive, up-to-date analysis of the current state of the MHS. Our staff prepared a briefing book for the committee that included detailed financial information, a summary of current policies and decision-making processes for the library, and complete information on our advisory committees and governing bodies. TDC consultants developed a series of survey instruments for collecting current data from the MHS's constituencies. We asked Council members, staff, fellows and members, researchers, peer institutions, funders, benchmarking organizations, and stakeholders to complete surveys. A remarkable number responded and TDC assembled the data.



Director Dennis Fiori, sitting in the Douse Library at the MHS. Fiori is the first occupant of the new director's office adjacent to the Douse in the administrative wing of 1154 Boylston Street.

Last November, with Dennis Fiori in attendance, the committee and the Council met to consider the data and its implications. The findings showed that our constituencies regarded us well, but the report also revealed that we can do more to strengthen our organizational structure and communications processes. The review encouraged us to continue to develop and expand our highly regarded website.

To advance the planning process, Mr. Fiori has begun a review of the Society's mission statement. A staff committee is working with him. It is also taking the next step—developing a five-year vision of how to align the MHS's programs with its mission. The Long-Range Planning Committee will review this work, after which the Council will meet to consider a series of recommendations. By December 2006, we expect to have a new strategic plan in place linking every goal and initiative to a clear, strong organizational mission.

Society to Be Closed on July 3

In order to allow the hard-working members of our staff to take a four-day weekend, the Society will be closed on Monday, July 3.

MHS Miscellany, no. 90
Periodical Newsletter of the
Massachusetts Historical Society

Address:

1154 Boylston St. Boston MA 02215
617-536-1608 www.masshist.org

Hours:

The MHS reading room is open to the public free of charge, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4:45 PM, and until 8 PM on Thursdays.

For more information:

Please call ahead or check the website for directions, information about collections, reading room policies, holiday hours, and special events.

This issue of the Miscellany:

Uses the font Adobe Garamond and is printed on Mohawk warm white satin paper, 80#, by Red Sun Press in Jamaica Plain.

Masthead illustration:

"Plan & Elevation of the Tontine Crescent, now erecting in Boston."
From the *Massachusetts Magazine*, 1794.

The MHS occupied the Tontine Crescent from 1794 until 1833.

ADAMS PAPERS CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This April marks the 50th anniversary of the gift of the Adams Papers to the MHS. Donated in 1956, the papers are the most comprehensive and historically complete family collection ever presented to an American cultural institution, public or private. They consist of the official records and writings of three generations of Adamses, including the papers of John and Abigail Adams, John Quincy Adams, Charles Francis Adams, and their extended families. Comprising nearly 300,000 pages, the collection provides a comprehensive look at major historical events from before the Revolution to the end of the 19th century.

Through letters and personal journals, the Adamses were fastidious recorders of the events of the day and were devoted to preserving their collective memories. John Quincy Adams began the initial organization of the papers of his father, but it was Charles Francis Adams who displayed a true aptitude for historical analysis and editing. As he organized the family archives, he published volumes containing the letters of John and Abigail Adams, as well as the *Works of John Adams* and the *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams*.

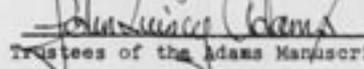
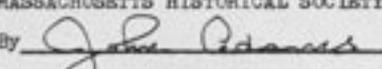
In 1902, Charles Francis Adams 2d, then president of the MHS, arranged to have the papers moved from the Stone Library at the family homestead in Quincy to the Society's new fire-proof building on the Fenway. Here the collection remained in a double-locked room to which the Adams family alone maintained access. For years, only select scholars, such as Worthington C. Ford and Samuel Flagg Bemis, could use the collection, and even then family members monitored them as they worked.

The Adams Manuscript Trust, created in 1905, ensured that the family collection would remain protected from sale or dispersal by subsequent generations and required that the papers be conveyed to a chartered institution at the end of 50 years. The terms of the trust allowed the family to maintain control of the papers and also bought them some time to consider their options. When Thomas Boylston Adams became an active trustee in 1951, he proposed to give the papers to the MHS. The collection was a welcome addition to the Society's holdings, and the donation was finalized on April 4, 1956.

The deed of gift required the establishment of an editorial project, and the Society assembled a small staff, led by Editor in Chief Lyman Butter-

field. The Adamses were "tireless scribblers," and the enormous task of inventorying and microfilming their papers resulted in an astounding 27,464 feet of film. The editorial project subsequently secured funding to publish volumes of the Adams Papers under the Belknap Press imprint of the Harvard University Press.

Currently, 40 volumes of *The Adams Papers* are in print; the project expects to produce over 100 in total. Electronic access to the *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* and correspondence between John and Abigail became available in 2003 on the MHS website (www.masshist.org/adams). The digital conversion of all Adams Papers volumes is also underway and will allow access to a wider audience through fully searchable online text. Due to editorial commitment and new technologies, the papers, once hidden away in a locked room, are now available worldwide to researchers, who receive instantaneous access to a thousands of documents and an inside look at one of the most important families in American history.

TRANSFER OF ADAMS PAPERS TO MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
<p>THOMAS BOYLSTON ADAMS and JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, Trustees under a Declaration of Trust dated December 14, 1905, Norfolk Records, Volume 1016, Page 442, establishing the so-called Adams Manuscript Trust, hereby assign, transfer and convey to the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, a Massachusetts corporation, all right, title and interest of the said Trust (including all literary rights, copyrights and rights to future income and proceeds) in, to and from all manuscripts, letters, letter-books, documents, public and private, diaries and other material belonging to the said Trust and now located on the premises of the said Society at 115 1/2 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts, being all of the trust property remaining in the hands of the Trustees under said Declaration of Trust.</p>	
<p>It is understood that the Society assumes all obligations which the Trustees of the Adams Manuscript Trust have undertaken to perform under the agreement dated August 9, 1954, by and between the Trust and Time, Inc., relating to the provision of funds for editorial work on the Adams papers, and under the informal agreement between the Trust and the President and Fellows of Harvard College, relating to future publication of the papers by the Harvard University Press.</p>	
<p>SIGNED AND SEALED in duplicate this 4th day of April, 1956.</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">   Trustees of the Adams Manuscript Trust </p>	
<p>Accepted:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p> <p>By </p>	

John Adams, the grandson of Charles Francis Adams and then-president of the MHS, accepted the deed of gift for the Adams Papers on April 4, 1956. Representing the Adams Manuscript Trust were Thomas Boylston Adams, great-great-great-grandson of John Adams, and his young cousin John Quincy Adams.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS'S DIARIES NOW ONLINE

New Website Presents all the Volumes Adams Kept from Age 12 to 80

My Pappa enjoins it upon me to keep a journal, or a diary, of the Events that happen to me, and of objects that I See, and of Characters that I converse with from day, to day, and altho I am Convinced of the utility, importance, & necessity, of this Exercise, yet I have not patience, & perseverance, enough to do it so Constantly as I ought.

— *John Quincy Adams to Abigail Adams, September 27, 1778*

When John Quincy Adams wrote this letter to his mother, Abigail, on September 27, 1778, while traveling with his father, John, commissioner to France, he could not have foreseen his involvement in an activity that would occupy him for the rest of his life. Despite his reluctance to keep a daily account, the younger Adams must have changed his mind (or had it changed for him), for one year later, while accompanying his father on a second voyage to France, he began the practice of keeping *at least* one diary volume each year—for many years he recorded entries of various types in more than one volume—until shortly before his death in 1848, a period of more than 68 years. The MHS now has made digital images of this entire extraordinary diary, almost 15,000 manuscript pages in 51 volumes, available on the Society's new website: *The Diaries of John Quincy Adams: A Digital Collection* (www.masshist.org/jqadiaries). A matching grant from the Save America's Treasures program funded the project as well as the systematic conservation of all 51 manuscript volumes in the Society's enormous collection of Adams Family Papers.

history, he became the sixth president of the United States. As “Old Man Eloquent” in the U. S. House of Representatives and before the Supreme Court in the *Amistad* case he fought to abolish slavery—a struggle he embraced until his death. Throughout his busy life, Adams kept a detailed diary of his own activities and all that he observed.

Adams's diaries are not only a guide to his own career, they are also a compendium of information on early 19th-century America. As a boy, Adams dined with Benjamin Franklin, John Paul Jones, and Thomas Jefferson in Paris. He knew every American president from Washington through Polk. In Europe, he met Czar Alexander I and King George III, but he also lived long enough to comment on Ralph Waldo Emerson, dine with Alexis de Tocqueville, and shake the hand of Charles Dickens. Adams taught at Harvard University briefly, attempted to rationalize the American system of weights and measures, and was a key figure in the founding of the Smithsonian Institution. He described all of this, and more, day after day in detailed, often caustic and sometimes amusing entries that combine powerful observation and deep self-reflection.

During the two-year effort, the MHS project staff, led by Digital Projects Coordinator Nancy Heywood, prepared grayscale images (converted by an outside contractor from the microfilm of the Adams Family Papers) of each diary page in three sizes. Accompanying each online image is a list of all of the dates Adams recorded on that page of his diary, notes about the types of diary entries that are included, and links to other diary pages

44. I took the Oath at the Capitol, as President of the United

John Quincy Adams wrote his first diary entry in November 1779 at the age of 12. While still a teenager, he served the Revolutionary cause in Europe as secretary to Francis Dana, the American envoy in Russia, and later as his father's secretary in the Netherlands. At the beginning of an extraordinary career of public service, Adams represented Massachusetts in the United States Senate; served as minister to the Netherlands, Prussia, and Russia; and as peace commissioner, he negotiated the Treaty of Ghent. (He also was nominated and confirmed, but never served, as a Supreme Court justice.) As secretary of state, he was the author of the Monroe Doctrine, and in one of the most controversial elections in American

with entries for the same date. For the present, the website does not provide a searchable transcription of the diary, but viewers can search the diary entries by date (all together, the digital team encoded 49,748 separate date values to facilitate searching), browse by volume, or use a detailed timeline of Adams's life to identify dates to search. The website also includes an overview of and introduction to the diaries, and provides sample pages on a range of subjects accessible from the timeline or from a “Selected Pages” section of the site.

Because Adams often kept several different types of diary volumes simultaneously, one of the biggest challenges for the digital team (other than the sheer volume

of Adams's output) was determining how to provide online access to entries from more than one diary volume kept for the same date. For example, when Adams took the oath of office as president on March 4, 1825, he noted the event in three different places, including a long entry that spanned two pages and a draft entry in a second volume. He also recorded the event succinctly in a third volume, a line-a-day diary (so named because each day is recorded on one line and an entire month on one page): "I took the Oath at the Capitol, as President of the United States. At Mr. Monroe's Ball at eve."

During the conservation phase of the project, Conservation Technician Oona Beauchard cleaned and deacidified soiled and brittle pages of the original manuscript volumes, repaired tears and holes in diary pages, reinforced the fragile edges of pages, and re-attached loose pages. Karl Eberth, a conservation bookbinder from West Pawlet, Vermont, spent several weeks in residence at the Society while he repaired broken and damaged spines and covers on 25 of the 51 volumes. Because all of the diary bindings are original and the volumes worthy of study in their own right, the Society elected to apply a conservation treatment that was minimally invasive. Back in his shop in Vermont, Eberth constructed custom microchamber boxes for each volume.



John Quincy Adams. Oil on canvas by Nathan Bell Onthank, 19th century. (Probably after Stephen Henry Gimber's 1848 engraving.)

As Robert V. Remini, a recent biographer of John Quincy Adams, has written of the Adams diaries, "no work of history about the antebellum period of U.S. history can afford to neglect it. It is one of the many blessings John Quincy Adams left to posterity." After two years of intense effort, with support from the Save America's Treasures program, the original diary volumes (the earliest now 227 years old) are now restored to excellent physical condition, and through the diligent efforts of the MHS digital project team, are available to everyone with internet access, anywhere in the world.

Detail from Adams's diary 23, line-a-day entry for March 4, 1825.

MHS's newest digital collection (www.masshist.org/jqadiaries) provides access to grayscale images of 51 diary volumes (14,921 manuscript pages) kept by John Quincy Adams.

States. At Mr. Monroe's Ball at eve



SOCIETY RECEIVES ALLEN H. MORGAN PAPERS

THE PAPERS OF ALLEN H. MORGAN (1925–1990), received recently from his son David, add to the Society’s growing holdings on the environmental history of Massachusetts. Morgan served as executive vice president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society from 1957 to 1980. His papers provide a window onto his evolution from an avid bird watcher into an influential environmentalist and advocate for land preservation.

Morgan began his lifelong passion for birding at the age of nine; in 1939 he became the first non-student

Birding journals, kept from 1943 through 1977, provide insight into Morgan’s passion for ornithology from a very early age. In a long entry for April 23, 1952, he described his excitement at the sighting in a Wayland pasture of an unfamiliar bird, later identified as the ardeola ibis, or cattle egret:

What a fabulous day—everyone dreams of *one* such day in his entire lifetime . . . if he is lucky! We had ours today! . . .

Just as we got well past the house by pure luck I turned



An avid birder from a very early age, Allen H. Morgan (left) was just 17 when he and his companions caught this female eider in Maine in the spring of 1943.

member of the Harvard Ornithological Club. The following year, he met Russell Mason, director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. After spending a summer at the Boston Society of Natural History cataloging a collection of bird skins, he began a relationship with Mass. Audubon that would span four decades.

Morgan graduated from Bowdoin College in 1947 and joined his father in the insurance business. A decade later he became the executive vice president of the Audubon Society. Under his leadership, Mass. Audubon grew from a bird watching and educational group of 7,500 members to a nationally important conservation organization of over 25,000. He initiated educational programs, expanded sanctuaries and nature centers, and lobbied on behalf of the Society for conservation legislation at the state and federal level.

around & looked back—Dick’s convertible with top down—just in time to see a *small white heron* fly past the opening between house & barn. Of course I instantly yelled “Snowy Egret” . . . “Stop” . . . ! but as we came to a stop & as I focused on the bird somewhat better—still not with a binocular—I changed my identification to imm. Little Blue Heron because I could plainly see yellowish legs.

I jumped from the car & ran back as fast as I could around the corner of the barn. . . . We immediately saw the bird perched right with the Erwin’s herd of cows, perhaps 100 yards away . . . never again do I hope to experience such a complete blank as far as identification is concerned. I have seen every full species of heron native to the U.S. almost—& certainly would recognize any—but here was a bird that just left me entirely blank, with no possible shadow of an idea what it might be.

After several unsuccessful attempts to collect the

bird in the hours that followed, Morgan wrote:

How disappointed can you be? We just had to secure the bird! . . . By now of course we were desperate to find the bird—& so we decided on desperate measures: Robert Thomas & his airplane! He was still in his bed 7:30 a.m.—but insistent ringing finally brot him to the door, half asleep & 1/3 dressed. I explained the situation to him—no comment—brief pause—was he planning to work today—pause, no comment—what was he thinking of doing—finally. . . . “I guess I’ll spend the morning in the plane looking for some damned heron.”

The group successfully collected the bird and “the Epic Struggle was over,” Morgan wrote. “Our specimen is the first for the continent of North America! !”

In Morgan’s unpublished 1980 manuscript history of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, he describes his time there as “a job which wasn’t a job—rather, a crusade which was to absorb me completely and totally—a ‘job’ which was more fun than ‘work.’” Several scrapbooks, which he and his mother, Helen C. Morgan, compiled from 1940 to 1982, include letters, articles, clippings, photographs, and other materials that document his illustrious career. The collection also includes personal correspondence and the diaries from 1938 to 1977 of Morgan’s mother.

The Society’s New England Environmental History Initiative, which began in 2000, seeks to document modern environmentalism through the collection of personal and family papers and institutional records with a particular focus on the land conservation movement that traces its origins to New England. At the Society, the Morgan papers join other collections that build upon this initiative, including the papers of Charles H. W. Foster, the Commonwealth’s first secretary of environmental affairs; a collection of oral history interviews with Foster and the other former secretaries of environmental affairs; and the records of the Environmental League of Massachusetts. The Society also hosts the meetings of the Boston Environmental History Seminar.

In keeping with its founding mission, the Society always keeps a sharp lookout for additions to its holdings, including its collections of environmental history materials. If you know of manuscripts that you think may be of interest to the Society, please bring them to the attention of Brenda Lawson, curator of manuscripts (blawson@masshist.org; 617-646-0502).

The Allen Morgan papers have been arranged and described in a guide to the collection, available at the MHS website at <http://www.masshist.org/findingaids/doc.cfm?fa=fa0226>.

Society Welcomes New Staff

In March and April, the Society welcomed four new members to its staff. Rebecca Imperiali, the Society’s first Director of Development, arrived in April. She was previously at the Museum of Science in Boston, where she managed its planned giving program, launched a leadership program to engage young professionals, and worked with individuals to match their philanthropic interests with the organization’s strategic priorities. Experienced in all facets of fundraising, Rebecca will develop a well-rounded program to advance the Society’s mission.

Susan Martin joined our staff in April as a Finding Aid Conversion Specialist in the library. She earned her B.A. at George Washington University and her MSLIS with a concentration in archives management from Simmons College. Her archival experience includes internships and positions at Northeastern University, the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, Harvard University’s Fine Arts Library, and the Waltham branch of the National Archives and Records Administration.

In March, we added two part-time staff members to administer the front desk. Carolle Morini is a library science student at Simmons College; she completed an internship in our reference department last fall. She has also worked at the Simmons College Archives and the Peabody Essex Museum. Erin Edwards is also a library science student at Simmons College; she is currently an intern in our Reference Department. Erin also works in the Institutional Archives and Special Collections at MIT.



RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITION

Carte de visite photograph of Charles Wells Hubbard (b. 1856) by J. W. Black of Boston, [ca. 1865–1870]. From a collection of Hubbard-Blake family photographs, a recent purchase of the Society.



PAPERS OF JOHN ADAMS V.13



In *Papers of John Adams*, volume 13 (May–October 1782), a new chapter in John Adams’s diplomatic career opened when the Dutch recognized the United States in April 1782. Operating from the recently purchased American legation at the Hague, Adams focused his energies on raising a much needed loan from Dutch bankers and negotiating a Dutch-American commercial treaty. Volume 13 chronicles John Adams’s efforts to achieve these objectives, but it also provides an unparalleled view of 18th-century American diplomacy on the eve of a peace settlement ending the eight-year war of the American Revolution.

Early American Seminar News

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the last two sessions of the Boston Area Early American History Seminar’s 2005-2006 season. On Thursday, May 11, Richard S. Dunn (American Philosophical Society) will present a paper on “The Demographic Structure of American Slavery: Jamaica versus Virginia.” John Thornton (Boston University) will comment.

Six weeks later, on Thursday, June 22, Jacqueline Carr (University of Vermont) will discuss her essay “She hopes to get a Living yet for her Fatherless Children’: Women, Work, and Property in Early Republican Boston.” The commentator that evening will be Robert Allison (Suffolk University).

All seminars take place at the Society and begin at 5:15 PM. The essayists do not read their papers, which we pre-circulate. For a copy of the paper or to reserve a sandwich at the light supper that follows each session, please contact Seth Vose at svose@masshist.org or 617-646-0518.

THE NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY

March 2006 (vol. 79 no. 1)

- * Joshua Bellin’s essay on Thoreau and Indian medicine, winner of the Herbert Ross Brown Prize in New England Literary History
- * Charlene Mires’s account of the search for a United Nations headquarters site in New England
- * Louisa May Alcott’s views of domestic service, by Carolyn Maibor
- * A new interpretation of the Salem witchcraft trials, by Richard Latner
- * Eighteen reviews of new books on New England history and literature, plus an essay review on Atlantic history

Forthcoming in June 2006

A special issue on sectionalism and the Civil War.

For more information about NEQ, see www.newenglandquarterly.org.

COLONIAL COLLEGIANS

If you are a fellow or member of the MHS, you are eligible for a discount when you buy *Colonial Collegians: Biographies of Those Who Attended American Colleges before the War for Independence*. The CD-ROM, which we brought out late last year in collaboration with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, ordinarily sells for \$79.95, but for MHS fellows and members there is a special price of \$50.00.

At either price, *Colonial Collegians* is a bargain. It includes biographical information on about 5,800 men—that is, every known graduate or non-graduate of a colonial college through the class of 1774 as well as the colonial graduates of the medical schools at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia and the known non-graduates of the medical school at Columbia. Nearly 11,000 pages of text from *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates*, the Society’s biographical account of former Harvard students, form the core of *Colonial Collegians*. The CD-ROM also includes the entries through the class of 1774 from Franklin Bowditch Dexter’s *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College* and James McLachlan et al., *Princetonians*. Entries on former undergraduates at Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers, the College of William and Mary, and William Tennent’s Log College complete the CD-ROM.

If you are eligible for the special MHS price, to order please contact Cherylinne Pina, 617-646-0513 or cpina@masshist.org. Everyone else should order through the Sales Department at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Please see its pages on the NEHGS website, www.newenglandancestors.org, or call toll-free 888-296-3447.

EMERSON ESSAYS TO BE PUBLISHED

Three years after a flurry of activity celebrated the bicentennial of the birth on May 25, 1803, of Ralph Waldo Emerson, most of these observances are no more than hazy recollections. Exhibitions have been taken down and memorable addresses have been forgotten. Thanks to a volume the Society is about to publish, though, at least one of the Emerson events will continue to celebrate the "Sage of Concord."

Emerson Bicentennial Essays, edited by Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson, brings together revisions of most of the essays first presented at a conference at the Society on April 25-26, 2003. The new volume, which will appear in mid summer, includes contributions by a formidable roster of Emerson scholars. There are pieces by Robert D. Habich and Lawrence Buell on Emerson's place in American culture. Articles by Nancy Craig Simmons and Sarah Ann Wider consider the relationship between Emerson the lecturer and his audience. His role as an advocate for reform has captured the attention of Phyllis Cole, T. Gregory Garvey, and Len Gougeon. The author's poetry is the subject of papers by Joseph M. Thomas and Robert E. Burkholder. And essays by Susan L. Roberson, Albert J. von Frank, Gustaaf Van Cromphout, Laura Dassow Walls, Wesley T. Mott, David M. Robinson, Robert N. Hudspeth, and Barbara L. Packer address various ways in which he both learned from and contributed to the intellectual currents of his day.

Emerson Bicentennial Essays will be available in hardcover through our distributor, the University of Virginia Press, for \$60.00 plus postage and handling. To order, please visit the Press's home page, www.upress.virginia.edu, or use its toll-free ordering number, 800-831-3406.

Ralph Waldo Emerson to the Proprietors of the Second Church.

Emerson's resigns his pulpit, September 11, 1832. The original three-page letter is on permanent loan at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Second Church (Boston) Records, Box 19, folder 23.

To the Proprietors of the Second Church.
Boston, 11 September, 1832
Christian Friends,

In the discourse delivered from the pulpit last Sabbath, I explained the circumstances which have seemed to me to make it my duty to resign my office as your minister. I now request a dismissal from the pastoral charge. On this occasion, I cannot help adding a few words.

I am very far from regarding my relation to you with indifference. I am bound to you, as a society, by the experience of uninterrupted kindness; by the feelings of respect & love I entertain for you all, as my tried friends; by ties of personal attachment to many individuals among you, which I account the happiness of my life, by the hope I had entertained of living always with you, and of contributing, if possible, in some small degree, to your welfare.

Nor do I think less of the office of a Christian minister. I am pained at the situation in which I find myself, that compels me to make a difference of opinion of no greater importance, the occasion of surrendering so many & so valuable functions as belong to that office. I have the same respect for the great objects of the Christian ministry & the same faith in their gradual accomplishment through the use of human means, which, at first, led me to enter it. I should be unfaithful to myself, if any change of circumstances could diminish my devotion to the cause of divine truth.

And so, friends, let me hope, that whilst I resign my official relation to you I shall not lose your kindness, & that a difference of opinion as to the value of an ordinance, will be overlooked by us in our common devotion to what is real & eternal.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Transparent Eyeball

Drawing by Christopher Pearse Cranch (1813-1892), a painter, poet, and Unitarian minister, who attended the Divinity School at Harvard. In the late 1830s, he illustrated Emerson's Essays with comic drawings. Cranch's diary, from which this is taken, is in the MHS collections: January 13, 1839, in Journal 1839, p.10, (DAB).



In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life,—no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground,—my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space,—all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God. . . . In the tranquil landscape, and especially in the distant line of the horizon, man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature.

—R. W. Emerson, "Nature"

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES LONG-TERM FELLOWS

Ruth Wallis Herndon and Lisa Wilson have accepted our invitation to spend the 2006-2007 academic year at the Society as MHS-NEH Long-Term Fellows. Each will receive a grant of \$40,000 funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and a supplementary award of \$6,750 from the Society for housing and professional expenses. A national committee chose Herndon and Wilson from a very competitive field.

RUTH WALLIS HERNDON, an associate professor of history at the University of Toledo, is interested in the lives of poor people in early America. The author of *Living on the Margin in Early New England* (2001), she has also co-edited a forthcoming volume of essays on children and bound labor.

For her present project, "Children of Misfortune: The Fates of Boston's Poor Apprentices," Professor Herndon will draw on the records of the Boston Almshouse and a wide range of other public and private documents to create a collective biography of the children that the town's Overseers of the Poor bound out in the 18th century. By identifying the tragic circumstances that brought these children to the almshouse, tracing their experiences growing up in host families throughout New England, and following the trail of their lives into adulthood she wants to answer an important question about the customary and widespread system of binding out in early America: "What happened to the children?"

The project will result in a series of micro-histories illuminating the life options and life courses of poor people in early America. By piecing together the lives of poor children with the same attention one might give to Benjamin Franklin or George Washington, Professor Herndon intends to assert the value of the poorest, youngest Americans and their importance to a full appreciation of what it meant to be "American" in the 18th century.

LISA WILSON is the Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of American History at Connecticut College. She is the author of two books: *Life after Death: Widows in Pennsylvania, 1750-1850* (1992) and *Ye Heart of a Man: The Domestic Life of Men in Colonial New England* (1999). Her fellowship project, "Cinderella's Family: Stepfamily Tradition in 18th-Century New England," grows out of her long-standing interests in family life and gender in the colonial period.

Wilson is studying stepfamilies in the form they typically took in the 18th century. At a time when divorce was extremely uncommon, remarriages hardly ever combined broken households. The death of a parent, not divorce, was the experience most blended families had in common. Wilson intends to write these family stories back into the history of the United States. She is also interested in the negative stereotypes that often burdened stepfamilies and their members, for instance, the familiar caricature of the wicked stepmother. Such depictions were neither new nor unique to New England. What was new was their wide availability in books, newspapers, and pamphlets, particularly as the expansion of print culture took hold in the second half of the 18th century.

* * *

BROADSIDES AT BROOKWOOD

A Teacher's Fellow in Action

Third-grader Marcus Thompson loves to study the American Revolution. He wisely comments that "the colonists were using . . . broadsides to protest against injustice." Last summer at the Society Sven Holch, one of the teachers at the Brookwood School, developed the curriculum that has captivated Marcus. Holch was one of our Swensrud Fellows; he used his month-long grant to prepare a classroom unit on "18th-Century Broadsides: The Power of Words." The unit incorporates a variety of our broadsides—single-sided printed posters that inform the public of

Necrology

The Society is sorry to report the loss of two longtime friends in December.

William R. Hutchison, an elected member of the Society since 1980, died on December 16. Hutchison had been the Charles Warren Professor of American Religious History at Harvard Divinity School from 1968 to 2000. The author of four books, he served the MHS in a number of assignments, most recently in 2002 as the chair of the long-term fellowship committee. He leaves his widow, Virginia, and four children.

Marjorie F. Gutheim died on December 23. A native of Cambridge, she received her A.B. from Radcliffe College and her Ph.D. from Columbia University. After teaching in Washington, D.C., she returned to Boston for family reasons and joined the staff of the Society as an editorial assistant in 1969. She remained in the publications department until her retirement as associate editor in March 1985. She was elected a resident member of the Society in 1980.

such events as the arrival of a shipload of slaves from Africa, an act prohibiting “profane cursing and swearing,” and protests against the Stamp Act of 1765. Sven finds that the announcements engage young students because they are printed in bold fonts and employ strong visual or artistic elements.

Beth McLean of our Educational Initiative visited Brookwood on February 16 to see the new curriculum in use. Thirty-six students from two classes reviewed the previous day’s lesson, which focused on the British Act of 1746 to prevent profane cursing and swearing. Third graders eagerly reported on the different fines and penalties imposed on “Indian Negro or Molatto Slaves,” “Sailors or Seamen,” and those in positions of authority who were convicted of using profanity. The children understood that the penalties for violating the law differed according to social status. For example, slaves were whipped for breaking the law, while people of higher standing went to jail, “there to remain not exceeding ten Days nor less than five Days.”

When Sven divided the class into six groups, each assigned a specific task, Beth went with those going to the computer lab. Students combined their history, mathematics, and computer skills to determine the present-day cost of using profanity under the act. They first read the broadside to identify a specific fine (fines ranged from a few shillings to five pounds). Next they visited a website (<http://www.eh.net/hmit>) to help them convert 1747 shillings and pounds to 2005 British currency, and then to calculate the value in U.S. dollars. Could the boys and girls have afforded to pay the fine? Since the typical 1747 fine—8 shillings—converts to approximately \$94, most of them had to answer no!

Sven has found that his third graders gain a great deal from their engagement with primary sources; they expand their vocabularies and develop important problem-solving skills. They also have fun. At the end of the day, Marcus took Beth’s business card and assured her that he would visit the Society’s website.

SOCIETY HOLDS TEACHER WORKSHOPS

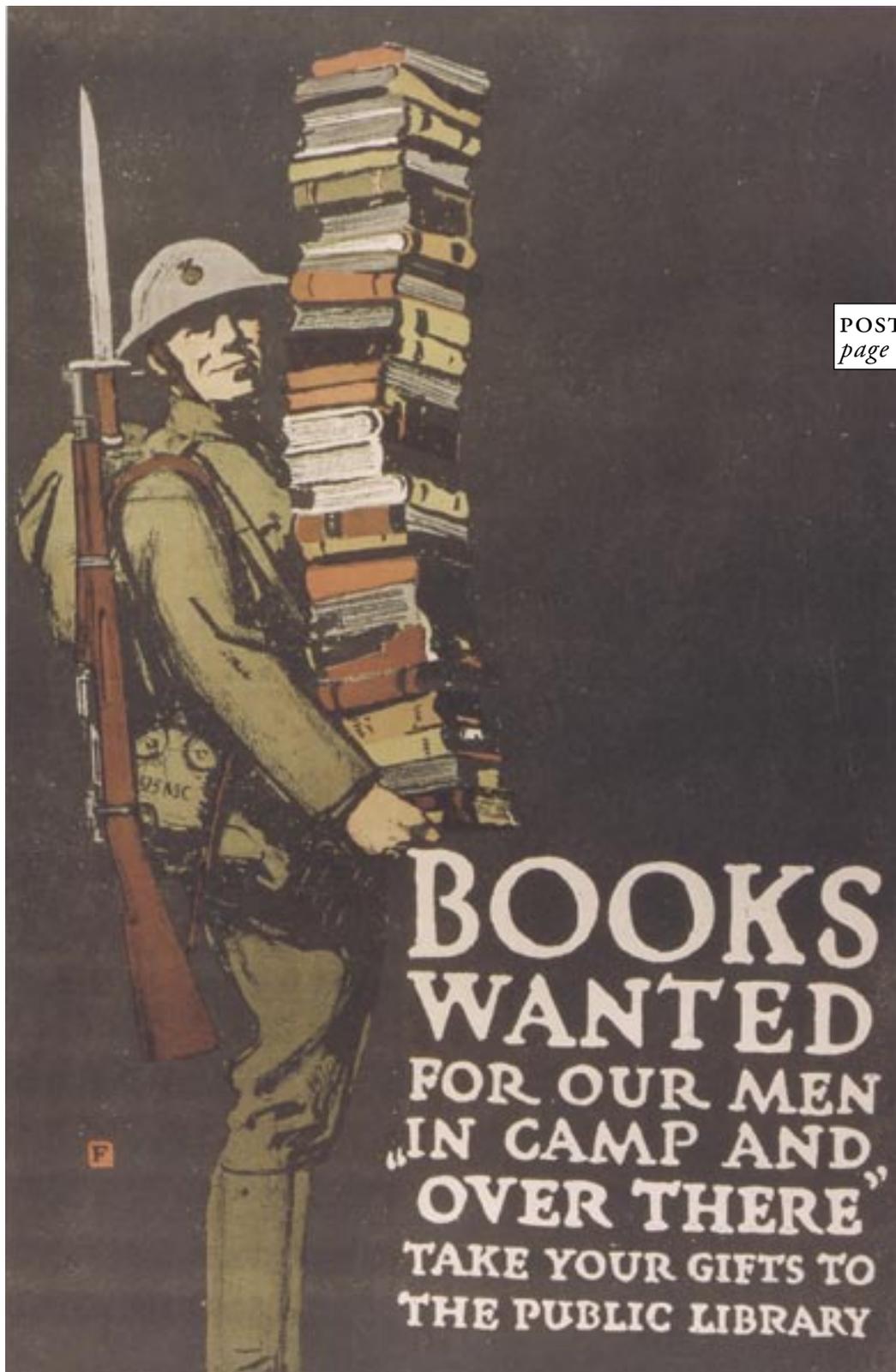
In November and January the Society’s Education Initiative offered two very different professional development workshops for educators. On November 2 and 14, the non-profit organization Teachers as Scholars sponsored Tea and Terror in Boston, 1764-1776, an introduction to pre-revolutionary Boston. On the first day of the workshop, former director William M. Fowler, Jr., discussed the town’s daily life at the time with the 16 participants while Librarian Peter Drummey highlighted various forms of colonial protest using materials from the Society’s collections. On the second day, seminarians worked in small groups to reconstruct the events of the Boston Tea Party using newspapers, broadsides, and other materials featured on the forthcoming website *The Coming of the American Revolution, 1764-1776: A Timeline/Documentary History*. Education staff, including Lynn Rhoads, Kathleen Barker, and Beth McLean, then led the group in a discussion of public memory and the destruction of the tea. The program culminated in a tea party using John Quincy Adams’s tea service.

On January 13, World War I was the subject. The Society has an outstanding collection of posters from the war, donated by Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr. Thanks to recent cataloging efforts by our Curator of Art Anne Bentley and Senior Cataloger Mary Fabiszewski, the Society’s on-line catalog, ABIGAIL, now offers information on these materials. The Education Initiative made use of these posters when we hosted a group of teachers from Foxboro for a workshop on World War I propaganda. Peter Drummey and Kathleen Barker introduced the participants to early forms of American propaganda as well as to American and European propaganda from W.W. I. Anne Bentley offered a brief history of early American poster art and highlighted examples of W.W. I medals from the collections. Beth McLean then led the teachers in a workshop on analyzing the W.W. I posters and other forms of propaganda.

Students at the Brookwood School display their broadside workbooks presented to them by Sven Holch: (left to right) Abby Fuller, John Hantzopolous, Bobby McKean, and Marcus Thompson.



This poster was one of several featured in a recent teacher workshop on American propaganda: "Society Holds Teacher Workshops" (page 11). For more information on the Society's collection of World War I posters, contact the library.



POSTERS
page 11

MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1154 Boylston Street
Boston MA 02215

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Boston, Mass.
Permit No. 53