

MHS Miscellany

FOUNDING FAMILIES PROJECT

If you happen to own the more than 40 volumes of *Adams Papers* printed editions, published by Harvard University Press, then you know the value of this remarkable resource: the five sub-series presenting gold-standard transcriptions of some 15,000 Adams documents as well as the introductions and annotations that place each document in its general and specific context. The actual books, however, require some heavy lifting to use: searching for a document or series of letters means pulling volume after weighty volume from the shelf as you try to follow a thread of history. As invaluable a resource as this series of documentary editions is, it could be more accessible and agile—and it has just become so.

All of the content of these volumes is now available online as Founding Families: Digital Editions of the Papers of the Winthrops and the Adamses (www.masshist.org/ff/), where seven previously published volumes of the *Winthrop Papers* will soon appear as well. The opportunity to convert the printed volumes—some of which are now out of print and hard to find—to an electronic format began in 2005 with a new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The funds, matched by the MHS in staff salaries, supported three years of work, headquartered in the Publications Department.

The process of taking printed books into the new world of online publication is beginning to settle into certain standards, but the path is still untrodden enough that the MHS had to find its way through the tangle of XML encoding, UTF-8 ASCII text, and the TEI tagset. Nonetheless, with further financial support from Harvard University Press and the technical support of Rotunda, the electronic imprint of the University

of Virginia Press, three years of almost full-time dedication by the Publications staff allowed the MHS to launch most of the anticipated content online last July.

The *Adams Papers* as presented on the website currently include transcriptions of more than 15,000 documents (each diary entry is counted as a single document), the rough total of the pieces included in the five original subseries: *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*, *Adams Family Correspondence*, *Papers of John Adams*, *Legal Papers of John Adams*, *Diary of John Quincy Adams*, and *Diary of Charles Francis Adams*. Most of the materials now available come from the 1770s and 1780s and constitute a major research tool for study of the Revolutionary and early national periods. The *Winthrop Papers* will include transcriptions of more than 2,300 Winthrop family documents, with an emphasis on the writings of John Winthrop, Sr., the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony, and his son John Winthrop, Jr.

While the content is available on the MHS website for free, it will also be a part of the comprehensive Founding Era subscription at the Rotunda website. Researchers will be able to click into a richly connected network of the equivalent of thousands of manuscripts, encapsulated by the solid contextual tools created by documentary editors. There, John and Abigail join their fellows in the Revolutionary generation, fully realizing the technology revolution in accessibility.



AS MASSACHUSETTS GOES...

MHS Miscellany, no. 95
 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, 9 AM to 4:45 PM Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 AM to 7:45 PM on Thursdays, and 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays.

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



While Maine and Missouri are famous as bellwethers of national political trends, in presidential contests Massachusetts is remarkable in that it has as often as not cast its electoral votes for the losing candidate. The Commonwealth's record of this particular kind of political independence includes support for the failed election or reelection bids of native sons John and John Quincy Adams, Michael Dukakis, and John Kerry, and the equally unsuccessful candidacies of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay (twice), John C. Fremont, Al Smith, and George McGovern, among others.

To illustrate two centuries of Bay State presidential politics, Assistant Reference Librarian Tracy Potter and intern Lydia Paine have created "As Massachusetts Goes..." From now until 15 November, this exhibition looks at some of the more colorful figures that the Commonwealth has placed on the national stage, as well as some of the Bay State's other contributions to American political life. On display are the personal correspondence of presidential candidates and their supporters, political cartoons, campaign biographies, broadsides, and posters, as well as early and

modern-day political memorabilia such as campaign medals, pins, keepsakes, buttons, and bumper stickers.

Lincoln and Massachusetts

To celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln on 12 February 2009, the Society will mount an exhibition, "Lincoln and Massachusetts." Reference Librarian Elaine Grublin will explore Lincoln's complicated political and personal connections with men and women from Massachusetts through a display of manuscripts, artifacts, photographs, portraits, publications, and sculpture drawn from the MHS collections. "Lincoln and Massachusetts" will be on view from February through March 2009.

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The exhibition is open to the public each day from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, through Saturday, 15 November.

All images are from the MHS collections unless otherwise credited.

This page, the campaign buttons are exnumia, political pinback collection, subset of numismatics collection; the broadside Harrison and Reform! Freeman Attend (Boston: Marden & Co., 1840) advertised a meeting for supporters of candidate William Henry Harrison during the 1840 presidential election in which Harrison opposed the incumbent, Martin Van Buren.

Front page, the Miscellany masthead illustration is "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.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



As you read through this issue of the *Miscellany*, the strength of our ongoing efforts in two key areas becomes apparent: bringing the public our resources on many different levels and increasing our already unparalleled collections. Extended library hours, volume 10 of the *Massachusetts Historical Review* (there will be two issues annually beginning in 2009), the continued improvements to our online catalog, ABIGAIL, the creation of a docent program, the Founding Families project, another season of expanded programming, and a continuation of our popular exhibitions all mark our commitment to provide greater access to our collections and the information they contain.

Equally as important is continuing to collect materials that are at the heart of those programs and activity. For much of its existence the MHS has been an aggressive gatherer, resulting in holdings of over 12.5 million manuscripts, not to mention impressive collections of books, maps, prints, artifacts, and numerous other categories of material. For several reasons, collecting has been less at the forefront of our activities in recent years. It has deferred to the emphasis on facilitating access to what we already hold, and it has also been affected by the growing realization among potential donors that the kinds of things we collect often have value far beyond the tax benefits of a gift. No longer depending almost solely on the generosity of donors means that a return to active collecting, in a competitive marketplace, will require a greatly augmented purse for making purchases.

Creating this capacity has become one of our strategic goals. By increasing the funds we have at hand for acquiring materials that enhance our holdings, especially through designated endowment gifts, we are determined not to let significant acquisitions slip away. The purchase of the Nietzsche Unitariana collection, for example, was an opportunity we could not pass

up. Thanks to the generosity of members of our Board the challenge has been met and a more aggressive pursuit of collection materials launched. I urge you to join with our Trustees and make a gift in support of enriching our collections. In the last few weeks we have purchased additional items—which you will read about in future issues of the *Miscellany*—as part of an ongoing collection.

Of course, we still welcome gifts of manuscripts or related items. They will remain the major source of collection material. I hope you will consider the MHS when you are seeking an appropriate repository for family papers and other treasures related to our collection. The MHS's record of care and access can be matched by few. I look forward to your phone call.

—Dennis A. Fiori, President

* * *

UNITARIANA

“It is said to be the penalty, but ought it not to be esteemed the privilege of the eminent, to be summoned to good & great works almost beyond their strength?”

—William Ellery Channing to
Daniel Webster, 5 June 1829

William Ellery Channing, one of 19th-century America's most prominent religious leaders, made this eloquent request to Massachusetts senator Daniel Webster for a submission to the *Christian Register*, a Unitarian journal. Channing's letter is only one of over 200 fascinating documents in the George E. Nietzsche Unitariana Collection, recently purchased by the MHS. Between 1923 and 1953, George Nietzsche, recorder for the University of Pennsylvania and member of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia and the Unitarian Society of Germantown, Penn., compiled through a combination of gifts and purchases an extensive collection. It includes papers of eminent politicians, authors, scientists, reformers, clergymen, scholars, educators, businessmen, and jurists, and also more than 200 folders—some empty, some containing biographical information—for individuals whose writings Nietzsche hoped

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to acquire at a later date. In 1954 he gave his collection to the Unitarian Society of Germantown. Thanks to the generosity of Amalie Kass, Lia Poorvu, Bill Saltonstall, Dennis Shapiro, Peter Spang, and Michael Yogg, the MHS was able to purchase this collection from the Unitarian Society in the summer of 2008.

The MHS is a natural home for Nietzsche's extraordinary collection. The library already holds papers of many of the New England Unitarians represented, including Channing, Theodore Parker, and James Freeman Clarke. However, the scope of the material is far broader than the name "Unitariana" implies—the collection features letters, manuscripts, photographs, and books related to a wide variety of liberal religious and political thinkers from the United States and abroad. These include such notable figures as Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Susan B. Anthony, Dorothea Dix, Horace Mann, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Francis Parkman, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Charles Darwin, and Charles Dickens.

Although the papers span three centuries, from 1791 to 1956, the bulk of the material dates from the 19th century. Among the earliest items are a letter from Vice President John Adams to Secretary of War Henry Knox, 1791, and an 1801 "sea letter," or ship's passport, signed by both Thomas Jefferson and Levi Lincoln. While many of the letters are most significant for their autograph value, others are notable for their content, the context in which they were written, or their connection to existing collections at the MHS. Highlights include a rare

introspective letter from Transcendentalist author Margaret Fuller to Mary Peabody (later Mrs. Horace Mann), a 34-page handwritten account by Harriet Martineau of her transatlantic voyage in 1836, and a letter from educator Elizabeth Palmer Peabody about her historical works.

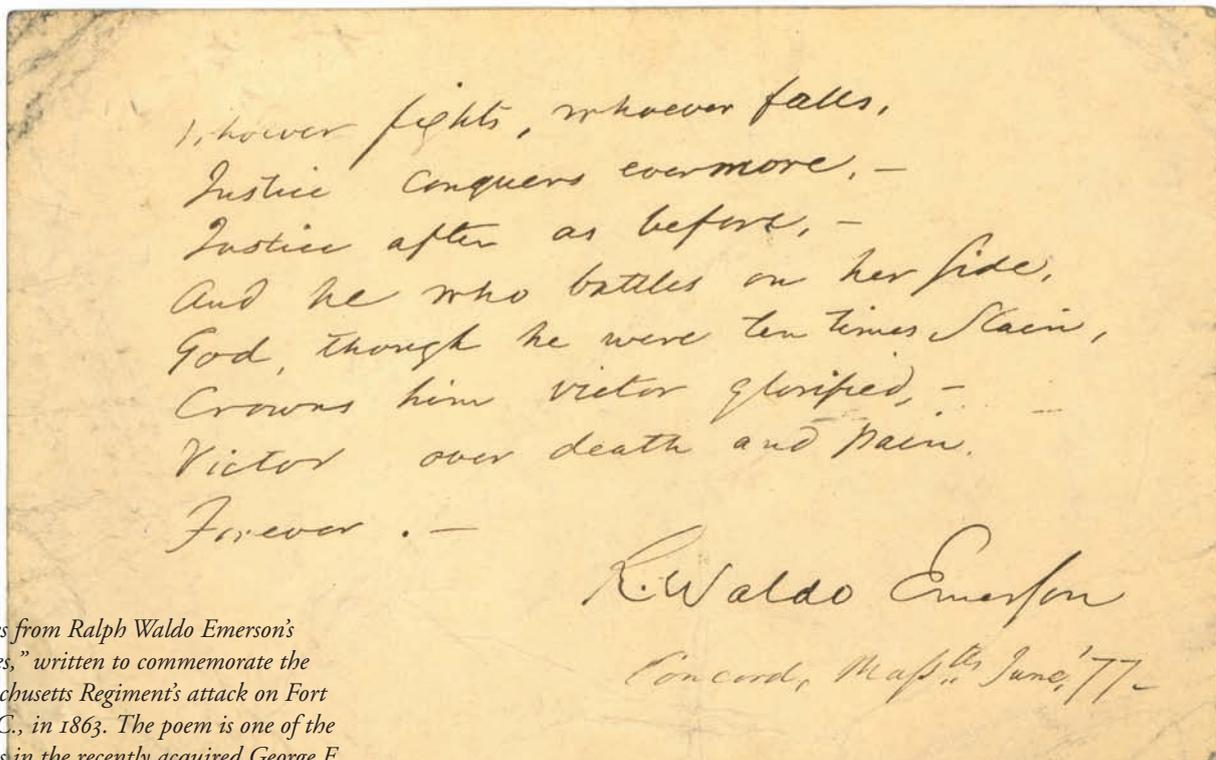
For a complete description and a list of correspondents, see the guide to the collection at <http://www.masshist.org/findingaids/doc.cfm?fa=fao304>.

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TOPICS FOR CONVERSATION

Puzzles and Publications

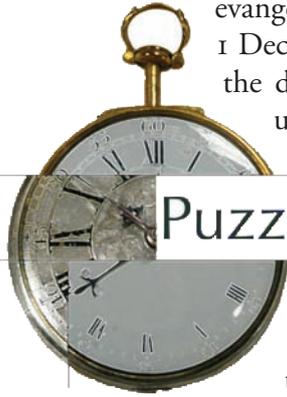
The MHS is pleased to announce a new conversational series this fall and spring, *Puzzles in Time*. In the salon-like ambiance of the Dowse Library, host Stephen Marini, Wellesley College historian, will facilitate conversations that explore the challenges of the process of history: the detective work, the enigmas, the clues, the mysterious missing pieces, and the drama of discovery. This year, we ask our guest historians to talk about some of the puzzles they encountered while following the trail of evidence, such as what new evidence surprised them, how that changed their thinking, and how they finally interpreted unexpected or anomalous findings. Please join us for some fascinating stories with ingredients of intrigue and investigation and even a good dose of imagination. And bring your own questions! Programs begin at 6:00, preceded by a 5:30 reception, and are free and open to the public.



Several lines from Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Voluntaries," written to commemorate the 54th Massachusetts Regiment's attack on Fort Wagner, S.C., in 1863. The poem is one of the manuscripts in the recently acquired George E. Nietzsche Unitariana Collection.

On Wednesday, 12 November, Robert Gross, James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History at the University of Connecticut, will explore two perplexing cases from his research: “Splits and Resolves: Seeking Concord in Concord” begins with a strange omission of evidence from town records in the 1760s and journeys through evangelical and anti-

evangelical circuits in the 1820s. On Monday, 1 December, Allan Brandt will share some of the difficult issues and “puzzles” that came up in writing *The Cigarette Century*—an investigation of the history, culture, and politics of cigarette use in the United States and around the globe. Dr. Brandt is the Amalie Moses Kass Professor of the History of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.



Puzzles in time

The second annual Massachusetts History Book Fair will take place on Saturday, 22 November, from 9:00 to 5:00. It will feature conversations with authors, which will include informal sessions with seven writers who will be on hand to discuss and sign copies of their books. This year’s books take us from the secret pen of Mercy Otis Warren to the letters of Abigail Adams to the loves of Harriet Beecher Stowe, immerse us in the lives of both former slaves and Jewish families in New England, and land us in the midst of controversies surrounding the American Reconstruction and the death penalty in Massachusetts. The full schedule is on the MHS website: www.masshist.org/events. Admission to the entire event is free and no reservations are needed.

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SOCIETY TO HOST 4 MHS-NEH FELLOWS

Each year, a new crop of research fellows brings vitality to the cultural life of the Society. Long-term fellows, who spend 4 to 10 months with us, have often become particularly good friends as well as intellectual sparring partners during their time here.

We are looking forward this year to welcoming our largest-ever class of long-term fellows. Michael Hoberman, an associate professor of English at Fitchburg State College, will have the longest tenure—from September to May. Michael’s project, “New England/New Israel: Puritans and Jews in Colonial New England,” looks at the relationship between Jews and Puritans in early New England from several different angles. Although the region’s Jewish population was tiny, the Puritans’ identification with the Israelites of the Old Testament as a

chosen people meant that theologically and culturally the importance of the link was far greater than numbers would suggest. In a series of essays, Michael will investigate both the practical and the allegorical dimensions of this connection.

Our other three fellows will spend four to five months each at the MHS. During the fall, Vincent Carretta, a professor of English at the University of Maryland, will work on a biography of Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753–1784), the first published African American poet. Also during the fall, Meredith Neuman, an assistant professor of English at Clark University, will polish her study of the popular response to sermons as literature in 17th-century New England. During the spring, Carolyn Eastman, an assistant professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin, will do research for her project on the role of printed texts and images in the development of a gender system in the Atlantic world during the 18th century.

Through the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, we are able to offer at least two long-term fellowships each year. Our next application deadline is 15 January 2009. For information on the competition, see the insert in this newsletter, visit our website, or call Jane Becker at 617-646-0518.

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A LENDER BE

This fall and winter, the MHS continues its long tradition of lending artifacts from our collections to sister institutions. The new Capitol Visitor’s Center in Washington, D.C., will display the table that Abraham Lincoln used at his second inauguration. (A rendering of the installation appears at www.aoc.gov/cvc/exhibition_gallery/cap_dome_int.cfm.) We are also happy to loan a number of objects to “America I AM: The African American Imprint”—a five-year traveling exhibition organized by the Tavis Smiley Group with the Smithsonian and the Cincinnati Museum Center. Among the items we have sent is another table—the one that African American poet Phillis Wheatley used as her writing desk. The show opens 15 January 2009 at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, with Chicago’s Field Museum as the second venue later in 2009. Back in D.C., starting on 20 January the exhibition “Presidents in Waiting” at the National Portrait gallery will include John Adams’s 1793 letter to Abigail describing the office of the vice president as “the most insignificant Office that ever the Invention of Man contrived.”

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Spring and summer have been very busy seasons for the MHS Education Department. In addition to greatly expanding its online educational resources, the department has presented over 20 programs for history teachers and students, working closely with Library Reader Services, Collections Services, the Adams Papers, and Research Department staff, as well as notable area historians.

Teacher workshops figured prominently in the Education Department's activities. Five groups from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Georgia regional consortiums visited the MHS as part of U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant programs, and in April 50 local teachers joined special guest David McCullough at a vacation workshop on John Adams. April was also a travel-filled month for the Education Department staff. At Vassar College they held a session on the Adams family for Hudson Valley-area teachers and students, and in Louisville, Ky., they gave a presentation on the new Coming of the American Revolution website for the annual conference of the National Council for History Education. Teachers came to the MHS in June for a workshop on the French and Indian War and in July for a special gathering as part of an NEH Thomas Jefferson Institute. Also in July, aspiring teachers from Fitchburg State College got an introduction to the Society's many educational offerings.

Students of all ages have had many occasions to experience the Society's wealth of resources. During the spring and summer, a team of MHS staff members conducted a seven-session course on history and memory for the Tufts University/Osher Learning in Retirement program. College students from Suffolk and Boston universities came for events on African American history resources, and secondary school classes got valuable hands-on training in primary source research by working with documents on a wide variety of subjects from MHS collections.

The coming months will bring many more exciting educational programs at the MHS. A September open house for teachers was the first of many that will be held on Saturdays during the fall and winter. In October and November, a Teachers as Scholars program will immerse

Massachusetts educators in the causes and consequences of the Boston Tea Party. And in December the board of the New England History Teachers Association will meet at the MHS to learn about the fellowships, collections, curricular materials, workshops, and library support available here.

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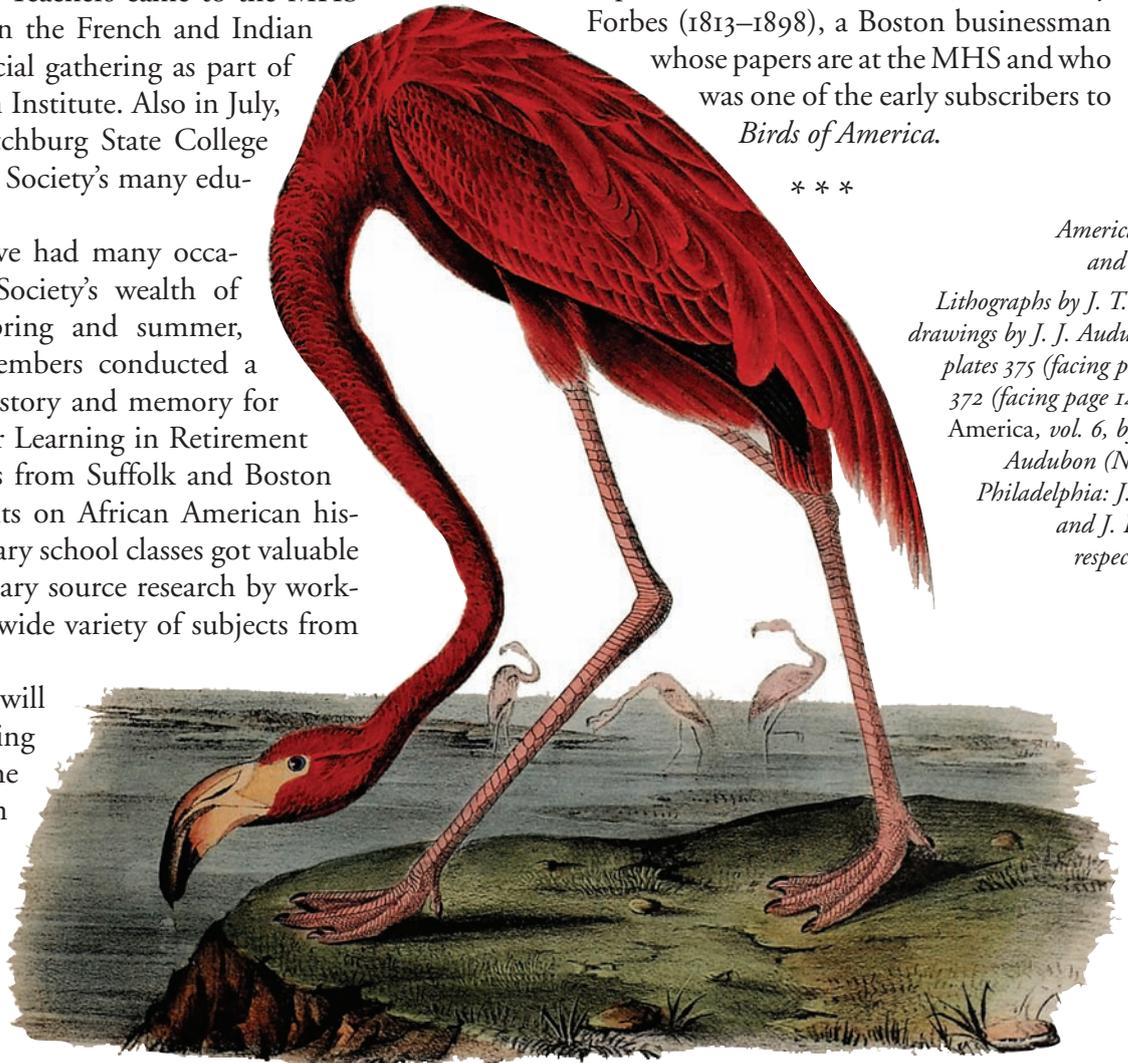
AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA

In July, Paul Elias of Cambridge donated a first octavo edition of John J. Audubon's *Birds of America* to the MHS. Published in Philadelphia between 1840 and 1844, this smaller version of Audubon's most famous work was issued in parts by subscription. The entire set of 100 could be purchased for \$100, a price well within the range of well-to-do families. Each of the seven volumes in the Society's set bears the bookplate of Mr. Elias's ancestor John Murray Forbes (1813–1898), a Boston businessman whose papers are at the MHS and who was one of the early subscribers to *Birds of America*.

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*American Flamingo
and Blue Heron.*

Lithographs by J. T. Bowen after drawings by J. J. Audubon. No. 75, plates 375 (facing page 169) and 372 (facing page 148), Birds of America, vol. 6, by John James Audubon (New York and Philadelphia: J. J. Audubon and J. B. Chevalier, respectively, 1843).



FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Twenty-one applicants were awarded funds for four weeks of research at the MHS this year. While many did their tenure during the summer, others are arriving this fall or winter and will be a part of MHS activities all through the academic calendar.

The recipients included two W.B.H. Dowse Fellows (Ian Aebel from the University of New Hampshire and Len Travers from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth), one 20th-Century Fellow (Bernadette Beredo from the University of Hawaii), one Benjamin Stevens Fellow (Michael Block from the University of Southern California), two Ruth R. & Alyson R. Miller Fellows (Rachel Cope from Syracuse University and Serena Zabin from Carleton College), ten Andrew W. Mellon Fellows (Evan Cordulack from the College of William and Mary, Hidetaka Hirota from Boston College, Deborah Kent from Hillsdale College, Noam Maggor from Harvard University, Jennifer Egloff from NYU, Courtney Fullilove from Columbia University, Cathryn Halverson from Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Dael Norwood from Princeton University, and Wendy Wong from Temple University), one Andrew Oliver Fellow (Mary Niall Mitchell from the University of New Orleans), one Marc Friedlander Fellow (Margery Heffron), one Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati Fellow (Jeffrey Malanson from Boston College), one African American Studies Fellow (Shevaun Watson from the University of South Carolina), and one Suzanne and Caleb Loring Fellow (Megan Kate Nelson from the California State University at Fullerton). Their topics cover a broad range, mining our collections for insight on French and Indian War captives, the China Trade, the Vietnam War, 19th-century courtroom practices, immigration, religious revivalism, and patent law, to highlight just a few of the projects underway.

The Society also continues to take part in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, which made a dozen grants this year that will allow researchers to spend time working in the collections of the participating institutions. Seven of this year's recipients will be doing research at 1154 Boylston Street. The names of the fellowship recipients, their projects, and all of the consortium partners appear at www.masshist.org/fellowships/fellows.cfm. You can also find there a full list of the research projects alluded to above.

Opportunities to hear the fellows discuss their work at brown bag lunches and/or seminars will arise in coming months. Please keep an eye on the calendar of events at www.masshist.org/events.



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL REVIEW, VOLUME 10

Volume 10 of the *Massachusetts Historical Review*, which will arrive in the mailboxes of Fellows, Members, and subscribers within a few weeks, includes contributions to please almost every taste. In "Rebellion against Priest," John McClymer recounts the struggle in 1891 between a Roman Catholic priest in Worcester and an order of nuns intent on establishing an orphanage. Chris Beneke relates Boston minister Jonathan Mayhew's role in the mid-18th-century rise of opposition to the British Crown in "The Critical Turn." Mourning the death of a Civil War hero is the subject of "A Family Goes to War," by John T. Cumbler. Paul Polgar describes the controversy in Boston in 1915 over D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* in "Fighting Lightning with Fire." And an obscure but influential jurist from Massachusetts is the focus of "The Forgotten Judge at the Tokyo War Crimes Trial," by Yuki Takatori. The issue also includes a comment by Edward Chalfant and a review essay by Helen Deese. For information on subscribing to the *MHR*, please see our website or contact Suzanne Carroll at 617-646-0513.

Can't get enough MHR? You're in luck. Beginning this spring, each volume of the MHR will appear in two issues. For subscribers, the annual rate will increase to \$35 per year. For Members and Fellows, the journal remains a benefit of membership—a double benefit.

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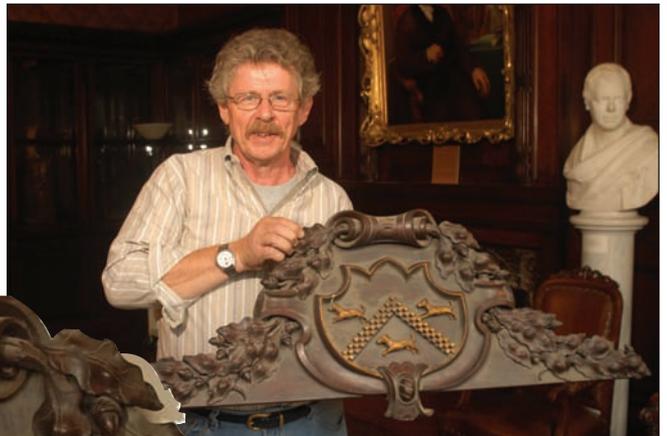
THE DOWSE LIBRARY

Restored to Glory

In recognition of 150 years of valuable service as a meeting room and home of one of its most important collections, during the summer months the MHS restored the Dowse Library bookcases and cabinets. The project served two purposes: to preserve the Dowse Library meeting room itself, where generations of historians have worked, lectured, and discussed almost every aspect of American history, and to protect the volumes shelved in the room's bookcases. This extraordinary collection was donated to the Society by Thomas Dowse, a reclusive Cambridgeport leather merchant and book collector who died in 1856. In 1857, the Society constructed the Dowse Library in its Tremont Street location to house Dowse's books. When the MHS came to its present home on Boylston Street in 1899, the Dowse Library moved along with it, into a room built specifically to fit the library's cabinetry.

Michael Wheeler, a Jamaica Plain cabinetmaker and 1976 graduate of North Bennett Street School, carried out the restoration project. While the initial plan called for Mr. Wheeler to plane and re-carve the bookcase doors and drawers and to repair and refit the hinges and locks, in the course of his work he found opportunities to improve the storage conditions for the collection and restore missing and damaged decorative elements of the room. He made the shelves fully adjustable and he vented the tops of the cases to provide air flow and prevent moisture and heat buildup in the glass-front bookcases. While the main impetus for the renovations was to make the room functional, Mr. Wheeler also touched up the normal marks of long and active use. The high quality of the original installation served as an inspiration for Mr. Wheeler, who felt that he was a "part of history" as he brought the room and its furnishings back into fully functioning condition with time-honored woodworking techniques.

Out of respect for the skill of a previous generation of craftspeople, the best restoration keeps the repairs and changes invisible. Now when you walk into the Dowse you might exclaim "Why, everything looks exactly the same!"—to which Michael Wheeler will respond "Thank you!"



Wheeler discovered this carving during his work in the Dowse. Out of sight atop one of the cabinets, it appears to be a coat of arms for the Dowse family and was probably included in the cabinetry by order of the original Dowse Library Committee.

WHEN THIS YOU SEE, REMEMBER ME

A watch chain woven of human hair, a ring with a winged death's head, a brooch enameled with a funeral urn—these are examples of mourning jewelry, specifically created as loving memorials to a person who has died. A significant cache of these tokens has accumulated in the MHS's holdings over the years, as some of the material artifacts that often accompany the boxes of papers that arrive here. The dates of mourning jewelry in the MHS's collection ranges from the mid-17th-century—a locket memorializing Charles I—to an 1865 locket containing the hair of Abraham Lincoln. Rings, brooches, and watch chains are the most common pieces, but earrings, bracelets, pendants, and lockets appear in the collection as well.

Until recently, inadequate descriptions have limited access that MHS researchers have to these remarkable items. Since last spring, however, Sarah Nehama, a Boston-area jeweler, has volunteered her time, expertise, and camera to record data for us to catalog this part of the collection in ABIGAIL. Working with Curator of Art Anne Bentley, Ms. Nehama has photographed and made a complete and accurate description of each piece. Her efforts focused particularly on providing a detailed account of the materials used in each item.



The tradition of personal mourning jewelry began in the 17th century,

peaked in popularity during the 18th and 19th centuries, and eventually fell out of favor in the 20th. A surviving family member would usually commission the jewelry, and the jeweler would engrave or enamel the individual's name, date of death, and age into the item along with an appropriate design. Early pieces tend to incorporate the more recognizable icons such as skulls, skeletons, and winged death's heads. (See the Wigglesworth ring and the E. Paine ring). Later pieces often include hair of the deceased person braided or woven into intricate designs—or even chopped up and used as “ink” to make a picture. Hairwork was very popular, so much so that in the 19th century it became an industry unto itself.

While a ring with a death's head fashioned in gold or a watch chain made with human hair may strike a 21st-

century viewer as strange and morbid, these and other such pieces were very common and considered at the time of their creation to be anything but macabre. They are instead a reflection of the era's sentimental view of death.

As a student and collector of mourning jewelry and as an artisan herself, Ms. Nehama has brought to the documentation process both an artist's eye and a historian's understanding of mourning jewelry's place in the emotional life of the past. Ultimately, Sarah Nehama's improved images and descriptions will enable researchers to view these extraordinary—and often astonishing—pieces of jewelry, pieces that are valuable on many levels: as works of art and craft, as documents of family history, and as objects that illuminate the cultural sensibilities and inner lives of those who have gone before us.

In the future, the information Ms. Nehama compiled will become available in ABIGAIL, the Society's online catalog.

Pictured on this page

E. Paine ring, 1747

Gold band with winged death's head made by Thomas Edwards (1701–1755) for funeral of Eunice Paine (1725–1747), mother of Robert Treat Paine, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Wigglesworth ring, 1794

Gold and enamel ring with skeleton under coffin-shaped crystal to commemorate the death of Reverend Edward Wigglesworth.

Bowdoin ring, ca. 1805 (below)

Mourning ring containing silhouette of Gov. James Bowdoin (d. 1790) by Dutch silhouettiste John Meirs. Believed to have been commissioned by James Bowdoin's widow, Elizabeth (Erving) Bowdoin, after her husband's death.



EVENTS SPRING 2008

A MEMBERS' EVENING



New and existing Members alike attended A Members' Evening at the MHS on 15 April. The 65 guests were treated to a special tour, a lively reception, and a private viewing of the exhibition "John Adams: A Life in Letters."

An enthusiastic group of MHS Members smile as they listen to Curator of Art and tour guide extraordinaire Anne Bentley (not pictured) explain the provenance of a portrait of George Washington on the second-floor landing of 1154 Boylston Street.

Jayne Gordon, Director of Education and Public Programs, The Honorable Barbara J. Rouse, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, and Amalie Kass, Chair of the Board of Trustees, pause from their conversation for a photograph. Judge Rouse, a new MHS Member, took advantage of the event to see the Adams exhibition.



AN EVENING WITH DAVID McCULLOUGH



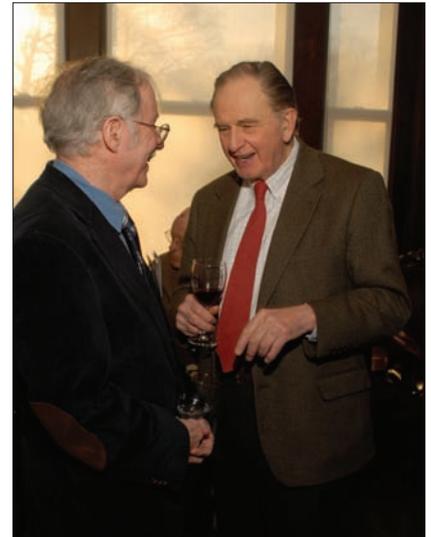
Approximately 40 guests gathered at 1154 Boylston Street on 22 April for a dinner and conversation with MHS Fellow David McCullough co-hosted by MHS President Dennis A. Fiori and Vassar College President Catharine Bond Hill. The event, which featured the exhibition "John Adams: A Life in Letters," celebrated the Society's successful partnership with Vassar throughout the month of April. The collaboration included a traveling exhibition as well as a number of programs in Poughkeepsie and Boston.

Above, friends MHS Trustee Peter Spang and Fellow David McCullough take a moment from catching up with each other to pose for a photograph. Right, MHS Fellow David McCullough greets Fellow Bayard Henry and Trustee Bill Saltonstall during the cocktail reception in the Dowse Library. Coincidentally, all three gentlemen are active with the MHS and married to Vassar alumnae.



On 16 April, over 110 guests attended A Fellows' Evening at the MHS. The event recognized those individuals elected to the Society as Fellows, an honor accorded for significant contributions to the field of history or to the MHS. The evening included a program honoring Malcolm Freiberg, Editor of Publications, Emeritus, for his half century of contributions to the life and work of the Society. In addition to other tributes, the creation of the Malcolm and Mildred Freiberg Fellowship Fund at the MHS was announced. The fête was so successful that the MHS intends to make it an annual event.

Right: Corresponding Fellow John Cantanzariti, a former editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson, enjoys chatting with Trustee Bernard Bailyn, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and professor emeritus at Harvard University.



Left to right: Member Sandra Moody, Fellow Patrick King, and Life Trustee Henry Lee smile for the camera; Conrad E. Wright, Worthington C. Ford Editor and Director of Research, poses with his MHS mentor and the evening's honoree, Malcolm Freiberg, Editor of Publications, Emeritus; Vice Chair Bill Cotter and Chair of the Board of Trustees Amalie Kass congratulate Malcolm Freiberg and thank him for his dedication to the mission of the MHS for over 50 years.

Alice Riley

The MHS mourns the passing on 17 July of Alice Riley, wife of former MHS librarian and director Stephen T. Riley. Mrs. Riley was 98.

Born Alice Riehle in Hamburg, N.Y., she received an A.B. from D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y., an A.M. in English from Cornell, and a library degree from the University of Michigan. She taught high school Latin and English in New York state, was the children's librarian at the Charlestown branch of the Boston Public Library, and later was a librarian in the Wellesley Public Schools. After she retired in the early 1970s, she worked for several years as an MHS volunteer, processing the vast collection of Leverett Saltonstall papers.

Alice and Stephen Riley met at the MHS, married in 1949, and for a time lived across the street from the Society. Mrs. Riley played an unofficial but key role in Mr. Riley's pursuit of great collections of American historical documents, especially in the complicated social interchange of donor relations. She was actively involved in MHS events and programs long after Mr. Riley's retirement in 1976, attending almost all MHS lectures and social events, and famously poured tea at the annual spring reception. Mr. and Mrs. Riley were devoted companions for nearly 50 years, and they traveled extensively, both touring abroad and exploring the U.S. in their VW camper.

Mrs. Riley was a veritable dynamo and remained vibrant and active well into her nineties. She was an avid gardener and did extensive volunteer work. A lifelong learner, she was a voracious reader and took many continuing education courses in history and art. Endlessly cheerful and a true delight, Alice Riley was one of the MHS's greatest treasures. The Society—and all who knew this remarkable woman—will miss her dearly.

NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL APPEAL 2007–2008

BREAKS ALL RECORDS

The Development Department is pleased to report that the 2007–2008 Annual Appeal, which ended on 30 June, broke all previous records for the amount of money raised and the number of donors. The fiscal year ended with over \$342,000 in unrestricted gifts from 488 donors to offset annual operating expenses. This represents a 13.5 percent increase in revenue over last year and a 16 percent increase in donors. All members of the staff extend their thanks for this extraordinary effort. Your gifts are deeply appreciated.

SEMINAR SEASON STARTS

The start of the fall brings with it the beginning of the MHS's seminar season, and once again, the Society will sponsor or co-sponsor four exciting series: the Boston Area Early American History Seminar, the Boston Environmental History Seminar, the Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar, and the Boston Seminar on the History of Women and Gender (co-sponsored with the Schlesinger Library). For a full schedule and for information on how to subscribe to the series, please see our website or contact Jane Becker at 617-646-0518.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to join us as we build a docent program to increase public awareness of the MHS and its many offerings. In general, docents will act as goodwill ambassadors for the Society, sharing our enthusiasm for history. Specifically, docents will guide visitors through our historic landmark building, explain the history of the Society and its role as an independent research library, and supply visitors with additional information about the art and artifacts on permanent display and the contents of our temporary exhibitions.

For more information, please contact Curator of Art Anne Bentley at abentley@masshist.org or 617-646-0508.



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