



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

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Letter from the President

Dear Members:

The Colonial Society is fortunate to have a headquarters building that is not only distinguished among Boston's architectural treasures, but closely associated with our mission to foster knowledge and understanding of early Massachusetts history. Our 1806 Charles Bulfinch-designed house at 87 Mount Vernon Street with 1892 interior alterations by Ogden Codman has during the past year received attention from an active House Committee working with our Curator Toby Hall and from a series of winter storms that tested its endurance and our ability to respond.

The House Committee, ably chaired by Richard Nylander, has had a series of meetings to plan for the care and preservation of the house and its furnishings. Toby Hall has completed a new inventory and photographic record of the house that has made possible an up-to-date appraisal by Skinner, Inc., both for insurance and for prioritization of conservation. A conservation plan was begun as House Committee member Robert Mussey volunteered to prepare a survey of the furniture. Surveys of works of art and other media will be undertaken by outside consultants.

The structure itself has been given equally rigorous examination, led by House Committee members Lynne Spencer and Charles Sullivan, to assess its condition, inside and out, and to prioritize repair and restoration. This process proved prescient when a severe winter struck New England. Snow accumulated on the roof, icicles formed, and when temperatures rose, it all came crashing down, inflicting substantial damage to roof and façade. A most satisfactory insurance settlement has been made and restoration is about to begin with design services provided by Lynne Spencer and her Spencer & Vogt Group.

I encourage you to participate in meetings and events at the Society's house to see the results of the House Committee's discussion and planning.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Friary
President

Boston Furniture at the Colonial Society

By Elton W. Hall, Curator

It sometimes happens that when a group of like-minded people get together for a particular event, it turns out so well that it spawns further events, which continue long into the future. Such was the case when what used to be known as the annual Winterthur Conference in Museum Operations and Connoisseurship in 1971 was devoted to the subject of "Prints in and of America to 1840," organized by Jonathan L. Fairbanks, then Associate Curator of the Winterthur Museum and soon to become Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. A diverse group of curators, collectors, librarians, dealers, scholars, students, and sundry enthusiasts convened for an outstanding program. They enjoyed the lectures, exhibitions, and each other's company so much that the wish to do it again became frequently heard.

The following year, The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, under the leadership of Walter Muir Whitehill and Sinclair H. Hitchings with the cooperation of the Boston Public Library, sponsored a second print conference entitled "Boston Prints and Printmakers 1670-1775." The proceedings of this conference was published as Volume 46 of our publications. Beyond the usefulness



Emily Landsman, one of the interns working for the Boston Furniture Archive, measuring a sideboard in the dining room at 87 Mount Vernon Street. Emily completed an MA in museum studies through the Harvard University Extension School. She recently relocated from New Orleans, where she managed the offices of Crescent City Auction Gallery, to Woodstock, Vermont. Photo: Sarah Park



The Parkman bookcase on cabinet by Isaac Vose & Sons. Photo: David Bohl

of the conference and the publication themselves, the event inaugurated the Colonial Society's program of conferences on specific topics followed by publication of the papers in a dedicated volume, of which there have since been twelve. Most of the participants in the conference had also attended the one at Winterthur and again raised a clamor for continuing the print conferences. That led to one at the Library of Congress in 1972, Philadelphia in 1973, Colonial Williamsburg in 1974 and so on for a quarter of a century. The event became known as "The American Historical Print Conference." When some papers were given on 20th-century subjects, the word historical was dropped, and when the Royal Ontario Museum in Ottawa hosted a conference, the word north was added. There was never any organization, membership, officers, or dues. It was just spontaneous combustion. Anyone interested in the subject was welcome, and there was always the hope of a published proceedings. That did

not always come to pass, but this non-event did manage to produce fifteen substantial volumes on prints and printmakers during the course of its active life. The Colonial Society volume was among the most handsome in the series and set a standard that subsequent publishers endeavored to match.

The second of the Colonial Society conferences concerned the subject of Boston furniture. The papers were published as our Volume 48: *Boston Furniture of the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Walter Whitehill, Brock Jobe, and Jonathan Fairbanks. It was an exceptionally useful and popular book, the first of our volumes to go into a second edition. In anticipation of the fortieth anniversary of that conference, Brock thought of a reprise of the subject. That little acorn of an idea quickly took root and quickly grew into a mighty tree with many branches involving eleven institutions including the Colonial Society, almost as many exhibitions and programs extending

over a couple of years: Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture. Soon that tree began dropping acorns of its own in the form of publications by some of the participating institutions. Among those will be a proceedings of the 2013 Winterthur Furniture Forum, *Boston Furniture*, which is to be a Colonial Society volume.

The most ambitious of all the germinating acorns is the Boston Furniture Archive, now under way under the auspices of the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. It is a free, online, resource for the study of furniture made in Boston between 1630 and 1930. The long-term goal is to record all known Boston furniture, with all the information that can be gathered about it, and make it available to all who need it. It will be an open-ended process, for Boston furniture will be turning up indefinitely. Pieces known only from auction catalogs, articles, and various other printed sources, now lost, will surely re-appear in the fullness of time. Moreover, as the scholarship progresses, pieces not now thought to be from Boston, will be reclassified.

Nevertheless, they are off to a vigorous start, beginning with museums and other organizations possessing furniture of known Boston origin or firm Boston attributions. Following a preliminary survey by Brock Jobe, Professor of American Decorative Arts at Winterthur and a Colonial Society Member, a team of interns led by Sarah B. Parks, Project Manager, spent about eight days examining closely the furniture at the Colonial Society believed to be of Boston origin. The three interns were Audrey Sutton, who is completing work for her MA Degree in the history of design and curatorial studies in an inter-institutional program run by the Parsons School of Design, the New School for Design, and the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York City; Emily Landsman, who completed her MA in Museum Studies through the Harvard University Extension Program; and Chelsea Butkowski, who is a recent graduate of New York State University Geneseo, where she studied art history and communication, and is now working for a year in the development office of a nonprofit organization before beginning her graduate studies.

Sarah thus described our holdings:

The Colonial Society furnishings are representative of the types of objects that the Archive brings to light: most aren't known to furniture of decorative arts scholars; many are of middling quality, unlikely to be displayed in a gallery setting but critical to understanding furniture production and consumption in Boston; and some have strong provenance that can situate them in a spe-

cific time and place. As we continue to add examples of Boston furniture to the Archive, we hope that the researchers and enthusiasts alike will discover new connections, not only among objects, but also between objects and the broader context of Boston's cultural, economic, and political evolution.

Unless one serves in the trenches of antique shop and auction gallery, most of the readily available information about furniture comes from museums, often art museums. These institutions tend to collect objects of the very finest quality and artistic merit. One's view may be skewed by this circumstance. The fact is that by far the most furniture made in Boston, or anywhere else for that matter, was of ordinary quality, made for ordinary people. The breadth of the Boston Furniture Archive's interests, collecting data all up and down the furniture market, will add an important dimension to the data available on the furniture itself and all the cultural connotations it bears. While the Colonial Society does have two or three pieces of monumental importance, most of it falls within this under-explored area. At the same time, much of it has histories of ownership that one may accept with confidence. Thus our contribution to the Archive will be valuable.

The interns were fortunate on their first day of work to have our member Robert Mussey with them. As a leading authority on Boston furniture, he gave them a good deal of information about the characteristics of Boston furniture in general and certain furniture makers in particular. From him they learned what to look for as they went through our pieces, and of course it will stand them in good stead wherever else they go. Aided by thoughtfully prepared worksheets, the interns examined each piece carefully, discussing whatever they found, and recording whatever we could tell them about the history of each piece. That information will go back to Winterthur, where it will be edited and uploaded into the Archive. It is expected that the Colonial Society data will be uploaded next winter, but you may go to the site now and learn more about what they are doing. The URL for the Archive is <http://bostonfurniture.winterthur.org>.

We are very happy to be participating with the Boston Furniture Archive. Our experience has been that whenever we cooperated with good institutions of similar interests, unanticipated benefits inevitably return to us. This project will undoubtedly lead to a better understanding and appreciation for some of the Colonial Society's possessions.

Colonial Society Takes a Leading Role in Boston 250

Readers of the Colonial Society's recent publications—the writings of Josiah Quincy, Francis Bernard, and Thomas Hutchinson—know about Boston's lively and contentious political debates in the 1760s. Members of the Colonial Society are ever conscious of the role Boston played in beginning the Revolution. The riots around the Liberty Tree in August 1765 began a decade of conflict that ended with the British evacuation in 1776.

To commemorate these events, Colonial Society Council members Martha McNamara and Bob Allison have convened a collaborative enterprise, Revolutionary Boston 250, which had its first public event on August 14, at Boston's Liberty Tree Plaza. Local artist Michael Dowling produced 108 copper lanterns (108 was the margin of victory by which Parliament rescinded the Stamp Act), replicas of the lanterns that hung from the tree in the 1760s. Each lantern had an interior sleeve made in a community workshop. On the evening of August 14, five processions carrying lanterns converged on Liberty Tree Plaza, which was illuminated with slogans about Liberty, filling this usually dark corner of the city with light, and reminding hundreds of passersby of the events that brought the colonial period to an end.

This event was the beginning. Revolution 250 plans more over the next decade. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Revolution250> and on twitter @REV250BOS.

The Graduate Student Forum

Our fifteenth Graduate Student Forum began with an account of rancid bear meat, and concluded with Thomas Jefferson's recipe for pasta. Throughout the day, we heard rising scholars taking new directions in early American history, or engaging with the familiar in new and imaginative ways. Moderators Fred and Virginia Anderson, of the University of Colorado, guided the discussion, which was enlivened by the participation of all our eight presenters and by members of the Society and of the broader scholarly community.

Our new format has each graduate student share a primary document encountered in his or her research.

The range of material presented—diaries, letters, prints, muster records, autopsy reports—is daunting and inspiring. So much more to explore! And such enterprising scholars engaged in the exploration of early New England.

This year's presenters:

Anthony Antonucci

History, *University of Connecticut*

Americans and the *Mezzogiorno*: United States

Relations with the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies from

Thomas Jefferson to Herman Melville, 1783-1861

Christina Carrick

History, *Boston University*

The Identity Dilemma in Loyalist Transatlantic

Networks

Carla Cevasco

History of American Civilization, *Harvard*

Feast, Fast, and Flesh: The Violence of Hunger in

Colonial New England and New France

Matt DiCintio

Department of Drama & Dance, *Tufts*

"Amusement for the Philosophic Genius": Freaks,

Beasts, Gadgets, and the Performance of American

Exceptionalism

John Hannigan

History, *Brandeis*

To be Faithful Good Soldiers: Slavery, War, and

Emancipation in Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts,

1713-1783

James Hrdlicka

Corcoran Department of History, *University of Virginia*

War and Constitution-Making in Revolutionary

Massachusetts, 1754-1788

Rebecca M. Rosen

English, *Princeton*

Making the Body Speak: Anatomy, Autopsy and

Testimony in Early America, 1639-1790

Amy Torbert

Department of Art History, *University of Delaware*

Going Places: The Material and Imagined Geographies

of Prints in the Atlantic World, 1750-1790

We have not yet set a date for the 2016 Forum, but will send an announcement later in the fall.

New Members

Jennifer Anderson, of Stony Brook, New York, is Assistant Professor of History at Stony Brook University. She received an M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture and a Ph.D. in Atlantic and Early American History from New York University. Since 2007 she has been on the faculty of Stony Brook University. She was awarded the 2006-2007 Hench Post-Dissertation Fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society to study "Nature's Currency: The Atlantic Mahogany Trade, 1725-1825." She also won the Society of American Historians' Nevins Prize for Best-Written Dissertation. The benefit of the prize is the commitment of a publisher in a revolving consortium of highly-regarded academic presses. In Professor Anderson's case the publisher was Harvard University Press and the resulting book was titled *Mahogany: The Costs of Luxury in Early America*, published in 2012.

In addition, she has worked as a museum consultant and as part of a research team for the Emmy-nominated documentary, "Traces of the Trade: A Story for the Deep North," about the Northern slave trade.

Joseph M. Bagley, of Boston, has been the Archaeologist for the City of Boston since 2011, succeeding fellow member Ellen Berkland. He received his B.A. in Archaeology at Boston University, and a Masters in Archaeology at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, writing his thesis on Native American sites on Boston Common. In addition to his extensive archaeological work in Boston, he has conducted archaeological surveys in Florida, Maine, Rhode Island, and throughout Massachusetts. He has delivered public presentations, and presented in classes at Boston University, Suffolk University, and the University of London. He has published his research in the *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*. Mr. Bagley is one of the leading authorities on Native American archaeology in the greater Boston area, and has found stone tools and other evidence on Boston Common as well as the Harbor Islands and in the city's neighborhoods.

Evan Haefeli, of College Station, Texas, has taught at Tufts and Columbia universities and now holds a tenured position at Texas A&M University. He is fluent in French, Italian, German, and Dutch, and can read Swedish, Spanish, and probably Portuguese. He has studied two Algonquian dialects as well.

His first book, written with our member Kevin Sweeney of Amherst College, was *Captors and Captives: The 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2003). They subsequently edited *Captive Histories: English, French, and Native Narratives of the 1704 Deerfield Raid* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006). More recently he published *New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012). Currently *Catholics, Protestants, and Empire: Constructing Religious Liberty in Colonial America* is under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

Michael Hill, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, earned his B.A. from Kent State University, and an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He is the editor of the *Diary and Letters of Elibu Washburne, America's Minister to France during the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871*, published in 2013. After working for Vice-President Walter Mondale in the 1970s, he became an independent historical researcher, first working with fellow Colonial Society member David McCullough for over 30 years. During those years, David McCullough published the biographies of Harry Truman and John Adams, as well as books on the American Revolution, on Americans in Paris, and the Wright Brothers. In addition, Mr. Hill has worked with fellow member Nathaniel Philbrick on *Sea of Glory*, the *Last Stand*, and *Bunker Hill*. Mike Hill also has been a historical researcher for Evan Thomas, John Meacham, Michael Korda, Caroline Kennedy, Senator John McCain, and others. He worked for Ken Burns on the "Civil War" series, where he won an Emmy award for his work as co-producer, and was a coordinating producer for Burns's "Baseball." He also served as the historical consultant to the HBO production of "John Adams."

Peter C. Mancall, of Los Angeles, California, received his A.B. from Oberlin College and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is currently Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities and Professor of History and Anthropology at USC; he also serves as the Director of the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, and he is currently Vice Dean for the Humanities at USC.

Professor Mancall is an accomplished scholar and a prolific writer. His books include *Deadly Medicine: Indians and Alcohol in Early America* (Cornell, 1995); *Hakluyt's Promise: An Elizabethan's Obsession for an English America* (Yale, 2007); and *Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson—A Tale of Mutiny and Murder in*

the Arctic (Basic Books, 2009). He is currently completing two manuscripts: *Nature and Culture in the Sixteenth-Century Atlantic World* (University of Pennsylvania) and *The Lord of Misrule: Thomas Morton and the Tragic Origins of New England* (Oxford). He is also under contract to complete *American Origins*, the first volume of the Oxford History of the United States, which is scheduled for delivery to the press in 2016.

Micah Pawling, of Orono, Maine, is an Assistant Professor of Native American Studies and History. He is the editor of the *Wabanaki Homeland and the New State of Maine: The 1820 Journal and Plans for Survey of Joseph Treat*, published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2007. He is currently reworking his dissertation into essays and a book-length manuscript that explore the Wabanaki idea of homeland during the late 1700s and 1800s. In the course of his scholarship, he has worked with members of the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, and Maliseet communities to preserve their archival materials and oral traditions and has assisted native peoples in their interactions with the U.S. Justice Department, the Bureau of Land management, and state agencies.

Robert Severy, of Weymouth, Massachusetts, graduated from Boston English High School, and attended Suffolk University. He received a certificate in photography from the Franklin Institute, and with his camera he has been recording life in Boston for more than 50 years. Mr. Severy has written 12 guides to the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester, and has donated close to 200,000 photographic images to the Bostonian Society, the Boston Athenæum, the Boston Public Library, Historic New England, the Association of Gravestone Studies, the Historical Societies and Public Libraries of Dorchester, Plymouth, Weymouth, Jamaica Plain, South Boston, West Roxbury, Charlestown, Chelsea, the West End, Monson, the North End, and Bristol, New Hampshire.

Mr. Severy has also donated family papers from the Bellamy, McClintock, Weston, and Endicott families, and maps to the Harvard Map Collection, Yale, the Boston Public Library, and other repositories. He is generous with his time and talents, undertaking research to document materials in collections, and he has also paid to restore artwork held by the Old State House, the Massachusetts State House, the MHS, the Boston Public Library, the Gibson House, and most recently at our house at 87 Mount Vernon Street.

News of Members

James Axtell has finished *Wisdom's Workshop: The Rise of the Modern University*, which Princeton University Press will publish in February 2016. It is a genealogy of the world-leading American research universities, from medieval to the present.

Georgia Barnhill's article, "Business Practices of Commercial Nineteenth-Century American Lithographers" appeared in the Summer/Autumn 2014 issue of the Winterthur Portfolio (Vol. 48, nos. 2 and 3).

Mary Bilder published in October *Madison's Hand: Revising the Constitutional Convention* (Harvard UP 2015). In July, the American Association of Law Libraries awarded the Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award to *Appeals to the Privy Council from the American Colonies* (online at <http://amesfoundation.law.harvard.edu/ColonialAppeals/>; in print with Hein, 2014) by Bilder, Sharon O'Connor, and Charles Donahue.

Timothy Breen is the James Marsh Professor at-large at the University of Vermont. Last fall, he was a guest at the Center for Advanced Study at Munich, funded by the Humboldt Foundation, and in the spring (February-May 2015) he held a research fellowship at Colonial Williamsburg. His new book *George Washington's Journey: The President Forges a New Nation* (Simon and Schuster) will appear on January 6, 2016. He is now working on a new project entitled tentatively "Enforcing the Revolution: How the Americans Won the War for Independence."

Jeannine Falino has received a one-month residential fellowship from Winterthur Museum to expand her research on the Gilded Age in America. She is co-curator of *Gilded New York: Design, Fashion, and Society* (Museum of the City of New York, 2013), and co-editor of the catalogue. The exhibition will be on view through January 2016.

Linford Fisher published *Decoding Roger Williams: The Lost Essay of Rhode Island's Founding Father* (Baylor, 2014), co-authored with J. Stanley Lemons and Lucas Mason-Brown. He also was awarded an ACLS Ryskamp Fellowship and was promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure) at Brown University.

Donald Friary will in July 2016 lead a tour for the New England Historic Genealogical Society following the routes and the fates of New England captives taken to Canada to the places where the captives lived as Mohawks, Abenakis, Hurons, and naturalized French subjects—Montreal and Quebec, Chambly, Boucherville,

Trois-Rivieres, Kahnawake, Kanasetake, Odanak, Wendake—to learn of the struggle among the French, English, and several Native groups for control of the borderlands that both separated and united them.

Frederick D. Grant published in late 2014 *The Chinese Cornerstone of Modern Banking: The Canton Guaranty System and the Origins of Bank Deposit Insurance 1780-1933* (Studies in the History of Private Law, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Brill, Netherlands, 2014) and an introduction to the republication of Jacques M. Downs, *The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community at Canton and the Shaping of American China Policy* (Hong Kong University Press, 2014).

Robert Gross's essay on Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Concord Lyceum appeared under the title "Talk of the Town" in the summer issue of *The American Scholar*. Having retired from the University of Connecticut History Department and taken up residence in Concord, Massachusetts, he is hard at work completing *The Transcendentalists and Their World*.

Philip F. Gura's *The Life of William Apess, Pequot*, the first biography of the early nineteenth-century Native American writer and activist, perhaps best known for his role in the so-called "Mashpee Revolt" of the 1830s, appeared in April published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Benjamin H. Irvin was appointed the 2015-16 Patrick Henry Writing Fellow at Washington College. He was also named a 2015-18 Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians.

Brock Jobe, upon his retirement in May, was named emeritus professor of decorative arts at the Winterthur Museum. He looks forward to devoting more time to his favorite subject: early New England furniture. He presently serves as co-editor of the Colonial Society's forthcoming volume, *Boston Furniture 1700-1900*, and in 2017 will co-author a book on Nathan Lombard, a talented Massachusetts furniture-maker of the Federal era.

Jane Kamensky recently started a new appointment as Professor of History at Harvard and Pforzheimer Director of the Schlesinger Library on the History of American Women at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study. Her most recent book, *Copley: A Life in Color*, will be published next year by W. W. Norton.

Rick Kennedy has published *The First American Evangelical: A Short Life of Cotton Mather*, Library of Religious Biography (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2015).

Robert Middlekauff's *Washington's Revolution* was published by Knopf in February 2015.

William T. La Moy, curator at the Special Collections Research Center at the Syracuse University Libraries, edited "The Secret Six and John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry: Two Letters" in the March 2015 issue of the *New England Quarterly* (number one of Volume 88), as well as issues seventeen and eighteen for January and July of 2015 of the new series of *Printing History* published by the American Printing History Association. (William La Moy is the editor of the latter journal.)

Christopher P. Magra is completing his second book on the American Revolution. *Poseidon's Curse: Naval Impressment and the Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution* is scheduled for release in 2016 with Cambridge University Press. This book explores the ways in which state appropriation of labor and property generated resentment among British merchants and mariners around the Atlantic World in the eighteenth century. It explains why press gangs turned this shared resentment into rebellion in North America and not elsewhere. Magra hopes this project will shed light on both the unique and the universal characteristics of the Revolution.

Carla Gardina Pestana, Joyce Appleby Endowed Chair at UCLA, published "Early English Jamaica without Pirates" in the *William and Mary Quarterly* (July 2014); and "The Conventionality of the Notorious John Perrot" in *Early Quakers and Their Theological Thought, 1657-1723*, ed. Stephen W. Angell and Ben Dandelion Pink (Cambridge University Press, 2015). For the 2015-16 academic year, she will be in residence at the Huntington Library as the Robert C. Ritchie Distinguished Fellow.

Laurence Pizer directed a one-day meeting of overseas Municipal Clerks at Plymouth Town Hall and Plimoth Plantation as part of the annual conference of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Pizer participated in a session concerning democracy and voting with Professor Charles Stewart of MIT and Michelle Tassinari, Director of Elections for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Among the other presenters were CSM Members James and Peggy Baker, who led a session on the role of Municipal Clerks in dealing with historical records, with special emphasis on Plymouth history.

Benjamin C. Ray, after working for a few years to create the Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive, salem.lib.virginia.edu, and after publishing a few articles, realized that he was developing a new take on the Salem story. The result is a new book, *Satan and Salem: The Witch-Hunt Crisis of 1692* published by the University of Virginia Press in 2015, <http://satanandsalem.org>. His work is greatly indebted to the outstanding research done

in recent years by Mary Beth Norton, *In the Devil's Snare* (Norton, 2002) and Marilynne Roach, *The Salem Witch Trials, A Day-by-Day Chronicle* (Cooper Square, 2002), and he has benefitted especially from the new scholarly edition of the court records, *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* (Cambridge 2009), produced under the general editorship of his research colleague, Bernie Rosenthal.

Thomas Paine's book *Cities with Heart* (China Architecture and Building Press), a global history of urban open space and current best practices, bilingual in English and Chinese, was published in China in January. Central China TV (CCTV) largely completed filming an episode for its multipart series, *Maritime Silk Road*, featuring the Boston China Trade, with filming in Guangzhou and Boston, using Paine's perspective as a landscape architect who has practiced in China and whose forebears were China Traders. Paine is currently working on *Boston Inspires*, a personal history and guidebook to four centuries of innovation and courage.

Theodore E. Stebbins Jr. and Melissa Renn published in the fall of 2014 *American Paintings at Harvard, Vol. One: Paintings, Drawings, and Pastels by Artists Born Before 1826*. For the first time, scholars and the public are made aware of Harvard's extraordinary holdings of colonial and federal works by Robert Feke, John Singleton Copley, Gilbert Stuart, Washington Allston, and many others. The book also brings to light the university's important collection of American western drawings and watercolors drawing from the Peabody Museum, including great rarities by Alexander De Batz, Seth Eastman, Edward Kern, and William W. Major. The new book was preceded by Stebbins's *American Paintings at Harvard, Vol. Two*, published in 2008, which was devoted to Homer, Whistler, Sargent, and other painters born between 1826 and 1856.

Roger Stoddard edited *A Bibliographical Description of Books and Pamphlets of American Verse Printed from 1610 through 1820*, together with Fellow Member David R. Whitesell. It was published by Pennsylvania State University Press for the Bibliographical Society of America; the book won the Bibliography Prize of the MLA in 2015.

Len Travers's new book *Hodges' Scout: A Lost Patrol of the French and Indian War* is being published by the Johns Hopkins University Press and will appear this fall. It traces the fate of an unfortunate company of Massachusetts soldiers in 1756, and the varied experiences of the few survivors who—eventually—were able to come home.

John Tyler has been at work on the annotations for

Vol. 2 of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*. He has also written an article for a forthcoming issue of the *Massachusetts Historical Review* on "Thomas Hutchinson: America's First Enlightenment Historian."

Tom Wilcox, retired Chief Operating Officer of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, was recently elected Vice Chair of the Connecticut River Museum in Essex, Connecticut, where he now resides. In April of this year he was elected to the NEHGS Council, and he remains a member of CSM's Investment Committee.

Neil York, in addition to completing Volume Six of the CSM's *Portrait of a Patriot: The Correspondence and Political Writings of Josiah Quincy Jr.*, published "Defining and Defending Colonial American Rights: William Bolla, Agent" in *American Political Thought* 3 (2014): 197-227, and presented an essay on "Plato and the American President: Thirty-five as the Age of Eligibility" at Oxford University in June. The same essay will also appear in *Soundings*.

Gordon Wood edited two volumes for the Library of America in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Stamp Act entitled *The American Revolution: Writings from the Pamphlet Debate, 1764-1776*, which appeared in print in July 2015.

William Zull published a book entitled *The Pirate Menace* just after Christmas. It is about pirates and efforts to control them, and includes such miscreants as Kidd, Bartholomew Sharpe, Blackbeard, Thomas Tew (of Rhode Island), and their nemesis, the Earl of Belmont, Governor of New York and Massachusetts.

Report on Publications: Going Digital at Last

This summer the Colonial Society dipped its toe very gingerly into the cooling waters of the digital age. Some may yawn and say, "It's about time!" but we are, after all, an organization that begins its annual dinners with a Latin grace. For many years, the inaccuracy of scanning had been our chief reservation. Many overseas services advertised rates of 97 per cent accuracy or better at optical character recognition, but as Colonial Society readers well know when three in every hundred words are misspelled the experience of reading the resulting text can be very annoying. Certainly, the manuscripts could have been born digitally, but working as we do

with volunteer editors, imposing the additional requirement of learning HTML seemed a heavy burden.

At last we worked out a process with Scribe, Inc. of Philadelphia, whereby we could submit the Microsoft Word documents coming from our editors to them for initial coding *before* the manuscript went to our designers to be broken into pages and have illustrations added. Working in this way, we are able to insure that the text of the digital edition is every bit as accurate as our printed text editions have always been and that they benefit from our traditional standards of fine book design as well.

As soon as a printed volume is available, we will post a PDF version of it on our website suitable for free downloading by readers anywhere in the world. Of course, we hope to expand our readership greatly by doing so. Fewer and fewer libraries carry Colonial Society books on their shelves, even though our books by industry standards are quite inexpensive. Those who choose to use the digital version of our books will also have greatly enhanced capacity to search within our volumes for particular words or phrases in ways even the best indexer could not anticipate.

It remains to be seen what the impact of this new approach will be on book sales. We anticipate that some libraries will prefer to duck the cost of the hard back books or be reluctant to grant them shelf space when the same material is available digitally. But it is just as likely that a new customer base may first become acquainted with our works online and elect to purchase a volume for their own more convenient use at home. We'll just have to see. It's a brave new world we've entered.

Volumes IV and V of Colin Nicolson's masterful series, *The Papers of Francis Bernard*, appeared in September. Volume IV covers the year 1768 through the landing of British Regulars in Boston on 1 October. Volume V continues the story until Bernard's departure for England on 1 August 1769. In twenty-first-century politics, presidential advisers and pundits often talk about the importance of gaining control of the "narrative," by carefully timing the release of certain bits of news placing just the right spin on things so that events appear in the most favorable light. The same was true in the 1760s.

Since the tumultuous days of the Stamp Act Riots in 1765, Bernard felt increasingly unable to control political events in Massachusetts and hoped that posting elements of the British army in Boston would overawe the opposition. Bernard knew, however, that the political costs of formally requesting troops would be damaging, so he began a letter writing campaign to authorities in England aimed at convincing them to take the step at

their own initiative. In his letters, he sought to portray Boston as a lawless and violent place unable to maintain any kind of civil order.

Following the *Liberty* riot in June, 1768, Lord Hillsborough, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, finally took the bait ordering four regiments and a squadron of ships to the rebellious town. The presence of the Regulars proved not to be the panacea that Bernard had hoped. Tensions between the occupying troops and the citizenry exacerbated an already difficult situation, and when the Patriots finally succeeded in obtaining and publishing copies of some of Bernard's highly-slanted letters, Bernard's political effectiveness was over. Fortunately, for his sake, he had already obtained leave to return to England, and his friends attempted to cover the embarrassment by seeing that he was awarded a baronetcy.

Journals are often reluctant to review documentary editions, preferring instead to focus on new monographs, but two favorable reviews have appeared of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson* since its publication March a year ago. The *New England Quarterly* called it "well organized, visually satisfying, and eminently useful . . . fully on par with the books being produced by the major founders' papers projects." The *Journal of American History* writes, "Everyone interested in a fuller understanding of Revolutionary America is indebted to the editors for providing an in-depth view of one of the era's most important and fascinating men."

Colonial Society members, as well as lovers of early American decorative arts, are keenly looking forward to *Boston Furniture, 1700-1900*, the proceedings of the conference jointly sponsored by the Colonial Society and the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware in March, 2013. The editors Fellow Members Brock Jobe and Gerry Ward have been hard at work massaging the essays of the twenty contributors. Most of the submissions are past the copy-editing stage, but obtaining permission for the over 400 photographs accompanying the essays has proved time-consuming. We hope the volume will appear in both its digital and print formats in early 2016.

Without intending to jinx any of the other pending CSM projects by assigning a publication date, we will simply note them here so that members have sense of their rich variety: *The Josiah Cotton Jr. Diary* edited by Douglas Winiarski, *The Correspondence and Selected Writings of George Thacher* edited by William diGiacomantonio, *The King's Chapel Records* edited by James Bell and James Mooney, *The Letter and Account Books of John Hull* edited by David Hancock and Mark Peterson, and *The Diary of the Rev. William Bentley*, edited by Thomas Knoles.

Annual Fund, 2014-2015

The Colonial Society's membership has responded with great generosity to the 2014-2015 Annual Appeal. We are happy to report that gifts in the September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015 period reached \$29,625. We thank all who have contributed this year, especially our leadership donors in the Samuel Eliot Morison Circle and Frederick Jackson Turner Circle, for gifts for painting conservation, and the supporters of the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Fund and the William M. Fowler, Jr., Outreach Fund.

The Annual Fund complements our endowment and rental income, members' dues, and sales of books to maintain the Society's financial position and the high quality of our publications and programs.

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We apologize for any omissions or errors in the above lists. Please contact us to note corrections. Thank you.



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
87 Mount Vernon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Calendar

19 November 2015

Annual Meeting at 6 PM followed by dinner at the Somerset Club.

17 December 2015

Timothy Breen, James Marsh Professor at-large, University of Vermont, “The Dog That Did Not Bite: Reflections on Law and Disorder during the American War for Independence” at 3 PM.

18 February 2016

Joyce Chaplin, James Duncan Phillips Professor of American History, Harvard University, “Adam, Eve, and Early America: Population Theories before Thomas Robert Malthus” at 3 PM.

21 April 2016

Katherine Grandjean, Assistant Professor of History, Wellesley College, “Matoona’s Revenge: or New Thoughts on the Coming of King Philip’s War” at 3 PM.