

# ALMANAC

AAS NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2002 • NUMBER 63

## Teaching American History

AAS has joined the Boston Public Schools (BPS) in a federally funded program called Teaching American History. This program awarded \$1 million to BPS to change the way American history is taught throughout the system. AAS and three other institutions will work toward improving teaching based on primary materials. The goal is to move teachers away from lecturing by introducing them to inquiry methods of instruction and to encourage the use of primary source materials in facsimile or over the internet. The AAS outreach department brings to the project its considerable experience in offering to schools across the state *Isaiah Thomas-Patriot Printer* as a dramatic presentation with a curriculum packet based on facsimile copies of original documents



## Conservation Department Does More Than Repair

AAS's conservation department plays a key role in the preservation of the Society's collections. Chief conservator Babette Gehrlich and book conservator Laura Oxley draw upon their extensive professional training and experience to perform skillful repair and binding of materials to maintain their condition so they can be used safely. The department is also responsible for broader issues of preservation, including general monitoring of the collections, working with the curators to prioritize treatments and rehousing, and disaster planning. Gehrlich and Oxley were recently involved in overseeing the moving of collections following the construction, helping to ensure that nothing was damaged or lost.

Perhaps less obvious is the contribution the conservation staff is able to bring to research. Recently Gehrlich was able to solve a puzzle that came in the form of a thick manuscript volume. The book contained a number of texts on mathematics, logic, geography and other subjects copied by a Harvard student named Robert Hale around 1720 while he was a student at Harvard College. At the end of each text Hale had written the date of his transcription, but several texts toward the end of the volume bore earlier dates than those at the front. The book had been crudely rebound early in the nineteenth century, so that it was difficult to tell how it had originally been constructed. The volume had been brought to her

by curator of manuscripts Thomas Knoles, who was completing a study of such volumes that appears in the most recent issue of the AAS *Proceedings*. Knoles wanted to know whether Hale had used a blank book, or whether he had copied the texts individually and then had them bound later. Through a careful examination of the volume, Gehrlich was able to determine that Hale had begun with a finely bound blank book and that he had carefully removed extra or spoiled leaves between texts to make them run continuously. After noting that writing was visible through the front pastedown endpaper which had originally been the flyleaf, Gehrlich lifted the endpaper and discovered on its back additional notes by Hale on his transcription dates and the name of another student to whom Hale may have lent the volume for copying—all of which had been obliterated by the rebinding. Finally, her observations on the original leather binding, which had been covered with paper when the book was rebound, led Knoles to locate the original lower cover and another 60 pages of Hale's notes elsewhere in the Hale papers. As a result, a complete ornate early binding, probably American, has been recovered.

Discoveries like these, based on the evidence the artifacts themselves can offer about how they were made and used, demonstrate the importance of AAS's goal of collecting and preserving original books, manuscripts, and newspapers.

## Campaign Update

As of the end of June, the capital campaign total was just over \$11.4 million in gifts and pledges toward its \$12 million goal. Of the 735 American Antiquarian Society members, 400 (54%) have made special contributions to the capital campaign in addition to supporting the institution's operating budget through the Annual Fund. Gifts and grants from 308 corporations, foundations and friends bring the total of donors to over 700. In the weeks leading to the final report to the Kresge Foundation, due on August 31, regarding the impact of their Challenge Grant on fundraising for the building project, we hope to improve the level of participation among AAS members to, at least, 60%.

The positive impact of the capital campaign can now be seen and felt. The new book stack wing is completed; and the graphic arts, manuscripts, archives, and fine bindings collections as well as all pre-1821 materials and other collections that are particularly rare or fragile have now been moved to their permanent locations in the new vault. The collections of later 19th-century materials and secondary research resources that remain in the older stacks are benefiting from improved security and climate controls as well. It has been fifty years since AAS made a major addition to its storage capacity, and the new facility, which increases shelving space by about 90%, ushers the library into the 21st Century.

The former construction site has now been landscaped; the enlarged parking lot is completed; high-tech security systems are operating; and Antiquarian Hall has been power washed to look as crisp as its new wing. A public celebration of the opening of the new building will be held as a part of the Salisbury Street Sampler, a joint open-house of many non-profit institutions in the AAS neighborhood, on September 21.



Banks of compact shelving in the new book stack.



BPS teachers participating in summer institutes will visit AAS to consult materials selected for this project. Additionally, AAS will conduct workshops on various genres of historic printed materials, such as children's literature, broadsides, prints, maps, and newspapers. AAS will also develop an electronic database of historic images that will answer basic questions about how people lived during specific periods in history. These images can be delivered into classrooms through the AAS website, [www.americanantiquarian.org](http://www.americanantiquarian.org).

## New Members The following were elected at the spring meeting in April 2001.

### Patricia Bonomi

*Irvington, New York*

Historian of colonial New York and professor of history at New York University from 1970 until her retirement in 1996. Her published monographs include: *A Factious People: Politics and Society in Colonial New York* (1971); *Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America* (1986); and *The Lord Cornbury Scandal: The Politics of Reputation in British America* (1998).

### David Brigham

*Barre, Massachusetts*

Director of Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA. Former curator of collections at the Worcester Art Museum, and specialist in early 19th-century American and Afro-American art. Previously he served as director of the Suzanne H. Arnold Art Gallery at Lebanon Valley College and as assistant professor of art and American studies there. Mr. Brigham is most noted for his work on Charles Willson Peale and the Philadelphia Museum. He is currently co-chair of the Association of Historians of American Art.

### Patricia Crain

*St. Paul, Minnesota*

Assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Minnesota. Pat Crain was the 2001 winner of the prize for a first book by the Modern Language Association for her *The Story of A: Alphabetization in America from the New England Primer to Scarlet Letter* (2000).

### Helen Deese

*Flint, Michigan*

Professor emerita of English at Tennessee Technological. In 1997 she published the definitive edition of the poetry of Jones Very (1813-1880), a New England Transcendentalist poet, the protegé of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

She is now working on a three-volume edition of the journals of Caroline Healey Dall (1822-1912), a Boston-born author, lecturer, and reformer. Much of her work on the latter has been conducted at AAS.

### Robert Ferguson

*New York, New York*

Professor of Law, Columbia Law School. Ferguson's academic honors and prizes include a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Willard Hurst Award for Legal History from the Law and Society Association, as well as the Distinguished Teaching Awards at The University of Chicago and Columbia University. His publications include *Law and Letters in American Life* (1987); *The American Enlightenment 1750-1820* (1997).

### Richard Wightman Fox

*Los Angeles, California*

Professor of history, University of Southern California. Mr. Fox has published extensively on American cultural, intellectual and religious history. His most recent book, *Trials of Intimacy: Love and Loss in the Beecher-Tilton Scandal* (1999), received the award for history from the American Association of Publishers. He also is the biographer of Reinhold Niebuhr, the famous American theologian. He was a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow at AAS, 2000-2001.

### Michael Hoeflich

*Lecompton, Kansas*

John H. & John M. Kane Professor of Law and former Dean, University of Kansas Law School. Michael Hoeflich holds degrees from Haverford College, Cambridge University, and Yale Law School. A recognized authority on legal history, Roman law, and the history of the legal profession, Hoeflich is a collector of legal history materials

and a member of the Grolier Club.

### Kenneth Jackson

*New York, New York*

President, New-York Historical Society, and Jacques Barzun Professor of History and the Social Sciences, Columbia University. Jackson is author of the award-winning book *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (1985) and editor-in-chief of the acclaimed *Encyclopedia of New York City* (1995). He has served as president of the Urban History Association, of the Society of American Historians, and of the Organization of American Historians and as founder and first chairman of the National Council for History Education.

### Charles Johnson

*Seattle, Washington*

S. Wilson and Grace M. Pollack Professorship for Excellence in English at the University of Washington. A novelist, short story writer, screenwriter, essayist, and cartoonist, Mr. Johnson has been selected as both a MacArthur Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow. He is the author of three novels; *Faith and the Good Thing* (1974), *Oxherding Tale* (1982), and *Middle Passage* (1990) which received the National Book Award.

### Priscilla Juvelis

*Cambridge, Massachusetts*

Since 1980, a leading dealer in rare books and autographs. With John F. Fleming, she published *The Book Beautiful and the Binding as Art*, Volumes I and II, and with Alistair Duncan and George de Bartha, *French Art Nouveau and Art Deco Book-binding*. Juvelis has served as president of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, as well as of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Antiquarian Booksellers.

### Barbara McCorkle

*Lawrence, Kansas*

Retired maps librarian at the University of Kansas, Purdue University, and Yale University. A prolific author, her most recent publications include "The Mapping of New England before 1800," which appeared in *Mapping Boston* (1999), and "Piece by Piece: A Most Unusual Atlas," which appeared in the *Mercator's World*. Her long awaited bibliography, *The Early Mapping of New England, 1513-1800*, appeared in 2001, and she is currently working on a comprehensive carto-bibliography of the maps in 18th-century English and American geographies.

### Ogretta McNeil

*Worcester, Massachusetts*

Member of the Worcester Public School Committee. Ms. McNeil brings to her office years of experience in education and public service. A professor of psychology and academic administrator at the College of the Holy Cross, she was the first African American woman to serve on the faculty. Her community involvement has included membership on the Worcester Art Museum members council, the Human Rights Commission, and the Alliance for Education board of directors, as well

as the board of trustees of the University of Massachusetts.

### Roger Mudd

*McLean, Virginia*

Documentary host for the Arts & Entertainment Cable Network's History Channel and the editor of *Great Minds of History* (1999), interviews with five American historians. He currently serves on the boards of the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges; the National Portrait Gallery Commission; the Civil War Preservation Trust; and the American Advisory Board to the Institute of United States Studies at the University of London.

### James Needham

*New York, New York*

Retired from the investment management business, James Needham is a lover and supporter of libraries, including the American Antiquarian Society. Along with his wife, Florence Fearrington, Mr. Needham is an avid collector of books and a member of the Grolier Club. He is a member of the Visiting Committee for the Harvard University Libraries, where he has taken a particular interest in the Houghton Library and its preservation activities.

### Nathaniel Philbrick

*Nantucket, Massachusetts*

Director of the Egan Institute of Maritime Studies on Nantucket Island and a research fellow in History at the Nantucket Historical Association. Philbrick is author of *Away Off Shore: Nantucket Island and Its People* (1994) and *Abram's Eyes: The Native American Legacy of Nantucket Island* (1998). His most recent book, *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*, won the National Book Award for non-fiction in 2000. He is currently working on a book about the exploring expedition of 1838-42, an unprecedented voyage of discovery by the American Navy.

### Sally M. Promey

*Silver Springs, Maryland*

Professor of art history, University of Maryland. Her recent book, *Painting Religion in Public: John Singer Sargent's "Triumph of Religion" at the Boston Public Library* (1999) received the American Academy of Religion award for excellence in historical studies. Promey serves on the advisory committee of the Archives of American Art and the editorial board of *American Art*.

### J. Peter Spang

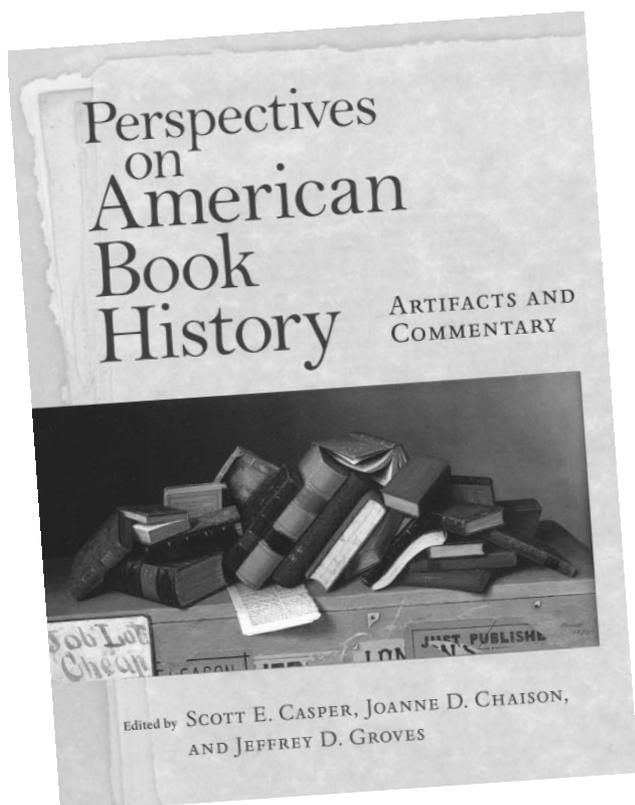
*Deerfield, Massachusetts*

Founding curator of Historic Deerfield. He has also lent his professional expertise to a variety of other New England organizations, most notably the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Lewis Walpole Library in Farmington, Connecticut.

### Gore Vidal

*Ravello, Italy*

A prolific novelist, playwright and essayist, Vidal is one of the great stylists of contemporary American prose. Since the 1960s he has written a number of highly acclaimed historical novels, including *Julian* (1964), *Washington, D.C.* (1967), *Burr* (1974), *1876* (1976), *Duluth* (1983), and *Lincoln* (1984). His collected essays, *United States* (1993), won a National Book Award.



### Perspectives on American Book History Artifacts and Commentary

Edited by Scott E. Casper, Joanne D. Chaison, and Jeffrey D. Groves

Published by the University of Massachusetts Press, in association with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the American Antiquarian Society.

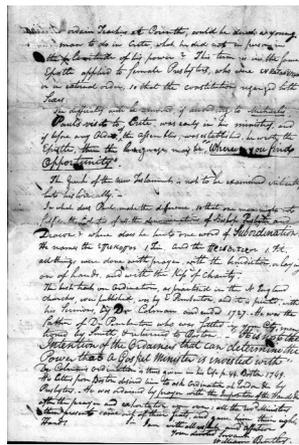
A collection of primary source materials and original essays, *Perspectives on American Book History* is the first text designed for the growing number of courses in American print culture, as well as a unique supplement for courses in American literature and history.

## New Online Catalog

While AAS has been physically shifting its collections into the new book stack, another monumental move has been happening: an electronic shifting of the current online catalog records into a web-based format.

For the past eight years, internet users have been able to search the AAS's online catalog through a telnet connection. The pioneering AAS system, designed before the worldwide web existed, requires command strings and index codes in searching the catalog. The custom-built system has the advantage of allowing for searches by printers, publishers, and illustrators; and it contains other features that take advantage of the American Antiquarian Society's superior rare-books cataloging records. The challenge of moving to a graphical user interface, almost universal on today's computers, was to find a provider who could work with us to customize their basic product to meet AAS's standards. After an exhaustive search, Endeavor Information Systems of Des Plaines, Illinois, was selected to provide the new interface. A team of AAS staff—consisting of Alan Degutis, Head of Cataloging; Kathleen Haley, Cataloger on the North American Imprints Program; Thomas Knoles, Curator of Manuscripts; and Caroline Stoffel, Online Services Librarian—has worked with Endeavor to ensure that the system meets our requirements and is easy to use.

The new web interface provides searching options in drop down boxes and looks familiar to anyone who has surfed the net, shopped online, or used a local library or university's online catalog. Please watch the AAS website "<http://www.americanantiquarian.org>" for the announcement of the new catalog.



Bentley, William. Letter to Samuel Osgood, June 9, 1807.

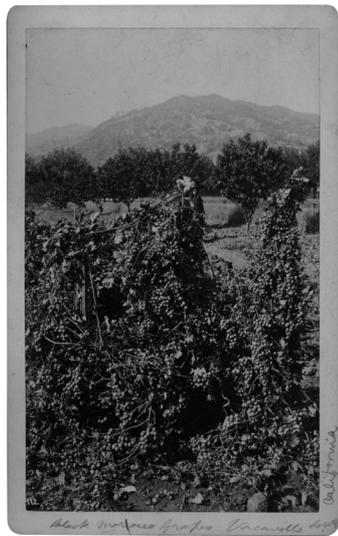
## An Acquisition Sampler

**Bentley, William. Letter to Samuel Osgood,** June 9, 1807. This lengthy letter on religious matters from the famous Salem minister and diarist is in reply to Osgood's pamphlet entitled *A Letter on the Subject of Episcopacy* (NY, 1807) and his June 1 letter to Bentley on the same subject. AAS already owned Osgood's letter and Bentley's copy of the pamphlet. Gift of our curator of manuscripts Thomas Knoles and Lucia Knoles.

**Broadside relating to the Treaty of Paris.** Boston: printed by John Gill, 1783. We seldom have the opportunity to add unrecorded 18th-century broadsides. We acquired this one from a gentleman who sold AAS a collection of family papers. The broadside provides the principal articles describing the changes in ownership of various colonies of the several European nations as well as the acknowledgement of the "Sovereignty and Independence of the Thirteen United States of America" by Great Britain. Also printed is a letter addressed to the governor of New Jersey from Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress, noting the cessation of hostilities in Europe. The broadside allows us to trace the path of news from Paris to Cadiz to Philadelphia by ship, then by express from Philadelphia to the governor of New Jersey to New York City to Boston. Purchased on the Edward D. and Kathleen Donnelly Crowley and John Thomas Lee Funds.

**Chicago Musical Review.** Published monthly by Higgins Brothers, C.M. Cady, editor. Three issues from 1857 and 1858. Each paper contains correspondence, music scores, and general news about musical events. Purchased on the Katherine G. & John M. Keenum Fund.

**Cincinnati Masonic Library Association. Organization, By-laws and Catalogue of the Cincinnati Masonic Library Association.** Cincinnati: Caleb Clark, 1865. Includes a list of the stockholders in the Association and a catalogue of the library. With the assistance of our member Richard Morgan, we have started to add aggressively to our collection of Ohio Masonic materials. Purchased on the Richard P. Morgan Book Fund.



## San Francisco Meeting

In April the AAS held its annual roving spring meeting in San Francisco at the Presidio. Since we were within the orbit of Silicon Valley, it was appropriate that two San Francisco members made presentations that demonstrated how the world of old paper and print is being adapted to the new electronic world of the internet. Map collector and AAS Councilor David Rumsey showed us the maps he has mounted on his website: [www.davidrumsey.com](http://www.davidrumsey.com). Just the opposite of the collector with his treasures hidden in a vault away from sight, Rumsey is committed to sharing his historical maps as widely as possible and to developing electronic tools to compare, enhance, and analyze data available in these electronic images in ways that would not be possible with paper and ink. Later, Rumsey also hosted a reception at his Victorian "painted lady" house, where he displayed the original maps and showed the scanning studio that he has built to produce high-quality images from the originals.

Bruce McKinney is equally passionate about providing information to book collectors. A dedicated collector himself, McKinney believes that many potential collectors are frightened off by the arcana of the antiquarian book world. His solution is to provide, for a very reasonable subscription fee, a website offering a massive, but straightforward and easy-to-understand, bibliographical database with information about provenance, pricing and condition of books as well as general articles on books, book history, printing, and publishing. Work is under way on his Americana Exchange now, and a launch of the site is scheduled for the fall.

A beautiful California morning south of San Francisco at Filoli, a stately home with exquisite gardens, and lunch at Runnymede, a private estate with a contemporary sculpture garden; and a day in the Napa Valley exploring and experiencing the world of California wines surrounded the serious business of the meeting. Members from Illinois, Washington, Pennsylvania, Colorado, New York, and Texas joined the group from Massachusetts and our hosts in California to participate in the activities.

The Annual Meeting on October 17-19 will feature a tour to Concord led by Robert Gross, author of *The Minutemen and Their World*, and a concert of music discovered in the AAS sheet music collection, given by noted soprano Maria Ferrante, as a part of the MusicWorcester series. Plans for next spring's meeting are to visit both New Haven and the Greenwich area in Connecticut on April 10-12. Mark your calendars now; lists of activities and hotel information will follow.

## Members Notes

AAS Council Member **David Rumsey** (October 1995) has just received a "Webby" award for technical achievement at his website, [www.davidrumsey.com](http://www.davidrumsey.com). Nominated along with giants such as Google and Sony, Mr. Rumsey's site of scanned maps and cartographic images captured the award which considers "Sites introducing or integrating technology that pushes the envelope, and invite us to believe in what once seemed impossible." Acceptance speeches at the awards are limited to five words, so we include the entirety of Mr. Rumsey's speech; "Maps are ultimate eye candy."

The Organization of American Historians recently held their joint conference with the National Council on Public History in Washington, DC. Former OAH president and AAS member **Gerda Lerner** (October, 1976) received the OAH distinguished service award, as did AAS members **John Hope Franklin** (April, 1969) and **Anne Firor Scott** (October, 1979). **David W. Blight** (October, 1997) carried away four OAH awards for his work, *Race and Memory*.

AAS Member and volunteer **Augusta Kressler** (April, 1999) was lauded by the AAS staff recently for the completion of her work on the Bookplate collection. Dr. Kressler has spent her volunteer time for the last six years working on the conservation of AAS's collection of 5000 or so bookplates. This marks the second major project completed by Dr. Kressler, her first being the AAS sheet music collection. Upon completion of this most recent

labor, Dr. Kressler asked AAS conservator, Babette Gehrich, "What's next?" As it turns out, her next project is the currency collection. AAS Member, **Joyce Appleby** (April, 1982) has been named a Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar for 2002 - 2003. Ms. Appleby is past president of the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association, and currently professor emerita of history, UCLA.

**Gerald Grob** (October, 1981), a leading historian of U.S. health, medicine and mental health, was awarded an honorary doctorate from Clark University at this year's commencement exercises. While a professor at Clark, Mr. Grob published *The State of the Mentally Ill - A History of Worcester State Hospital, 1830-1920*.

## Fellows Notes

Former fellow **Kate Larson** has a book contract for her dissertation on Harriet Tubman with Ballantine Books, a division of Random House.

Former creative artist fellow, **Andrea Woods** is currently teaching at the American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina and is an adjunct member of the faculty of the New York University Tish School of the Arts where she is teaching dance and video-dance production. She is also performing regularly with her dance company Soulworks/Andrea E. Woods & Dancers. ([www.soulworks.com](http://www.soulworks.com)). In August they will be performing in Russia. Their 2003 tours as scheduled so far are to Miami, Washington DC and Albany NY.

# AAS HERITAGE

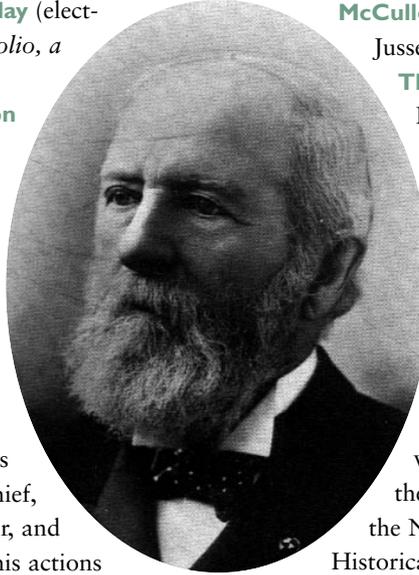
In October the AAS will mark the 190th anniversary of its founding. Leading up to our 2012 bicentennial celebration, we plan to make AAS's rich heritage a regular part of the newsletter. One recurring feature will spotlight 4 representative members, one from each of the Society's four half-century eras. The intention is not to feature the most famous (e.g., the 13 U.S. Presidents from John Adams, elected 1813, through Jimmy Carter, elected 1988), but to sample the wide variety of members who helped to make this vital Society.

## I. Wilkins Tannehill (1787-1858), Nashville, Tennessee, elected 1825.

Wilkins Tannehill, whose father John was a general in the Continental Army during the Revolution, was an author and journalist. He was editor of the *Whig* and also of the *Herald*, the first **Henry Clay** (elected 1820) organ in Tennessee. He was later editor of *Portfolio*, a *Journal of Freemasonry* and the author of *A Freemason's Manual*, which was dedicated to **General Andrew Jackson** (elected 1818), who was Grand Master of the Masons of Tennessee. (AAS founder **Isaiah Thomas** served as Grand Master of the Masons of Massachusetts.) Tannehill also compiled surveys of classical and English literature.

## II. George Grenville Benedict (1826 -1907) Montpelier, Vermont, elected 1899

George G. Benedict (photo, right), a graduate of the University of Vermont, acquired a proprietary interest in the *Burlington Free Press* from his father in 1853. He was an associate editor until 1866 when he rose to editor-in-chief, a post he held until his death. Benedict was nominated for, and in 1892, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Gettysburg. He served as President and Corresponding Secretary of the Vermont Historical Society for many years, and in 1879 was appointed Vermont State Military Historian and commissioned to write *Vermont in the Civil War* (Vol. 1, 1886; Vol. 2, 1888). Benedict also published *Vermont at Gettysburg* and *Army Life in Virginia* (based on his letters to his parents published in the Free Press).



## III. Jean Jules Jusserand (1855-1932) Paris, France, elected 1917

Diplomat and author, Jusserand served as French ambassador to the U.S. from 1902 until 1925. His *With Americans of Past and Present* (1916) was the first book of American history to win a Pulitzer Prize. His *English*

*Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages*, which was translated into English in 1889, has remained a standard reference work in the field, and new hard-back and paperback editions were published in the late 1970s. **David McCullough** (elected 1992) writes in *Path Between the Seas* of Jusserand's delicate negotiations with future AAS member **Theodore Roosevelt** (elected 1918) to recognize an independent Panama and to transfer the assets of the French canal company to the U.S.

## IV. Marion Vernon Brewington (1902-1974) Sharon, Massachusetts, elected 1967

Marion Brewington, a prolific author and expert on maritime history, was one of those rare individuals whose life was actually made better by World War II. A banker with salt water in his veins, he was already heavily quoted by authors and researchers of maritime history by the start of the war. He was commissioned in the Naval Reserve and posted to the Naval Records and Library and then served as the head of the Navy Department Library and acting curator of the Naval Historical Foundation. He retired on disability in 1947 to the Chesapeake shore of Maryland where he wrote *Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History*. In 1955 he accepted a post as curator of maritime history at the Peabody Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. In 1958, a Guggenheim fellowship allowed Brewington and his wife to visit every maritime museum and collection in the Eastern United States and Western Europe in preparation for a proposed biographical dictionary of marine artists. While in Salem, Brewington became acquainted with **Henry P. Kendall** (elected 1951) and aided him in setting up and cataloging his vast collection of whaling artifacts. From 1966-1974 he was director of the Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon, Massachusetts. He passed away in December of 1974, cataloging maritime pictures at the Mystic Seaport Museum for his biographical dictionary.

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