

January 2008

Course on the American Revolution

Professor Robert Allison instructs

Six Wednesdays, Jan. 9 - Feb. 13, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

The American Revolution was one of the epochal events in world history. During this course we will discuss the causes, events, and consequences of the Revolution, consider the major figures of the Revolution and the war--Adams and Jefferson, Washington, Franklin--as well as the impact the Revolution had, and continues to have, on our own lives and the wider world. What impact did the Revolution have on slavery? On Native Americans? On the roles of women? We will consider all facets of the Revolution and the War for Independence.

Instructor Professor Robert Allison is Chairman of the Dept. of History at Suffolk University, where he teaches courses on American history, Constitutional history and the history of Boston. Athenæum members will likely recall the lecture he gave in 2006 in honor of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday. Allison earned his PhD from Harvard University. He is the author of *The Crescent Obscured: The United States and the Muslim World* and *A Short History of Boston*; he has edited *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, The African*, as well as several volumes in the award-winning *American Eras* series, including *The Revolutionary Era, 1754-1783* and *The Development of a Nation, 1783-1815*. He is an elected life member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Tuition: \$175 non-members, \$155 members

[View, then print and send registration form.](#)

Devil of Great Island

Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England

Lecture by Emerson Baker

Tuesday, Jan.15, 7:00 PM

In 1682, ten years before the Salem witch trials, the town of Great Island, New Hampshire, was plagued by mysterious events: strange, demonic noises; unexplainable movement of objects; and hundreds of stones that rained upon a local tavern and appeared at random inside its walls. Town residents blamed what they called "Lithobolia" or "the stone-throwing devil." In this lively account, Emerson Baker shows how witchcraft hysteria overtook one town and spawned copycat incidents elsewhere in New England, prefiguring the horrors of Salem. In the process, he illuminates a cross-section of colonial society and overturns many popular assumptions about witchcraft in the seventeenth century.

This new book is already receiving praise. Pulitzer-prize winning historian Alan Taylor says that "with deft insights, Tad Baker illuminates a supernatural mystery from seventeenth-century New England. Thoroughly researched and clearly written, *The Devil of Great Island* leaves no stone unturned, revealing a popular culture of marvels and

wonders. And it offers a gripping tale well told." Mary Beth Norton, author of *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*, calls Baker's book "thoroughly fascinating and fascinatingly thorough."

Emerson "Tad" Baker is a professor of history at Salem State College. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the history and archaeology of early New England. Most recently he was co-author of *The New England Knight*, an award-winning biography of Sir William Phips, governor of Massachusetts during the Salem witch trials. He was a consultant and on-camera expert for the Emmy nominated PBS-TV series *Colonial House*. Baker has also discussed his research on witchcraft on such television shows as *Chronicle* and *This Week in History*.

This lecture is co-presented with Historic Salem, Inc. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for Athenæum and HSI members.

The Cambridge Society for Early Music presents
A Rose of Such Virtue
Sacred and Secular Love in the Waning Middle Ages
Saturday, January 26, 8:00 PM

The Cambridge Society for Early Music concert series returns with Asteria (Sylvia Rhyne, soprano, and Eric Redlinger, tenor and lute) performing love songs of the 14th and 15th centuries. Much of the courtly poetry from the 12th to the 15th centuries can be summed up with one phrase: "Vive Ma Dame!" The Lady, the absolute, flawless, most worth object of chivalric desire, is surely one of the most mysterious and intriguing elements of medieval art. This program explores the resonant symbolism that existed in both the secular and vernacular sacred chansons during the close of the Medieval period in Europe. The individuals who populated the courts and castles of that time were highly adapted to a dualistic existence. Their lives were marked by the utter chaos and tenuous fabric of reality, on the one hand, and the refinement and grace that accompanied the pursuit of the chivalric ideal, on the other. Winners of the 2004 Early Music America Medieval/Renaissance Competition, Asteria will shed a glimmer of light upon the passions of the age with these works of extraordinary beauty. Vive Ma Dame!

Athenæum members will enjoy a 20% discount on the Society's already-low ticket prices. For more information, please contact CSEM at <http://www.csem.org/> or 617-489-2062.

February 2008

Building Centennial Benefit Concert
featuring Amaryllis Chamber Ensemble
Saturday, February 9, 7:00 PM

A romantic candlelight setting will provide the backdrop to an elegant champagne-and-dessert reception and a special

musical program featuring flute, harp, cello, and violin.

As graduates of the Boston Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, and Boston University, each member of the Amaryllis Chamber Ensemble brings a high level of musical artistry to the group. For more information about the musicians, see <http://www.amaryllisboston.com/>.

Tickets are \$60, \$50 for Athenæum members.

William Martin

Thursday February 21, 7:00 PM

William Martin is the author of 8 novels, an award-winning PBS documentary, and a horror movie that is now considered a cult classic; but he is noted principally for his skillful merging of the mystery and history genres into smart, well-researched thrillers. Author of *Back Bay*, *Harvard Yard*, *Cape Cod*, and *Annapolis* Martin will discuss his latest novel, *The Lost Constitution*.

Tickets \$10, \$5 for members.

Dan Ariely

Saturday February 23, 2:30 PM

Cornerstone Books and The Salem Athenæum present MIT behavioral economist Dan Ariely in a discussion of *Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions*.

When it comes to making decisions in our lives, we think we're in control. But are we? Not only do we make astonishingly simple mistakes every day, but we make the same types of mistakes, says Ariely. We consistently overpay, underestimate, and procrastinate. These misguided behaviors are neither random nor senseless. They're systematic and predictable. From drinking coffee to losing weight, from buying a car to choosing a romantic partner, Ariely explains how to break through these systematic patterns of thought to make better decisions. *Predictably Irrational* will change the way we interact with the world—one small decision at a time.

"A marvelous book that is both thought-provoking and highly entertaining, ranging from the power of placebos to the pleasures of Pepsi. Ariely unmask the subtle but powerful tricks that our minds play on us, and shows us how we can prevent being fooled." - Jerome Groopman, Recanati Chair of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and New York Times bestselling author of *How Doctors Think*

Dan Ariely was an undergraduate at Tel Aviv University and received a Ph.D. and M.A. in cognitive psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Ph.D. in business from Duke University. He is the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Behavioral Economics at MIT Sloan School of Management. He also holds an appointment at the

MIT Media Lab where he is the head of the eRationality research group. Currently, Ariely is serving as a Visiting Professor at the Duke University, Fuqua School of Business where he is teaching a course based upon his findings in *Predictably Irrational*.

March 2008

World War II in History and Film: The Human Front

Professor Donald Ostrowski instructs

Seven Saturdays, March 8 - April 19, 2:00 - 6:00 PM

This course will explore the human experience of World War II through an interdisciplinary examination of feature films, primary sources, and recent scholarly work. The focus will be the impact of war on the ordinary person, both soldier and civilian, at the battle front and on the home front. Lectures and readings will provide historical and military context for the topics covered by the 7 films. The films will be evaluated for historical accuracy and dramatization of diverse aspects of the war and its consequences. The major theaters of World War II will figure in our study. Each 2-hour class will be followed by the viewing of a film.

Dr. Donald Ostrowski is Research Advisor in the Social Sciences and Lecturer on World History, Russian History, and Introduction to History through Film and Literature in the Division of Continuing Education at Harvard University. He is the author of *Muscovy and the Mongols: Cross-cultural Influences on the Steppe Frontier, 1304-1589*; *An Interlinear Collated Edition of the Rus' Primary Chronicle*, which won the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the Early Slavic Studies Association; and nearly 100 journal articles and reviews on various topics in the field of history. He is a winner of the Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize.

Tuition: \$175 non-members, \$155 members

[View, then print and send registration form.](#)

St. Patrick's Day Concert featuring O'Carolan Etcetera

Monday, March 17, 7:00 PM

This ensemble of North Shore musicians brings to life the legacy of Turlough O'Carolan (1670 - 1738), the blind itinerant harpist whose instrumental compositions are among the most enduring and spirited in the Celtic tradition, joining his works with other great pieces selected from three centuries of traditional music.

O'Carolan Etcetera brings its audiences many of the harper's most exquisite melodies, often joining them with 17th- and 18th-century dance tunes, and with rousing pieces from Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and New England. Their program of music transports listeners to another time and place.

The group includes Herb Smooth (octave fiddle, concertina, and vocals), Trish DeCaprio (fiddle and vocals), Cindy McIntire (flute and tin whistle), and Richard Luecke (acoustic/ classical guitar and banjo). See

www.ocarolanetcetera.com for more information and Quicktime sound samples.

Tickets \$15, \$10 for Athenæum members.

**Shakespeare Lecture
featuring Tina Packer**

Tuesday March 18, 7:00 PM

**please note that the date has changed (previously March 6)

For 30 years, the British-born Packer has been the artistic director of Shakespeare & Company, which she founded, in Lenox, Massachusetts. One of the country's foremost experts on Shakespeare and theatre arts, she has been the recipient of more than 18 awards, honors, and fellowships, including the Eliot Norton Award for Continued Excellence in Theatre. She has also received Guggenheim and Bunting Fellowships for her own performance piece exploring Shakespeare's women, entitled "Women of Will: Parts, I, II, and II. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Packer was an Associate Artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company and performed in over 20 productions for the BBC and ITV television. Since founding Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, she has directed over 50 plays and performed in several of them. Packer's 2000 book, Shakespeare's Lessons in Leadership and Management, has been repeatedly adopted by businessmen leading seminars on these subjects. She has also published a collection of Shakespeare for children, entitled Tales from Shakespeare Retold by Tina Packer. A dynamo of a human being and a captivating speaker, Packer will lecture on the challenges facing directors and actors who wish to bring Shakespeare productions to the stage.

Tickets are \$15, \$10 for members, \$5 for students.

Annual Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 22, 11:00 AM

Please join us for an Athenæum family tradition. Members and friends are invited to enjoy refreshments while children hunt for sweet treasures in the garden. All ages welcome. Older children may enjoy assisting the bunny in hiding his eggs.

June 2008

Annual Garden Party

Sunday June 8, 4:00 to 7:00 PM

Members and their guests are invited to join us in the garden for refreshments and live music.

Salem Poetry Seminar

Monday, June 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Evening reading featuring J.D. Scrimgeour and musician/composer Phil Swanson performing a blend of poetry and music, and student poets: Ashley Fields, Cody Kucker, Adam Neikirk, Danielle Van Ness

Tuesday June 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Evening Reading featuring Poetry Seminar Alumnus Enzo Surin, and student poets: Caitlin Cronk, Megan Lamattina, Kayleigh Merritt, Jacob Oley

Wednesday, June 18th, 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic Reading at Gulu-Gulu Café in Salem featuring Salem Poetry Seminar Alumni

Thursday, June 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Evening Reading featuring Martha Collins and student poets James Bedore, James Connatser, Paige Cerulli, Melissa Taylor

Summer Salon

Friday June 27, 5:00 PM

Dale Gephart discusses medical botany.

July 2008

Summer Salon

Friday July 11, 5:00 PM

Hale Bradt discusses World War II.

Creative Connection

Reading by Hannah Tinti

Saturday, July 19th, 2:30 p.m.

Novelist and literary magazine editor, Hannah Tinti, will give a reading from her latest work, *The Good Thief*. The Athenæum is pleased to host The Parlor's first Creative Connection program. The Parlor is the North Shore's Independent Writing Studio. For more information see www.the-parlor.org or call 978.223.1660.

August 2008

Summer Salon

Friday August 1, 5:00 PM

Charlie Newhall discusses historical documentaries.

Summer Salon

Friday August 8, 5:00 PM

Carlton and Nancy Lutts discuss Beatrix Potter and England's Lake District.

Summer Salon

Friday August 15, 5:00 PM

Janet Barnes will discuss Irish authors, Somerville and Ross.

Summer Salon

Friday August 22, 5:00 PM

Rebel Shakespeare Company performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. See www.rebelshakespeare.org for more information.

Summer Salon

Friday August 29, 5:00 PM

Richard Scott will discuss digital photography.

September 2008

History of Oil

Lecture by Dr. Alison Frank

Tuesday September 23, 7:00 p.m.

\$10 / \$5 for members

Our fall lecture series begins with **Dr. Alison Frank**, Assistant Professor of History at Harvard, who will speak on “The History of Oil” and the political, economic, environmental, social, and cultural implications of the world’s increasing demand for this commodity from the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries. Frank teaches two courses at Harvard that are focused on this topic and confronts complex questions about oil’s dual role as global good and as agent of war and poverty. Her research focuses on transnational approaches to the history of central and eastern Europe and on European environmental history. Her first book, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia* (2005), was awarded the Barbara Jelavich 2006 book prize, the Austrian Cultural Forum 2006 Book Prize, and the Polish Studies Association 2006 Orbis Book Prize. She was a recipient of the Roslyn Abramson Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching in 2007.

October 2008

Annual Book Sale

Saturday, October 4

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come to find fun reads and book treasures at the Athenæum's annual book sale. During the last hour, from noon until 1:00 p.m., fill a bag for just \$1!

Donations for the sale will be accepted during normal library hours through Friday October 3rd.

Book talk with Jane Kamensky, author of *The Exchange Artist*

Thursday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.

\$10 / \$5 for members

Dr. Jane Kamensky, Associate Professor of History at Brandeis University, will discuss her new book *The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America’s First Banking Collapse*, described as “the epic story of a founding father of our speculation nation.” Two centuries before the collapse of the sub-prime real estate market, a wily New England entrepreneur triggered a crisis of value that shook the nation’s confidence in money itself. The book recovers a lost chapter in early American financial history: the story of Andrew Dexter, Jr. and the seven-story skyscraper for which he amassed and then lost a paper fortune.

Kamensky is also the author of *Governing the Tongue: The Politics of Speech in Early New England* and *The Colonial Mosaic: American Women, 1600-1760*. She is a consultant and on-camera expert for documentaries shown on PBS and The History Channel and has made appearances on National Public Radio and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Sea Life of the World's Oceans and the Effects of Climate Change

George Buckley

Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m.:

October 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20

Six week course \$220/\$195 for members

Commencing on October 16, **George Buckley**, Associate Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program in Environmental Management within Harvard's Division of Continuing Education, will lead a course on one of the important topics of our time: "**The Sea Life of the World's Oceans and the Effects of Climate Change.**" Join us for an undersea adventure in which participants will study the life forms within the world's oceans while Buckley provides them with a window to the underwater realm. With specimens of sea life and numerous visual images, he will explore such topics as the ecology of bays, mangrove swamps, salt marshes and coral reefs; the Deep Ocean, seashells of the world, ocean conservation, protection and sustainability, the effects of climate change, and other topics of interest to the participants.

Buckley lectures on a variety of topics concerning environmental science; he is also Vice Chairman, Board of Directors of Earth Echo International (founded by Philippe Cousteau), and has been the chief scientist on over a dozen Earthwatch expeditions. A producer of an award-winning NOVA program on PBS, he is Director of the Marine Ecology Project in Bonair, Antilles. A scuba-diver for over three decades, Buckley is famous for incorporating his own underwater photography and marine specimens into his lectures. He is a winner of Harvard's Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize.

[Registration Form](#)

Lecture by James L. Nelson, author of *George Washington's Secret Navy*

Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.

\$15 / \$10 for members / \$5 for students

Maine author **James L. Nelson**, a former professional sailor and an award-winning maritime writer, will discuss his latest book *George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea*. It was described by Eric Jay Dolin as "a gripping and fascinating book about the daring and heroic mariners who helped George Washington change the course of history and create a nation." When invited to give this talk at the Athenaeum, James Nelson replied, "You folks are at ground zero for Washington's navy. This will be a terrific event!" We expect to invite the Marblehead and Beverly Historical Societies to join us for the evening. (Perhaps we will finally settle the debate over which town can claim to be "the birthplace of the American navy"!)



Photo: J. Felice Boucher

James Nelson

is committed to bringing to life, through fiction and nonfiction, America's historical connection with the sea. His writing covers a wide range of America's maritime heritage, from piracy in Colonial Virginia to the naval action of the Civil War.

The Enemy Within: 2000 Years of Witch-hunting in the Western World

Lecture by John Demos

Friday November 7, 7:00 p.m.

Hamilton Hall, 9 Chestnut Street, Salem

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, \$5 for students

Noted historian John Demos has just published *The Enemy Within: 2,000 Years of Witch-hunting in the Western World*, an original and fascinating look at the cultural, societal, and psychological practice of witch-hunts that illuminates the dark side of communities driven to rid themselves of "evil," no matter what the cost.

The term "witch-hunt" is used today to describe everything from political scandals to school board shake-ups. But its origins are far from trivial. Long before the Salem witch trials, women and men were rounded up by neighbors, accused of committing horrific crimes using supernatural powers, scrutinized by priests and juries, and promptly executed. The belief in witchcraft--and the deep fear of evil it instilled in communities--led to a cycle of accusation, anger, and purging that has occurred repeatedly in the West for centuries. *The Enemy Within* takes readers from the early Christians persecuted in Rome through the Salem witch trials, McCarthy's hunt for communists, and the hysteria around child sex-abuse cases and satanic cults in the 1980s.

John Demos is the Samuel Knight Professor of History at Yale University. Among his other books are *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England*, and *A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony*.

This is a collaborative presentation by the Salem Athenæum and the Salem Award Foundation for Human Rights and Social Justice. It is offered as part of their mission "to recall the lessons of the Salem Witch trials to foster tolerance, compassion and reconciliation."

This lecture is sponsored by Salem Five and presented by the Salem Award Foundation for Human Rights and Social Justice & The Salem Athenæum.

Cambridge Society for Early Music Concert featuring Tapestry

Saturday, November 22, 8:00 p.m.

Athenæum members receive a 20% ticket discount

The Cambridge Society for Early Music presents another trio of concerts held at the Athenæum this year.

The vocal ensemble **Tapestry** will perform a program entitled “*Faces of a Woman*” featuring music by, for and about women from the twelfth century to the present day.

The singers of **Tapestry** – **Diana Brewer, Cristi Catt, Laurie Monahan and Daniela Tasic, with Shira Kammen, vielle** – have established an international reputation for their luminous sound and bold conceptual programming, which combines Medieval and traditional repertory with contemporary compositions. They have won numerous awards, including WQXR and Chamber Music America’s Recording of the Year and the prestigious *Echo Klassik* prize for their fifth CD, “Sapphire Night” which was released in 2004 on the German MDG label. Their CD “Faces of a Woman” was recently released on MDG. Their program includes music from the medieval nun and mystic Hildegard von Bingen, the troubadour Comtessa Beatrice de Dia, Queen Isabel of Portugal, 16th c. Irish pirate Grace O’Malley, songwriter and social activist Malvina Reynolds, and the anonymous authors of Appalachian folk song and traditional Serbian lullabies.

General admission is \$30, or \$25 for seniors and Salem Athenæum members. Students with ID and children seventeen years and under are admitted FREE. Subscriptions to all three concerts in the series are available for \$70. For more information or to order tickets, please contact The Cambridge Society for Early Music at 617-489-2062, send an e-mail to info@csem.org, or visit www.csem.org.

November 2008

Book talk with Diane Rapaport, author of *The Naked Quaker*

Monday, November 24, 7:00 p.m.

\$10 / \$5 for members / free for students

Diane Rapaport, a former trial lawyer and Colonial historian will discuss one of the most unusual books to be published on early America history: *The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England*. The book grew out of her award-winning “Tales from the Courthouse” column in *New England Ancestors* magazine, a publication of The New England Genealogical Society. The title story in the book involves a 17th-century Quaker woman who showed her contempt for Massachusetts Puritan authorities by taking her clothes off during church services. All of the legal cases in her book are factual accounts of the horrors and humorous misadventures recorded in early court histories. Laurie Beckelman, President of the Women’s National Book Association, states, “*The Naked Quaker* lays bare Colonial justice through the colorful tales of a woman accused of witchcraft because chickens died after she passed by, a man named Bacon charged with stealing pigs, a semi-literate

sailor whose sentence for illegally selling wine included serving as a constable . . . Court TV is no match!” Ms. Rapaport’s previous book, *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians* (2006) was named Best History Book and Best Reference Book at the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Awards in New York.

December 2008

Lecture on artist Fitz H. Lane by James A. Craig

Thursday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.

\$10 / \$5 for members / free for students

James A. Craig, former associate curator for collections at the Cape Ann Historical Museum and now resident overseer at Beauport, will give a slide presentation and lecture on Thursday, December 4 on his recent book, *Fitz H. Lane: An Artist’s Voyage through Nineteenth-Century America*. Craig’s book is the first definitive biography of the Gloucester artist in over 30 years. Fitz H. Lane’s life was enshrouded in mystery; few records exist to clarify a myriad of details about his comings and goings. But through painstaking research, Craig has managed to uncover many aspects of Lane’s life and career that had gone unnoted by other scholars. Most important, the richly illustrated book and Craig’s commentary enable the reader to view Lane’s magnificent paintings with fresh eyes. Craig states, “Ultimately, his paintings are an incredible window into a bygone era. They show a completely honest, accurate vision of the coast of Massachusetts and New England from 150 years ago. There is everything there, from transcendentalism to the American preoccupation with commerce, industry, immigrants and more

A Child’s Christmas in Wales

Performance by the Salem Theatre Company

Friday December 5, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m.

For ticketing and more information visit <http://www.salemtheatre.com/>

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 13, 11: 00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please join us for the opening reception of the new exhibition, UNDER THE COVERS: The Hidden Art of Endpapers from the Salem Athenæum Collection, 1705 to the present and papermaking for the entire family with Donna Albino.

Elaine von Bruns has delved into the stacks and found another interesting way to consider the Athenæum collections. End papers are the folded sheets of paper at the front before the title page and after the text at the back of a book. They structurally hold together the cover and text. Half is pasted to the inside of the cover and the other half remains free and is called a flyleaf. While physically the bond between cover and text, endpapers are also the aesthetic transition between the cover and text. Some are thematically linked to the text and others are purely decorative and reflect trends from the time of the printing. Endpapers can also supplement the text, such as providing maps or family trees, or serve as advertising space for products including the publisher's other books.

Join us for a tour under the covers of the Athenæum collection!