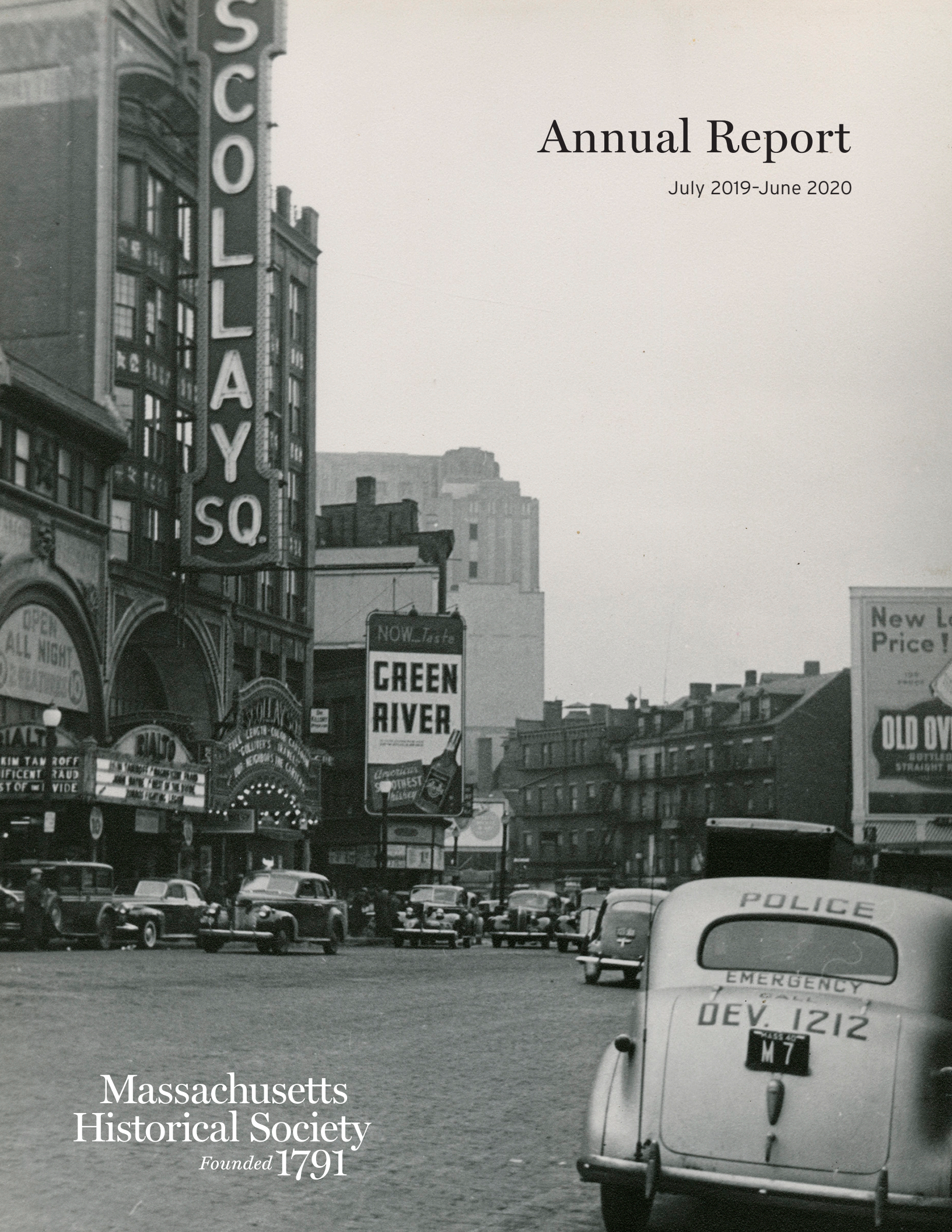


Annual Report

July 2019-June 2020



Massachusetts
Historical Society
Founded 1791



LOCATION

1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215

CONTACT

Tel: 617.536.1608
Fax: 617.859.0074

VISITOR INFORMATION

Gallery Hours:

Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., and Sat.:
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tue.: 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Library Hours:

Mon., Wed., Thu., and Fri.: 9:00 AM
to 4:45 PM
Tue.: 9:00 AM to 7:45 PM
Sat.: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

SOCIAL AND WEB

  @MHS1791

 @MassachusettsHistoricalSociety

www.masshist.org

Cover: *Scollay Square, Boston, 1939*, photograph by Arthur Schuh. This photograph is part of a new acquisition. Above: MHS Members and Fellows enjoy the sneak preview reception for *Fire! Voices from the Boston Massacre*, Elliot Haney Photography.



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The mission of the Massachusetts Historical Society is to promote understanding of the history of Massachusetts and the nation by collecting and communicating materials and resources that foster historical knowledge.

FY2020 BY THE NUMBERS

JULY 1, 2019, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

1

MAJOR EXHIBITION
COMMEMORATING THE
250TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BOSTON MASSACRE

112

LINEAR FEET OF MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL ACQUIRED
INCLUDING 116 GIFTS AND 6 DEPOSITS

4,509

COLLECTION ITEMS CIRCULATED
(DOES NOT INCLUDE SELF-SERVICE
MATERIALS, MICRO-FILMED
COLLECTIONS, OR USE OF COLLECTION
ITEMS BY MHS STAFF)

62

FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED
INCLUDING MHS-NEH LONG-
TERM, MHS SHORT-TERM,
TEACHER, AND STUDENT

199

DAYS MHS READING ROOM OPEN
(JULY 1, 2019, THROUGH MARCH 10, 2020)

FIELDIED 215 E-MAIL REFERENCE
INQUIRIES, 140 REQUESTS FOR
REPRODUCTIONS, 23 REQUESTS TO
CITE MHS COLLECTIONS, AND 58
REQUESTS FOR IMAGE LICENSING
(POST COVID-19 SHUTDOWN)

6,000

STUDENTS FROM 69 SCHOOLS
PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS

6,778

ATTENDEES AT 61 PROGRAMS,
21 BROWN-BAG LUNCHES, 27
SEMINARS, AND 3 SPECIAL EVENTS

228

YEARS OF PUBLISHING

1,794

RESEARCH VISITS FROM 711
INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS
(PRIOR TO COVID-19 SHUTDOWN)

218,615

MINUTES THAT COLLECTION
ITEMS WERE USED IN THE
READING ROOM

THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE!

Year in Review

A year to improvise, innovate, and invigorate!

Amid crisis, the MHS realized ways not only to survive but also to thrive. Fiscal Year 2020 found staff, Trustees, Overseers, and friends in the midst of a “deep think” process that has propelled cultural institutions to discuss and debate crucial issues. We asked big questions: What is the role of historical societies in today’s world? What can we do that no other historical institution can? and What does it mean to serve our communities? We also wrestled with our values—the ideals that are at the heart of our organization. These efforts led to a new set of guiding values, an aspirational vision, and a forward-thinking mission statement that embody our identity, ideals, and goals.

Developments across the institution saw us reaching out further and further. In October 2019, we opened *Fire! Voices from the Boston Massacre*, an exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of a landmark event on the path to revolution. Though our galleries closed just days after the anniversary in March 2020, 858 visitors were able to enjoy the show. And, it was widely publicized in media outlets including WBZ News Radio, WBUR, WGBH, *Boston Magazine*, and *The Economist*. Earlier in the fall, a splendid art installation by the Fenway Studios brought our neighbors closer and new people to our galleries. Despite the pandemic, we expanded our access and broadened our reach. But wait—there’s more!

- This is the first year that we offered the Mary B. Wright Environmental History Fellowship as well as the Kenneth and Carol Hills Fellowship in Colonial History.
- Along with the acquisition of 112 linear feet of manuscript material, we made available 103 linear feet of newly processed manuscripts and converted 65 legacy paper collection guides to online presentation.
- The MHS endeavors to make the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion a cornerstone of our daily activities and long-term vision. To foster and sustain the pursuit of these principles, a staff DEI team was formed in August 2019—and continues its efforts today.
- A staff “Welcome Team” was formed to think about how visitors currently experience the MHS—both in person and online—and to discuss ideas for improving how we serve multiple and diverse audiences.
- We launched “Witness to History: What Are Your COVID-19 Experiences?,” a website inviting online visitors to contribute their real-time, first-person accounts of life during the pandemic. All contributions will be added to our collection.
- Our Housing as History series won an Excellence in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History.

Fiscal Year 2020 ended up being a year full of improvisation, innovation, and invigoration for the MHS. Your support makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission—even in the midst of a global pandemic. We are thankful for the commitment and dedication of our Board, staff, supporters, and friends. It continues to be an honor to serve as President and Chair of this amazing organization.



Paul W. Sandman
Chair, Board of Trustees



Catherine Allgor
President

Impact

The MHS Goes Virtual

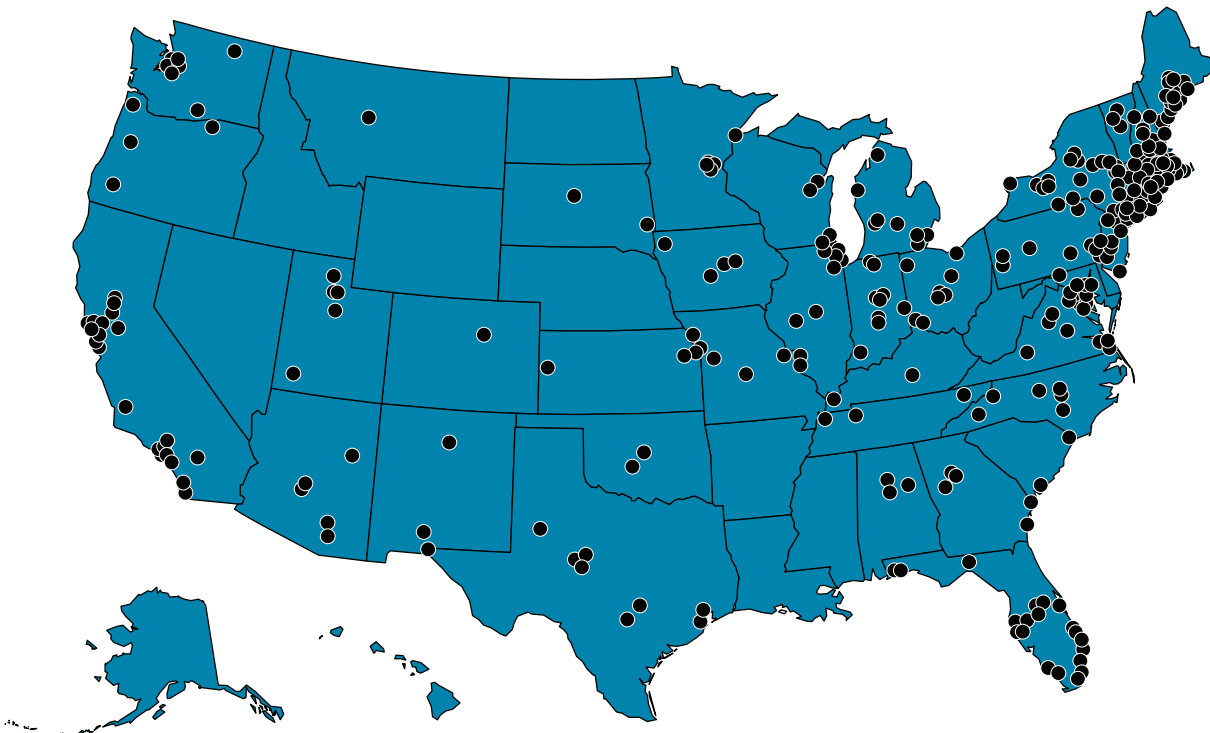
The doors to 1154 Boylston Street were closed at noon on March 11, 2020, after Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in Massachusetts due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The MHS leadership and staff quickly responded to the crisis, improvising and innovating along the way, and never losing sight of the Society's mission to serve our many audiences in as many ways as possible. From providing weekly e-communications featuring MHS news, programs, and collections to offering virtual programming, reference chat services, and an online National History Day competition, going virtual has enabled the MHS to reach audiences both near and far.

MHS Programs Amp Up Due to COVID-19

COVID-19 forced us to cancel or postpone all of the programs we had planned through April. As we realized that the quarantine period would extend

well into the summer, we began to adapt and move forward with new plans. Initially, we pulled together sets of videos that were paired with knowledgeable historians and scholars acting as hosts. The first of these sets featured programs related to Boston and the American Revolution. Prof. Robert Allison, Suffolk University, led a discussion based on the video content and answered questions from program registrants. The format proved to be a big hit with close to 100 audience members signed on to listen.

While that number seemed impressive for the unimaginable challenge we were all then facing, we had no idea how improved access would dramatically change the equation in coming months. As additional virtual programs were adapted from this model and a full summer season went online, the new format enabled many more people from a



wider geographic reach to participate in our programs. Record-breaking attendance during our spring season resulted in a few audience totals that exceeded 300. Livestreaming and archived video will remain a standard feature in future program planning, and we are excited to engage all of our audiences with an expanded viewing experience.

Attendees logged in to our virtual programs from 533 different U.S. cities and towns. Around the globe, attendees logged in from Australia, Canada, England, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, and Turkey.

MHS Library Offers Virtual Services

The day the doors to the MHS closed, the reader services team immediately turned its attention to finding the best ways to support researchers. The biggest challenge was how to offer support without having direct access to the collections. Researchers who could no longer visit the MHS made their own transition to researching from home and submitted over 430 requests for reference and publication quality reproductions, permission to cite MHS collections, and image licensing. Between March and June, reference requests were fielded through e-mail and by phone, as well as a live chat service. Staff members also assembled links to resources, both on the MHS website and from other sites, to help researchers maximize their ability to locate digitized material. A new page on our website directs researchers to these links.

Teaching Remotely

Just as the MHS staff improvised ways to work remotely, teachers scrambled to move to an entirely virtual teaching environment. To help provide vital resources, our education team compiled virtual toolkits to furnish teachers with vetted, easy-to-use primary source materials. E-mails were sent out in weekly installments with materials assembled under headings such as “Revolutionary Boston,” “Extraordinary Women in 18th-Century Massachusetts,” and “Massachusetts and the Civil War.”

National History Day Competition Moved Online

National History Day in Massachusetts went virtual in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MHS is the state sponsor for National History Day in Massachusetts, the state affiliate of National History Day, a yearlong interdisciplinary program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for students in grades 6 through 12. Students conduct primary- and secondary-source research on a historical topic of their choosing and present their work through a documentary film, website, performance, paper, or exhibition.

One of the most rewarding parts of the NHD program for students is the opportunity to compete at regional, state, and national contests. Determined not to cancel the regional and state contests, MHS staff and NHD volunteers sprang into action to organize the first-ever virtual contest for NHD in Massachusetts. MHS Director of Education Dr. Elyssa Tardif said, “Developing a virtual contest from scratch in a few short weeks was no small feat, but we were inspired by our students’ commitment to seeing their projects through to the end.”

There were 686 students from 102 cities and towns across Massachusetts who participated in NHD this academic year, along with a cohort of over 200 volunteers who evaluated projects and provided written feedback. At the virtual awards ceremony on May 4, 61 first and second prize winners learned they would advance to the national contest. Additionally, 102 students received special prizes in categories such as “Best Project in African American History” and “Best Use of Local Collections.”

From John Muir and King Henry VIII to the space race and the race to the South Pole, topics varied widely but all fit the theme of Breaking Barriers.

Moving Forward

As we adapted to the extended shutdown, we focused on solutions that not only help in the present but also leave us well positioned for the long term. Because of what we are doing now, we are in great shape for the near future. And we will be accessible and connected to historians and constituents all over the world in the long run.

Why the MHS?

Community Exhibition Leads to New Collection



“Conveniently located only blocks from one another, the MHS and Fenway Studios recognize the importance of promoting and preserving current and historic works of art, and the joy that is felt by sharing these stunning pieces with the public. . . . Everyone’s spirits cannot help but feel elevated.”

—Lynda McNally, Founding President, Friends of Fenway Studios

Images: Artwork by Fenway Studio artists featured in *Fenway Connections*. Clockwise from top left: Beverly Sky, Peter Williams, Nan Hass Feldman, Constance Jacobson, Robert Baart, Berio Gizzi, Peter Scott, Alexander Sasha Gassel, Denise Lindquist.

Fenway Connections: An Exhibition by the MHS and Fenway Studios

Celebrating the history and evolution of Fenway Studios, this exhibition shined a light on contemporary work produced by current members alongside rarely shown paintings from the MHS collection that were created by past Fenway artists. This included pieces by portrait painter and landscape watercolorist Charles S. Hopkinson and portrait painter Pietro Pezzati (a.k.a. Peter S. Pezzati).

“A resounding ‘yes’ was immediate when I asked if the MHS would like to create a collaborative exhibit spotlighting the work of present-day Fenway Studios artists, along with historic works of founding members of Fenway Studios,” shared Lynda McNally, founding president of the Friends of Fenway. “Each member of the MHS welcomed this inaugural opportunity with the same exciting anticipation felt by every Fenway Studios artist.”

The Fenway Studios is the only purpose-built structure in the United States designed to provide work and living space for artists that is still used for its original intent. Modeled after 19th-century Parisian atelier studios, Fenway took the additional step of encouraging studio-design suggestions from the founding artists. The exhibition at the MHS was open to the public October 3 through 19, 2019.

New Collection

The organization’s records were formally deposited at the MHS by the Fenway Studios Housing Cooperative, Inc., in December 2019. The collection consists primarily of tenant files of the artists who lived and worked at Fenway Studios. These files include art reproductions, photos, publicity related to the artists and their exhibits such as mailers and catalogs, newspaper clippings, and a scrapbook. The collection joins the records of the Fenway Garden Society and the Fenway Civic Association as part of the Society’s effort to document the history of the Fenway neighborhood.

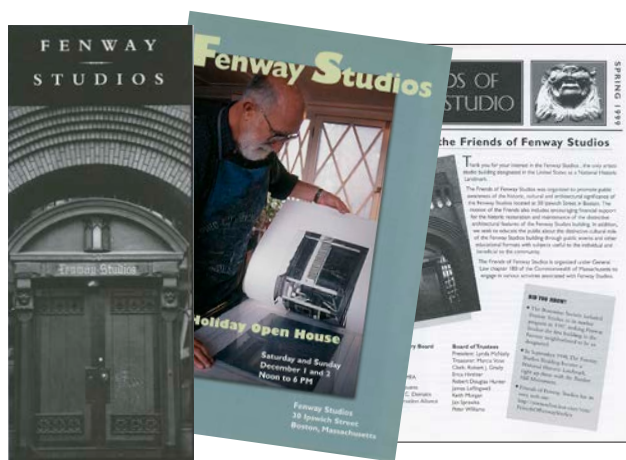
The archives were organized by the late Tom Mairs, an artist and tenant of the Fenway Studios. A labor of love, all of these materials would not have been preserved without his efforts. McNally remarked, “we are tremendously grateful to the MHS for extending the privilege to house a selection of Fenway Studios archives at the MHS.”

Did you know?

1. Both the MHS and the Fenway Studio buildings are National Historic Landmarks. The Fenway Studios was designated as such in 1998 and the MHS in 1966.
2. The MHS also holds the personal papers of at least two artists who worked at the studios: Amelia Peabody and Mary Reardon.

Born in 1890, Peabody studied sculpture at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts under Charles Grafly. She became an accomplished sculptress, farm owner and breeder, equestrian, and philanthropist. Along with her personal and family papers, diaries, records, and scrapbooks, the MHS holds 5,323 photographs and 546 postcards, both collected and taken by Peabody and her family from ca. 1845 to 1960.

Born in 1912, Reardon attended Radcliffe College and Yale School of Fine Arts, and she studied with artist David Alfaro Siqueiros. Included in her professional papers are records of commissions for murals, book covers, Christmas cards, and other artwork; art exhibition and sales records; sketches; and teaching files from Emmanuel College. Reardon’s personal papers include correspondence with her immediate family as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews. The collection includes photographs, diaries, subject files, and clippings.



Images: Fenway Studios brochures

New Acquisitions

The MHS acquired 112 linear feet of manuscript material in FY2020 through 116 gifts and 6 deposits including:

Gifts

- Adams Memorial Society: *Additions to the Adams Memorial Society records*
David Thomason Alexander
Anonymous: *Batchelder-Jones-Foster family papers*
Charles E. Archbald: *Diary and memoir kept by Joseph May Archbald*
Richard Armstrong: *Civil War letters of Joel Mason Armstrong of the 52nd Mass. Infantry Regiment*
Michele S. Baden
Betty Baker
Xenophon Theodore Barber
Robert C. Baron
Kabria Baumgartner
Alexander S. Belenky
Anne E. Bentley
Kathryn Bonfiglio: *Two albums containing newspaper clippings and photographs related to the Boston-Roxbury Summer Camp, a precursor to the METCO program*
Elaine Booth: *Howland-Greene family papers*
Boston Children's Museum
Bridgeport (Conn.) History Center
Edward Field Brown and Leslie Brown: *Merrifield family correspondence*
Burnham-Griswold family, through Laura Burnham: *Additions to the Kimball-Griswold family papers*
Burnham-Griswold family, through Drusilla Burnham Vodra: *Additions to the Kimball-Griswold family papers*
Brian K. Burton: *John W. Ames papers*
Daughters of John Winslow Bryant, given in his memory: *The Charter Granted by Their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, to the Inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England (Boston: S. Kneeland), 1759, owned and annotated by members of the Winslow family*
Susan Cameron
Michael Carolan: *Essays by Clark University students on the COVID-19 pandemic*
Cheese Club: *Additions to Cheese Club records*
Faith Childs: *Additions to the Bowditch-Knauth-Jones-Childs family papers*
Audrey Clancy
Rebecca Delaware
Frederick Dempsey: *Documents related to the military service of Frederick R. Cheney of the 6th Mass. Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War*
Jean Doherty
Deborah M. Dyer
Billie Earnest
Christine and Dale Ebeling
Valerie Edwards: *Samuel Gray Ward family papers*
Robert P. Emlen: *Journal kept by William Logan Rodman*
Fenway Studios Housing Cooperative, Inc. (deposit): *Records of the Fenway Studios*
First Parish of Watertown (deposit): *Additions to the First Parish of Watertown records*
Newell Flather: *Civil War military returns completed by Henry T. Hall of Greenfield of the Mass. 34th Infantry Regiment*
J. M. Forbes Archives Committee (deposit): *Additions to the Forbes family papers and photographs*
James Leon Freeman III: *Personal reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic*
Robin Friedman
Gardner (Mass.) Museum
Garrison family, through Fritz Garrison (deposit): *Garrison family papers*
Anne Covino Goldenberg: *Papers related to the Belmont Committee on Fair Housing, Belmont Against Racism, and other local organizations*
Wendy Grieco
Cathryn Halverson
Sherman Hayes: *Letter from Horace Fisher to Thomas Livermore*
Helping Hands Monkey Helpers: *Brightelmstone Club records*
Daniel T. Hinchin
Historical Society of Harford County (Md.)
Arthur C. Hodges: *Diary, 2019 (addition to his collection of diaries)*
Margaret Hogan
Sarah Hollister: *Printed items and photographs related to the Union Park School for girls in Boston*
Hopkinton (Mass.) Historical Society
Christina Howe
Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William A. and Debra A. Johnson
Winston Kelley
Eugene F. Kelly: *St. Botolph Club records, 1997-2011*
Janet Klamer
Diana Korzenik: *Photograph album kept by Diana Korzenik on a 2000 trip to Europe led by David McCullough*
Eve LaPlante: *Letter from James Russell Lowell to Ernestine L. Merrick with an engraved portrait of Lowell*
Candace H. Larson
Henry Lee
Diana Levy: *Additions to the Nathaniel T. Allen papers*
James E. Lewis, Jr.: *Letter from Francis Parkman, 1870*
Emily Lodge: *Doctoral dissertation on George Cabot Lodge by Thomas Riggs, Jr., Princeton University, 1949*
Sarah & Scott Madry
Malden (Mass.) Historical Society
Dina G. Malgeri: *Additions to the Francesco P. Malgeri and Dina D'Alto Malgeri papers*
Patrick Malone
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (deposit): *Additions to the MSPA records*
William J. Mayer: *Rowe family papers*
William A. McEvoy, Jr.
Stuart McInnis
Medford (Mass.) Historical Society
Maureen Meister
Naushon Trust, Inc.: *Additions to the Naushon papers, including watercolor and ink sketches of the Elizabeth Islands and Martha's Vineyard from various points and family films and videos*
Newport (R.I.) Historical Society
Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Richard R. Osgood
Otego (N.Y.) Historical Society
Herb Pearce
Peel Art Gallery
Brenda Pratt: *Civil War letters of George H. Pratt of the Mass. 38th Infantry Regiment*

Jenny Rose
 Michael Ryall
 Saltonstall & Co., Inc., through George Lewis:
*Medals and coins issued to members of the
 Saltonstall, Lewis, and Wesselhoeft family*
 Richard Santerre: *Motion picture ephemera*
 Alvin Schaut
 Kevin Schofield: *Panoramic photograph of
 Boston's Back Bay attributed to Southworth
 & Hawes, 1858*
 L. Dennis Shapiro: *Letter from Rufus Choate to
 an unidentified recipient, 1841*
 Nancy Shoemaker
 Joanne Schuh Smith: *Photographs of Scollay
 Square, Public Garden, Massachusetts
 State House, and other Boston scenes taken
 by Arthur Schuh, 1938-1948*



Cover image

Ann Storrow Denny Solodar: *Additions to the
 Storrow family papers*
 St. Botolph Club (deposit): *Additions to the
 St. Botolph Club records*
 Mary Otis Stevens: *Additions to the Mary Otis
 Stevens papers, including musical composi-
 tions, poems, and other writings*
 Jan Stievermann
 James M. Storey: *Misc. Moorfield and Storey
 family documents*
 Zachary N. Studenroth
 Jonas Stundžia
 Brenda Sullivan
 Sullivan-Sorrento (Me.) Historical Society
 Maureen Tinnese
 John Troike: *Photographs of Boston landmarks
 and views by George Brayton, ca. 1900-1920*
 Stephen Updegrove
 Carmen D. Valentino: *Letter from Charles
 Francis Adams to J. C. B. Davis*
 Roger Warner: *Digital copy of autobiographi-
 cal reminiscences of William Sturgis on the
 sea otter trade*
 Karen Woods Weierman
 Winthrop Wetherbee III: *Wetherbee family
 papers*
 Rachel Wheeler: *Additions to the Bowditch-
 Codman-Balch papers*
 Kathleen White

Caroline H. B. Whitney: *Blake-Hubbard
 family papers*
 Winchester (Mass.) Public Library
 Mary E. Yacovone

Art and Artifacts

Anonymous: *Charcoal sketch of a
 Massachusetts church*
 Jourdan and Alan Fraser Houston,
 in honor of Anne E. Bentley, MHS Curator
 of Art and Artifacts: *Five framed drawings
 of Boston by Edward Seager and two oil
 portraits by Joseph Alexander Ames*
 Jonathan C. Lane: *Badges and ribbons
 documenting activities of Civil War veteran
 Charles Edward Benton*
 Estate of John Lowell: *Christening dress with
 petticoat, worn by all seven children of Ralph
 and Charlotte Lowell*
 Christopher S. Murray: *Bronze medal and Civil
 War certificate of Simeon C. Chandler of the
 Mass. 6th and 33rd Infantry Regiments*
 Nancy Osgood, on behalf of David and
 Christopher Osgood and in memory of
 William B. Osgood: *Faneuil-Hall Lottery
 ticket, June 1765, signed by John Hancock*
 Estate of Elliot Pierce Thayer, through Edwin
 C. Thayer: *Flintlock musket made in
 Millbury and a powder horn, both connected
 to the Thayer family*

Purchases

Journal of Thomas Boylston Adams
 (1772-1832), 1799-1800
 Letterbook containing copies of outgoing
 letters from M. D. Bacon to Frederic Tudor
 Correspondence of Lucas Baker of East
 Templeton
 Account book kept by Dr. William Baylies of
 Dighton
 Bunker Hill Monument Association records
 Cabinet card photograph of Booker T.
 Washington by Elmer Chickering, ca. 1890
 Pocket diaries kept by Sarah Frances (Eaton)
 Cooke of North Brookfield, 1873-1914
 Correspondence between Jacob Davis and his
 wife Harriet (Humphries) Davis and others,
 1858-1885
 Account book of the Day family farm in
 Warren kept by Nathan Day and continued
 by Lyman Day, 1820-1857
 Shoemaker and farmer's account book kept by
 Orenzo T. Emerson of Haverhill
*Entrance of the Fifty-Fifth Massachusetts
 Regiment (Colored) into Charleston, South
 Carolina* (n.p.: Thomas Nast, ca. 1865),
 black-and-white lithograph

Papers of Frederick A. Eustis, particularly
 those related to his management of a South
 Carolina sea island plantation
*The Rapid Transit Bill ... The Devil's Train (A
 Parody)*, poem by Charles E. French
 (Boston: Printed for the Author, 1893)
 [William Gaston], *Address to the
 Administration Convention, Held in the
 Capitol at Raleigh, Dec. 20, 1827. To the
 Freeman of North Carolina* ([Raleigh?: 1828])
 Gold British guinea dating from 1766 under
 the reign of King George III
 George Julian Harney, *Polish Emigration. To the
 Friends of Humanity...* (Boston: September 29,
 1860), circular letter
 World War II letters of Capt. Edward F. Hennessey
 of Newton, most from the Mediterranean
 theater
 Letter attributed to Nancy Henderson Hubbard
 to her brother discussing her impressions of
 plantation life and slavery in Mecklenburg, Va.,
 and his abolitionist leanings, 1849
 Letter from Anna Cabot Lowell to her brother
 John Amory Lowell, 1850
 World War I papers and photographs of E. Richard
 McElligott of Boston, a private with the 1102nd
 Aero Squadron
 Medical day book kept by an unidentified Boston
 area physician, 1838-1840
 New England Christian Association, *Danger
 Signals Number Two: Secret Societies
 Illuminated Witnesses to their Influence—The
 Home, the Church, and the State* (Boston: James
 H. Earle, 1896)
 Comb maker's ledger kept by David E. Noyes of
 Newburyport
 Allen Putnam, *Biography of Mrs. J. H. Conant, The
 World's Medium of the Nineteenth Century*, 2nd
 ed. (Boston: William White and Company, 1873)
 Memoir written by Julia Bernard Smith, daughter
 of Mass. colonial governor Francis Bernard
 Civil War letters from George A. Spinney of the
 6th Mass. Infantry and the 1st Mass. Cavalry
 Regiments
 Journal kept by Daniel L. F. Swift on a whaling
 voyage to the Pacific out of New Bedford,
 1848-1850
 Letters written to and from Beverly ship captain
 John Thissell during the Quasi-War with France,
 1779-1809
 Travel journal and business ledger of Gustavus
 Tuckerman, Jr.
 Letter from Isaac Walton to J. Q. Baron
*Wet and Dry Map of the United States / Some of
 the Speakers for the Massachusetts Rally for
 National Constitutional Prohibition, September
 21-27* ([Boston?: 1914]), lithograph
 Account book for a livery service in Charlestown
 attributed to Adonijah White, 1819-1822



Clockwise from top left: *Abigail Adams* by Benjamin Blyth, circa 1766. *Abigail Adams: Life & Legacy* Gallery Talk. Opening Our Doors event at Mary Baker Eddy Library. *Remembering Abigail Adams* workshop. *The Peculiar Institution: Abigail Adams and Slavery* with Edith Gelles.

Project Spotlight

Remember Abigail Celebration Concludes

In January 2020 the Society concluded Remember Abigail, a commemoration of Abigail Adams that kicked off in October 2018. Part of a collaborative effort with other Massachusetts cultural organizations, the commemoration introduced a range of educational and public programming opportunities to engage with the life and experiences of Abigail Adams.

Educational and Public Programming

The MHS hosted a number of programs throughout the yearlong commemoration including:

- *Remember Abigail* launch at the Massachusetts State House
- *Remembering Abigail* teacher workshop
- *Household Gods: The Religious Lives of the Adams Family* with Sara Georgini, MHS
- *Primary Sources for Fashion and Costume History Research* workshop with Kimberly Alexander, University of New Hampshire, and Sara Georgini, MHS
- *The Problem of Democracy* with Andrew Burstein and Nancy Isenberg
- *The Peculiar Institution: Abigail Adams and Slavery* with Edith Gelles

MHS-sponsored events included four rotating exhibitions that showcased artifacts highlighting various aspects of Adams's life. The exhibitions, which also featured gallery talks led by editors from the Adams Papers Editorial Project, were:

- *Abigail Adams: Nature and Nurture*
- *Abigail Adams: Style and Substance*
- *Abigail Adams: Independence and Ideals*
- *Abigail Adams: Life and Legacy*

In October 2019 the Society also joined forces with the Mary Baker Eddy Library to introduce schoolchildren to Abigail through an educational art activity as part of the Fenway Alliance's Opening Our Doors event.

Abigail's All-Stars

In March 2019 we launched Abigail's All-Stars, a March Madness-style bracket competition pitting 16 Abigail Adams letters from the collections of the MHS against 16 from the American Antiquarian Society (AAS), as part of the yearlong celebration.

The 32 letters were chosen to compete for the ultimate All-Stars title. Through 5 rounds of voting, the pool of 32 narrowed to 2. The final round of voting ended on March 31, the anniversary of Adams's "Remember the Ladies" letter (note: this letter was not included in the competition because it won the MHS Madness bracket in 2016). Adams's August 14, 1776, letter to John Adams, in which she stated, "We should have learned women," was declared the All-Stars favorite.

Adams Family Teacher Fellowship

Through the generous support of the C. F. Adams Charitable Trust, the Adams Papers and Education Departments sponsored the Adams Family Teacher Fellowship, which funded an educator in developing a curricular unit using documents and artifacts from the Adams Family Papers. During the summer of 2019, William Miskinis, from Littleton High School in Littleton, Mass., designed curricula exploring Abigail Adams's views on women and education that will help students understand how Adams remains relevant today.

Financial Statements

Statement of Activities (in thousands)

	2020	2019
Unrestricted revenues and support		
Gifts and grants	\$ 1,141	\$ 1,384
Fellows and Members dues	101	55
Royalties and rights	63	58
Seminars, conferences, workshops, and other events	185	405
Other revenues	138	154
Release of restricted gifts	431	611
Endowment	<u>3,474</u>	<u>3,358</u>
	5,533	6,025
Operating Expenses	<u>6,419</u>	<u>6,426</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	(886)	(401)
Non-operating activity		
Endowment gifts, grants, and bequests	1,211	545
Purchase of collections	(83)	(71)
Proceeds from sale of collections	—	—
Investment return, net gain	4,763	7,872
Endowment support	<u>(3,474)</u>	<u>(3,358)</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>\$ 1,531</u>	<u>\$ 4,587</u>

Statement of Financial Position (in thousands)

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,553	\$ 3,094
Endowment investments at market value	89,532	87,613
Property, equipment, and other assets	10,341	10,705
Other assets	<u>1,060</u>	<u>1,693</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 105,486</u>	<u>\$ 103,105</u>
Liabilities	\$ 2,102	\$ 1,151
Long-term debt	985	1,085
Net assets		
Unrestricted	39,640	39,795
Temporarily restricted	45,462	44,012
Permanently restricted	<u>17,297</u>	<u>17,062</u>
Total net assets	<u>102,399</u>	<u>100,869</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 105,486</u>	<u>\$ 103,105</u>

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