Color our Collections

February 1-5, 2016

Massachusetts Historical Society

Founded 1791

Preserving America’s Past Since 1791
February 22nd.

In the morning before I dressed, I heard the bells ringing for Washington's birthday. I did not go to school. In the morning Johnny put out the flag, and I bought some sponge cake. Afterwards I went with Johnny to the Aquarial Gardens, and saw some elephants act.

One of the elephants played on a hand organ. They had a hoke at the Aquarial Gardens, and they make a monkey ride on him. In the afternoon I went to some theatricals at Mr. Richards. Jessie Gordon acted, and Mary Gray acted too.
“Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Transparent Eyeball”
Christopher P. Cranch journal, p. 10, 1839
From the Christopher P. Cranch Papers
“Portrait of the Poet Phillis Wheatley”
Frontispiece, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
by Phillis Wheatley (London: A. Bell, 1773)
“The Fruits of Arbitrary Power; or the Bloody Massacre”
Engraving based the work of Henry Pelham after Paul Revere, 1770
“Natural History of the Planet Saturn”
Sketch by Christopher P. Cranch, [18--]
From the Adams-Cranch Family Papers
“Native American on Horseback”
Sketch by Felix Octavius Carr Darley, ca. 1849
From the Francis Parkman Papers
“Sketches of Ships ‘Frightful’ and ‘Horrid’”
John Quincy Adams diary 2, back cover, 1780
From the Adams Family Papers
“Automaton Drawing of Cupid”
Drawing by an automaton machine, April 29, 1835
From the Minot Family Papers
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The Society (@MHS1791) maintains an active and enthusiastic Twitter presence. We are delighted to participate in #ColorOurCollections, February 1–5, 2016, with so many of our sibling institutions.

Founded in 1791, the MHS, an independent research library, is an invaluable resource for American history, life, and culture. Its extraordinary collections tell the story of America through millions of rare and unique documents and artifacts, many of them irre-placeable national treasures.