

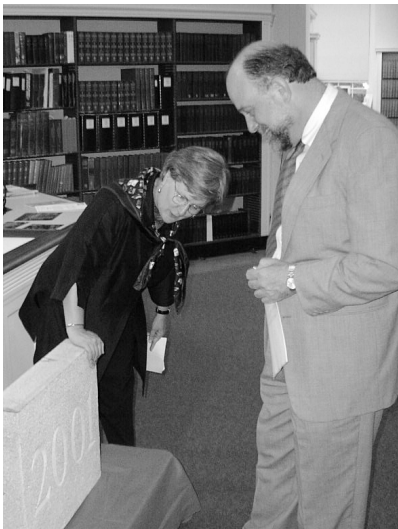
# ALMANAC

AAS NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2001 • NUMBER 60

## Cornerstone Ceremony

On Tuesday, July 11, in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the AAS Council, the cornerstone for the new building and materials gathered to be placed in it were shown to an audience of friends, neighbors, contributors, Society members, and library staff along with special guests from the City of Worcester and the Massachusetts Statehouse. Front pages of several newspapers for the day, a copy of *Under Its Generous Dome*, a current Membership Directory for the Society, a CD-ROM with a complete copy of the AAS web site, the Society's bylaws, two recent issues of *Almanac*, and a complete list of donors to the building campaign as of that date were among the items to be placed in a sealed container behind the cornerstone facade with a bold "2001" inscribed.

AAS Council Chairman Robert C. Baron welcomed the guests assembled to celebrate the new "Building for Books" and turned to the words of



Isaiah Thomas, who wrote in 1814 that, "During the past year, the Library has considerably increased; and . . . now consists of nearly three thousand volumes." Noting that in 2001 the collections now comprise some three million items, he continued, "That brings us to today. We are erecting a state of the art, secure facility to house these wonderful items gathered over the last 190 years. We are providing space for the collections to grow through the twenty-first century, increasing our storage space for each collection by factors ranging from 50% to 100%." Finally, in his capacity as Chairman of the capital campaign committee, Baron thanked the contributors who have made this building effort possible.

An exhibit in the reading room featured the materials that were placed in the cornerstone of the 1853 Antiquarian Hall, the building that was replaced by the current building in 1910. Items in that cornerstone included: a Worcester *Almanac and Directory* for 1852; front pages of newspapers pub-

*Continued page 2, column one*



*Thomas Knoles, curator of manuscripts, reviews and prepares descriptions of the newly acquired materials in the Allen-Johnson Collection. Although AAS is known primarily for its collections of printed materials, the manuscripts collection is a rich resource, particularly in the areas of New England life and culture and the book printing and publishing business.*

## AAS Acquires Allen-Johnson Collection

Earlier this year, AAS received a large and important collection of manuscripts of the Allen and Johnson families of Northborough, Massachusetts, the generous gift of the descendants of Leonard W. Johnson.

Several generations of the family, which included ministers and doctors, are represented in this collection.

Included are several hundred sermons written by Rev. Joseph Allen (1790-1873), diaries of his wife Lucy Clark Ware Allen (1791-1866); diaries and correspondence of their children, including Mary Ware Allen (1819-97) who married Joshua J. Johnson (1809-84) and

also papers of the Johnsons' daughter Harriet Hall Johnson (1842-1927) and her husband William H. Johnson (1840-1907).

The collection is particularly rich in correspondence among the women of the family, and it will be valuable to researchers studying a wide range of subjects.

One of the highlights of the Allen-Johnson Papers is a group of four "School Journals" kept by Mary Ware Allen in 1837-38. These are of particular interest because during this period Mary was attending the Greene Street

School in Providence. Her principal teacher there was the Transcendentalist Margaret Fuller, who was soon to become editor of the influential journal *The Dial*. Because of Mary's intelligence and perceptiveness, her journal is one of the longest and is arguably the best of the several surviving student diaries from the Greene Street School.

Shortly after her arrival in Providence, Mary wrote: "One of the class asked if we were to get our lessons by heart. Miss Fuller said she never wished us to get our lessons by heart, as that expression is commonly understood, for nothing could be farther from

getting it by heart—it was oftener only getting it by body—the heart had nothing to do with it. No, she wanted us to get our lessons by

*mind*—to give our minds and souls to the work. If there were any who thought they could not do this, who did not feel an interest in it, who did not feel willing to answer her questions, and to open their minds to her, she wished them to leave the class — it would not displease her, she wished they would do it, even if there were only two left who really felt interested." These diaries, and the rest of the collection, have hitherto been almost entirely inaccessible to researchers.



## Kresge Challenge Progress

**Stoddard Charitable Trust awards half-million dollar grant**

The Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant, awarded to AAS in March, stipulates that AAS raise \$2.9 million in order to earn Kresge's \$800,000 grant. A major step in progress toward that goal was taken when the Stoddard Charitable Trust of Worcester approved a grant for \$500,000. Warner S. Fletcher, Chairman of the Trust, wrote on June 25: "As Chairman, it is my pleasant task to report to you that the Trustees approved a grant of \$500,000 . . . our largest ever gift to the Society." The foundation and members of the family that created it have been faithful supporters over the years. As one example of that generosity, the Harry G. Stoddard Fund, established in 1982 with gifts from the foundation and from individual members of the family, is the largest acquisitions endowment fund held by AAS. Born in 1873, Harry G. Stoddard was elected to AAS membership in 1927 and remained a faithful and active member until his death in 1969.

At the end of June with fourteen months remaining before the Kresge Challenge deadline, AAS has received more than 100 gifts totaling over \$865,000. The \$500,000 from the Stoddard Charitable Trust is the largest gift to date in the Kresge Challenge effort and the fourth largest gift received in the capital campaign.

In addition to the dollar amount of the Challenge, AAS has set for itself a goal of attracting more than 400 gifts to support the effort to build a new book stack and to renovate the existing stacks. While it will require some other large gifts to attain the dollar goal of \$2.9 million, gifts like the \$15 from a graduate student, who was a recent reader at the library; the \$250 from a professor emerita, who held a fellowship; the \$100 from a local historical society in gratitude for a program given by an AAS staff member are also needed and greatly appreciated. ALL gifts are important is showing the Kresge Foundation that the library has broad support and in helping us to claim the Challenge Grant.

Page four has a complete list of donors who have supported the building project and contributed toward claiming the Kresge Challenge Grant in the period of March 1 – June 30, 2001.

*Continued, page four*

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## Fellows Notes

Good news on two fronts for **Jennifer Jordan Baker**. She was married in May to Stephen Fishbein. (She will keep her name.) In the fall she will take up her appointment as assistant professor of English at Yale University.

**Kathleen Brown** and **Ted Pearson** have a new baby boy. Owen Daniel Rafael Pearson joins three-year-old William, who was born while both were in residence at AAS in 1998.

**Christopher Grasso's** analysis of the turning from ministerial to secular authority, *A Speaking Aristocracy: Transforming Public Discourse in Eighteenth-Century Connecticut*, is co-winner of the **Homer D. Babbidge, Jr.**, Award of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History for 2000. Babbidge, who had a distinguished career in higher education including service as President of the University of Connecticut, was a member of the AAS Council and served as Chairman of the Committee on Membership. He was also a collector of corkscrews and the author of two books on the subject!

Artist fellow **Pamela Keech** sent the announcement of her installation at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. *Flower School* commemorated the 1870 day school founded by the Children's Aid Society. The work was based on research done here at AAS.

**Russell L. Martin, III**, who was introduced to AAS as a Peterson Fellow in 1992-93 and most recently has served as curator of newspapers and periodicals for the past four years, is leaving AAS this summer to accept the position of Director of the De Golyer Library at Southern Methodist University, where he was an undergraduate. **Everett L. De Golyer, Jr.**, the collector who founded and donated this library to SMU, was a member of AAS from 1969 until his death in 1977. Martin's tenure as curator has been a period of outstanding acquisitions for the newspaper collections; on his final day at work he drove a rental truck of remarkable 18th- and 19th-century newspapers from a warehouse to be integrated into the AAS collections. Russ will be greatly missed by all his colleagues and by readers at AAS, and the contributions he made to strengthening the collections will ensure that he is long remembered.

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### Cornerstone *continued*

lished in Worcester during the second week in June 1852, including the *Massachusetts Spy* (the newspaper that Isaiah Thomas moved from Boston to Worcester in 1775 and continued to publish for so many years); a booklet with maps of Worcester and engravings of scenes in the city; and a list of the building committee, the builders, and the architect. AAS President Ellen Dunlap also showed the audience the nine-page speech given by Council President Waldo Lincoln at the dedication of the 1910 cornerstone and promised that, just as today's participants sported no top hats like those of their twentieth-century counterparts, none came with long speeches either.

After years of planning and working toward the construction of an addition, the project is now well underway and will be completed in about a year from now.

## Graphic Arts in Historical Research



of city views to show how historians can understand the development of urban America using lithography, which was at the time a popular, as opposed to an elite, medium.

Barnhill gave the group an introduction to printmaking techniques and traced their evolution in the nineteenth century as well as provided an orientation to the rich visual resources available in the AAS collections. Caroline Stoffel, the on-line services librarian, introduced the participants to searching the on-line catalogues.

Devoting the seminar to graphic arts was an innovation for the summer seminar, but faculty, administration, and registrants all agreed that the experiment was a great success. The seminar closed with its traditional visit to Isaiah Thomas's gravesite in nearby Rural Cemetery; and the historical use of the performing arts was introduced when, to everyone's surprise, Isaiah Thomas (in the person of actor Neil Gustafson, who had a date that afternoon in a Worcester area classroom) made an appearance to tell the group about his career as a printer and to commend their good work in studying the history of the printing arts.

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## Member Notes

In May, **George A. Billias** presented a lecture at AAS on **George Bancroft** as a historian. This talk was a part of Worcester's community-wide celebration of the bicentennial year of Bancroft's birth. Those readers who have spent time here will remember that the site of the Bancroft home is just up the hill from the Goddard-Daniels House on Salisbury Street.

**William R. Burleigh** has retired as chief operating officer of the E.W. Scripps Company, but he retains his responsibilities as chairman of the board. Mr. Burleigh began his career with Scripps in 1951 as a high school student who covered local high school sports events, and he became president of the company in 1994.

**Robert E. Erburu** retired as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens on June 30, 2001, after twenty years of service on the board and ten years of leadership as its chair. **Robert A. Skotheim**, the Huntington's president will retire in August after thirteen years at the institution's helm.

The American Studies Association awarded the 2000 Carl Bode-Norman Holmes Pearson Prize for lifetime achievement in and contributions to the field of American Studies to **John Hope Franklin**.

**Loren Ghiglione** has been named Dean of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. In addition to his academic career, Ghiglione practiced the art of journalism as editor and publisher of the *Southbridge* (Massachusetts) *News* and president of Worcester County Newspapers. He leaves his position as director of the School of Journalism in the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Southern California in order to assume his new position this summer.

After thirty-five years in the Harvard University Library system, **Kenneth Carpenter** retired from his position as Assistant Director for Research Resources as of December 31, 2000. His friends at AAS are delighted that we have seen much more of him in 2001, and we expect to see him even more as he and collaborators **Wayne Wiegand** and Thomas Augst begin work under the auspices of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress on a history of libraries in America.

The Associates of the Boston Public Library are honoring former library trustee **David McCullough** by establishing a book conservation fund in his name. AAS members will have their chance to hear McCullough talk about **John Adams** at the annual meeting in Worcester in October.

Annually, the National Endowment for the Humanities awards its National Humanities Medals to individuals or groups "whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened citizens' engagement with the humanities or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities." Among the year 2000 recipients was **Edmund S. Morgan**, Sterling Professor emeritus at Yale University. Morgan, elected to AAS membership in 1949, is the second longest serving member; **Charles H. Sawyer**, elected in 1946, is our member with the longest tenure.

**Barnes Riznik** has been honored by the Historic Hawaii Foundation with the Governor's Preservation Award for his twenty-five years of raising awareness of preservation issues throughout the state. Riznik, who was director of the Grove Farm Homestead and Waioli Mission House on Kauai, has retired to Osterville, Massachusetts.

Friends gathered at the Knickerbocker Club in New York City on the occasion

The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture's summer seminar for 2001 focused on the resources of the graphic arts department and offered researchers encouragement and insights on creative ways to use images as primary research documents. Georgia B. Barnhill, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts at AAS, led this seminar with the assistance of Caroline Sloat. Faculty included Louis Masur of City College of New York, James Newton of Lincoln-Sudbury (Massachusetts) Regional High School and John Reps of Cornell University. Masur, a strong advocate for the broader use of visual evidence in historical research, provided the theoretical context and offered examples of recent works by historians who have effectively used graphic arts materials as a basis for their historical arguments. Newton drew on his extensive research on political caricature of the Jacksonian era to illustrate the way political parties used an early mass medium to debate key political issues. Reps used prints

of **Roger Stoddard's** sixty-fifth birthday and celebrated the publication of *Roger Stoddard at Sixty-Five* in his honor. Among the contributors were many AAS members, including **Marcus A. McCorison**, AAS President emeritus; **Michael Winship**, Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin; and **Luke Ives Pontifell**, whose Thornhill Press published the volume. Among the guests were also two colleagues from Harvard University's Houghton Library: **Hugh Amory**, retired senior cataloger and **William H. Bond**, Librarian emeritus.

**Maris Vinovskis**, professor of history at the University of Michigan, served on the advisory committee working on educational issues during the transition to George W. Bush's administration. Vinovskis was a fellow in only the second year of AAS visiting research fellowship program, 1973-74, and he was far ahead of the game in studying what was to become a hot button political topic, writing on changing family values in Massachusetts, 1770-1860.

**David Warrington**, librarian for special collections at Harvard Law School, was made very happy when two vans arrived delivering about 1,000 volumes of Elizabethan law books, bequeathed to the library by Harvard Law School alumnus Henry Ess. The Boston *Globe* story announcing the acquisition states that it instantly created "the world's most important center for the early history of the American legal system." Boston College legal historian **Daniel R. Coquillette** said, "These are the books that give the words 'due process' and 'equal representation' meaning. To have the strongest collection in the entire world of this period, it's like having all the Michelangelos and all the Raphaels."

Laubach Literacy International in Syracuse, New York, appointed **Robert Wedgeworth** as its president.

Mark your calendars for a very special Annual Meeting in Worcester, October 18-20, 2001. AAS member David McCullough will kick off the weekend with a talk on John Adams—one of the early members of the Society, elected in 1813—on Thursday night, October 18. On Saturday, members will have the option of following that theme by taking a bus tour to the Adams Family Homestead in Quincy to tour the National Park site and learn more about the New England roots of this remarkable political family.

On Friday evening, construction progress permitting, there will be a gala dinner and dance in the new book stack wing, before the shelving is installed. Dine on the spot where, ten months hence, the most comprehensive library of printing in America through 1876 will be housed. Materials to be located here will include the first book printed in America, the *Whole Booke of Psalmes* (1640); the unique surviving copy of the first novel printed in America, Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*; volumes of Isaiah



## October Meeting features McCullough

October 18-20, 2001

Thomas's *Massachusetts Spy*; one of the world's most complete collections of Paul Revere's engravings; and other treasures reflecting America's history and culture. This will be the last time

that food is allowed in the stacks, and curators and pages will be prohibited from dancing there after the library moves in. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it will be fun.

This Annual Meeting will inaugurate the new millennium and introduce the first new book stack for the library in more than fifty years. Celebrate with us and also join AAS collectors, who will share their personal experiences and the fruits of their collecting at a Collectors Roundtable, and participate in other special events. Registration materials will be mailed to you in September.

And, while you are marking your calendars, save the dates of April 18-21, 2002, for the spring meeting of the membership in San Francisco. We are working with members in the area to plan special events, including a visit to wine country and tours of private collections. Last April's meeting in Philadelphia gave us an opportunity to explore sites associated with the founding of the republic. In visiting California members will shift focus dramatically to experience the ways the West has played a role in shaping the nation's history.

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

### William L. Andrews

Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Professor of English, University of North Carolina. A well-known scholar of African American literature, Mr. Andrews has served as co-editor of *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (1997), co-editor of *The Oxford Companion of African American Literature* (1997), and general editor of *The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology* (1997).

### James G. Basker

New York, New York  
Professor of English, Barnard College; President, Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History; and Chair, Columbia Faculty 18th-Century Seminar. In 1990, Mr. Basker held an AAS fellowship to support his research into the American readers of Samuel Johnson. He is working closely with AAS on *Common-Place*, our joint venture with the Gilder-Lehrman Institute and founding editors Jill Lepore of Boston University and Jane Kamensky of Brandeis University. The electronic journal is at <http://www.common-place.org> on the internet.

### John Bassett

Worcester, Massachusetts  
President, Clark University. Mr. Bassett's field of teaching and research is in American literature, and he has published research on William Faulkner, Mark Twain, the Harlem Renaissance, Southern literature, and Thomas Wolfe.

### Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

Richmond, Virginia  
Director of the Virginia Historical Society since 1988. Mr. Bryan has been assistant editor of the *Papers of Andrew Jackson* (1978-1981), executive director of the East Tennessee Historical Society (1981-1986), and director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library (1986-1988). Among his many publications is *Eye of the Storm: A Civil War Odyssey*, written and illustrated by Private Robert K. Sneden, which he co-edited last year.

### Daniel A. Cohen

Miami, Florida  
Associate Professor of History, Florida International University. A past AAS fellow and frequent reader at the Society, Mr. Cohen is also a recent Guggenheim Fellow and a book collector. His scholarly works include *The Female Marine and Related Works: Narratives of Cross-Dressing and Urban Vice in America's Early Republic* (1997) and *Pillars of Salt, Monuments of Grace: New England Crime Literature and the Origins of American Popular Culture, 1674-1860* (1993).

### Joanne S. Gill

Milton, Massachusetts  
A collector of voyages and travels and of American imprints. Trained as an attorney, Mrs. Gill has lent her volunteer efforts to numerous civic and cultural boards. She comes by her serious interests in collecting naturally: her mother, AAS member **Betsy Shirley**, is arguably the greatest living collector of American children's books. Both are members of the Beinecke family, a legendary book collecting family in the United States.

### Joy Hakim

Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Author of *A History of US*. A former newspaper writer, editor, and elementary school teacher, Ms. Hakim has worked continuously with teachers and students in test classrooms all over the country in crafting each book in the *History of US* series. This innovative and award-winning ten-book series for young readers, published by Oxford University Press, has sold more than 1.3 million copies since its inception in 1993.

### William Hosley

Enfield, Connecticut  
Director, Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Hartford. Mr. Hosley's many publications include *Colt: The Making of an American Legend* (1996); *The Japan Idea: Art & Life in Victorian America* (1990); and *The Great River: Art & Society of the Connecticut Valley, 1635-1820* (1985), for which he was given the Charles F. Montgomery Award.

### Henry Lee

Boston, Massachusetts  
A leader in cultural and educational affairs. Mr. Lee has served as president of the Massachusetts Historical Society, president of the Friends of the Public Garden (Boston), and director of the Augustus Saint-Gaudens Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire. He is former headmaster of the Carroll School in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

### Elizabeth McLean

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
A collector of books about the history of gardens and gardening, publications dealing with early herbals, and other lists of beneficial botanical products. Mrs. McLean is chairman of the board at the Library Company of Philadelphia. With her husband, William L. McLean, III, a third-generation newspaper man, she is an active supporter of many cultural and environmental organizations.

### Barbara W. Merritt

Worcester, Massachusetts  
Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church. As such Rev. Merritt is a successor of Aaron Bancroft, who served not only as minister to Isaiah Thomas but also as a fellow founder of the American Antiquarian Society. She is a lay historian, an orator, a civic leader, and a leader within her profession.

### James Miller

Washington, D. C.  
Professor of American Civilization and English, George Washington University. A noted expert and teacher in African American literature and culture, Mr. Miller has also held administrative and teaching posts at the University of South Carolina, the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Trinity College.

### Breon Mitchell

Bloomington, Indiana  
Professor of Comparative Literature and Germanic Studies and Director of the Wells Scholar Program at Indiana University. Best known as a scholar and translator of 20th-century literature, Mr. Mitchell is also a student of native American linguistics and a serious collector of rare books in and about these native languages.

### Lewis A. Nassikas

West Falmouth, Massachusetts  
A legendary receptionist and greeter in the library, a tireless collections volunteer, and a faithful donor. Retired from business, Mr. Nassikas has served the Society in many ways; and although he has recently moved to Cape Cod, he remains a valued member of the AAS community.

### Matthew Needle

Newburyport, Massachusetts  
Antiquarian bookseller, widely respected by his colleagues for his remarkable ability to turn up great material. For many years, Mr. Needle has given the Society first choice of important acquisitions. He has been generous in giving his time for appraisals and has been especially helpful with those donating materials to AAS.

### Mark Roosevelt

Boston, Massachusetts  
President and CEO, Massachusetts Biotechnology Initiatives in Worcester. Mr. Roosevelt has served as executive director of John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, as a state representative, as a candidate for governor, as a private educational consultant, and as a founder of charter schools. An American history major as an undergraduate, he continues to have an active avocational interest in the field.

### Julie Briel Thomas

Paris, France  
Professor of comparative literature, Université d'Évry Val d'Essonne. A native of and frequent visitor to Worcester, Mrs. Thomas used AAS resources in her doctoral study, "Past Lives and Distorting Mirrors: The Depiction of England and the Defining of America in American Writing, 1800-1860."

### Marvin Weiner

Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
Retired from business. Mr. Weiner is a collector of American Revolutionary-era pamphlets. A life-long supporter of libraries and historical organizations, he holds one of the great collections of 18th-century Americana still in private hands.

**Donors to the Kresge Challenge**

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*Work on the new building is moving ahead at a rapid pace. If you wish to follow progress, consult the "Construction Project Update" section of the Society's website: [www.americanantiquarian.org](http://www.americanantiquarian.org). Be a part of the project by making your gift to help AAS claim the Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant.*

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