**A Selection of Boston-Area Library Tours and Exhibitions**

Library History Seminar XIII

July 31-August 2, 2015

Simmons College, Boston, MA

**Armenian Library & Museum of America: Mesrop Boyajian Library**

65 Main Street, Watertown, MA, 02472

**Information about tours:** Current exhibition: "Celebrating Humanity." The Mesrob G. Boyajian Library is located on the 4th floor of the Armenian Museum's Mugar building, and is open on Fridays 1 pm -5 pm. Please inquire in advance at (617) 926-2562 x 6 to schedule research/study sessions during other hours. Tours are offered at no additional charge during standard museum hours, subject to availability of the guide.

**Website for tours:** Virtual tour: http://www.almainc.org/museum\_virtual\_tour.html

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Karsh Photographs; Highlights from the Armenian Museum collection; Who are the Armenians; Permanent Genocide Exhibit; Fabric of a Culture: traditional Armenian costumes; Armenian Musical Traditions

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.almainc.org/museum\_current\_exhibits.html

**Contact information:** (617) 926-2562

**Boston Athenaeum**

10 ½ Beacon Street, Boston, MA

**Information about tours:** Art and Architecture Tours; Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm. Reservations required:

**Website for tours:** http://www.bostonathenaeum.org/visit/take-tour

**Information about current exhibit/s:** LAFAYETTE: AN AMERICAN ICON. The Boston Athenæum celebrates Lafayette and his role in the founding of the new United States with an exhibition of portraits and other images of Lafayette—paintings, sculptures, and engravings—as well as a small selection of contemporary documents, manuscripts, and maps. June 17 – September 27, 2015

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.bostonathenaeum.org/exhibitions/current-exhibition

**Contact information:** 617-227-0270, ext. 221

**Boston Public LIbrary**

700 Boylston St., Boston MA 02116

**Information about tours:** Daily tours highlighting the architecture of its famed Central Library buildings by Charles Follen McKim and Philip Johnson as well as the art treasures within, including works by Daniel Chester French and John Singer Sargent. Mondays at 2:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.; Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.; Thursday at 6:00 p.m.; Fridays at 11:00 a.m.; Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m

**Website for tours:** http://www.bpl.org/central/tours.htm

**Contact information:** tours@bpl.org

**Boston Public Library-Central Library**

700 Boylston St., Boston MA 02116

**Information about tours:** **Exhibition tour: Special tours of the gallery exhibition We Are One: Mapping America’s Road from Revolution to Independence** are free and open to the public. All hour-long tours are led by volunteer guides; no reservations are required for parties under eight people. Tours begin in the McKim Exhibition Hall. For questions, please contact tours@bpl.org.

**Website for tours:** http://www.bpl.org/central/tours.htm

**Information about current exhibit/s:** We Are One: Mapping America’s Road from Revolution to Independence. May 2 to November 29, 2015

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday–Saturday:10 a.m.–5 p.m.,

Sunday: 1–5 p.m

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.bpl.org/exhibitions/

**Contact information:** tours@bpl.org

**Boston Public Library-Central Library**

700 Boylston St., Boston MA 02116

**Information about tours:** **Guided tour of Handel & Haydn Society Bicentennial Exhibition.** Join Handel and Haydn Society staff for a hosted tour of the Bicentennial Exhibition on Fridays at 2pm. The knowledgeable hosts will give an introduction to H+H, highlight "not-to-be-missed" elements of the exhibition, and be available for questions about the 200-year history of Handel and Haydn Society, the oldest continuously-performing arts organization in the country.

**Website for tours:** http://www.bpl.org/central/calendar.htm#/?i=1

**Information about current exhibit/s:** The Handel and Haydn Society: Bringing Music to Life for 200 Years. March 24 to September 5, 2015

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Friday–Saturday:9 a.m.–5 p.m.,

Sunday: 1–5 p.m.

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.bpl.org/exhibitions/

**Contact information:** tours@bpl.org

**Boston Public Library-Central Library: Leventhal Map Collection**

700 Boylston St., Boston MA 02116

**Information about tours:** Maps of imaginary places have accompanied literature for centuries. Visualizing the fanciful worlds described in works of fiction sets the stage for events taking place in a story and often provides insight into the characters themselves.

In this exhibition of forty items, visitors will discover maps from a variety of fictional genres, learn how authors create imaginary worlds, and appreciate why descriptive geography is essential to the story. People and creatures—even those who exist only in tales—are related to place, and maps of their imaginary worlds allow readers to be transported into the geography of fantasy.

**Website for tours:** http://www.bpl.org/programs/calendar\_ex.htm#/?i=1

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Literary Landscapes: Maps from Fiction. February 2 to October 25, 2015

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday–Saturday:10 a.m.–5 p.m.,

Sunday: 1–5 p.m.

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.bpl.org/exhibitions/

**Contact information:** maps@bpl.org or 617-859-2387

**Cambridge Public Library**

449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138

**Information about tours:** Encouraged; can be made by arrangement. Worth a visit to see the award-winning building, which according to one jury prize narrative “exhibits formal beauty as well as beauty of purpose, and the experience of the building as a place is not only beautiful for its form, its building science, its sustainable design, its materials, its program, but also for the vibrant activity and undisputable joy within.”

 **Website for tours:** https://www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/Services/librarytours.aspx

**Contact information:** 617-349-4032

**Houghton Library, Harvard University**

Houghton Library, Harvard Yard, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 (The Houghton Library is located in Harvard Yard, northeast of Harvard Square, facing Quincy Street between Widener and Lamont libraries.)

**Information about tours:** Fridays 2pm. Attendees receive a general introduction to the library, followed by a tour of the Emily Dickinson, Amy Lowell, and John Keats rooms, as well as the suite devoted to the Donald & Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

**Website for tours:** http://hcl.harvard.edu/info/tours/

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Current exhibition: Such a Curious Dream! Alice's Adventures in Wonderland at 150. Open during library hours: Monday, Friday and Saturday 9am-5pm; Tuesday-Thursday 9am-7pm.

**Website for exhibitions:** http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/exhibits/alice/

**Contact information:** 617-495-2443 ; dmarnon@fas.harvard.edu

**Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University**

771 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

**Information about tours:** The Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center offers group tours of our exhibitions to schools and other organizations. If you are interested, please contact us at archives@bu.edu.

**Website for tours:** http://hgar-srv3.bu.edu/about

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Current exhibitions: James Carroll: Writer and Columnist; Richard Wagner in Context; Ardent for Some Desperate Glory – Remembering The First World War; Boston University Artist & Poet Books; Leonard Nimoy: In Memorian. Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

**Website for exhibitions:** http://hgar-srv3.bu.edu/exhibitions/current

**Contact information:** archives@bu.edu

**John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum**

Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125

**Information about tours:** Highlights Tours

Travel back in time to the early 1960s for an engaging, interactive look at one of the most important times in American history. Family-friendly docent-led Highlights Tours of the Museum's exhibits are free with admission. The items you'll explore include footage from the first televised debate, the rocking chair President Kennedy used in the Oval Office, hand-painted closet doors from Mrs. Kennedy's dressing room, doodles from Cuban Missile Crisis meetings, and a piece of the Berlin Wall.

Tour info:

Walk In Visitor Programs include Docent-led tours and hands-on educational presentations about JFK's heroic PT-109 adventure. Tours are offered daily beginning in the lobby. Check lobby signs for times. Tours subject to docent availability; last-minute cancellations may occur.

**Website for tours:** http://www.jfklibrary.org/Visit.aspx

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Permanent exhibits on many different aspects of JFK's life; current Special exhibits include Presidential GetawayL JFK on Cape Cod; To the Brink: JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis; and Freedom 7 Space Capsule.

**Website for exhibitions:** Permanent exhibits: http://www.jfklibrary.org/Exhibits/Permanent-Exhibits.aspx ; Special exhibits: http://www.jfklibrary.org/Exhibits/Special-Exhibits.aspx

**Contact information:** 617-514-1600

**John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections-Boston College**

Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Current exhibition: Unhemmed As It Is Uneven: Joyce's Odyssey in Print. This exhibition focuses on the publication of three of Joyce's masterworks: his early short story collection, Dubliners, his epic Ulysses, and his enigmatic Finnegans Wake. It also highlights Boston College's sustained engagement with Joyce through professor Joe Nugent's "Raidin the Wake" reading group and student-curated digital projects, including the JoyceWays app, Digital Dubliners iBook, and the newly launched Dubliners Bookshelf website.

June 16 - September 12, 2015

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.bc.edu/libraries/about/exhibits-new/BurnsExhibits/unhemmed.html

**Contact information:** (617) 552-3282

**Mary Baker Eddy Library**

200 Massachusetts Ave, Boston, MA 02115

**Information about tours:** The Mary Baker Eddy Library opened in 2002 as a place for people to explore the life, ideas, and achievements of Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910), a remarkable nineteenth-century New England woman who overcame adversity to write a groundbreaking book on religion, health, and spirituality: Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Website for tours:** http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/plan-your-visit/group-school-tours/privategroups/

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Current exhibitions: Portraits of Global Caring; Peace Flag; The Mapparium®: An Inside View; Mary Baker Eddy: An Extraordinary Life; Press Gallery

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/exhibits/

**Contact information:** 617-450-7330, or groupvisits@marybakereddylibrary.org

**Massachusetts Historical Society**

1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215

**Information about tours:** The History and Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society Tour is a 90-minute docent-led walk through our public rooms. The tour is free, open to the public, with no need for reservations. August 1, 2015.

Saturday, 10:00AM - 11:30AM

**Website for tours:** http://www.masshist.org/calendar/event?event=1622

**Information about current exhibit/s:** God Save the People! From the Stamp Act to Bunker Hill. 27 February 2015 to 4 September 2015

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.masshist.org/calendar/event?event=1441

**Contact information:** 617-646-0508 ; abentley@masshist.org

**Museum of Fine Arts-William Morris Hunt Memorial Library**

Horticultural Hall, 2nd Floor, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Bob Wilson’s (mostly) Plastic, (somewhat) Fantastic Cheap Camera Film Photo Show. July 9th - September 10th, 2015; Monday–Friday, 1–5 pm

**Website for exhibitions:** http://www.mfa.org/collections/libraries-and-archives/current-library-exhibition

**Contact information:** 617-369-3385

**State Library of Massachusetts**

State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133. Main library: Rm. 341; Special Collections: Rm. 55

**Information about tours:** State Library tours are self-guided; often part of a more general tour of the State House given by docents. State House tours are conducted by the staff of the Tours and Government Education Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office and by volunteers well-versed in the history and architectural background of the State House. The tours are given weekdays year-round from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, and are free of charge. The building is open from 8:45 am to 5 pm. The Massachusetts State House is closed on weekends and holidays.

Tours last approximately 30-45 minutes and include an overview of the history and architecture of the State Capitol. Visitors can see the House and Senate Chambers, learn about the Ladybug (our state insect) and of the "Sacred Cod."

**Website for tours:** http://www.sec.state.ma.us/trs/trsgen/genidx.htm

**Information about current exhibit/s:** Current exhibition: Cultivating the Commonwealth: A History of Agriculture in Massachusetts

**Website for exhibitions:** https://www.flickr.com/photos/mastatelibrary/sets/72157654351178256/

**Contact information:** State Library Special Collections: special.collections@state.ma.us; 617-727-2595 ; Main library: 617-727-2590

**Warren Anatomical Museum, Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School**

10 Shattuck St, Boston, MA 02115

**Information about tours:** The Museum Gallery is open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Museum Exhibition Gallery, 2010. Please note that the Exhibition Gallery is closed on weekends and during certain Harvard University holidays. For a full list of holidays when the Exhibition Gallery is closed please access the Countway Library's Hours and Holiday Calendar.

**Information about current exhibit/s:** The Warren Anatomical Museum is part of the Countway Library of Medicine's Center for the History of Medicine. The Museum's Exhibition Gallery, which displays 300 cases and artifacts from the larger collection, is located on the 5th floor of the Countway Library.

**Website for exhibitions:** https://legacy.countway.harvard.edu/menuNavigation/chom/warren/WAMvisit.html

**Contact information:** 617-432-6196 ; chm@hms.harvard.edu

**Widener Library, Harvard**

Widener Library, Harvard Yard, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 (Widener Library is located in Harvard Yard across the Tercentenary Theater from Memorial Church, northeast of Harvard Square.)

**Information about tours:** Thursday at 3:00pm for all currently affiliated Harvard faculty, staff, students, and visiting scholars.

**Website for tours:** http://hcl.harvard.edu/info/tours/

**Contact information:** 617-496-1454 ; mikelburt@fas.harvard.edu