

Collection Update for October 2018

900 new items were added in October including:

Hosted

- ✓ Boston Public Library - American Masters 1850-1960 (4 items)
- ✓ Massachusetts Archives - Town plans, 1830 (324 items)
- ✓ Northfield Mount Hermon - The Hermonite (1888-1969) (38 items)
- ✓ Sandwich Town Archives - Sandwich Town Archives Historical Photograph Collection (33 items)

Harvested

- ✓ Digital Transgender Archive (9 collections, 2391 items)*
- ✓ Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library (6 collections, 501 items)
- ✓ UMass Amherst (2 collections, 9,135 items)*

* re-harvest

121,929 Item views

664,210 Total item-level records

273,203 Total hosted items



Peter Hirtle to be Keynote Speaker for 2019 Conference

The conference committee has been hard at work planning the 2019 event. We are delighted to announce that **Peter Hirtle** will be the Keynote Speaker. Research Fellow at the Berkman Center, Peter Hirtle is Senior Policy Advisor to the Cornell University Library with a special mandate to address intellectual property issues. Previously at Cornell, Hirtle served as Director of the Cornell Institute for Digital Collections and as the Associate Editor of D-Lib Magazine. He is an archivist by training with an MA in History from Johns Hopkins and an MLS with a concentration in archival science from the University of Maryland. Hirtle is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of American Archivists and is a member of its Working Group on Intellectual Property. He was a member of the Commission on Preservation and Access/Research Library Group's Task Force on Digital Archiving and the Copyright Office's Section 108 Study Group, and is a contributing author to the LibraryLaw.com blog. His recent interests have focused on issues associated with licensing public domain material.

We also have 7 breakout session speakers already confirmed and it's only November!

If you haven't already done so.....



Tuesday April 9, 2019

Happy Thanksgiving



The Month of November...

The month of November celebrates many causes, flora, fauna and other interesting items. We've picked one to celebrate...."National Pomegranate Month". When I found out about pomegranates being the subject of adulation this month, I wondered, does Digital Commonwealth really have any items in its collection on this subject? And sure enough, I found one, courtesy of Historic New England, in the form of an image of twenty-four various fruit and vegetable shapes molded in plaster and painted.

The pomegranate is showing its seeds in pink and red. Did you know there are also white pomegranates? These have pale pinkish-white skin and very pale white flesh. Pomegranates are also very nutritious, each one containing 45% and 9% of the recommended daily intake for fiber and protein respectively.



Historic New England
Rights status not evaluated

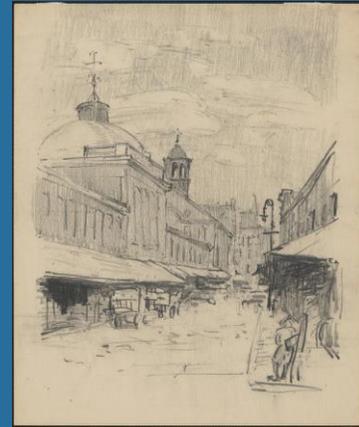
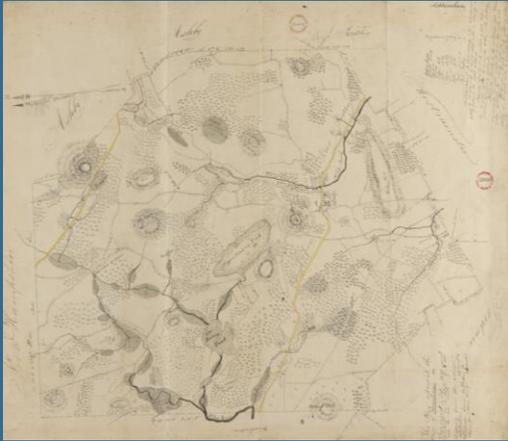
John Bracken, President of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) to meet with Digital Commonwealth Board...

The Digital Commonwealth Board will be holding a retreat on November 20 to explore long term strategic planning. We are delighted that DPLA President, John Bracken has agreed to join us at the retreat. As many of you know, Digital Commonwealth became a full member of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) earlier this year. With this important step, Digital Commonwealth is extending its mission and has a significant role to play as the state hub to DPLA. The Board and the various committees are in the process of working with DPLA so that we can articulate and extend DPLA Member Benefits to our DC members. John will be meeting with the Board for an hour. We look forward to talking with him.

[Massachusetts Archives – 1830 Town Plan of Ashburnham](#)

[Boston Public Library - American Masters 1830-1960](#)

Faneuil Hall, © James Fitzgerald



Selected Items Newly Added to the Collection

November 5 & Guy Fawkes...

All children in England are familiar with the story of the Gunpowder Plot, which was a failed attempt to blow up the House of Lords in Parliament and assassinate King James I. After an anonymous letter was received by a particular baron, a search of the Houses of Parliament at approximately midnight on November 4, 1605, revealed Guy Fawkes, one of the conspirators guarding no less than thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, an amount sufficient to reduce the House of Lords to a complete state of rubble. Fawkes was arrested and along with a number of the co-conspirators, was convicted of treason and sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered. Guy Fawkes night is celebrated on November 5, with fireworks and bonfires on which effigies of Fawkes are burnt. A search for Guy Fawkes in DC's collection turned up an engraving entitled "*Guy Fawkes and Humphrey Chetham rescuing Father Oldcorne and Viviana Radcliffe from the pursuivant*".

Further research showed that a novel "Guy Fawkes" was written by William Harrison Ainsworth in 1840 and illustrated by George Cruickshank. The engraving is from this work. While Ainsworth used extensive historical documents as the background for his novels, he apparently also took liberty with known facts, introducing the character of Viviana Radcliffe of Ordsall Hall (an actual historic house in Salford, near Manchester, England) who became Fawkes' wife. He also incorporated supernatural and gothic facets into his novels for added interest!



Membership News

Welcome new members!

- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Washington Historical Committee

Welcome back all our returning members!

- Pratt Memorial Library
- Lowell Historical Society
- Massachusetts Archives
- National Archives, Boston
- Northeastern University Libraries
- Emerson College
- Watertown Free Public Library
- Franklin High School Library
- Franklin High School Library
- State Library of Massachusetts
- Wellesley College Library
- Salem State University
- Weymouth Public Libraries
- Reading Public Library