

## Collection Update for September 2019

0 new items were added in September

116,293 Item views    761,621 Total item-level records    305,623 Total hosted items



### Contextual Conversations: Representation and Digital Practice

#### 2020 Conference Update...

The Conference Committee has been hard at work, and even though it's not yet mid October, we are close to having a complete slate of speakers for next year. We will be changing the format of the day to include three panel discussions in the morning. Each panel will have its own theme that falls under the umbrella of the overall conference theme.

Eben English, Digital Repository Services Manager at the BPL, will be giving his annual update on the repository and we'll all be looking forward to finding out what's the most viewed item for the past year!

More information will be coming soon as we finalize arrangements with speakers and panelists.



**In the meantime,  
please save the date!!**

**Tuesday April 7, 2020  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, MA**

#### 2020 Conference Keynote Speaker Appointed to DPLA Board...

2020 DC Conference Keynote Speaker, Elaine Westbrooks, Vice Provost of University Libraries & University Librarian at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill has been elected to serve on the DPLA Board. She is joined on the Board by new members Jill Bourne, city librarian for San José, California and Felton Thomas, director of the Cleveland Public Library.

#### Other DPLA News...

This month, The National Digital Library of India hosted a workshop on the adoption of standardized rights statements for cultural heritage institutions in India. These statements were developed by RightsStatements.org and are used to communicate the copyright and re-use status of digital objects to the public. Keep up to date on the latest on Rights Statements [here](#).

#### October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1797, USS Constitution is launched...

Did you know that Digital Commonwealth has 613 [photographs](#) of the USS Constitution, from the BPL's Leslie Jones Collection? There are also a number of interesting [prints](#), and a [broadside](#) titled "Huzza for the Constitution," containing a six-stanza poem commemorating USS Constitution's return to harbor on April 17, 1814 after a cruise during which she captured four prizes. A copy of the Niles' Weekly Register from 1834 recounts the controversy concerning the installment of the Andrew Jackson figurehead on USS Constitution by Commodore Jesse Duncan. Elliot. The article calls for continued preservation and maintenance of USS Constitution.

There has been much excitement in Boston for some months past, on account of a report that a "figure head" of president *Jackson* was to be placed on the bows of the *Constitution* frigate. It was, at length, ascertained that such a head had been prepared by com. *Elliott*—but it thereafter appeared that the design of setting it up was abandoned, when many publications on the subject had been made. The fact, however, is, that such a figure-head was placed on the bows of the *Constitution*, about two or three weeks ago.

This proceeding has elicited much feeling—and, independent of *political* sentiments involved, the propriety of placing on the bows of a national ship the head of any *living* person, is earnestly questioned. We always thought it wrong that one of said ships was named after a *then* president of the United States—the "John Adams"—for we would not build up such monuments to the *living*; and we think that there are also other reasons why such things should not be allowed, and especially in this—that *no* public man escapes the prejudice or censure of some portion of the people, while on this theatre of action; and it has been the happy lot of few, indeed, to pass into history with names so pure as those of *WASHINGTON* and *FRANKLIN*, after whom two ships of the line are worthily called. And besides, to prevent the perpetuation of unworthy names—(for some who have stood highest in the public favor have been handed over to the public execration, and others will be), a rule was established as to the naming of our vessels of war, ships of the line to be called after the states, frigates after rivers, and sloops after cities or towns. This was a wholesome provision, and, if carried out in its whole extent and spirit, may forbid unpleasant occurrences, in future times—for it would be a very awkward thing to make a *formal* change of the name of a public ship, or to direct that she should be divested of some particular ornament.

*Niles' Weekly Register, May 17, 1834, page 5*

## October is "Go on a Field Trip" Month...

Here are a couple of our suggestions:

**[Hammond Castle, Gloucester, MA](#)** – If you've never been to Hammond Castle, it's well worth the trip up to Gloucester. Overlooking Gloucester Harbor, it is a Medieval-style castle that was built between 1926 and 1929 by the eccentric American inventor John Hays Hammond Jr. Hammond was a protege of Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, and is known as the "Father of Radio Control" because of his groundbreaking work with radio waves. While you're in Gloucester, be sure to stop by the Cape Ann Museum, which is home to the largest (and very beautiful) collection of work by renowned marine artist, **Fitz Henry Lane (aka Fitz Hugh Lane)**, as well as the collection of the **Folly Cove Designers**, a group of 45 designer-craftsmen who worked together between 1938 and 1969 producing precise designs cut into linoleum blocks and mostly printed on fabric. The book ["The Lithographs of Fitz Hugh Lane"](#) by John Wilmerding (1963) can be viewed through Digital Commonwealth.



*Hammond Castle*

**[Museum of the Russian Icon, Clinton, MA](#)** – This museum in the small Central MA town of Clinton houses the incredible icon collection of Gordon Lankton, a plastics engineer who eventually became President of Nypro, an injection molded plastics company just round the corner from the current museum location. Gordon purchased his first icon in 1989 and the collection is now the only one of its kind in the US and the largest outside of Russia. Well worth a visit, admission is \$10/\$7 for adults/seniors and be sure to watch the video on the detailed and sacred process that is followed to make these icons. The upcoming special exhibit beginning on November 20 is *Emil Hoppe: Photographs from the Ballets Russes*.

## New Digital Commonwealth Blogs...

### [A Closer Look: The Grand Panorama of a Whaling Voyage 'Round the World](#)

Michael Lapidés, Director of Digital Initiatives, New Bedford Whaling Museum contributed a blog on this amazing work which is one of the few remaining panoramas. It is a mind-blowing 1,275 plus feet long and 8 feet high. The Grand Panorama is available for viewing in the Digital Commonwealth repository.

### [Digital Commonwealth and the Community Preservation Act](#)

The Outreach Committee raises awareness of the Community Preservation Act. If yours is one of the 175 Massachusetts communities that have adopted the CPA, then you can apply for CPA funding. Read the blog to find out what the Town of Bourne did...

### [Spotlight On: Herman Parker Collection of Glass Plate Negatives](#)

In this blog, the Outreach Committee brings your attention to the Herman Parker Collection of Glass Plate Negatives featuring scenes from the yachting life of the early 20th century in Marblehead. These images, along with the extensive Frank Cousins Collection of Glass Negatives were recently added to Digital Commonwealth by the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum.

## Featured Collection...

Since there were no harvested or hosted collections for September, I decided to peruse the collections to see what I could find. [The Castonguay Carved Bird Collection at the West Yarmouth Library](#) caught my eye! The collection was carved by Russell Pratt Burr (1887-1955) of Hingham and includes 40 intricately carved and painted figures of waterfowl, songbirds and shorebirds. What is remarkable is that the birds are in miniature and mounted on pieces of driftwood. Be sure to check this one out, and to use the **ZOOM** feature to admire the fine details in the carvings.



*Ring-Billed Gull*  
© Russell Pratt Burr

## Membership News

Welcome new members!

- Boston Children's Museum
- Springfield City Library
- Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society

Welcome back all our returning members!

- Amherst Regional High School Library
- Arlington - Robbins Library
- Bishop Fenwick High School
- Canton Public Library
- Holyoke Community College
- Lee Library Association
- Martha's Vineyard Museum
- New England Historic Genealogical Society
- Newburyport Public Library
- Noble & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation (NCCHP)
- Springfield Technical Community College
- Upper Housatonic Valley NHA

**Not a Member? [Join here](#)**

