Editor's Note

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In trying to create a title for the feature article in this issue of Newport History, the authors and I came up with a number of terms that we thought described the rich life of Margaret Mason Perry La Farge: strong, resourceful, indomitable, loving, matriarchal. However, none of these terms, even taken together, adequately characterized the courage and accomplishments of this woman, the wife of John La Farge. The title we ultimately chose—"Nurturing Art and Family: The Newport Life of Margaret Mason Perry La Farge"—seemed to come closest to describing the core of the story and of the woman. However, the story of Margaret Mason Perry La Farge is far greater than the sum total of anyone's vocabulary. Her life, researched and documented by Mary A. La Farge and James L. Yarnall, speaks for itself.

Mary A. La Farge is Associate Director of the La Farge Catalogue Raisonné Inc., a non-profit educational foundation dedicated to research on the artist John La Farge. She is assisting James L. Yarnall with the completion of the "Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of John La Farge," a manuscript developed over fifty years by her late husband Henry A. La Farge, a grandson of the artist. She also maintains the massive archives of photographs, correspondence, and documentation pertaining to this undertaking at the headquarters of the project in New Canaan, Connecticut. After publication of the manuscript by Yale University Press, the archives will be transferred to Yale University Library.

James L. Yarnall received a Ph.D. in art history in 1981 from the University of Chicago, with a dissertation on John La Farge's landscape painting. He has researched the artist for over twenty years, the past ten as Director of the La Farge Catalogue Raisonné Inc. He is the author of numerous publications on the artist, including four previous articles that appeared in Newport History. He has also worked in various capacities for several museums, including the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. For the past two years, he has been a Fellow at the John Nicholas Brown Center for the study of American Civilization at Brown University, where he is continuing research for the Catalogue Raisonné.

"From the Collection" has been supplanted temporarily in this issue of Newport History, but will return in the winter 1996 publication. In its place are the annual reports of the President, Executive Director, and staff of the Newport Historical Society. These reports detail the progress made during this very productive year in carrying out the Society's mission to collect and preserve the artifacts of Newport County's history.