

10-1-2011

Editor's Note

James L. Yarnall

Newport Historical Society, jyarnall@newporthistorical.org

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Recommended Citation

Yarnall, James L. (2011) "Editor's Note," *Newport History*: Vol. 80: Iss. 265, Article 1.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol80/iss265/1>

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Editor's Note

The rich artistic heritage of Newport owes as much to recondite personalities as to well-known artists. This issue of *Newport History* investigates a number of these lesser-known figures, starting with James Nicholson, a master carpenter who worked on some of the most important Bellevue Avenue mansions of the late 1880s and early 1890s. Caroline McGuckian assembled the details of Nicholson's life, along with examples of his work as a photographer and painter, for her Senior Thesis in Art History at Salve Regina University. After graduating in 2008, she adapted this thesis for publication in *Newport History*. Last year, Ms. McGuckian worked in New York City for The LIFE Gallery of Photography of Time LIFE. This fall, she began graduate coursework at Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York, and expects to complete an M.A. in American Decorative Arts in 2012.

A century has elapsed since over a hundred largely now-forgotten artists, art teachers, and patrons founded the Art Association of Newport, today known as the Newport Art Museum. Since its inception, the organization has been the leading art institution on Aquidneck Island, with a long history of art instruction, exhibitions, and public lectures, along with general meetings and society events centered on the arts. Nancy Whipple Grinnell has been Curator of the museum since 1998, mining its rich archives to produce scholarship related to its activities. She has twice before published the fruits of her research in *Newport History*. Her first article (vol. 74, Spring 2005) was on Maud Howe Elliott, one of the Art Association's primary founders. A second article (vol. 76, Spring 2007) delved into artistic Modernism in Newport during the museum directorship of Judith Richardson Silvia in the 1970s.

In this issue of the journal, Ms. Grinnell adapts portions of the checklist and wall text of a recent exhibition that she curated at the Newport Art Museum: *Remembering the Ladies: Women and the Art Association of Newport*. This important study of the early decades of the institution resurrects the reputations of the women artists, art instructors, and patrons responsible for its flourishing during the early twentieth century. Ms. Grinnell holds a B.A. in Art History from the University of Pittsburgh (1970), a Masters in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston (1973), and a second Masters in American Civilization from Brown University (2004). She is currently at work on a monographic biography of Maud Howe Elliott, abetted by a sabbatical from the Newport Art Museum.