Editor’s Note

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Editor's Note

This issue of Newport History includes three distinctive articles by local authors with diverse interests and backgrounds. They write respectively about a not-so-famous Newport architect, the now-defunct Jamestown Bridge, and a long-lost Newport estate with intriguing connections to ancient Egypt.

The little-recognized Newport architect John Dixon Johnston has long been one of the many interests of Ronald J. Onorato, author of the recent Guide to Newport, published by the American Institute of Architects in 2007. Dr. Onorato is the Honors Professor of Art History at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island, where he has taught American Art and Architectural History since 1977. He holds an M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1977) in Art History from Brown University in Providence, along with a B.A. (1970) from Rutgers College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Among his honors, Dr. Onorato is a Commissioner of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects, and a Member of the Rhode Island National Register Review Panel, responsible for helping to place buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. His wide-ranging publications include studies on nineteenth-century American photography, on the development of art academies in America, on historical and contemporary sculpture, and on Rhode Island architecture. In addition to his Guide to Newport, his most recent publication is Buildings of Rhode Island, co-authored with William H. Jordy and William McKenzie Woodward and published by Oxford University Press in 2004.

Three authors collaborated on the pictorial essay devoted to the recently demolished Jamestown Bridge: Rosemary Enright, Sue Maden, and Matt Kierstead.

Rosemary Enright holds a B.A. (1962) in English from Rosary Hill College in Buffalo and an M.A. (1963) in English from New York University in New York City. She also did extensive graduate work in American Civilization at New York University. Her professional career has included editorial work, college-level teaching of English, technical editing for a data processing firm, free-lance writing, and work as a Process Engineer and Computer Systems Requirement Analysis for Grumman Corporation. She has held several posts at the Jamestown Historical Society, including Director (2003-2005), Vice-President (2005-2006), and President (2006-present).

After attending Carleton College for two years (1952-1954), Sue Maden received her B.S. in Nursing in 1957 from Cornell University’s New York Hospital School of Nursing. She went on to earn an M.S. in Public Health Nursing from Hunter College in New York City, and a Masters in Library Science from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1974. Her career included nursing positions in New York Hospital, the New York City Health Department, the Greenwich Village Counseling Center, and the American Nurse Foundation. She also worked as the Health Sciences Librarian at Columbia University in New York City. After her retirement in 1982, she moved to Jamestown and has since been involved with significant local history projects.
Matt Kierstead received a B.A. in Art History from Framingham State College in Massachusetts in 1989, and an M.A. in Public History from West Virginia University in Morgantown in 1994. He is now the Industrial Historian for the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The final article in this issue of Newport History is by Jane Carey, who has been the layout designer of the journal for the past fifteen years. She garnered her experience in book design as an Art Director/Designer for Beacon Press in Boston and Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in San Diego. Her avid interest in the history of Aquidneck Island has been put to good use in her many designs for books and other publications by local authors and institutions. Her article on the Newport estate of Theodore M. Davis is her first contribution to the journal.