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## Editor's Note

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**Editor's Note**

During the last decades of the nineteenth century, Newport had more than its fair share of remarkable personalities who shaped its unique literary, artistic, and social cultures. Maud Howe Elliott has until now been little recognized for her prominent role in all these areas. This issue of *Newport History* features an article by Nancy Whipple Grinnell that rectifies this oversight by charting Elliott's important role in the formation of the Art Association of Newport, predecessor to the Newport Art Museum.

Nancy Grinnell has an academic background well attuned to her complex topic. She acquired the requisite command of the nuanced language of art from an undergraduate degree in Art History from the University of Pittsburgh, awarded in 1970. Her Masters in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, received three years later, supplied the methodology for her exhaustive research. Her second Masters in American Civilization, earned from Brown University last year, laid the foundation for a broad interpretation of complex cultural issues. Just as critical to this study has been her work since 1998 as Curator of the Newport Art Museum, where the vaults overflow with documents from the early days of the Art Association. Ms. Grinnell expects to expand her writings begun here into a major monograph.

In the 1870s, the young architect Charles Follen McKim was another Newport habitué of particular note. This issue of *Newport History* concludes M. Joan Youngken's presentation (begun in the Fall 2004 issue) of Newport photographs assembled by McKim in 1874. She derived this study from her 1998 exhibition titled *Picturesque Localities: The Charles F. McKim Portfolio of Newport Photographs*. From 1990 to 2004, Ms. Youngken was a senior staff member at the Newport Historical Society, serving as Curator for Collections, Associate Director, and Curator of Graphics. Working with the Society's collection of over 250,000 images, she became an authority on Newport's visual history. She organized numerous exhibitions for the Museum of Newport History in the Brick Market and for the Society's headquarters. She now is a consultant for collections management, specializing in archives and historic photographs, and for historic preservation and research.