



Dublin Historical Society

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Newsletter No. 45 – October, 1998

Fall 1998 Art Exhibitions Feature JOSEPH LINDON SMITH, DUBLIN ARTIST



Joseph Lindon Smith (1863 – 1950)

This autumn season is graced with two art exhibitions at Providence, Rhode Island which will be of interest to Historical Society members and friends. Brown University is hosting an exhibition celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Brown's Department of Egyptology with "Archaeological Artists in Egypt", October 8 – November 21, 1998. The exhibition, organized by Diana (Wolfe) Larkin, will be on view at Annmary Brown Memorial Hall, at 21 Brown Street, Providence. On view are paintings by some of the giants of Egyptology, including Norman and Nina Davies and Howard Carter and Charles Wilkinson, all of whom were involved with the "King Tut" and other world famous archaeological explorations. Joseph Lindon Smith, who with his wife Corinna spent fifty winters in Egypt, is represented by forty canvases. "Uncle Joe" developed an illusionistic style for recording bas reliefs and objects unearthed from burial sites; his treatment of canvas with oil paints has to be seen to be believed, so realistic is his technique.

A concurrent exhibition, titled "Joseph Lindon Smith and His Circle in Dublin, New Hampshire", will be on display this fall at the Rhode Island School of Design's Museum of Art (224 Benefit Street, Providence), October 14, 1998 – January 3, 1999.

The RISDI Art Museum will exhibit works from its collections by such luminaries as Abbott Thayer, Frank Benson and John Singer Sargent, among others. Exhibition curators Maureen O'Brien and Thomas Michie will present a gallery talk about this exhibition on Friday, November 6 at 12:15 PM; it might be worth a drive to Providence to hear what the curators have to say.

Loon Point, Summer Home of Joseph Lindon Smiths and Dublin's Center For the Arts, 1906 – 1965

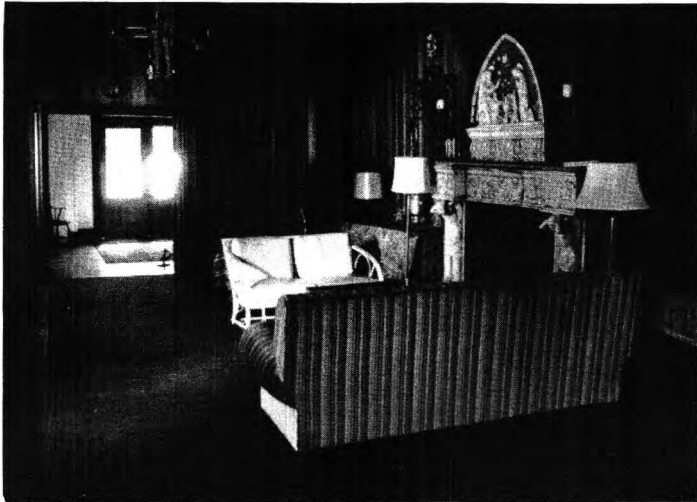
Loon Point was for most of the 19th century called Phillips Point, and it was a part of the Phillips Family's landholdings on the south side of Dublin Pond (now Dublin Lake). In 1882 a summer visitor, Mrs. J.S. Copley Greene of Boston, bought the Phillips family lands, and in 1889 she made a present of a part of the Point to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Francis (Emma Greenleaf) Smith, of Providence, Rhode Island.

One of the Smiths' children, Joseph Lindon Smith, was a well-regarded portrait and fresco painter in Boston, and he had become a friend of Mrs. Copley Greene's brother, Casper Crowninshield, at The Tavern Club and in other social settings in Boston. Mrs. Green hoped to attract other artists to summer in Dublin; thanks to the efforts of her



brother and the Smiths she succeeded. Within a few years a number of artists were summering near Mrs. Green and the Smiths, on the south side of Dublin Pond in what became known as the Latin Quarter.

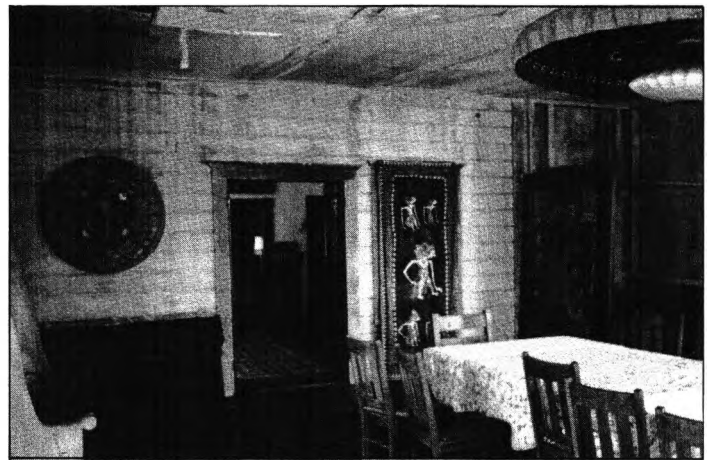
In 1899 Joseph Lindon Smith married Corinna Haven Putnam (1876–1965), daughter of a prominent New York City publisher. One of the wedding presents was a complete Della Robbia fireplace and mantel, the gift of Sturgis Bigelow, a well-known orientalist. This gift became the



visual centerpiece of a new summer home, Loon Point, which was designed by Joseph Lindon Smith and built by Smith and his father with the aid of a local contractor, Leon Patrick, in 1903. The Della Robbia fireplace and mantel face the south door to Loon Point, in the middle of a long hallway; the hallway is pictured above.

A year later, in 1907, the Smiths extended Loon Point with a one-story addition on the east end of the building. The 40 x 40 Chinese style dining room featured a Moon Gate window, which faced south. The window was dedicated to Mrs. Isabella Stewart Gardner (1840–1924), a great patron of the arts in Boston and a supporter of Joseph Smith's career in the arts. Mrs. Gardner was present for the 1907

dedication of the room, and she played the part of the moon goddess in a special play written by Joseph Lindon Smith for the occasion. The room is pictured below.



The 1907 dining room and its Moon Window, as they appeared in August 1997. (All photos by Russell Bastedo.)

Loon Point is suffering the pangs of old age and expensive construction. It will be demolished in the near future.

WHITE RUSSIANS ADD TO DUBLIN'S ARTS

In the years following the Russian Revolution numbers of White Russians emigrated to the United States, while the victorious Red Russians began to build a new post-Tsarist world. The Dublin artist Gouri Ivanov-Rinov, whose Farnham Library mural is one of the highlights of the Dublin artistic legacy, was one of these White Russians; another lesser-known member of this group was Prince Irakly Toumanoff, known as "Boosha". Elizabeth (Mrs. Beekman) Pool described "Boosha" in a speech delivered in honor of the Garden Club of Dublin's 50th Anniversary (1979) as a

man who ... raised his duck, guinea hen and pheasant, (regretfully but of necessity), for the lace-covered tables of the summer people. Many, many times he also ate at those tables. Everybody loved him and rejoiced in his company. But the staffs were in chronic confusion. Once my mother's parlor maid came racing into the living room where my mother was entertaining at tea. "Glory be to God, Mrs. Shallcross," she panted, "there's a prince in the kitchen with a duck."

"THINGS OF THE SPIRIT" At February 19 Meeting

For the past ten years the noted film maker John Karol has been working on a filmed life of the thirtieth President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge. Over these ten years eighty hours of film have been reduced to three hours and thirty-two episodes, and these three hours will be announced as a major television mini-series in the near future.

Mr. Karol has agreed to show Historical Society members some of the highlights from this TV series in a presentation originally shown to a select audience at The Kennedy Library last summer. Please mark your calendars for this event.

President Coolidge is generally remembered as "Silent Cal" and as the butt of jokes; in fact Coolidge had to deal with major economic and social dislocations in the wake of "The Great War", World War One, in which world agricultural and industrial markets were destroyed and tens of millions of people lost their lives. This reviewer can state that viewers will be fascinated by the materials distilled by Mr. Karol, and that Mr. Karol's research will almost certainly lead to scholarly reevaluation of our thirtieth President of the United States.

In the event of heavy snow, this event will take place Friday, February 26.

Society News



Dublin Day Historical Tour

As part of the celebration of Dublin Day on August 9, the Recreation Committee asked the Historical Society to organize a bus tour that would take in Dublin's historical high spots. The tour was run twice, once in the morning and again in the afternoon, each tour lasting about an hour and a half. All told, about seventy-five people went on the two tours, including, we are pleased to report, a number of members of the Society. **John Harris** and **Steena Auchincloss** served as tour guides for the morning and afternoon tours, respectively.

Starting at Yankee Field, the tour went west up Main Street, over the hill past the old Common and down to the pound and the site of the first meeting house. From the cemetery it followed Route 101 to Charcoal Road, turning left by the golf course and stopping to see the inscription marking the first permanent settlement. From there it followed the Old Marlborough Road to Eli Morse's mill below the outlet from Dublin Lake. There, thanks to the kindness of **Louisa Spencer**, we saw the dam and mill building, whose workings were

explained by **Bob Knight**.

From Snow Hill Road we turned into the "Knollwood" driveway to see the house where President Taft stayed. **Joe** and **Augusta Petrone**, who were on the afternoon bus, thus had the pleasure of seeing their own house from the tourist's point of view.

Time constraints precluded visits to the Windmill on Windmill Hill, the gold mine on Gold Mine Road, and the monument to the first (non-permanent) settlement off Route 137. If we are asked to repeat the tour next Dublin Day, we will do justice to the East side of town.

Recent Accessions to the Archives

Nancy Foote has given three important photographs: one showing her father-in-law, **George Luther Foote**, as a baby; another, taken around 1927, shows **Ranouf Russell** and his children on horseback. The third shows the late Professor **Raphael Pumpelly** looking appropriately patriarchal and surrounded by fifteen of his descendants.

John R. Gleason, Jr. has given us a large number of photographs from Gleason family albums, and permission to copy others.

Among the things we collect are books by Dublin authors, so we are very grateful to **Richard Meryman** for presenting an inscribed copy of his *Hope/A Loss Survived*.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, **Betsey McLennen Miller** has sent us additional materials on the Osgood and Pearmain families, including a copy of a history of the Pearmain family by **Margaret Pearmain Welch**. Mrs. Miller's sister, **Nancy Marlow Aldrich**, has added copies of photographs of her grandmother, **Nancy Douglas Pearmain Bowditch**, and of other members of the Pearmain family.

A number of documents relating to the late **Charles Thomas**,

Society News (continued)

for many years a Dublin selectman, and his wife, Gertude Kerr Thomas, have come from **Philip Miner**. Some of these have to do with their service in France in World War I, he in the infantry and she as a nurse.

We are grateful to **Nancy Campbell, Paul Deschenes, John Harris, Steve Knapp, Patricia Mann and William Morgan** for other welcome gifts.

Schoolhouse Painted

New paints are lead free, and they lack the lifespan of earlier paints. This September Historical Society members Hank Campbell, Dick Hammond, Dennis Monaghan and John Nelson applied new paint to Schoolhouse Number 1, while Paul Tuller cleaned drain lines which had clogged. The resulting overflows of rain waters had done some damage to the building's weatherboards; Mr. Tuller's work should remedy this situation. Our thanks to all these gentlemen for their efforts on behalf of Schoolhouse Number 1.

1998 Annual Meeting Features Jud Hale at the Dublin School

As those who have read his books well know, irony and a sense of the ridiculous enliven all of Jud Hale's writing about Dublin and New England. History, he seems to say, can be not only drop-dead serious but also wildly funny.

Nowhere was this better demonstrated than at the Historical Society's annual meeting, August 19, 1998, at which Jud, the featured speaker, gave us – interrupted repeatedly by laughter from the audience – an overview of the beginnings (1792) and evolution of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, which Jud edits. He is also editor of *Yankee* magazine.

Advice published by *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, and recounted to us by Jud, seemed to draw the most

resounding laughter from Historical Society members. Highlights:

- Rules for a long life (1793): After getting out of bed, never look out the window.
- (1795) The safest place in a thunderstorm is a few feet from your horse.
- Recovery from drowning: Blow tobacco smoke into the body.
- How to prevent dogs from killing sheep: Tie a dog, when six-to-eight-months-old, to one of the strongest sheep.
- What to do if someone moves next door: Leave them alone.
- How to mend a broken heart: Eat chocolate.

Predicting the weather (eighteen months in advance) is an important part of *The Old Farmer's Almanac's* life story. Jud told us that the Germans used *The Almanac* to see what the weather would be, which is probably why they went on to lose the war. Weather prediction in *The Almanac* has always, nevertheless, been eighty percent accurate, Jud said, whether done by folklore, moon lore (least reliable), cycles, or, today, using the advice of the most sophisticated meteorologists.

Sending us off for punch and cookies, Jud told us one of his favorite anecdotes. Having spoken to a Dublin women's group some years back, Jud was thanked by the leader who said, And now refreshments will be served and we can begin to enjoy ourselves.



The 1998 annual meeting was notable not only for Jud Hale's talk, but also for the election of two new Trustees: Ruth Hammond and Sharron Monaghan. Of further note: John Harris was elected President; Paul Tuller, Vice-President; and Ruth Hammond, Treasurer. President Harris warmly thanked three retiring Trustees: Tony Anthony, Nancy Handy, and John Nelson.

Nancy (Mrs. Albert) Handy, Secretary

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND
WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH IT! SHARE OUR GOOD
NEWS WITH OTHERS!**

CORRECTION FOR A PAINTING

Our last newsletter contained the statement that Margaret Pearmain Osgood, the subject of the portrait we were writing about, died in 1934. In so stating we followed the authority of Burke Wilkinson's book, *The Zeal of the Convert* (p. 239). The donor of the portrait, Betsey McClennen Miller, has since sent us a family history which makes it clear that Mrs. Osgood in fact lived until 1941, her ninety-fifth year.

We apologize for perpetuating this error. Although we think it unlikely that any of our readers will feel themselves to have been deceived or seriously discommoded, we like to be as accurate as possible and keep the record straight.

–JWH

C R E D I T S

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society Newsletter was edited by Russell Bastedo.

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of Little House Graphics.