

# Notes from the Nichols House Museum



## Letter from the Executive Director

The spring is a time of anticipation, and this year there are many exciting opportunities ahead to both anticipate and celebrate. As we look forward to the return of gentler weather, the Museum is gearing-up for a busy spring season. March is Membership Month, and we welcome new members at the Nichols House with specially discounted rates this month and encourage all of our members to participate through public programs, tours, exhibitions, and events throughout the year.

The Museum has been very fortunate to acquire items for the Collection through recent donations from members of the Nichols-Shurcliff family. A set of four account books, chronicling daily purchases and transactions by Dr. Arthur Nichols, is a welcome addition to the Archive, along with a notebook belonging to Margaret Nichols. A blanket chest carved by Rose Standish Nichols is a stunning example of her multi-faceted artistry and commitment to handcrafts during the Arts and Crafts movement. Please see the blog post below for more information about Rose Nichols' oak carved chest.



Arthur Nichols



Elizabeth Nichols



Margaret Shurcliff  
(later Shurcliff)



Arthur Shurcliff  
(later Shurcliff)

Through the kindness of an anonymous donor, the Museum has also acquired a unique set of four bronze medals created in 1925 by sculptor Johann Selmer-Larsen depicting Arthur & Elizabeth Nichols and Margaret & Arthur Shurcliff. Through their study and interpretation, these recent gifts are unique and rare opportunities to expand our understanding of the Nichols family and the breadth of their lives while in residence on Mount Vernon street. Stay tuned as we announce opportunities to view and learn about these new acquisitions during the coming months.

This year we enliven the annual Spring Fête with Flamenco flair, featuring dance and music in the Spanish tradition, along with tapas treats and a live auction held at the

Boston Athenaeum on May 24. Rose Nichols traveled extensively throughout Spain while researching her book, *Spanish Pleasure Gardens*, which was published in 1924 and dedicated to her father, Arthur Howard Nichols, "Whose enthusiasm for Spain first aroused my interest in its treasures." We're certain you won't want to miss this very special opportunity to celebrate Spanish style as we raise critical funds to support our cherished Beacon Hill museum.

As of April 3, the Museum's open hours are expanded to Tuesday through Saturday. The Museum staff is excited to begin training a group of volunteer tour guides over the next month, who will be leading tours during the busy season ahead. Please stop by to say hello to our new guides, and share your favorite aspects of the house, collection, and Nichols family story. We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends at the Museum this spring!



Linda Marshall

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## **Membership Month!**

During the month of March, all memberships are being offered at a specially discounted rate. In addition, all new members will receive a complimentary book about the Nichols family.

All memberships include these Core Benefits:

- ~ Advance notification and discounted tickets to many programs and events
- ~ Invitations to exclusive member events
- ~ 20% off in the museum gift shop



## **Click here to join!**

### **Individual (was \$45, now \$35)**

Core benefits plus  
~ Unlimited free admission for one adult

### **Family (was \$75, now \$60)**

Core benefits plus  
~ Unlimited free admission for two adults and any accompanying children under 18

### **Friend (was \$125, now \$100)**

Core benefits plus  
~ Unlimited free admission for five adults and any accompanying children under 18

### **Sponsor (was \$300, now \$250)**

Core benefits plus  
~ Unlimited free admission for five adults and any accompanying children under 18  
~ A private tour for up to 12 guests (contact the museum for more details on themes and how to schedule)

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**Spring into Action:**  
**Observing Arts and Crafts Workmanship in Our New Acquisition**

Spring has sprung at the Nichols House Museum, and our blossoming courtyard isn't the only thing to look forward to this season. The museum is excited to announce three new acquisitions, one of which is the subject of this month's Object Spotlight and relates to Boston's Arts and Crafts Movement in the early twentieth century.

The museum has recently come into the possession of an oak chest carved by Rose Standish Nichols. This chest is not only an extraordinary example of Rose Nichols' skills as a woodcarver but also a clear indicator of the important role women played in the Arts and Crafts Movement of the early twentieth century. In addition, it provides us with unique insights into Rose Nichols' interest in early American decorative arts...



**Keep reading on our blog!**



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**Upcoming Events**

**March 29, 2018 -**

Nichols House Museum Lecture Series:  
Brock Jobe, "Chippendale: The Man and the Myth"

**April 26, 2018 -**

Nichols House Museum Lecture Series:  
Kory Rogers, "Homo Apparatus Versus: Furniture  
Making Today"

**May 24, 2018 -**

*Spring Fête*  
Inspired by Rose Nichols' travels in Spain

**Exhibition**

**June 8, 2018 - October 13, 2018**

"In Their Dwelling Places:

The Nichols Women as Collectors, 1870-1940"

**Patron Events**

**April 18, 2018 -**

Augustus Saint-Gaudens:

Trip to the Currier Museum



For more details, please [click here](#)

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**Spring Fête 2018**  
**Don't miss our party of the year!**



Photo from the 2017 Spring Fête at the Boston Athenaeum.



## **"Nichols after Dark: Corsets and Courtships"**

Past Program - February 15, 2018

Historic costume pieces generously loaned by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and the Prescott House.







STAY CONNECTED:

