

# ATHENÆUM OF PHILADELPHIA



194<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

# THE ATHENÆUM OF PHILADELPHIA

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FISCAL YEAR  
2008/2009



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**Front Cover:** Rendering of Glenwood Public School by architect Samuel Sloan, c. 1851.

**Rear Cover:** Exhibition posters from fiscal year 2008/2009.

# THE ATHENÆUM OF PHILADELPHIA

## 2008/2009

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lea C. (Mrs. Henry) Sherk, President

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Center

Jim Carroll, Imaging Specialist, Regional Digital  
Imaging Center

Denise Fox, Conservation Specialist

Susan Gallo, Receptionist

Louis Vassallo, Building Supervisor

### Emeritus

Roger W. Moss, Executive Director Emeritus

# FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Lea Carson Sherk

The past year has had its share of challenges, as not-for-profit institutions across the country have faced declining contributions and shrinking membership. At the Athenaeum, however, the picture has been somewhat brighter as the result of our Executive Director, Sandra Tatman's careful and enlightened stewardship. She has looked for creative new ways to attract members and has been successful in her quest for new sources of funding.

Your Board of Directors has been similarly engaged in identifying ways to make our organization run more effectively. A Collections Committee has been formed to oversee the Athenaeum's treasure-trove of architectural and fine arts collections and to write policy for access and de-accession of items. For the first time in its history, the Athenaeum has an active Development Committee, ably chaired by Shaun F. O'Malley that seeks new ways to aid our organization in identifying and soliciting funds. Christina Webber chairs the Membership Committee, actively seeking new shareholders and reinstating the Resident Subscriber category of membership and a young members group for those under 35.

In 2009 the Athenaeum's Board has undergone a number of changes. Two long-standing Directors resigned: Dr. Robert J. Gill and John Otto Haas. At the time of his resignation, Dr. Gill was the Athenaeum's longest serving Director, having ably served the Board for 43 years; Mr. Haas had been a Director since 1995. To fill these vacancies, the Board has elected Gay P. Gervin, Shaun F. O'Malley and Maria M. Thompson to augment and strengthen its programs and mission. As

part of these changes Hugh A. A. Sargent remains on the Board but has retired as Vice-President ; and Robert F. Linck, a Board member since 1982, has become Vice-President.

As the Athenaeum ends its first millennial decade, it faces many new challenges to serve its public, protect its collections and properly care for its landmark building. With a re-energized and responsible Board of Directors and its innovative Executive Director, however, it is in an excellent position to meet these challenges and move toward its 200th anniversary in 2014.



Above: Dr. Robert J. Gill.

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Sandra L. Tatman

This has been a year of challenges for the Athenaeum, but also a year when both stability and progress were emphasized. Fiscal challenges, in fact, did not prevent both the Board and staff from initiating new programs and from examining the formal structure of the Athenaeum organization.

Fall 2008 witnessed an expansion of programs with five evening events scheduled from September through December: with the latest in the Martha Beale mystery series launched by Cordelia Biddle; a wonderfully illustrated lecture on the work of Eero Saarinen by Ford Peatross of the Library of Congress and Emeritus Professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania David De Long; Roger W. Moss with Tom Crane to present the third in their University of Pennsylvania Press trilogy; a reception with Chilean ambassador Mariano Fernandez at an event which featured Chilean wines; and James Garrison's lecture on his book *Houses of Philadelphia: Chestnut Hill and the Wissahickon Valley, 1880-1930*, which included photographs from the Athenaeum research collections.

With Winter/Spring 2009 the Athenaeum scheduled six evening programs, co-sponsoring with the American Philosophical Society Robert Roper's lecture on Walt Whitman in the Civil War and hosting the First Annual Alvin Holm Lecture presented by Isabelle Gournay on "Paris on the Schuylkill" for the Philadelphia Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America. The Annual Meeting saw a large turnout for the lecture on transforming Memorial Hall into the Please Touch Museum, and then May followed

with the Athenaeum Literary Award, in 2009 presented to Dr. Walter A. McDougall for his *Throes of Democracy: The Civil War Era, 1829-1877*. In May also the Literary Award Committee gathered a group of past Literary Award winners to talk about their work processes and their writing after winning the Athenaeum award. The Winter/Spring season finished with a lively discussion by archaeologist Rebecca Yamin regarding the connections between what is found in archaeological digs and neighborhood development.



Above: *Historic Landmarks of Philadelphia* exhibition.

Athenaeum exhibitions also increased, with Fall 2008 beginning with "Design Projects: Examples of Student Architectural Work," which showcased items from the Athenaeum collections, including the work from Beryl and Rosemond Curson Price, John Harbeson, Carl Faltermayer, Helena Lukens, Charles M. and Berneice Talley, and Edward Lewis. Seeking to bring student work examples up to contemporary methods, Athenaeum curators solicited work from

architects Robert Breading (retired from H2L2), Joanne Pizzo (H2L2), Hyman Myers (retired from Vitetta) and Edwin Bronstein (Drexel University). We were able to witness the changes in architectural rendering and the technology of producing drawings in this exhibition. In fact, undergraduate work of today was represented by two drawings produced in Google Sketchup by Rose Plummer of Moore College of Art.

Following “Design Projects,” Voith & MacTavish Architects (VMA) stepped into the gallery for a short run to showcase their work in celebration of their 20th Anniversary. Then, at the end of March, Athenaeum members were surprised to see the opening of “Enchanting Simplicity: Children’s Book Illustration Past & Present,” featuring legacy collections as well as donations over the decades by many members. Adding some variety to an already rich offering, Athenaeum members Jacqueline Bagley and Satoko I. Parker lent items from their own collections for the exhibition. Many viewers commented that they did not know that the Athenaeum even possessed a collection of children’s books and were very surprised to note that many of the Frances Hodgson Burnett books (*Little Lord Fauntleroy*, 1888) were acquired as they were

published. Again, in order to add a contemporary line to the exhibition, items were solicited from graduate students or recent graduates of the Book Arts program of the University of the Arts. Graduate students J. Gregory Pizzoli, Ansley Joe, and Terry Peterson kindly allowed us to show their works in process while recent UArts graduate Caroline Garcia presented us with a finished book for display. Also, Michael Pisano, a 2008 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, loaned a book which he had created when he was 14 years old. This last book was a real hit with the student groups from St. Mary Interparochial (led by art teacher Donna Bridy) which we hosted for gallery activities.

In fact, program activities grew so numerous in the 2008/2009 seasons that we decided to revise the method of inviting members to the programs and turned from the individual postcard announcement to a seasonal announcement, thus saving both postage and printing costs. Of course, we also announced programs via the very popular e-newsletter which was initiated in February 2008.

In the midst of this flurry of programming activity, the Athenaeum building began to experience



Above: “Design Projects” exhibition.

further problems with the south party wall, and by December 2008 Keast & Hood, Structural Engineers, were employed for a Concept Phase study regarding the south wall. By spring 2009 the Athenaeum Superintendence Committee and the Athenaeum Board had accepted Keast & Hood's proposal for remediating the south party wall and overseeing the construction necessary to prevent further deterioration. Summer was spent with architects and potential contractors crawling through the third floor, into the attic, and onto the roof in order to plan the construction.

As your Executive Director and the Superintendence Committee have learned over these past two years, our National Historic Landmark Building requires constant vigilance regarding maintenance and repair, and the Superintendence Committee (Robert E. Linck and Hyman Myers) has organized a list of priorities which need attention, including windows, balconies, stucco, HVAC, roof repairs, and painting. In the years that are left before celebration of our 200th anniversary in 2014, we hope to make considerable headway on these repairs, with the south party wall as the beginning.

2008/2009 has been marked as the Great Recession, but here at the Athenaeum watchful economic care, coupled with the generosity of Athenaeum members and friends, helped us get through the first phase of the crisis. Many years ago, Athenaeum Librarian Arthur Kennedy wrote:

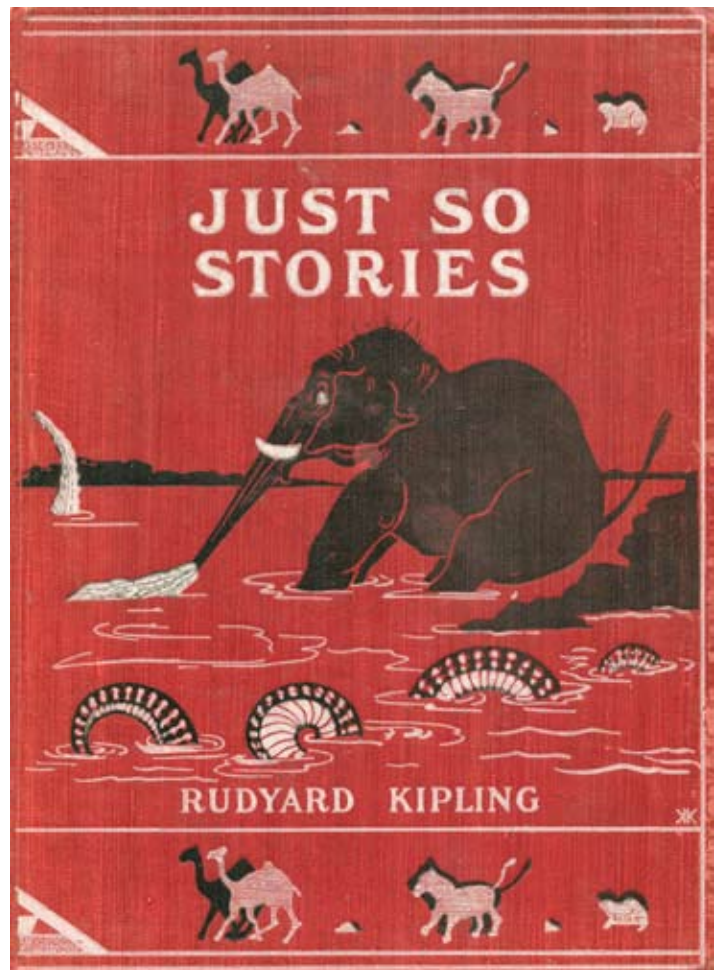
The society welcomes to its membership, as it always has, men and women of kindred tastes; and, while sympathetic with all that is best in modern thought, offers, in a time of bewildering changes, a healthy and cheery example of stability and enduring worth. In its quiet unostentatious way, it continues to serve men and women whose cultural ideals, however tempered by time and the lessons of experience, are at bottom the same as those of the 'young gentlemen of Philadelphia' who called it into being.

As we approach our 200th Anniversary, I hope that we can all weather the "bewildering changes" and maintain the "stability and enduring worth" to which Arthur Kennedy referred.



Above: "Enchanting Simplicity" exhibition.

Below: Rudyard Kipling. *Just So Stories for Little Children*. London: Macmillan & Co., 1902.



# RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

Bruce Laverty, Gladys Brooks Curator of Architecture

Items in a wide range of collecting areas were acquired by the Athenaeum for the Research Collection in fiscal year 2008/2009. Some of the highlights are enumerated below.

## Architectural Drawings

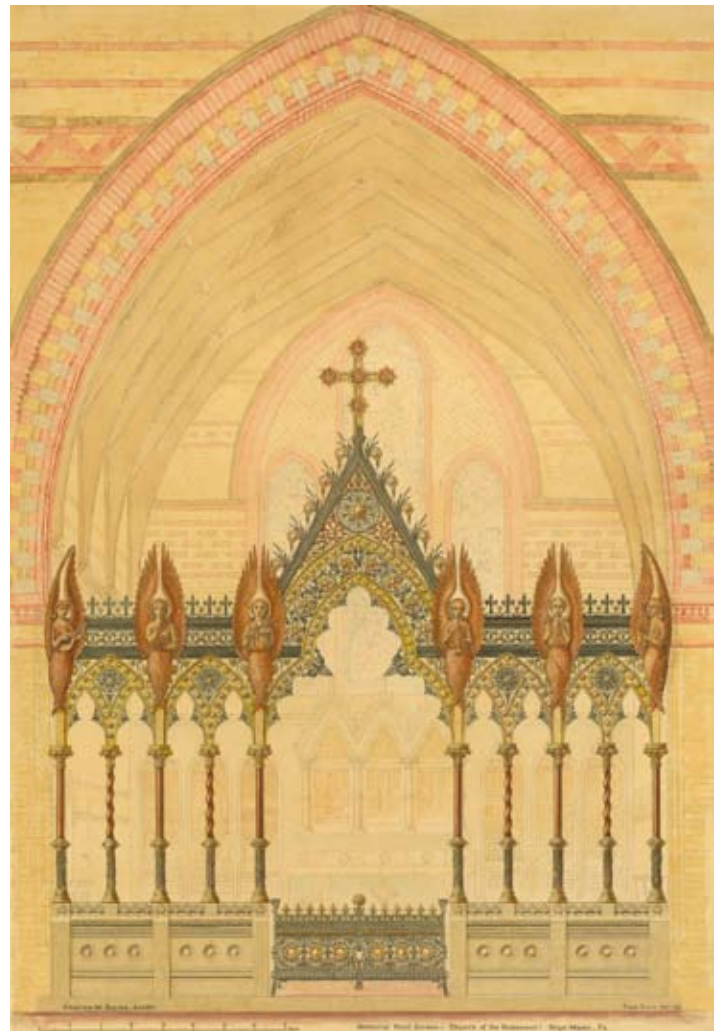
The Athenaeum acquired several items that complement pieces already in the drawing collection. These include an 1885 watercolor drawing of the rood screen by Frank Burns for the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr. A gift of the Church, this item joins two pen and ink renderings of the church by Frank's brother, architect Charles M. Burns, Jr.

In January 2009, Athenian Properties, LLC donated four ink-on-linen drawings from 1890 by Addison Hutton for the Cooper & Conard Store at 9th & Market Streets, a building that would ultimately house the Gimbels Department Store. These join eight Hutton drawings for the same structure that were a gift of William Cramp Sheetz, Jr. several decades ago.

## Photographs

Athenaeum member Bernie Cleff added to his substantial photographic collection by donating a collection of black and white negatives and prints that document the work of sculptor, Daniel Chester French. Included in the set are photographs of French's home and studio, Chesterwood, as well as photos of models and maquettes for this artist's most famous commission, the Lincoln Memorial.

Monika Burke donated a collection that included more than 750 color slides taken by her late mother, Bobbye Burke, that document the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood.



Above: Memorial Rood Screen, Church of the Redeemer. Charles M. Burns, Architect; Frank Burns, Delineator, 1885.





Above: Maquette of Lincoln Memorial statue at Chesterwood, Bernie Cleff, Photographer, 1976.

A generous grant from the Wachs Family Foundation in 2009 provided for the digitization of a small but important collection of audio tapes in the Athenaeum collection. These include lectures by John Harbeson and Buckminster Fuller from the early 1970s and a recording made by Penny Batcheler of a 1965 community meeting at Old Swedes Church to oppose the construction of I-95 and the Cross-town Expressway.

## Archives

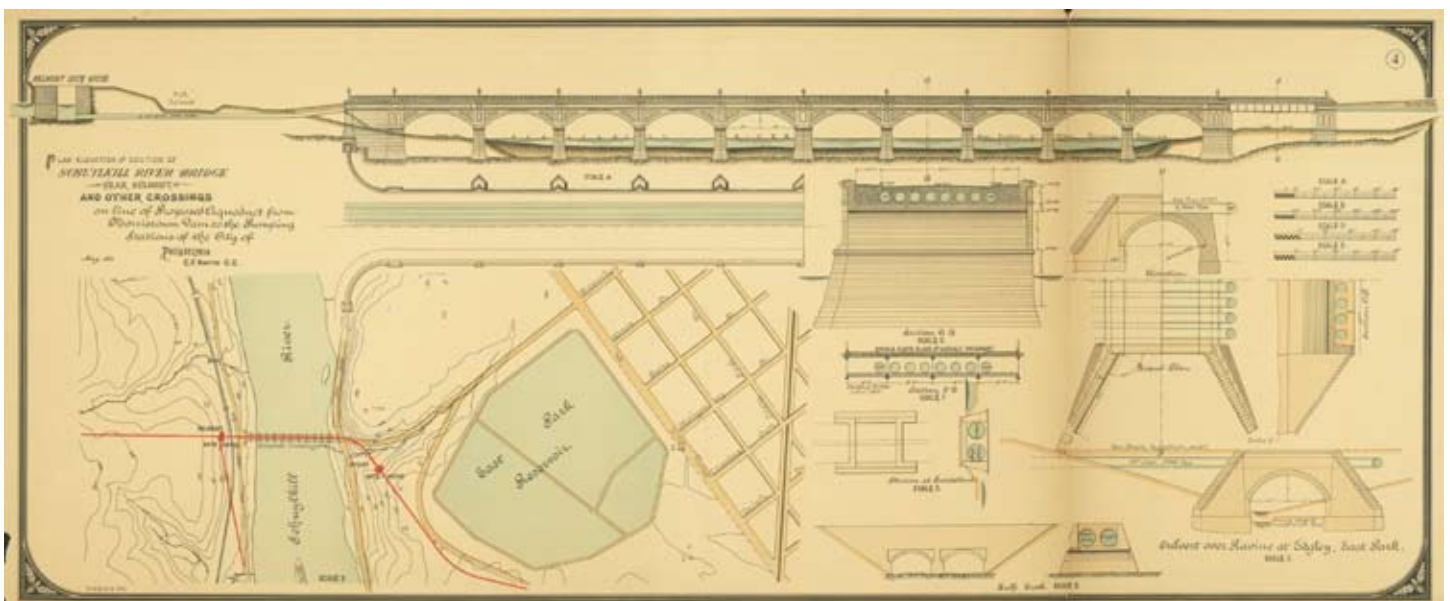
In 2009 the Athenaeum executed a loan agreement with the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) and acquired its archives. APT is a cross-disciplinary, membership organization dedicated to promoting the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings. The Athenaeum will process and make this important preservation collection available for research by July 2010.

## Digital Media

Athenaeum staff continues to add “born digital” images to the Philadelphia Architects & Buildings website. In May, 2009 we acquired a set of digital photos, drawings and reports that documented the Arch and Race Street buildings that were demolished to make way for the westward expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This gift was made by the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority which also provided a generous subvention for the rehousing, processing, and digital mounting of the collection.

## Maps

Among the photographs, books, and prints that Athenaeum member James Halpin Hill donated in 2008 were a number of maps that appeared in a rare, 1891 item entitled, *The Water Supply of the City of Philadelphia By A Proposed Aqueduct from Norristown Dam, and the Acquisition of the Works of the Schuylkill Navigation Co.* The volume documents an impressive, though unbuilt, public works plan and



Above: E. F. Smith, C. E., *The Water Supply of the City of Philadelphia by a Proposed Aqueduct from Norristown Dam, and the Acquisition of the Works of the Schuylkill Navigation Co.*, (1891).

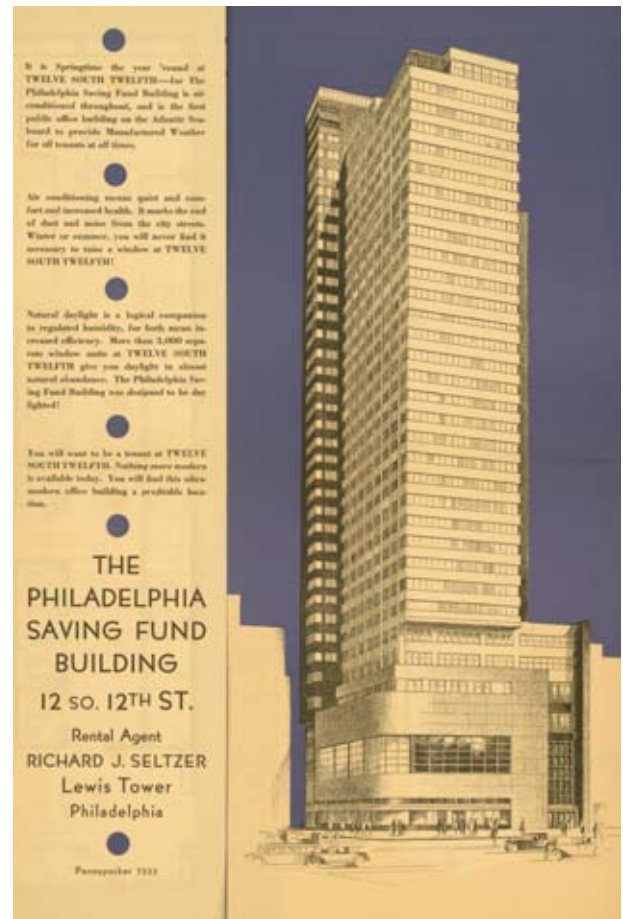
includes components designed by architects, Furness, Evans & Company.

## Trade Materials

In August 2008, the Athenaeum acquired a beautiful four-piece set of 1932 real estate leasing brochures by the Richard J. Seltzer Company for the brand new PSFS Building at 12th & Market Streets. These fold-out pieces were designed to promote the banking, office and retail spaces in the International Style landmark skyscraper

## Objects

The Athenaeum's PSFS collection was also enlarged by the gift of Athenaeum member, John Fatula, who rescued and then donated a stainless steel subway entrance sign that was affixed to the original Market Street façade of the building.



Above: PSFS Building Leasing Brochure, 1932.

Left: Subway Sign from PSFS Building,

Below: Title page from *The Philadelphia Shopping Guide and Housekeeper's Companion for 1859*.



## Books

In 2008, George D. Batcheler donated the library of his late wife Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler to the Athenaeum. This material documented much of her career as historical architect for Independence National Historical Park, but also featured some rare 19th century publications, including *The Philadelphia Shopping Guide and Housekeeper's Companion for 1859*. This pocket directory listed all of the major shopping streets of downtown Philadelphia and listed them by the wares offered on each block. So...if you were a fashionable Victorian woman, you could easily find corset makers on Chestnut Street, milliners on Market Street, soaps on Second Street, perfumes on Pine Street, or booksellers on Broad Street.



## **Unpublished Research Papers**

The Athenaeum's policy of collecting unpublished research papers has continued. Nancy A. Holst donated *Pattern Books and the Suburbanization of Germantown, Pennsylvania in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*, her 2008 University of Delaware Ph.D. Dissertation. As a Charles E. Peterson Fellow, Ms. Holst conducted much of her research at the Athenaeum and closely examined John Ridell's seminal 1861 house-pattern book, *Architectural Designs for Model Country Residences*.

## **American Architects and Buildings**

In 2009 negotiations began with Carnegie Mellon University to create the Pittsburgh Architects and Buildings (PghAB) project, the newest partner in the Athenaeum's American Architects and Buildings Project. Pittsburgh joins Philadelphia and Baltimore as participating regions in this valuable on-line resource. Under the leadership of project manager, Lu Donnelly, PghAB will add vital data on the architectural heritage of Western Pennsylvania.

## **Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network**

With funding from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia the Athenaeum added more than 1000 additional map images to the to the Philadelphia GeoHistory network site in 2009. We also expanded our list of map contributors to include the Philadelphia Water Department, the Fairmount Park Historic Resource Archive and the Historical Society of Frankford. The GeoHistory page [www.philageohistory.org](http://www.philageohistory.org) is rapidly approaching PAB in the number of individual users and page views recorded.

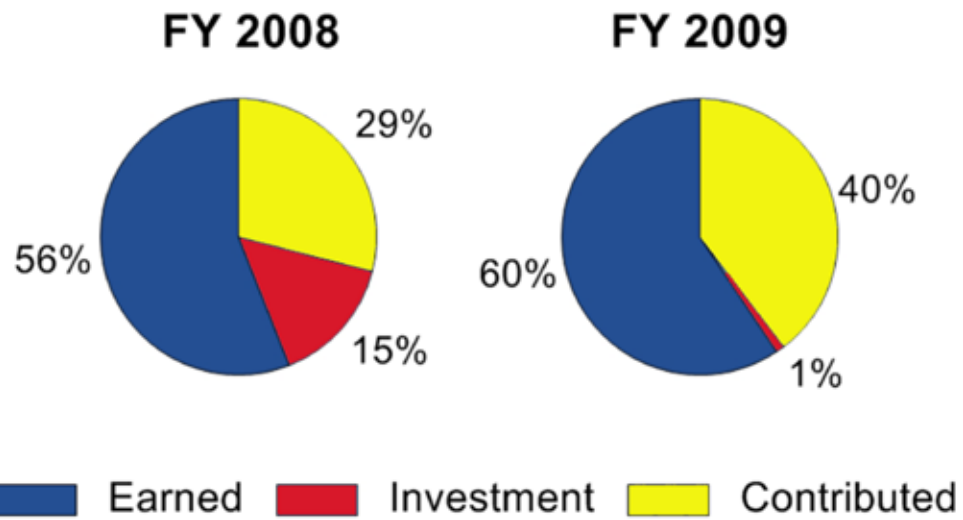
# THE ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA

## STATEMENTS OF OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

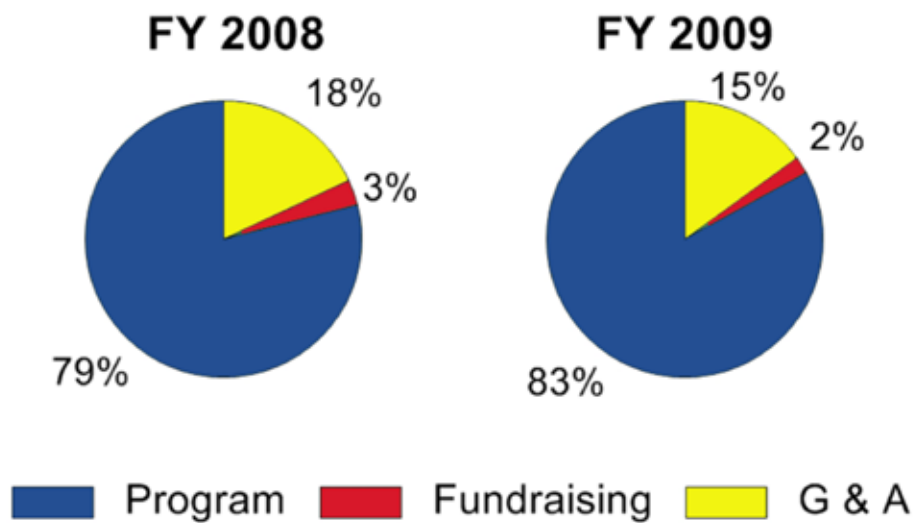
Years ended June 30, 2009 and 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Revenues and Other Support</b>		
Member dues	\$ 147,493	\$ 157,900
New memberships	22,000	23,200
Endowment income designated for current operations	271,130	248,724
Other investment income	9,180	16,343
Income from dedicated trust	255,881	287,000
Programs		
Members	5,260	4,020
Contributions	271,067	189,959
Outside services	123,076	97,700
Miscellaneous income	49,883	28,044
Sales of publications	<u>4,875</u>	<u>8,450</u>
	1,159,845	1,061,340
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	<u>137,123</u>	<u>107,395</u>
<b>Total revenues and other support</b>	<u>1,296,968</u>	<u>1,168,735</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs – exhibitions and lectures	53,647	63,745
Salaries	466,354	487,677
Payroll taxes	37,608	39,420
Employees' medical insurance	81,018	105,350
Staff retirement	27,469	35,041
Collection and acquisition	53,907	59,540
Research fellowships and awards	29,323	26,153
Printing	3,977	10,203
Outside services	82,882	28,704
Utilities	71,624	67,173
Building maintenance and service contracts	36,561	47,475
Insurance	31,549	32,827
Legal and accounting	15,428	15,466
Office	28,791	50,618
Collection storage off-site	37,536	37,451
Professional society dues	4,290	2,655
Miscellaneous	26,088	19,110
Conservation of collections	<u>62,309</u>	<u>40,343</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>1,150,361</u>	<u>1,168,951</u>
<b>Excess (deficit) of operating revenue over expenses before depreciation</b>	146,607	(216)
<b>Non-Cash Charges/Other Changes</b>		
Depreciation expense	(126,544)	(125,952)
Other transfers	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>
<b>Excess (deficit) of operating revenue over expenses</b>	<u>\$ 20,063</u>	<u>\$ (91,168)</u>

## Revenue



## Expense



# NAMED BOOK FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

Roland Taylor Addis Book Fund  
Edward Lee Altemus Book Fund  
Architectural Advisory Committee Endowment  
Architecture Acquisitions Fund  
Arronson Foundation Conservation Fund  
Thomas G. Ashjean III Book Fund  
Graham Gaylord Ashmead Book Fund  
Clare Austin Baird Book Fund  
Barra Foundation Symposium Fund  
Isaac Barton Fund  
Arnold A. Bayard Fund  
Alice Beardwood Book Fund  
Alice Beardwood Lecture Fund  
Emma Beerman Book Fund  
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Gladys Brooks Fund  
Richard Bull Fund  
Struthers and Katherine Newlin Burt Book Fund  
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Barry F. Wiksten Building Fund  
Emily W. and Franklin H. Williams Conservation Fund  
Moses A. and Mollie Zebooker Memorial Book Fund

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