

# CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION RECEIVES MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT



October 28, 2015

The Cambridge Historical Commission has been awarded a \$7,800 unrestricted grant by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) for fiscal year 2016.

The Historical Commission, the city's historic preservation agency, maintains a dynamic public archive focusing on Cambridge's rich architectural and social history. The grant will support our ongoing commitment to increasing public accessibility to the collections by funding two part-time Archive/Research Assistants. Working under the direction of the Commission's new full-time Archivist, the assistants will help to process donations, including writing new research aids and posting online; undertake a major digitization initiative; and scan and post selections from our unique collections of photographs.

The Commission will continue to plan and participate in the popular annual Cambridge Open Archives event.

*In June 2015 visitors explored "New Acquisitions & Old Treasures" at eight local archives. Several new repositories participated—the MIT Museum's Hart Nautical Collection and the archives of three Harvard museums—and old favorites returned.*

The Historical Commission conserves the historic portraits of Cambridge mayors and officials that are displayed on the second floor of Cambridge City Hall. All of the subjects have been identified, but most of the paintings lack name plates and other information. Now, a longtime Commission volunteer (and retired *Boston Globe* reporter) has studied the men and written brief

biographies. Using a portion of the grant, the Commission will have the texts mounted on heavy stock and installed beside each portrait.

*James Dinan Green (1798-1882)  
Portrait by George Albert Frost, 1896*

*The town of Cambridge officially became a city in 1846, and Green was chosen as its first mayor. A man of "integrity, practical wisdom, and conscientious thoroughness," he helped transform Cambridge from a town comprising three oft-contending villages – Old Cambridge, East Cambridge, and Cambridgeport – into a cohesive city (Cambridge Chronicle, Aug. 30, 1896). Green established the police and fire departments and implemented street paving and drainage works.*

The Cultural Investment Portfolio is a unique grant and advocacy program that offers unrestricted, multi-year grants to nonprofit arts, humanities, and interpretive science organizations in Massachusetts. Grants are offered at three levels, and the Commission participates at the Partner level, the highest. Partners have a long

funding history with the MCC and a strong record of providing public cultural programming to the residents of Massachusetts.

The Historical Commission deeply appreciates the ongoing work of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is grateful for the legislature's important and generous support of the Council. Our organization and many others throughout the Commonwealth depend on the assistance of the Council to enable us to offer high quality cultural programming to a variety of audiences.

<p><b>Monday, June 15, 4:00-6:00 PM</b></p> <p>Longfellow House-Washington's HQ National Historic Site Portrait of unidentified Chinese woman, 1873 Charles Appleton Longfellow Papers</p> <p>Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute Tintype album, Almy family and friends, ca. 1900-1905</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, June 16, 3:00-5:00 PM</b></p> <p>Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Two young Japanese women in traditional dress Photo by Baron Raimund Stillfried von Rathenitz PMA00083.3.2223.334</p> <p>Harvard Semitic Museum Workmen's paybook Samaria Excavation Archives</p>
<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cambridge Open Archives</b> <b>NEW ACQUISITIONS &amp; OLD TREASURES</b> June 15-18, 2015 Event is free, but registration is required! Sign up at <a href="mailto:archives@cambridgema.gov">archives@cambridgema.gov</a>. Send questions there or call Cambridge Historical Commission, 617 349 4683. Please specify day or days. Details will be sent.</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday, June 17, 6:00-8:00 PM</b></p> <p>Harvard Art Museums Exterior of Fogg Museum from roof of Robinson Hall, ca. 1942 Fogg History Photos</p> <p>Cambridge Room, Cambridge Public Library</p> <p>Rico, Jefferson Park, 1974 Photo © Olive Pierce</p>	<p><b>Thursday, June 18, 3:00-5:00 PM</b></p> <p>MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections</p> <p>MIT Education Group</p> <p>MIT Museum's Hart Nautical Collection</p> <p>Town and outer harbor of Gloucester and the appearance of the Sea Serpent... on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1817—from the original sketch by Captain John Beach Jr.</p>

