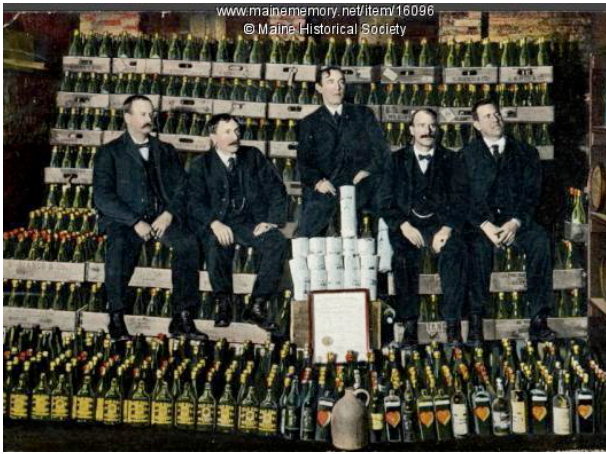


Sign up now! **DISCOUNTED** registration for Members!

EXTRAORDINARY HISTORIES OF ORDINARY THINGS

A Maine Historical Society Book Discussion Program



What does it mean to examine the history of a place, a country, or even the entire world, through the lens of a single object or concept?

From the many fascinating historical narratives in this genre that have popped up in recent years, we'll examine four particularly rich examples: the evolution of **artificial light**; how the lowly **codfish** changed the world; the **toothpick** as a paradigm for American manufacturing; and the influence of **rum** on the development of the New World. Each session includes one book and supplemental short readings.

Image: *Portland City Hall Rum Room, ca. 1930 (MMN #16096)*

Part of Maine Historical Society's ongoing public program series

Facilitated by Larissa Vigue Picard, Community Partnership Coordinator, Maine Historical Society

WHEN?

Feb. 28, Mar. 27, Apr. 25, May 22 @ 7PM... **Beverages Served**

WHERE?

Lecture Hall, Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress Street, Portland

COST?

\$10 reg. for Members / \$20 Non-members

Books offered @ \$48 package discount (20% off retail!); or get them on your own
Supplemental readings will be provided or are available online

REGISTER:

By Friday, January 27! Limited to 30 Participants. Three easy ways:

- 1) visit: mainehistory.org: click on "News and Events" to print registration form **OR**
- 2) call: 774-1822 x215 **OR**
- 3) email: lvpicard@mainehistory.org

READINGS (books to be purchased in red; shorter readings will be provided or are online):

Tuesday, February 28

- *Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light*, Jane Brox
- "Electricity," Jim Heynen, from *This Old Farm: A Treasury of Family Farm Memories*, Michael Dregni, ed.

Tuesday, March 27

- *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World*, Mark Kurlansky
- "The Catching of the Cod," William J. Henderson, from *The Century Magazine*
- "NOAA Cod Stock Assessment Shakes Maine's Groundfishing Industry," Josie Huang, MPBN, 11/2/11

Wednesday, April 25

- *The Toothpick*, Henry Petroski
- excerpt from *A Day's Work: A Sampler of Historic Maine Photographs, 1860-1920 (Part II)*, compiled and annotated by W. H. Bunting

Tuesday, May 22

- *And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails*, Wayne Curtis
- "Rum-Running," from *The Salt Book*, edited by Pamela Wood
- "Molasses to Rum" lyrics, Sherman Edwards, from the musical *1776*

About the Facilitator: Larissa Vigue Picard runs Maine Historical Society's Community Mobilization Program, an extensive grant and outreach program based on Maine Memory Network, MHS's statewide digital museum. In that capacity she works extensively with local historical societies, libraries, and schools. She also manages MHS's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Formerly, she was Director of Community Programs for Vermont Humanities Council, for which she oversaw a statewide reading and discussion program. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in English Literature from Bates and Middlebury Colleges, respectively, and has facilitated a wide variety of reading groups.

EXTRAORDINARY HISTORIES OF ORDINARY THINGS

Reading and Discussion Program

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Friday, January 27. Space limited.

To register using this form, please return it with payment to:

Larissa Vigue Picard
Maine Historical Society
489 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Email: lvpicard@mainehistory.org Or: Call 774-1822 x215 (credit card payment only)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

FEES (please choose the correct amounts):

Registration: \$10 MHS Member / \$20 Non-member \$ _____

Books: \$48 package discount / \$0 (will get books on own) \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

PAYMENT:

Check enclosed for \$ _____ OR charge to (circle): Visa / MC

Card no. _____ Exp. date _____

3-digit security code (from back of card) _____ Signature _____

Cancellation Policy: No refunds after January 27 UNLESS the program is cancelled by MHS. Cancellation by MHS would only occur if fewer than six people have registered as of January 28. Anyone registered at that point will receive a full refund.