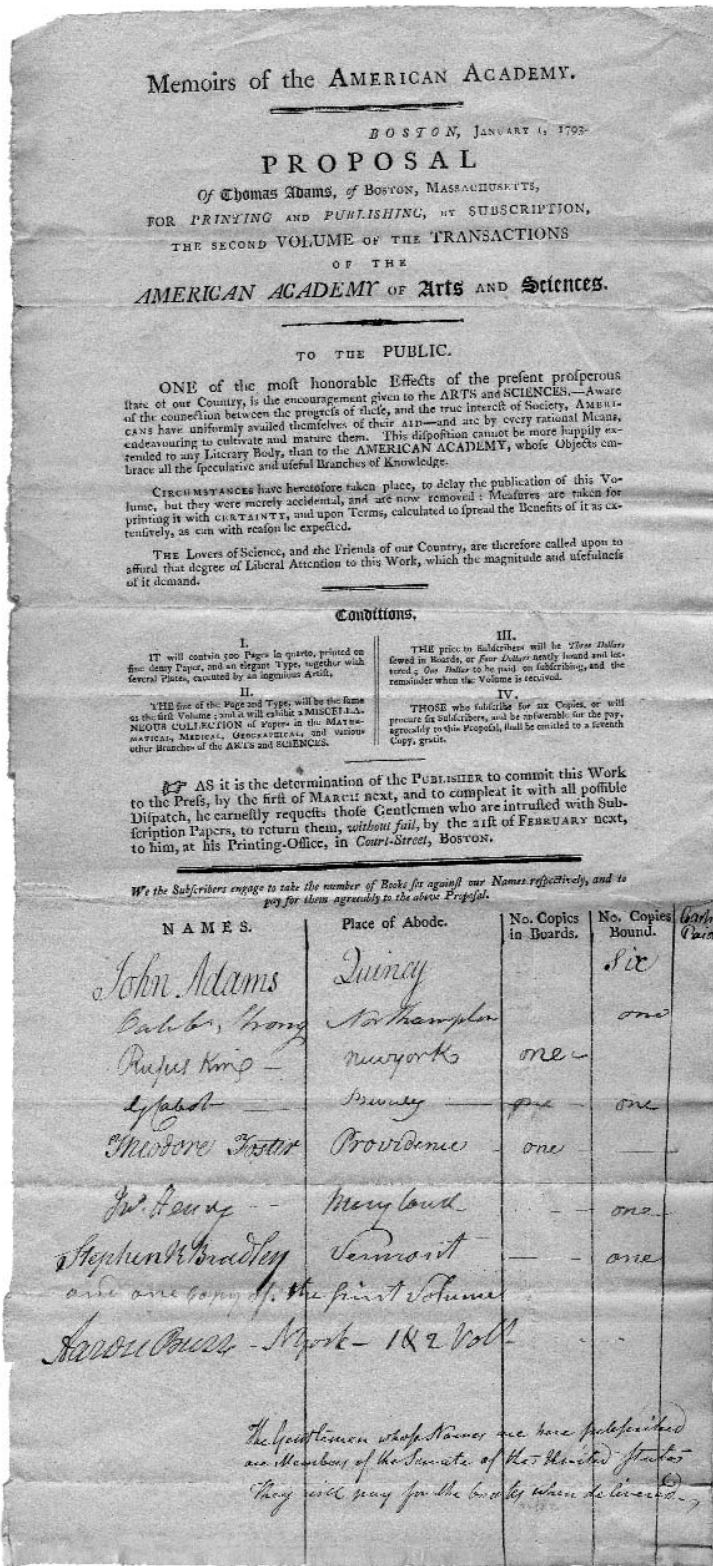


New Archive Facility



Through the generous support of an anonymous donor, the Academy now has a state-of-the-art archival facility at its Cambridge headquarters. For the first time in its 227-year history, the Academy will be able to house all of its archival resources in a space designed specifically for the cataloging and storage of historic materials. Documents, publications, and works of art, placed on deposit at other institutions when the Academy was unable to store its own collections, will be brought together in a single repository.

The Academy's archive project has three closely related goals: to create an appropriate, climate controlled archive facility, which has been accomplished; to organize, catalog, and preserve the Academy's records in accordance with current archival practices; and to provide scholars and the wider public with access to the archives through guides to the collections posted on the Academy's website, the digitization of selected documents, and exhibits, both online and at the House in Cambridge. Funds to expand and sustain these activities are being sought.

The oldest materials date back to the founding of the Academy in 1780. Copies of the original charter and statutes, signatures of the founding members, and minutes of the first Stated Meeting held on May 30, 1780, appear in the earliest handwritten manuscripts. In succeeding decades, the holdings chronicle the Academy's transition from a Boston society of learned citizens in the eighteenth century; to an increasingly specialized body of researchers in the nineteenth; to a national and international research center, comprised of distinguished individuals from all fields and professions, in the twentieth. They provide a unique window on the historic, scientific, and civic development of the nation from the perspective of scientists and scholars, writers and artists, and political and corporate leaders.

The Academy's archive project benefits from the advice provided by the Archive Committee, which includes Joyce Appleby (University of California, Los Angeles), Bernard Bailyn (Harvard University), Ellen Dunlap (American Antiquarian Society), Brenda Lawson (Massachusetts Historical Society), Bernard Margolis (Boston Public Library), Robert C. Post (Yale Law School), Megan Sniffin-Marinoff (Harvard University Archives), and Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia). ■

Subscription list for the second volume of the *Memoirs of the American Academy*, issued by Boston printer and publisher Thomas Adams, January 1, 1793. The Academy sent blank subscription forms to members so they could gather signatures of people who pledged to buy a stated number of copies. This particular subscription form was signed by Vice President (and Academy founder) John Adams, Academy founding member Caleb Strong (U.S. Senator from Massachusetts), and six other senators: Rufus King of New York; George Cabot of Beverly, Massachusetts; Theodore Foster of Providence, Rhode Island; John Henry of Maryland; Stephen Bradley of Vermont; and Aaron Burr of New York.



Spring 2006: basement storage area before the start of renovations.



Academy's archivist Beth Carroll-Horrocks sorting material.



Spring 2007: newly installed compact shelving for archives.

The newly renovated 1,225-square-foot archive facility includes:

- Compact storage units and appropriate shelving
- Storage for artwork, textiles, oversized documents, and artifacts
- An alarm system to monitor for intrusion and for environmental emergencies
- An independent heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system to ensure maintenance of appropriate temperature and humidity
- Fire and water alarms
- A new work area