

Collection Update for April 2018

3,369 new items were added in April including:

- ✓ Boston Public Library - Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901). Prints and Drawings (351 items)
- ✓ Boston Public Library - Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). Prints and Drawings (8 items)
- ✓ Franklin Historical Museum - Images of World War I Battlefields (48 items)
- ✓ Jacob Edwards Library - New Topographical Atlas of Worcester County (3 items)
- ✓ National Archives at Boston - Watertown Arsenal Photographs (2,833 items)
- ✓ Noble & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation (32 items)

102,570 Item views

568,911 Total item-level records

255,702 Total hosted items



Virtual Reality Comes to the Annual Conference!

More than 130 people enjoyed our 12th Annual Conference held on April 10, 2018 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Professor Joseph Nugent of Boston College gave an excellent keynote address on his *Joycestick* program where he and his students are implementing a virtual reality game based on James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Conference goers were able to try their hand at wearing the virtual reality goggles, walking through rooms, and picking up 'butter and kidneys' to cook on the stove. Five students received complimentary registrations and will be writing blog entries about their experience at the conference.



Happy Birthday, Audubon!

John James Audubon (1785-1851), famous for his ornithological illustrations, celebrated his birthday on April 26th. Both the National Audubon Society and many state-based bird conservation organizations (like Mass Audubon) are named for him. This chromolithograph of a glossy ibis is from the [Forbes Library](#).

Learn more about Audubon's life at [John James Audubon: The Making of an American](#) from the American Corporation for Public Broadcasting's audio archive.

Want to see more drawings by Audubon?

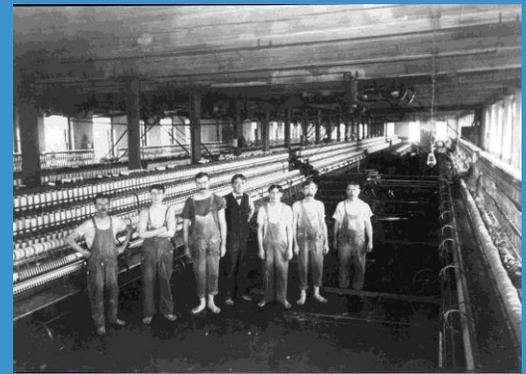
Check out the Boston Public Library's plates from his [Birds of America](#). The first edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* was issued through a collaboration between Audubon and the London printmakers Robert Havell, Sr. and Robert Havell, Jr., with some plates engraved by William H. Lizars, of Edinburgh. The prints were originally sold by subscription and issued periodically in numbered sets of five. In total, *Birds of America* consists of 87 numbered sets containing 435 leaves of printed plates, all hand-painted in watercolor.

#YearoftheBird

2018 is the #YearoftheBird to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)—a pivotal piece of legislation that continues to save countless birds' lives, and there's an abundance of birds to be found in Digital Commonwealth. The Hudsonian Godwit makes at least three appearances, including this carving from the [West Yarmouth Library](#). Having trouble identifying the godwit? It's the one on the right!

#NationalTextilesDay!

National Textiles Day was approved by the Registrar at National Day Calendar in 2016 and is celebrated on May 3rd. Massachusetts has a rich history in textiles. When Francis Cabot Lowell, the founder of the Boston Manufacturing Company, which later became Boston Associates, passed away in 1817, Boston Associates opened a new mill town, much larger than previous ones, and named it Lowell. It was the first large scale mill town in America and gave rise to the establishment of around 45 additional mill towns in Massachusetts during the Industrial Revolution.

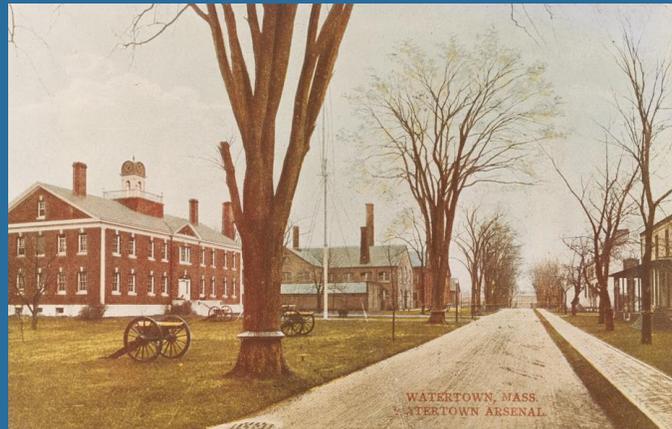


Workers in the Wood Mill, Lawrence, MA

Franklin Historical Museum: World War I



National Archives: Watertown Arsenal



Selected Items Newly Added to the Collection

Leslie Ronald Jones

For other bird related items, check out the collection of Leslie Jones photographs. Leslie Jones worked for the Boston Herald-Traveler newspaper between the years 1917 and 1956. He was educated at the Farm and Trade School on Thompson Island. Jones first worked as a pattern-maker but had long held an interest in photography. While working in a Boston factory, he continued developing himself as a freelance photographer. It was not until Jones unfortunately lost two of his fingers to the factory machinery, however, that he made this avocation his profession. He joined the Boston Herald-Traveler staff in 1917. In his 39 years at the newspaper, Jones covered everything from a fox stuck in a tree on the Boston Common, to Charles Lindbergh's U.S. tour after the aviator crossed the Atlantic.

Ducks from the Leslie Jones Collection



**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
TURNED 218 ON APRIL 24TH!**

John Adams approved \$5000 to buy "such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress" on April 24, 1800, which led to the Library of Congress that you see in this postcard from Boston Public Library's [Tichnor Brothers Collection](#). Other similar postcards are available in the Digital Commonwealth collection.