

- **The James Lane Clock** was acquired in 1815 when the Athenaeum occupied rental space above Anthony Finley's Bookstore at 4th and Chestnut streets. It was moved to the new building in 1847. The clock's case has mahogany and crotch mahogany veneers. The clock's main dial includes a sub dial to mark the passage of seconds and a calendar aperture to tell the day of the month. In the lunette above is a moon dial flanked by global maps. It is still working and has a clock key to wind it.

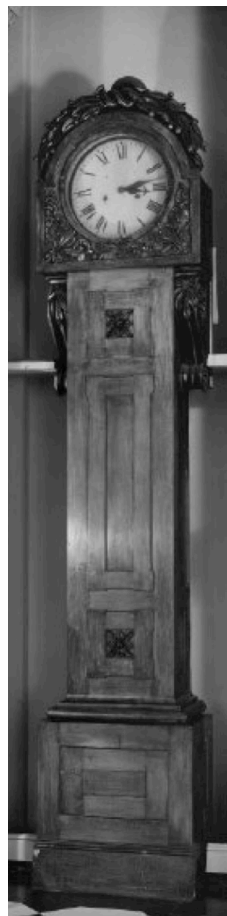


CHESS ROOM

- **The Chessboard Book Cabinet** was originally part of the collection of George Allen, a chess enthusiast whose collection of chess books, manuscripts and prints was one of the finest in the 19th century. This was donated to the Athenaeum in 1894 after Professor Allen's death in 1876. Its cornice is decorated with symbols of the chess game. In the center is the board of painted squares, topped by a king's crown and flanked by two "bishop" finials; at each corner stands a "castle" as it would on an actual chess board.

BUSCH ROOM

This room was originally known as the Newspaper Room, and in the 1990s it became the Busch Room. The majority of the portraits have labels accompanying them.



- **The Isaiah Lukens Tall Clock** was made by Isaiah Lukens, "a well-known clockmaker of about fifty years ago, for the Philadelphia Bank, where it remained until the bank removed it on June 30, 1859, from the old building at the S.W. corner of Chestnut and 4th streets, to its present quarters. When it was exposed at public sale by M. Thomas & sons, auctioneers, it was bought by Henry Bird, Librarian of the Athenaeum, for \$23." The note found inside is dated January 30, 1897.

- In this room are the two **Portraits of Lydia Leaming Smith**. The first painted by Thomas Sully in 1806 before her marriage at age 17. The second portrait was painted in 1832 by Henry Inman of her at age 43 after 9 children with her prominent lawyer husband, who was an Athenaeum board member from 1826-1831.

- **The Barometer** is dated pre 1854; it is in a long walnut case with a brass face behind a glass door. It is located in the right corner of the room and it is believed to be acquired from the makers Martin and Joseph Fisher. There is a mark on the brass face that says, "Fisher Philadelphia."

THE ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA A WALKING TOUR



HALLWAY

- **The Seneca Lukens Clock** is in a mahogany case with a moon-phase dial marked "Seneca Lukens/ Fecit 1828." It was originally made for his daughter and still works today. Directly above the dial face is a hand painted lunette that features a revolving, hand painted, rosy faced character of a full moon shining over both land and sea.
- **The William Penn Bronze Statue** was made by Alexander M. Calder in 1886. It is the Plaster Maquette of the final version for the 37ft figure atop city hall.



- **The Sculpture of Pauline Bonaparte Borghese** was made in 1805 by Antonio Canova. It is almost identical to the statue he made in Rome, except this version has no bracelet and it has a non-extended pinky. She is posing as Venus Victorious who gained the title when Venus was chosen over the goddesses Minerva and Juno. Pauline was the favorite sister of Napoleon and Joseph Bonaparte due to her magnificent beauty. Pauline enjoyed creating scandals in society, and for years she had deliberately made a mystery of whether she herself had posed for the body of this sculpture. Her brother Joseph once said, "...she was very beautiful, but too ambitious, nothing could satisfy her."
- **The Pair of Argand Lamps (cross hall)** were invented by Ari Argand in 1780s and allowed for a brighter light (10 candles worth) than any other lamp of the time. Cornelius & Co. of Philadelphia adopted the style and patented the Solar Lamp, which used lard as a burning agent.

- This version of **Paul Beck Jr's portrait (cross hall)** was painted by Thomas Sully in 1860, but this is a copy of the original painted in 1813, however, on the back Sully writes 1819. Beck was a leader in civic improvements, education and cleaning up the city for Philadelphia.

- **The Walter Portraits** are located in the first stair walkway. In the middle is **Thomas Ustick Walter** and to your right is his first wife, both painted by **John Neagle** in 1835. Walter is known as the architect of the dome and the wings of the U.S. Capitol building and is one of the founders of the American Institute of Architects. To the left of Walter is the portrait of his second wife whom he married a year after his first wife died. She is painted by **Emmanuel Leutze** in 1852. He is known for painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware*. The Athenaeum owns 450 drawings and 30,000 manuscripts of Walter's.

GRAND STAIRCASE

- **The Stag Hunt** was painted by Sir Charles Robert Leslie in 1814, which has various titles, including *King Alexander and the Stag*, after Benjamin West. In a letter to his benefactor, Leslie told him he was going to have Thomas Sully stretch and varnish the painting for him. Under the painting is a table by Charles White. The table at the top of the stairs is an Anthony Gabriel Quervelle Pier table; both were made around 1830-1835.
- **The "Candle" Chandelier** is located in the center of staircase and made between 1845 and 1855. It is the Embodiment of American Rococo Revival. This fixture is a two tiered, eighteen branched, gilt "candle" chandelier attributed to Cornelius & Co. of Philadelphia.



READING ROOM

- When the **Display Case** is out, there are books from the vault all relating to a certain theme chosen by the librarian for changing exhibitions.
- **The Chairs** were believed to have been part of the furniture acquired for the new building in 1847. There is photographic evidence of the furniture being used since the early 1900s. The chairs were originally accompanied by footstools, ashtrays and spittoons. Now there is only one surviving footstool in the room.

- **The American Water Cooler** was purchased in 1873; it is enclosed in a pine column frame. It is of Victorian form common in the West Indies, on a marble plinth with a lead lined drawer that has two compartments, one to catch the drips and one to store the staff lunches. It worked as a primitive refrigerator system. The Minutes of the Athenaeum for July 21, 1873 state: "To Isaac Williams, water cooler, filter, and stand: \$19.00."



- **The Terrestrial Globe** was made in London in 1867 and came to the Athenaeum in the late 1860s/ early 1870s. In 1928 it was turned upside down to follow Commander Byrd on his Antarctic exploration. In the mid-Atlantic region there is an inscription in ink "here the Mary Flint was dismasted," who wrote this and what tragedy happened, no one knows. It is very fragile, please ask the librarian for a magnifying glass to get a closer inspection.

The lighting fixtures (gasoliers) are all original from 1847 by Cornelius & Co. made for the Athenaeum when it moved into this building. They were converted to electric lamps in 1923.