

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Historic New England Announces Annual Book Prizes and Prize for Collecting Works on Paper at the 2025 Historic New England Summit

(Haverhill, MA) November 14, 2025 -- Historic New England has announced the winners of its 2025 Book Prize and the Prizes for Collecting Works on Paper, recognizing outstanding scholarship and preservation in the region's cultural history.

Now in its thirty-first year, the Historic New England Book Prize celebrates publications that deepen understanding of life in New England through architecture, landscape, and material culture. Since its inception, the Book Prize has honored more than seventy publications that illuminate New England's past and present.

The 2025 Historic New England Book Prize was awarded to *Jeremy Frey: Woven* (Rizzoli Electa), edited by Theresa Secord and Ramey Mize. The book, which accompanied Frey's acclaimed exhibition at the Portland Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Bruce Museum, explores the artistry and innovation of the celebrated Wabanaki basketmaker and the broader traditions of Indigenous craft.

Two books received 2025 Honor Book recognition:

- *Henry Hobson Richardson: Drawings from the Collection of Houghton Library, Harvard University* (The Monacelli Press) by Jay Wickersham, Chris Milford, and Hope Mayo, with an essay by James F. O'Gorman. The publication brings to light over 4,000 largely unpublished drawings by the influential nineteenth-century architect, offering new insight into his creative process and collaborations.
- *Art, Ecology, and the Resilience of a Maine Island: The Monhegan Wildlands* (Rizzoli Electa) by Barry A. Logan, Jennifer Pye, and Frank H. Goodyear III, which intertwines art, science, and conservation to tell the story of Monhegan Island's evolving landscape and the power of preservation.

Now in its sixteenth year, Historic New England's Prize for Collecting Works on Paper honors individuals and organizations that preserve and share significant visual and documentary collections related to the region's history.

The 2025 Prizes for Collecting Works on Paper are awarded to:

- Claudia T. Covert, Special Collections Librarian and Curator of Collections at the Fleet Library, Rhode Island School of Design, for her leadership in rescuing and preserving the archives of Reed & Barton, the renowned Taunton, Massachusetts silversmith firm that operated from 1824 to 2015. Under her direction, more than 11,000 design drawings and documents were saved from destruction and are now housed and digitized at the Fleet Library, ensuring this vital design history remains accessible to future generations.

- Michael A. Shortell, collector, framer, and curator from Hartford, Connecticut, for his decades-long commitment to collecting and promoting works on paper, paintings, and photography that document New England’s artistic and cultural heritage. His extensive collection includes prints by Winslow Homer and the Kellogg Brothers, etchings from the American Etching Revival, and rare works by Stephen Crane and Jack London. Through exhibitions, publications, and his active involvement with the American Historical Print Collectors Society, Shortell shares his collections widely and supports artists in his community.

Celebrate the annual Book Prize and hear remarks from the winners during our Night of Prizes webinar In January of 2026. The event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required.

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About the Historic New England Book Prize

Historic New England’s Book Prize celebrates outstanding publications that deepen understanding of life in New England—past and present—through the region’s architecture, landscapes, and material culture. The prize recognizes works in fields such as the decorative arts, archaeology, historic preservation, and the history of photography, among other related subjects.

About Historic New England Collecting Works on Paper

The Prize for Collecting Works on Paper was first awarded in 2010. It honors collectors or dealers who have assembled or helped save significant collections related to New England and its assorted communities or the nation.

About Historic New England

Historic New England—founded as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in 1910—is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive independent preservation organization in the United States. Historic New England welcomes the public to thirty-eight exceptional museums and landscapes, including several coastal farms. The organization operates a major collections and archives center in Haverhill, Massachusetts, a reading room in downtown Boston, and has the world’s largest collection of New England artifacts, comprising more than 125,000 decorative arts and objects and 1.5 million archival documents including photographs, architectural drawings, manuscripts, and ephemera. Engaging education programs for youth, adults, and preservation professionals, and award-winning exhibitions and publications are offered in person and virtually. The Historic New England Preservation Easement program is a national leader and protects 128 privately owned historic properties throughout the region.

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