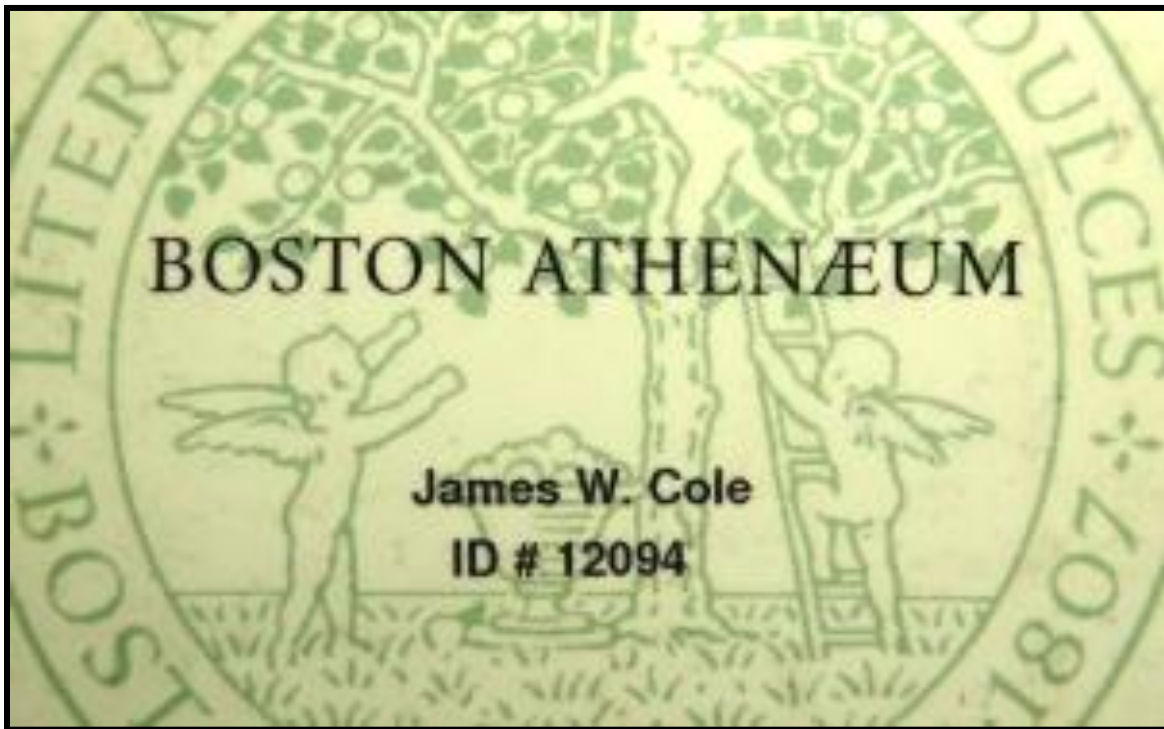


Bathens



The building directly behind Paul Revere and extending to the right corner is the prestigious Boston Athenaeum. Founded in 1807, this private library is a treasure trove not just of books but also works of art from the likes of Chester Harding, Gilbert Stuart, Daniel Chester French and many others. Former members include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Daniel Webster, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.,

Henry David Thoreau, John Kennedy and James Cole. (OK, I am James Cole and thus admit that placing my name in the anchor position of former members was a shameless way to associate myself with those world-renown personas but, until I fork out the cash to join again, the fact remains...I am a former member.)

Current members David McCullough ("John Adams" "Truman") Doris Kearns Goodwin ("The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys") and Ken Burns ("Civil War" mini-series) did a large amount of their research within this historical edifice. A majority of George Washington's personal library reside here while, on the other end of the spectrum, a book with a

cover made of human skin (yikes!) from a convicted murderer also makes it's home here.

Speaking of George Washington, for decades the Athenaeum was the home of the famous unfinished 1796 Gilbert Stuart painting of the first President. You know the painting. In fact chances are you are carrying a copy right now since the Stuart portrait is to be found printed on every US dollar bill. The Athenaeum acquired the painting (along with the similarly unfinished Martha Washington companion) for \$1,500 three years after Stuart's 1828 death. In 1980 the paintings were sold for \$2,500,000 under a unique joint-ownership agreement

between the Museum Of Fine Arts here in Boston and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, with the paintings residing three years in one institution, then three years in the other, in perpetuity.