

View from the Curator's Window

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Whenever I think and plan, my eyes tend to look out to the view from the window and roam around; my mind follows suit.

Recently the view from my office window, the old cranky six-over-six with rippled glass, has changed dramatically. Over the course of one day, a large, weathered-gray shingled wall appeared before my eyes, so close that one could imagine stretching out the window to touch it. Although I don't like having my view curtailed, it is a pleasant wall to contemplate. Silvered by the years, it looks slightly surprised to find itself in this new location. Perhaps this will be a good wall for bouncing ideas.

Since the barn has arrived on site, the same thing happens every day. I walk to Bradley House, cross the front lawn, round the corner, look up in surprise at the barn and grin. Upstairs at my desk, instead of looking right out at the barn wall, I can change my position slightly, look farther to the right and can once again see the maple tree I'm accustomed to.

I find myself drawing analogies between my view and the future of the Woods Hole Historical Collection. We are standing at an important juncture in our development. We have the past and the future right in front of us. With a slight turn we begin our future growth; but our past is still with us. More dramatically, I am struck by the contrast of my shortening physical view and the concurrent widening of our position in the museum world. With this change, our museum has taken a big step outward.

By the time our new array of buildings is in place, we will have almost doubled our exhibition space. We will finally realize a dream which has been with us since our founding: to establish a maritime museum of local small craft. We will be able to create first class in-depth exhibits appealing to an even wider range of visitors. All this, of course, will require an even larger and dedicated cadre of volunteers.

An intriguing and exhilarating concept: as the view from the window shortens, the horizon widens.



Woods Hole Library

Woods Hole Historical Collection (Bradley House)

Sprintsail Barn Yale Shop
Drawing by William Burwell