

# OLD-TIME NEW ENGLAND

*A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Ancient Buildings,  
Household Furnishings, Domestic Arts, Manners and Customs,  
and Minor Antiquities of the New England People*

BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NEW ENGLAND ANTIQUITIES

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## Editor's Edgewise Word

**W**HATEVER its concern, every kind of urban activity is recommenced in the fall as for the undertaking of a new year. And with all this renewed planning and intent, what we are unconsciously engaged in is the pursuit of our way of life, and thus the preservation of our culture. Although the latter has been a misused term, it means simply that kind of living at which we arrive through the exercise of discrimination.

Museums shelter relics which might otherwise be destroyed, of the choices and tastes, methods and customs, of past eras and races, and therefore of their cultural history. Visitors to an art museum can find comfort in the beauty of objects there, and in the fact that Man has always found it part of the necessity of self preservation to search for intangible perfection as well as for food and shelter.

Visitors to the New England Museum will find the same idealism reiterated in simpler terms. Here among the humble artifacts of our own predecessors we find a sensitivity to line and mass, material and workmanship. Nowhere are these traits as evident as on the top floor of the Museum where are gathered the tools and utensils made at a time when shelter and food were the first necessities

in a wilderness. These goods and chattels show the handicaps, the courage, ingenuity, and inner grace, of their makers.

In the Society's museum-houses the nature of past lives is reflected even more graphically, and in the three centuries which they represent, they illustrate the evolution of environment as accomplished by each generation for the heritage of the next. Reference to the summer issue of *OLD-TIME NEW ENGLAND* will show that twelve of these houses are open during the winter.

Notably among these, Harrison Gray Otis House presents particular opportunities for study and discussion, by means of Appleton Hall with its ample exhibition space and seating capacity, the adjoining serving room with the most modern equipment, and the pleasant study room next door for smaller groups.

Today in our opposition to foreign ideologies, we reassert the validity of the cultural tradition which is displayed and illustrated by the antiquities which this Society endeavors to preserve, and for this reason we hope that as plans are formulated this fall for the activities of the winter ahead by schools, clubs and individual research workers, they will include use of the Museum, Appleton Hall, and the Society's museum-houses.