

**winchester
historical
society**

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD GRANT

The Winchester Historical Society, in collaboration with the Winchester Public Library, Winchester Historical Commission, and Town Clerk, has been awarded a \$5,000 grant by the Massachusetts Historic Records Advisory Board through its grant program to strengthen the documentation of towns in the Commonwealth.

The opportunity to apply for a grant arose while representatives of the Society, Commission, and Library were working together with archives volunteers and the Town Clerk as a town manager's study committee. During the past year, the Historical Collections Study Committee assessed the current state of the historical collections in Winchester to determine what would be necessary to provide a secure storage environment, preserve and build collections, and provide access to the collections by the citizens of Winchester.

When the grant opportunity arose, the Study Committee formed the Collaborative for Documenting Winchester's History and developed a grant project which includes professional assessment of the collections and recommendations on technology, the development of third-grade local history curriculum materials—specifically creating a revised and expanded edition of the Society's *Children's History of Winchester*—, and completion of a strategic plan. With the prospect of professional assistance ahead, the Study Committee fashioned its report in the form of a needs assessment, intending its recommendations to be supplemented with recommendations developed by the Collaborative and its consultants. Both sets of recommendations are to become the basis for a strategic plan. In July, Chairman Ellen Knight presented the committee's report to the town manager and Board of Selectmen.

The grant is particularly significant at this juncture because it will allow the several custodians of the town's historic records to maintain the Study Committee's momentum and continue their cooperative approach in pursuing the grant project goals and working together toward augmenting and implementing the recommendations of the Study Committee.

ERNEST DUDLEY CHASE

With assistance from the Society and Archives, the Harvard University Map Library mounted an exhibit last winter of maps by Winchester artist Ernest Dudley Chase titled *Greetings from Winchester*. Subtitled "The Pictorial Maps of Ernest Dudley Chase," the exhibit featured a series of delightful, inventive, witty, meticulously rendered, unique maps created by the former Winchester resident.

Still remembered around town for the calendars he illustrated with pictures of local houses for the Winchester National Bank during the mid-20th century, Chase lived in Winchester for about 40 years. Thus many of his maps were created here and were indeed greetings from Winchester.

Chase (1878-1966) worked for many decades as a graphic artist and executive in the greeting card industry. He traveled extensively and recorded his experiences in thousands of drawings. Many of those sketches served as raw material for his maps, greeting cards, and calendars. Some of those drawings, as well as examples of the calendars, plus photographs of Chase, two of his travel journals, his book *The Romance of Greeting Cards*, and letters of appreciation from U.S. presidents were on display at the library.

The exhibit started with an estimation of Chase. "In the hands of Ernest Dudley Chase, the pictorial map is a celebration of the cultural and national landmarks in our environment," it began. "Chase was a graphic artist who loved to populate the surface of his maps with hundreds of illustrations and ornamental features, but he strove for much more than the merely decorative. Each of these pictorial maps conveys a coherent aesthetic and thematic vision."

The first exhibited map was one of several he did of Winchester, which he once called "the finest town in the world." There were also pictorial maps of Harwich, to which he moved eight years

prior to his death, Cape Cod, Boston, and New England. Then followed maps of the country and the world.

Covered with narrative and illustration, the maps often addressed ambitious themes, such as "World of Wonders" from 1939 depicting a broad gamut of cultural and natural wonders and "The Story Map of Flying, Being a Chronicle of Man's Conquest of the Air." Several maps dated from World War II, including a "Peace Map of the World United." There was also "A Factual and Pictorial Map of World Freedom," drawn in 1950 during the tense post-war period.

On a lighter side, there was "The United States as Viewed by California (very unofficial)" and "A Pictorial Map of Loveland," a heart-shaped country with the State of Admiration, State of Endearment, Mountain of Love, and other romantic features.

Then there was the "mystery box," covered on one side with a map of the country and irregularly spaced little drawers, on loan from the Society. Viewers were invited to help solve the puzzle of what the box was built for-but it's still a mystery.

Potluck

The Society was pleased to welcome the exhibit's creator, Joseph Garver, to the Chase home on Lakeview Terrace for its covered dish supper on April 5. Members had another opportunity to hear about Chase as well as to view the beautiful home built for him overlooking the Mystic Lakes.

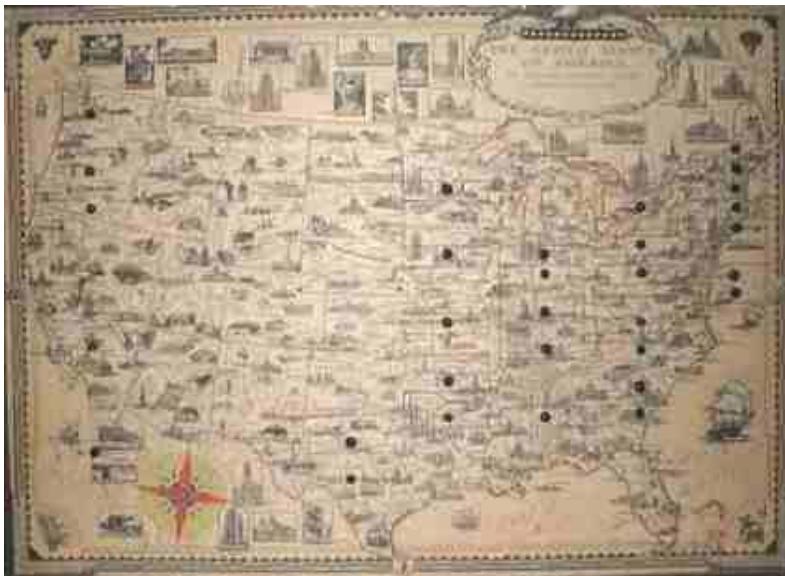
Thanks go to hosts William and Marie Kennedy and all who helped with the event.

Map

Inspired by the renewed interest in Chase, the Society has reproduced one of his maps of Winchester. It is now available for purchase, along with the Society's other map reproductions. For more information about the artist, check out Ellen Knight's *Artists of Winchester, 1850-1950*.



Above, Frederick Holland, E. D. Chase's stepson, who contributed several unique items to the *Greeting from Winchester* exhibit, and Harvard's Joseph Garver, organizer of the exhibit, are pictured in front of Chase's map of New England.



Chase's pictorial map of the United States.