

News, Apps, Deals, and Gear from New England and Beyond

HERE

PIES ON PARADE

Rockland, Maine, goes pie crazy on Jan. 27 with the 9th Annual Pies on Parade Pie Tour. From 1-5 p.m. sample more than 40 pies at businesses, restaurants, and inns throughout town. The 20 participating venues will serve both a savory and sweet pie, including galettes, tarts, quiches, pot pies, pizza pies, and even a grilled pie. Adults \$25, children ages 10 and under \$10. Ticket sales benefit the local food pantry. The Historic Inns of Rockland — Granite Inn, Captain Lindsey House, Lime Rock Inn, Berry Manor Inn — offer a Pie Tour package. A two-night stay includes two tickets to the Pie Tour, silent auction, wine and pie tasting, \$50 credit for dinner Saturday night, two personally baked pies, breakfast, and more. Rates from \$345. 877-762-4667, www.historicinnsofrockland.com



OYSTER AND WINE TASTING

For those who love to slurp and sip, Island Creek Oyster Bar in Boston celebrates the second year of its popular Merroir and Terroir class. Led by an experienced sommelier and professional oyster farmer, the class pairs oysters with wines and discusses why the flavors of each are affected by where they are grown. \$35 per person includes six oyster varieties with wine pairings. Offered the third Sunday of every month, beginning Jan. 20, 2 p.m. Reservations suggested. 617-532-5300, <http://islandcreekoysterbar.com/>

SKI FOR FREE IN VERMONT

Stay at the Woodstock Inn and Resort and ski for free at two mountains. The Ski Free Program includes complimentary lift tickets to the resort's mountain, Suicide Six Family Ski Area, and free passes to the Nordic Center offering groomed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. (Every day for ages 12 and under, Mon-Fri for adults). Includes use of the Racquet and Fitness Club and more. For twice the fun, the Killington Express Ski Package includes a Killington all-day ski pass for two, one night's accommodation, and country breakfast for two along with all the benefits of the Ski Free Program. Package rate from \$369 per night. 888-481-8802, www.woodstockinn.com

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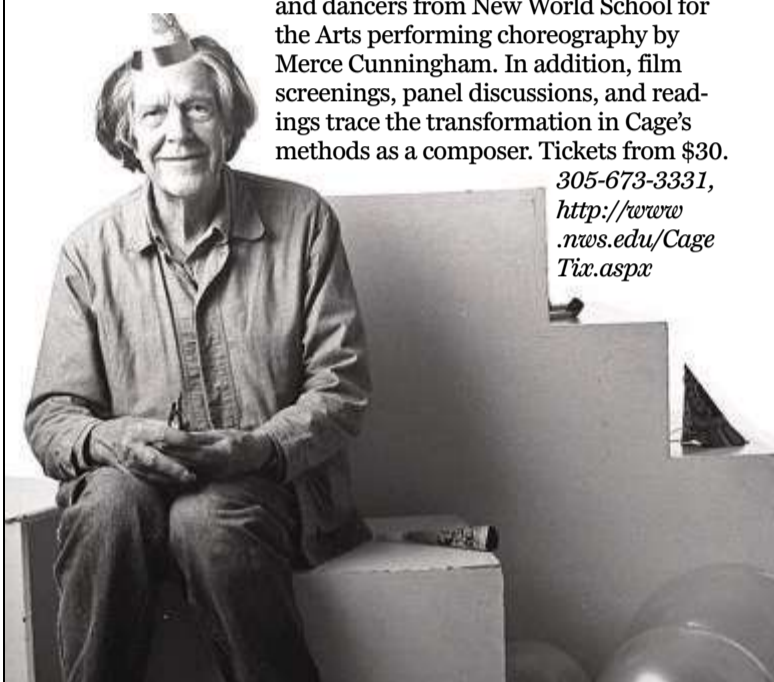


GET PERSONAL WITH ART IN PARIS

Step into Paris's vibrant international art scene with "city | art insider," a service for travelers and art collectors. A Canadian and a French art consultant have teamed up to match clients with art specialists for personalized tours, studio visits, art fairs, and auctions. Your visit is tailored to match your particular interests, focusing on individual artists, neighborhoods, art movements, and more. If you see work you'd like to take home, they will assist with acquisitions. In addition, they can schedule a professional portrait photographer to document your visit, either a traditional shoot in an atelier or a documentary-style shoot in a memorable location. Half day \$330, full day \$530. 011-33-06-82-06-2707, <http://cityartinsider.com>

JOHN CAGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Shake the sand from your shoes and visit the New World Center in Miami Beach for a three-day festival marking the 100th birthday of American composer, writer, musical theorist, and artist John Cage (1912-92). The New World Symphony presents Making the Right Choices: A John Cage Centennial Celebration, Feb. 8-10, featuring artistic director Michael Tilson Thomas, new-music vocalists Joan La Barbara and Meredith Monk, soprano Jessye Norman, pianist Marc-André Hamelin, and dancers from New World School for the Arts performing choreography by Merce Cunningham. In addition, film screenings, panel discussions, and readings trace the transformation in Cage's methods as a composer. Tickets from \$30.



305-673-3331, <http://www.nws.edu/CageTix.aspx>

EVERYWHERE



SHADES FOR SLEEPING

Parents who dread another road trip or plane ride while toting a little one in a stroller or car seat will appreciate SnoozeShade, a line of products designed to help your child maintain a resting schedule while the family is on the go. The SnoozeShade Original (\$34.99), SnoozeShade Plus (\$49.99), and SnoozeShade Car Seat (\$29.99) attach with ease to most strollers and car seats. You don't have to fuss with draping blankets, or worry that your little one will be over-stimulated by light or nearby activities. The SnoozeShade Playard (\$99.99) fits Pack 'n Plays and sleep cribs, and allows your baby to sleep in a safe, darkened space. 213-438-9584, www.snoozeshadeusa.com

AEROSPACE ENGINEERED SHIRTS FOR MEN

Leave it to a team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to reengineer the simple business shirt. The engineers, designers, and material scientists at Ministry of Supply employ "integrated Robotic Engineered Knitting," an advanced manufacturing process used by NASA in space suits to store heat when you are in the cold and release heat in warm temps. Business travelers in a hurry will like the antimicrobial coating, an odor-control feature that keeps the fabric from holding unpleasant smells. Thermoset yarns guarantee the fabric stays wrinkle-free. Now you can fly all night and go straight to your meeting without changing your clothes. Dress shirts \$88-\$108, T's \$28-\$38. <http://ministryofsupply.com>



NECEE REGIS

In your passport: unflattering photo and history dating to 1700s

By Christopher Klein
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The passport might be a small booklet, but it has a lengthy back story, as detailed by Craig Robertson, Cambridge resident and Northeastern University associate professor of media and screen studies, in his book "The Passport in America: The History of a Document" (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Q. When were Americans first required to carry passports for foreign travel?

A. There's a moment in the Civil War when passports are required, but World War I is when the system close to what we have today — where passports are required not only in the US but globally as well — emerges. The passport system was brought in around the world as an emergency measure, and it's never gone away.

Q. So if they weren't required for visiting foreign countries, what was the purpose of passports issued by the State Department before World War I?

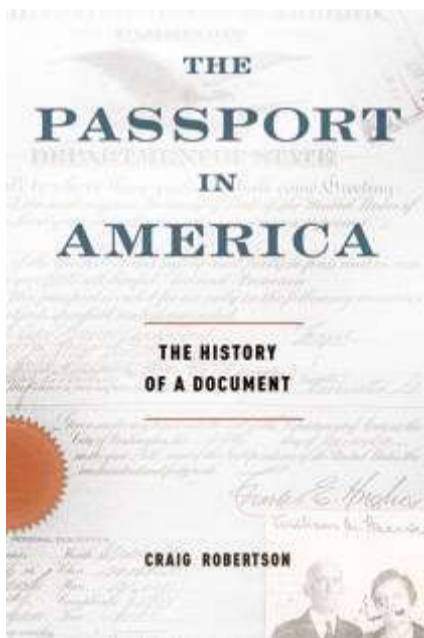
A. Passports existed from the 1700s on, and they functioned largely as letters of introduction that were usually presented to a US consul or a US ambassador to get you into society, to get you invited to parties, to get you access to museums or private galleries, or to allow you to pick up your mail if it was being sent to a foreign post office. There's also some element of protection, so you would have this document in case something went awry.

Q. What did early American passports look like?

A. They were single sheets of paper about 12 inches by 18 inches. Stamps or signatures of foreign officials would be placed on the back. It was a really common practice for travelers, when they returned home, to frame their passports and hang them on their walls as souvenirs. They were grand documents with eagles and other ornamentations meant to signify the greatness of the United States.

Q. Nineteenth-century passports actually featured written descriptions of their holders, correct?

A. Yes. Early passports had no descriptions and did not even bear the passport holder's signature. By 1825, though, there are standardized categories that include facial descriptions — such as eyes, forehead, and nose — and things like complexion, height, and



RACHEL MCPHERSON

Craig Robertson guesses "that in about 20 years passports will be cards with biometric data because that is increasingly the way that someone is identified."

age. Everyone seemed to call their features average, although some people occasionally called their noses Roman if they wanted to convey some status of authority. The sense I got was that the descriptions weren't particularly useful as a form of identification. People applying for passports were often fended by the need to describe themselves in these clinical, factual ways.

Q. So what was the reaction among the American public when photographs were introduced to passports?

A. The photographs were actually considered even more unflattering than

the descriptions. The photos drew instant comparisons to mug shots because they were front-on images. You were forced to stare at the camera. You weren't allowed to wear a hat or dress up, so the passport photograph was viewed as really different from the portraiture convention of the time, which was almost always done in a three-quarters pose. Even though these photographs were designed to be accurate, they distorted someone's sense of who they were. Obviously people still have that response today, but it was there from the beginning.

Q. In the days before birth certificates became commonplace, how did the government verify an applicant's identity?

A. The assumption behind the system set up after World War I was that you needed an identity document. Of course, this is a time when very few people had driver's licenses, so the birth certificate was the key document. The US didn't achieve universal birth registration until 1933, however, and in 1942 the Census Bureau estimated that 40 percent of Americans still lacked birth certificates. So the State Department required those without birth certificates to get sworn statements from one of three people who was deemed to have been able to witness the birth: the mother, a doctor, or a midwife. And if none of those three were available, a friend who was a US citizen had to vouch for your citizenship. So you were no longer seen as a reliable source of your own identity. You needed someone else to verify it.

Q. What future changes to the passport do you foresee?

A. My guess is that in about 20 years passports will be cards with biometric data because that is increasingly the way that someone is identified. In fact, 10 percent of passports issued annually now are passport cards, which you can use to cross the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Q. In your research, you probably looked at hundreds of passports. Did you find a single good passport photo?

A. I think it's fair to say no. Most of them were really unflattering photos of people looking like deer in headlights, clearly very uncomfortable that their photographs were being taken.

Interview was edited and condensed. Christopher Klein can be reached at www.christopherklein.com.



KAORI S. KELTS

Kaori S. Kelts on the bridge over the Uji River.

Heaven on earth, a novel setting

From Kyoto, it took half an hour to reach Uji. I had two places to visit: Byodoin (Temple of Equality) and

READER'S RAVE
The Tale of Genji Museum. Leaving the train station I walked along the narrow streets, lined with souvenir and tea shops, and was reminded that Uji is famous for the production of green tea. The powerful Fujiwara family, who dreamed of creating a re-

ligious building where heaven and earth are brought together, established Byodoin in the 11th century. The famous Phoenix Hall is engraved on the face of the 10-yen coin. Crossing over the Uji River I reached the Genji Museum. Established in 1998, the museum reproduces scenes from "The Tale of Genji," written by Murasaki Shikibu in the 11th century, and some say the first novel ever written. KAORI S. KELTS, ANDOVER

Sunday Morning

WAIMEA CANYON, KAUAI, HAWAII



PAMELA WRIGHT FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

On early Sunday morning, the crowds have yet to arrive at the Waimea Canyon Lookout on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Yet, this is when the incredibly beautiful chasm is at its finest. The deeply-scarred, multi-hued canyon walls — carved from the rivers that pour from Mount Waialeale's wet summit — shimmer and shine like jewels in the early sunlight. In the distance, you may get a glimpse of Waialeale Falls, tumbling down the rainbow-colored cliffs.

Dubbed the "Grand Canyon of

the Pacific," this dramatic gorge stretches some 10 miles long and 1 mile wide, and plunges more than 3,500 feet.

If you're feeling adventurous, travel farther up the road to about Highway Marker 9, where the Kukui Trail begins. Follow the series of switchbacks descending to the valley floor, listening to the sounds of wild roosters and falling waters, long before the first tour bus arrives. www.gohawaii.com/kaui DIANE BAIR AND PAMELA WRIGHT