



Moving A Presidential Library



*The "John Adams Unbound" exhibit
at the Boston Public Library*

It's no secret that at William B. Meyer, Inc., we love books. Any size, shape or subject matter, we respect and admire the power of the written word, especially when the books belong to a collection amassed by one of our country's founding fathers and early Presidents, John Adams.

When the call came in from The Boston Public Library, home of the John Adams Collection, the William B. Meyer Library Relocation Team wasted no time in developing a detailed plan to safely and efficiently complete the assignment.

The objectives were clear, the Boston Public Library planned to unveil the complete personal library of lifelong book collector John Adams to the public in an exhibition entitled, John Adams Unbound, the first public exhibition of the complete personal library of John Adams. The Exhibition provides access to the extraordinary personal library of the second president, which has been held by the Boston Public Library since 1894. The collection is of particular interest to scholars and historians because Adams recorded thousands of interpretive and critical manuscript annotations in the margins of hundreds of his books.

Their reason for selecting William B. Meyer Library Relocation to handle the job was based on their reputation as the premiere library relocation expert as well as their comprehensive knowledge of handling rare library collections.

The process began with hours of logistics planning and preparation. The task involved carefully packing over 3,700 items and re-shelved them in specially constructed 12 foot high cases. Working closely with the shelving fabricator, each unit was security sealed with plexiglass panels as the volumes were re-shelved. The John Adams project was supervised at all times by William B. Meyer, Inc. Library Relocation division senior project management team to provide maximum quality control. In the end, the mission was completed on time and on budget and that made people smile.

"The level of professionalism exhibited by William B. Meyer, Inc. was unparalleled. Moving these priceless, historic documents we thought would be an unnerving experience and an arduous task. Instead it turned out to be the most pleasant and smoothest experience we had in creating John Adams Unbound. The level of personal pride that the William B. Meyer, Inc. Library Relocation team exhibited was a tremendous asset. They were just as excited as we were."

Beth Prindle

Manager of the John Adams Library Project
Boston Public Library.



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*John Adams by John Trumbull
National Portrait Gallery*

A Few Tips To Keep Your Rare Books In Great Shape

You may not possess a rare Presidential collection of literature but at William B. Meyer, Inc. want to help keep every rare book in the best shape possible for generations to come. Here are a few quick tips help keep your most important books in top condition.

1. Stay Out Of The Light. All light including daylight, florescent and incandescent is harmful to a rare book. Store your books in a room with the lights turned off when not in use. Draw the curtains to keep daylight away.

2. Watch The Temperature And Humidity. Dry temperatures can cause book spines to become brittle and crack. Dampness will cause mildew and mold. Store books a safe distance from heaters, air vents and windows. The ideal humidity for book storage is 50 percent.

3. Store Them Properly. When possible store your rare books upright on a solid shelf. Support books using either bookends or neighboring books. Do not place too tightly together. Oversize books can be laid flat and stacked no more than three high.

4. Let Them Breathe. Books should be set back about one inch from the front of the shelf but not jammed against the back of the shelf.

5. Use TLC. Gently pull apart the books from either side and grasp by the middle of the spine. Don't pull from the book from the top.

6. Keep Dirt At Bay. Always wash your hands before handling books. Dirt and oils from your fingers will cause dirt buildup over time.

7. Tidy Up. You can vacuum your books with low suction HEPA vacuum or gently wipe them with either a magnetic or dust catching cloth.





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John Adams Statue
Quincy, Massachusetts

About William B. Meyer, Inc.

Since 1982, William B. Meyer, Inc. has relocated over 1,000 libraries all over the United States. The largest of those moves was the Los Angeles Public Library with over three million volumes. Other clients include Yale University; Harvard School of Business; Cornell Law School; Salt Lake City Public Library; United States Department of Energy; Folger Shakespeare Library and the Boston Athenaeum. In addition to relocating libraries and rare book collections throughout the country, William B. Meyer, Inc. is responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the New England Regional Book Depository and the materials housed there. The list of libraries currently utilizing this service in addition to Simmons College include Bowdoin College; Bates College; New England School of Law; Emerson College; Boston Athenaeum; Redwood Library and Athenaeum and Boston Architectural Center.

William B. Meyer, Inc. is a family-owned company known for innovative solutions to relocation and logistic needs. William B. Meyer Inc.'s is headquartered in Stratford, Connecticut. For more information about William B. Meyer, Inc., go to www.williamsbmeyer.com.

Don't forget to join us next month for the third and final library relocation feature focusing on: "*The Real Cost Of The Lowest Bid*".



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