

Trading Treasures at the Marriott Customs House

Peabody Essex Museum • Boston, Massachusetts

Project Details

Scope: State Museum, 2,000 sf
Budget: \$105,000

Project Team

Design: Edward Malouf (KPA)
Content Development: Fred Johnson (PEM),
Melanie Pearlman
Construction: Mystic Scenic Studios

In the heart of Boston, Peabody Essex Museum, the nation's oldest continuously operating institution for art, architecture and culture, exhibits treasures related to trade between New England and the East at the Marriott Customs House. Working with designers from the museum, we created elegant display cases and interpretive graphics to display a selection of the museum's priceless collection in "Trading Treasures". The exhibit featured items including artifacts brought back from the East, maps showing trade routes, trade ship flags and a collection of goods produced in New England for export to countries such as China. The design reinforced the Custom House's focus on historic trade, and connected visitors to the role of Massachusetts ports at the epicenter of Old China Trade.

We designed and sourced a collection of trade ship flags to adorn the atrium of the Customs House exhibit.



Trading Treasures at the Marriott Customs House

In exchange for furs and ginseng, New England-based ships like the Empress of China returned from voyages to the East with exotic wares from China as well as the islands. These goods included Coco-de mere, or sea coconut.

