



Elisabeth Endicott Weil

*A View of the Foreign Factories at Canton, 1853, studio of Tingqua.*

## Family gift commemorates life of Elisabeth Endicott Weil

The museum recently acquired *A View of the Foreign Factories at Canton* in memory of Elisabeth Endicott Weil. Painted in 1853 in the studio of Tingqua, the leading Cantonese watercolor artist, this vibrantly colored work includes a fascinating hand-written key that identifies individual buildings on the Pearl River waterfront. Sent back to Boston in a letter written by a member of the Forbes family, the watercolor was owned for many years by the late Dr. H.A. Crosby Forbes, *curator emeritus* of Asian export art at the Peabody Essex Museum. Henry

Birdseye Weil and his children – Rebecca and John Weil – supported the acquisition of this watercolor in memory of their late wife and mother. The Weil family felt that this important document linking Boston and Canton in the mid 19th century was a particularly fitting tribute to Elisabeth, who had been a member of the Asian Export Art Visiting Committee and who descended from many members of the Endicott family who had strong ties to both the China trade and the Asian spice trade from the 18th and 19th centuries.

## Harvard partnership yields recommendations

PEM was one of 19 organizations to enter into a partnership with Harvard's Community Action Partners (CAP) last year. Conducted by Harvard Business School and Kennedy School alumni, CAP provides *pro bono* consulting services to Boston-area nonprofits. Ten volunteers analyzed the museum's corporate program and suggested ways to enhance its strengths.

Led by Richard Sayre, the CAP team conducted nearly 80 interviews before delivering its final report in May 2012. Recommendations addressed incremental changes as well

as strategies to broaden the reach of the corporate program over time. "The CAP team members were terrific," said Anne Butterfield, director of institutional giving at PEM. "It was one of the best consulting experiences I've ever had and we learned so much. We're already working on the quick changes and hope to continue with CAP to help plan and implement some of their great ideas."

The CAP team also included Dev Barker, Tony Artuso, Claire Commons, Marcy Geffer, Parker Llewellyn, Richard Low, Hamilton Mehlman, Tim O'Brien and Jeff Starfield.