

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**March 28, 2019**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**PILGRIM SOCIETY &  
PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM**  
75 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360  
508-746-1620; [www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org)



**Pilgrim Scholar Dr. Jeremy Bangs presents “Intellectual Baggage--Pilgrim Ideas – Ours and Theirs,” evening lecture and reception to help restore *The Signing of the Mayflower Compact***  
**Pilgrim Hall Museum, 75 Court St, Plymouth, MA 02360,**  
**6:30 pm, Monday, April 22, 2019**

Pilgrim scholar Dr. Jeremy Bangs, Director of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum and author of 15 books and countless articles about the Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony, will discuss the world and worldviews of Pilgrim men and women as revealed in the books they owned and read in a new lecture, “Intellectual Baggage – Pilgrim Ideas – Ours and Theirs” at Pilgrim Hall Museum at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 22, 2019. The event is a fundraiser to help restore the iconic painting *The Signing of the Compact in the Cabin of the Mayflower* by American artist Edward Percy Moran, which has been displayed at the Museum since 1919. The painting was removed from display this winter due to condition issues. The Museum seeks to raise \$4,000 to restore the painting in time to reinstall it for Plymouth’s 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration in 2020.

At the April 22<sup>nd</sup> event, Dr. Bangs will discuss how ideas matter, especially when ideas shape the framework of a new world. What “intellectual baggage” did the first generation of Pilgrims, from 1633 through 1692, pack when they voyaged from England to the Netherlands, sailed to the New World on the *Mayflower*, and inspired others to cross the

Atlantic in the ensuing decades? And how did those books and the ideas they contained shape and reshape American society?

While writing his most recent book, *Plymouth Colony's Private Libraries*, Dr. Bangs examined 510 wills and probate inventories left by Plymouth colonists as a legacy of the world they created. His research enabled him to identify the books that first generation of settlers read, shared, and kept in their private libraries from 1633 to 1692. Although not everyone owned books (198 wills did not list any, while an additional 90 reference only Bibles and psalm books), books are mentioned in 222 early inventories, while 50 inventories preserve detailed descriptions of personal libraries and reading choices. Through this lecture, Dr. Bangs will show how the key to Plymouth's private libraries unlocks the intellectual world of the Pilgrims.



Courtesy Photo: (right) Dr. Jeremy Bangs, Leiden American Pilgrim Center

Courtesy Photo: (left) Detail, Edward Percy Moran, *The Signing of the Mayflower Compact*, 1899-1901

The event is free and open to the public. Guests will be invited to contribute to the restoration of the *Signing of the Mayflower Compact* painting.

Doors open at 6 pm for light refreshments; lecture begins at 6:30 pm. Reservations requested; please contact [erin.fein@pilgrimhall.org](mailto:erin.fein@pilgrimhall.org) or call 508-746-1620, ext. 7.

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Pilgrim Hall Museum is located at 75 Court Street (Route 3A), Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360.

**Information:** 508-746-1620; Website: [www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org)

**Hours:** 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, open daily February through December.