

Maine's Quality of Place

For many of us who live in Maine, the state's quality of place is a large part of what keeps us here—the iconic rocky coast, the vast forests, the rolling farmland, the quaint villages and towns. This section examines the relationship between this quality of place and the humanities. In the first article, Kreg Ettenger discusses how the humanities can help create a sense of place and enrich Maine's tourism industry through cultural tourism opportunities. Carol Toner wonders what kind of place we want to live in and how the humanities can inform public policy debates. George Kinghorn interviews three Maine artists and a curator and asks them about the opportunities and challenges of being an artist in Maine. Catherine Schmitt describes how Maine Sea Grant has embraced the humanities as a way to communicate its relevance to Maine's coastal communities using films, documentaries, radio programs, recipes, books, and poetry readings to reach a wider audience. In a brief article about Eastport, Linda Cross Godfrey portrays the role language played in turning the economic tide and reversing negative images of the town. And in the final article, Stephen Hornsby discusses the publication of the Historical Atlas of Maine, an ambitious attempt to map the historical geography of the state from the end of the last ice age to the end of the millennium in 2000. 🐟