Cover. Reading room, Boston Athenaeum. Housed in a building that has been described as combining “the best elements of the Bodleian, Monticello, the frigate Constitution, a greenhouse, and an old New England sitting room,” the Athenaeum 183 after its founding “remains a retreat for those who would enjoy the humanity of books.” See page 870. [Photograph by B. Merla/Uniphoto]

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