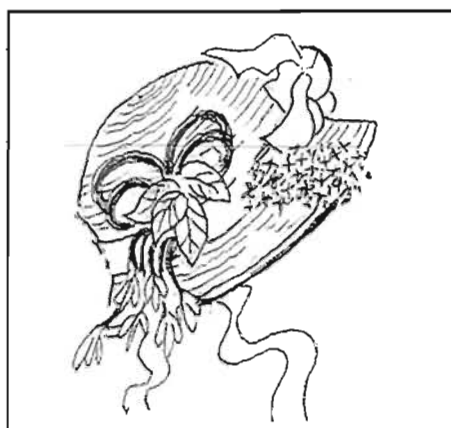


# Merchant's House Museum

Newsletter

Spring 2001



## "With All the Frills Upon It" Hat Exhibition Opens April 5

In the 19th century, millinery was an art and the hat the focal point of every fashionable ensemble.

From Thursday, April 5, through Monday, June 11, a collection of the hats worn by the Tredwell women will be on display.

Hats of silk, felt, straw, horsehair, and even one of onion skin--adorned with feathers, lace, ribbons, and beads--evoke an era when women never left home without it (their hat, that is.) In fact, they frequently wore head coverings indoors as well. One such indoor cap will be on display, along with a hat worn with a mourning costume and other more frivolous examples.

### Tickets for Two to Ireland--\$10

Now available--raffle tickets for round trip tickets for two to Ireland generously donated by Aer Lingus. \$10, 3 for \$25. Call 212.777-1089 to order with your credit card. All proceeds go towards restoration of the East Wall

## Could the Merchant's House Be Haunted? Parapsychologist Will Explore the Question

So many of you were disappointed when we had to cancel our seance last August that we decided to bring in an expert to discuss the phenomenon of houses reputed to be haunted and the possibility that the Merchant's House might be the site of paranormal activity.

On Wednesday, April 25, Carlos S. Alvarado, Chairman, Domestic and International Programs, Parapsychology Foundation, will present a slide lecture at the Merchant's House, presenting information on what is known about this type of phenomenon.

Dr. Alvarado will review the history of psychical research into haunted houses from the 19th century on, including examples of and evidence for paranormal happenings connected with these houses.

He will then turn his attention to the Merchant's House, examining the reports of persons who have described unusual happenings in the House. He will explain the procedure for determining the existence of paranormal activity and enumerate the questions that need to be answered by those researching the site.



*Gertrude Tredwell, 1840-1933  
Some say her spirit still lingers in the Merchant's House, the only home she ever knew.*

## FIT Intern Conserving Gown from the Collection

Helen Kapodistrias, a member of our academic intern program and a graduate student in the Museum Studies program at S.U.N.Y Fashion Institute of Technology, has begun conserving a cotton print organdy gown from the collection. As part of the conservation, Helen will make a new left sleeve by silk-screening the pattern onto fabric to match the dress, and she will sew foundation garments necessary for exhibiting the dress at the Merchant's House.

## Fidelity Challenges Us To Raise \$60,000 by September 1

A \$30,000 grant from the Fidelity Foundation will be ours if we can raise \$60,000 by September 1. We will then have the remaining funds we need to make full repairs to the East Wall and restore the original interior rooms on the Museum's ground floor.

Please help stop the water infiltration by making a special gift to help save the East Wall. Just use the coupon below.

## YES INDEED! I (We) Want to Become a Member of the Merchant's House Museum

- Good Neighbor--\$50
- Family/Household--\$75
- Protector--\$125
- Cultural Hero--\$250
- Princely Supporter--\$500
- Leading Light--\$1,000
- Paragon of Virtue--\$2,500
- Senior Citizen/Student--\$25

## I (We) Want to Stop the Water by Helping to Meet the Fidelity Challenge Grant to Restore the East Wall With a Tax-deductible Donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Merchant's House Museum or charge your contribution to

- American Express
- Visa
- Master Card.

Card No \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MATCHING GIFT: You may be able to double your contribution or your membership dues through your company's Matching Gift Program. Check here  and enclose the Matching Gift form with your contribution. Mail to Merchant's House Museum, 29 East Fourth St., NYC 10003

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

*The Merchant's House Museum is New York City's only family home preserved intact--inside and out--from the 19th century. A National Historic and New York City landmark, the house was built in 1832 and was home to a prosperous merchant family for 100 years. Visit Thursday through Monday, 1 to 5 p.m. or at [www.merchantshouse.com](http://www.merchantshouse.com)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 5, through Monday, June 11

### **Exhibition: "With All the Frills Upon It": Hats and Bonnets from the Collection**

Blossoms, ribbons, feathers, and bows adorn hats worn by the Tredwell women in the 19th century.

For reservations, call 212.777.1089  
or e-mail [nyc1832@merchantshouse.com](mailto:nyc1832@merchantshouse.com)

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Thomas Jefferson's (258th) Birthday Celebration**

Illustrated slide lecture, "Thomas Jefferson, Landscape Architect," by Charles Stick, landscape architect, Charlottesville, Va., at 6:30 p.m. Our 4th annual Birthday Party for TJ follows with some of his favorite foods--peas, baked Virginia ham, 'garden stuffs', coconut cake--and wine, "the necessity of life." \$40, members \$20.

Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Lecture: The New York & Troy Connection: Marble House of Troy, New York**

Slide lecture on the 1825 Hart-Cluett Mansion, one of the finest examples of Federal Adamesque architecture in New York State, by Kathryn T. Sheehan, Registrar, Rensselaer County Historical Society. A collaboration with the Tuesday Evening Hour, Inc. \$3.

Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Lecture: Could the Merchant's House Be Haunted?**

Slide lecture by Carlos S. Alvarado, PhD, Chairman, Domestic and International Programs, Parapsychology Foundation. A collaboration with the Parapsychology Foundation. Reception follows. \$15

*The Museum's public education programs  
are sponsored in part through the  
generous support of the Public Service  
Award program of the New York City  
Department of Cultural Affairs.*



THE HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST OF NEW YORK CITY

Saturday, May 5, 12, and 19  
10 to 12 Noon

#### **Spring Garden Workshops**

May 5, Herbs for Cooking  
and Potpourri. May 12, Planting  
Window Boxes and Urns.

May 19, Creating Tussy Mussy hand  
bouquets and tabletop vases.  
\$15 each workshop.

Sunday, May 13,

Seatings at 2 and 3 p.m.

#### **Mother's Day Tea**

Traditional high tea will be served at private tables in the Garden. Finger sandwiches, scones with jam and Devonshire cream, and a choice of desserts. Tour of the House at 3 and 4 p.m. following each seating will focus on the Tredwell women and the servants who lived in the House. \$35 per couple. (Additional guests \$10 each.)

Monday, May 22

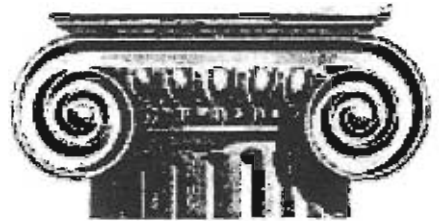
and Tuesday, May 23, 6 to 8 p.m.

#### **Edith Wharton at the Merchant's House**

The first in our 2001 *Great New York Writers in Great New York Places* reading series, which celebrates the literary history of New York City in significant architectural and historic sites. A collaboration with the Historic House Trust of New York City, The Library of America, and the City of New York/Parks, & Recreation. Series \$80; each reading \$25. Reservations 212.360.1378. May 23 - June 7

#### **Tour: Classical Italian Villas and Gardens: A Tour in the Footsteps of Edith Wharton**

A collaboration with Classical America. Call 413.528.9992 for itinerary and information.



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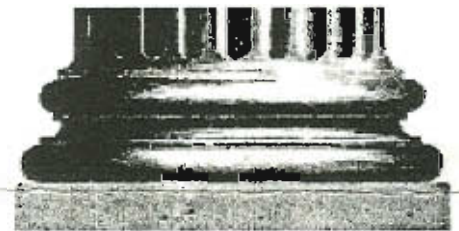
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Sunday, May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 1 p.m.

#### **Walking Tour of the 19th-Century Neighborhood**

Join our guide for a tour of the formerly exclusive Bond Street area, the City's first suburb. \$10, \$12 (includes a guided tour of the Merchant's House Museum).

Refreshments available for purchase in the garden after the walking tour.

#### **A WISH ON OUR LIST**

If you have a sewing machine in working order that you would be willing to donate, please call 212.777.1089. Your gifts to the Merchant's House are tax-deductible.



City of New York  
Parks & Recreation