"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—evokes 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 for $25. Call 212.777-1089 to order with your credit card. All proceeds go toward 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 psychic 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.

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—$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 has been home to a prosperous merchant family for 100 years.

Visit Thursday through Monday, 1 to 5 p.m. or at www.merchantshouse.com
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

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.
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.

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 Tussie 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.

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