



Merchant's House Museum

Newsletter

Fall 2003

On Exhibit

Through November 10

The Changing Silhouette of Fashion Continues with a Dress from the 1840s

Fashion in the 1840s was characterized by horizontal lines, simple sleeves and necklines, and low, tight bodices, a dramatic shift from the broad shoulders, exaggerated sleeves and fussy ornamentation of the previous decade.

The second dress in our serial exhibit of changing styles in the 19th century is a one-piece day dress and pelerine (cape) made between 1842-45. It will be on display beginning September 8, along with other articles of dress from the 1840s, selected from the collection.

Through September 30

Taking Tea at the Tredwells

To complement our Sunday afternoon teas in September, teapots, cups, saucers, and more from the Tredwell family collection will be on view. The exhibition will survey the rituals, etiquette, and accoutrements of this ever-popular beverage.

Life in the Past Lane

On September 4, 1882, Thomas Edison opened the first electrical power station on Pearl Street in Lower Manhattan, serving 59 customers in a one-square mile area.

Eight years later, in 1890, the City suffered its first blackout. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

We're Baaaack!



New York City Oyster Festival

Saturday, October 4, Noon to 9 p.m.

New Location:

Hanover Square and the Stone Street Historic District In Lower Manhattan

Fresh oysters, perfect pints of Guinness, live music and more. All to benefit the Museum.

Check our website for up to the minute details: www.merchantshouse.com

And the Award Goes To . . .

The Merchant's House Museum has received the 2003 Annual Village Award presented by The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. The citation extolled the Museum for "its constant preeminence as a model of historic preservation and as an education resource for the study of 19th-century New York City." We're house proud, indeed.

Lest You Have Any Doubts

"Of the estimated 300 Federal houses in Manhattan, the best preserved, inside and out, is the 171-year-old Merchant's House Museum."

David Dunlap,
The New York Times, June 20, 2003

Yes, Indeed! I (We) would like 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
- Over 65/Student—\$25

Please enclose a check made out to the Merchant's House Museum and mail to 29 East Fourth Street, New York, NY 10003, or charge your contribution to: Visa Master Card American Express

Card No. _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____

You may be eligible for a matching contribution from your employer. If so, please enclose a matching gift form.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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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. And visit us on the web: www.mercharushouse.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For reservations, call 212-777-1089 or
email nyc1832@merchantshouse.com

Fall Wine Tastings

In Collaboration with our NoHo neighbor
ASTOR WINES & SPIRITS

Join us for a series of Fall Wine Tastings in the garden (if weather permits) or in our very cozy, original 1832 family kitchen. Each night we'll present a selection of wines, which will be paired with delicious hors d'oeuvres.

BORDEAUX Thursday, September 25, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Bordeaux: The Classic French Wine

Tonight, we'll rediscover the wines of Bordeaux, the largest and one of the most legendary wine-making regions in the world. We'll taste a selection of the 2000 vintage, heralded as one of Bordeaux's finest.

Hosted by Foods and Wines of France.

Thursday, October 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Autumn Leaves and Grape Seeds: The Pick of the Crop

What are the wines to drink for fall 2003? Astor Wines & Spirits will present their picks from among the best of the new fall arrivals. We'll celebrate the onset of cooler weather and discover a whole new crop of wines.

Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wines from The Ends of The Earth: Australia

This vast land with an extraordinary array of climate and topography is producing some of the most exciting new wines now hitting our shores. Damon Ross-Walker, from Australian wine importer The Grateful Palate, will host this evening of outstanding Australian wines.

Each Tasting is \$35.

Space is limited. Reservations must be paid for in advance; cancellations and full refunds accepted up to 48 hours in advance.

Sunday, September 7 and 14,
Seating at 1:30 and 3 p.m.

Tea & Tour for Two

Traditional afternoon tea served in our charming walled garden. Includes a selection of finger sandwiches, scones with jam and Devonshire cream, and a choice of desserts. Guided tour of the House at 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. \$35 per couple (additional guests \$15 each) to benefit the Garden Fund.

Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.

Lecture: *Townhouse Trends and Traditions*

Illustrated slide lecture by classical architect Richard Franklin Sammons, Principal, Fairfax & Sammons Architects, NYC. Mr. Sammons will discuss the 17th-century origins of the New York townhouse and its evolution in plan and style. Examples of recent projects reveal how New York townhouses can be adapted for the practicalities of 21st century lives—and still retain their traditional charm and detail. \$15, members \$12. Reception.

Thursday, October 30, 7 to 9 p.m.

Halloween Benefit:

A Psychic Soiree

Our seeing friends, including the "Rolls Royce of psychics," Frank Andrews, will offer readings, if you dare. Reception with horror d'oeuvres, wine tastings, and spirits (astral and otherwise). Costumes encouraged. \$40, \$50 at the door.

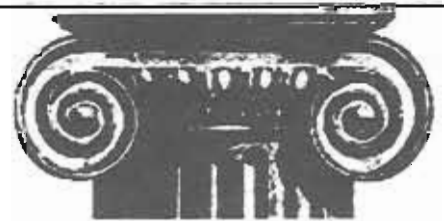
Tuesday, November 18, Noon to 2 p.m.

Artlunch at India House; *New York Streetscapes: Tales of Manhattan's Significant Buildings and Landmarks* By Christopher Gray

Presentation and book signing by noted historian Christopher Gray. His new book comprises essays taken from his popular *New York Times* column "Streetscapes." \$49, includes a three-course lunch. India house is an 1850 landmark building on Hanover Square.



THE HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST OF NEW YORK CITY

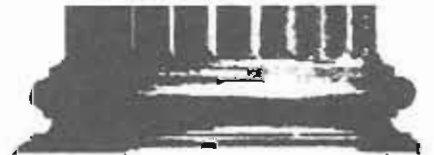


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Great New York Writers in Great New York Places

Sixth annual reading series celebrating the literary history of New York City in significant architectural and historic sites. Featuring celebrity guest readers. A collaboration with The Library of America and the City of New York/Parks & Recreation. Tickets \$30. Reservations, 212-360-1378 or email rsvp@parks.nyc.gov.

Tuesday, September 16, and Wednesday,
September 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Walt Whitman
at the Merchant's House Museum
29 East Fourth Street

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Edgar Allan Poe at Masonic Hall
71 West 23rd Street

Monday, November 24, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
**American Wits: An Evening of
Light Verse at the Society of
Illustrators**
128 East 63rd Street



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