

# Merchant's House Museum

Newsletter

Winter 2003

## Winter Wine Tastings

Resident oenologists from our NoHo Neighbor, Astor Wines & Spirits ([www.uncorked.com](http://www.uncorked.com)), will pour a selection of unique wines, and we'll be offering delicious hors d'oeuvres to match. Each tasting is \$45. Series of three tastings \$120.

Space is limited. Reservations must be paid for in advance. Cancellations accepted and full refunds made up to 48 hours in advance. For reservations, call 212-777-1089.

*Thursday, January 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

### Cheap Thrills

A great bottle of wine doesn't have to cost a King's ransom. We'll taste a selection of wines from around the globe for less than \$10 a bottle.

*Thursday, February 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

### French Kisses

From French vines come fine wines for Valentine's. We'll pour bubbles, reds, and whites that will captivate your senses.

*Thursday, March 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

### Ports in a Storm

Ports, Sherrys and dessert wines to help ward off March winds! Some wonderful "stickies" with one or two pleasant surprises.

## Eric Homberger to Speak On His Recently Published Book, *Mrs. Astor's New York*

*Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 p.m. \$15. Members \$10.  
For reservations, call 212-777-1089.*

Join us when Eric Homberger will trace the development of the social aristocracy in 19th-century New York. Dr. Homberger's remarks will be based on his recently published work, *Mrs. Astor's New York: Money and Social Power in a Gilded Age* (Yale University Press).

In 1853, Caroline Schermerhorn married William B Astor, Jr., grandson of New York City's first millionaire, John Jacob Astor. The elder Astor resided just around the corner from the Tredwells on Lafayette Place, New York's most distinguished address at the time.

His granddaughter-in-law, known simply as Mrs. Astor, would become the arbiter of a society of unparalleled extravagance and exclusivity. It is a fascinating story—the stuff Edith Wharton's novels are made of.

Other works by Dr. Homberger include *The Historical Atlas of New York* and *Scenes from the Life of a City: Corruption and Conscience in Old New York*.

A reception will follow the talk. Dr. Homberger will sign copies of his book, which will be for sale.

*Exhibition Opens Thursday, February 6—*

## Flirting With Fans: The Language of Love in the 19th Century

This exhibit will feature fans (we have 17!), parasols, and gloves from the collection and explore how these items were used by young women during the 19th century to communicate romantic feelings while under the watchful eyes of their elders.

*Wednesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.*

### Fancy That! A Social History of Fans

Joanna Pessa, art historian and Research and Programs Coordinator at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, will discuss the social history of fans from European courts to the Victorian middle class, including the 19th century rules for fan-flirting. \$15. Members \$10. For reservations, call 212-777-1089.



*Now on Display—*

## Elegance Restored: An 1840s Dress From the Tredwell Collection

A restored cotton voile day dress worn by one of the Tredwell women in the 1840s is now on display, along with a photographic step-by-step record of the restoration process. The work was done by Helen Kapidistrias, F.I.T. graduate student.

*Friday, January 24, 6:30 p.m., and Friday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.*

### Inside Out: Dressing the Mid-19th Century Woman

Marci Morimoto, costume historian, will take the audience behind the scenes to discuss the many layers of clothing worn in the 1850s and 1860s, illustrating her talk with clothing from the collection. \$15. Members \$10. For reservations, call 212 777-1089.

*Built in 1832, the Merchant's House Museum is New York City's only family home preserved intact—inside and out—from the 19th century.*

*29 East Fourth Street, New York, NY 10003 212 777-1089*

*Visit Thursday—Monday 1—5 p.m.*

*[www.merchantshouse.com](http://www.merchantshouse.com)*

The Merchant's House acknowledges with gratitude the following contributors who have been especially generous in their support over the last year.



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### Looking Ahead

May 15-26, 2003

#### Tour of Sweden

Classical America and the Merchant's House Museum will co-sponsor a 12-day excursion of Sweden focusing on the beautiful and charming 18th-century architecture and decoration associated with the monarch Gustav III. Participants will also enjoy the cuisine and the hospitality of the Swedish people.

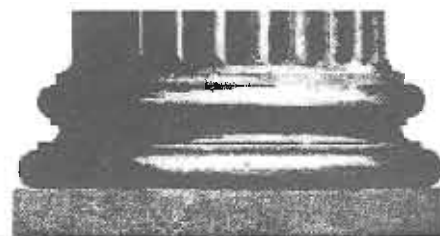
For a copy of the itinerary and travel information, contact tour directors Thomas Hayes and Lani Sternerup at Classical Excursions, 1-800-390-5536.

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