

# Merchant's House Museum

Newsletter

Winter 2000

## Direct from London: An Evening With Charles Dickens

Coming December 15 and 16 to the Merchant's House 19th-century parlors, London's longest running one-man show. Geoffrey Harris as Dickens brings the author's life and works to life as he extracts excerpts from Dickens's novels and letters.

The House will be open at 6:30 p.m.; Refreshments served after the performance, which begins at 7 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the east wall restoration. \$25. Reservations (212) 777-1089.

## Money Matters

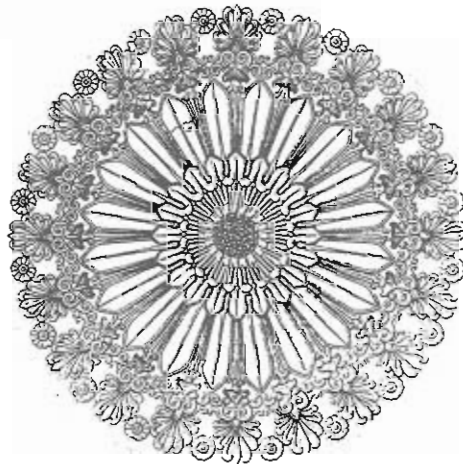
The Merchant's House is very grateful to the following individuals and organizations for the generous financial support they have given us throughout this year.

American Express, George Anderson, Association Foundation, Patricia and Stephen Beckwith, Sanford C. Bernstein Co. Foundation, Armand G. Erpf Fund.

Fleet Bank, Honorable Kathryn E. Freed and the New York City Council, (continued on back page)

## Minard Lafever Exhibition and Colloquium Attracts Architects and Design Professionals from Across the U.S.; Exhibition Runs through December 11

Pl. 21.



The published works of the architect Minard Lafever were influential in the spread of Grecian architecture throughout the United States during the 19th century. Builders, including the builder of the Merchant's House, consulted plates like the one shown here from Lafever's *Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1835), which depicts a design for a plaster ceiling medallion.

Two hundred and twenty-five architects and design professionals from across the United States gathered in the historic Great Hall of The Cooper Union on Saturday, October 28, for the first day of a two-day colloquium on Grecian architecture. The colloquium was held in connection with the architecture exhibition at the Merchant's House, "Minard Lafever and His Circle: the Diffusion of Grecian Architecture In the United States, 1830-1860."

On Sunday, October 29, the participants spread out through the City for workshops on various aspects of architecture and building work from the period and walking tours highlighting Greek Revival buildings in New York City as well as private collections of furniture and decorative arts.

The Merchant's House, itself an outstanding example of Grecian architecture, was the site of two of the workshops: one on fabricating mid-19th-century decorative plaster by David Flaharty, who restored the decorative plasterwork in the Merchant's House, and one on restoring antique furniture by Dennis DeCarlo of Antiquity Preservation Network.

Thomas Gordon Smith, Professor, University of Notre Dame, curated the exhibition.

Thanks to the collaborators of the *Minard Lafever Exhibition and Colloquium: Classical America, Cooper Union Adult Education, The Institute of Classical Architecture, Traditional Building Magazine, the University of Notre Dame, and the Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism.*

## 1983 BMW To Be Ruffled at Annual Holiday Party; \$10 Tickets Will Help Restoration of the East Wall



The lucky winner of our BMW raffle will be announced at our annual Holiday party, which will be held at the Merchant's House on December 18 from

6 to 8 p.m. The silver-blue beamer beauty is on view in the lot next door.

You can get your raffle tickets (\$10, 3 for \$25) by mailing in the order form on the back page. All proceeds will go towards the restoration of the east wall where infiltrating water has threatened the stability of the cellar wall and moisture in the cellar has risen to the ground floor, preventing proper paint and plaster adhesion of the original interiors.

## Count Me In! I Want to Help Preserve the Merchant's House by Becoming a Member

- 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.

Please make checks payable to the Merchant's House Museum and mail to 29 East Fourth Street, New York, NY 10003.

Your membership is tax-deductible. Thank you.

I am enclosing a special tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help with the restoration of the east wall.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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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.merchantshouse.com](http://www.merchantshouse.com)  
29 East Fourth Street (212) 777-1089 Fax (212) 777-1104 [nyc1832@merchantshouse.com](mailto:nyc1832@merchantshouse.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Through Monday, December 11*  
**Exhibition: Minard Lafever and His Circle: The Diffusion of Grecian Architecture in the United States, 1830-1860**

Architectural models, drawings, photographs, artifacts, and books from collections across the country illustrate the impact of Minard Lafever and his colleagues on American architecture. In collaboration with Classical America, the University of Notre Dame, and the Speros Basil Vyronis Center for the Study of Hellenism.

*Saturday, December 9, noon to 4 p.m.*  
**Workshop: Winter Greenery for the Holidays**

Evergreens provided to make swags, tabletop decorations, and gifts. Bring a pair of cloth gloves. Refreshments. \$25 donation benefits the Garden Fund. Reservations (212) 777-1089.

*Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16, 7 p.m.*

**An Evening With Charles Dickens**

An award-winning one-man show from London where it is performed at the Dickens House Museum. The show features Geoffrey Harris as Charles Dickens assuming the role of Dickens's immortal characters as well the author himself. House open at 6:30 p.m. for viewing. Refreshments. \$25. Reservations (212) 777-1089.

*Monday, December 18, 6 to 8 p.m.*  
**19th-Century Holiday Party and Benefit Raffle**

Music and holiday spirit, garlands and baubles and candlelight tours, a traditional tabletop tree, refreshments, and the raffling of a 1983 BMW! Join us for what the *New York Times* called "The best 19th-century holiday party in town." \$20, members free. Reservations (212) 777-1089.

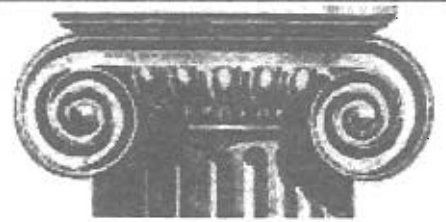
*Monday, January 1, 2001, 3 to 6 p.m.*  
**New Year's Day Reception**

Join us for our annual New Year's Day reception recalling the old Dutch custom of "calling" on one's relatives and friends on New Year's Day. We'll toast the New Year with champagne punch and holiday confectionery. Walking tours of the neighborhood will take place throughout the afternoon. \$20, members \$10. Reservations (212) 777-1089.

**Money Matters (continued)**

Guinness Bass Import Company, Robert Hardy, Historic House Trust of New York City, Historic Landmarks Preservation Center, Richard H. Jenrette, Albert Kunstadter Family Foundation.

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York University Community Fund, Mrs. Peyton Steele Patterson, Arthur Ross Foundation, Triarc Companies, and the Speros Basil Vyronis Center for the Study of Hellenism.

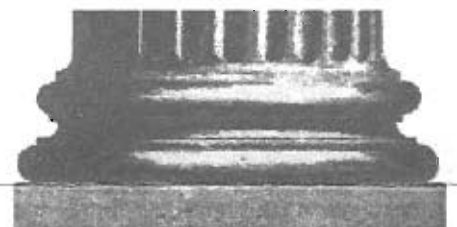


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**Of Course I'd Like to Win a 1983 BMW and Help with the East Wall Restoration!**  
 Please Send Me \_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Tickets. \$10 Each, 3 for \$25

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclose a check made out to the Merchant's House Museum and mail to 29 East Fourth Street, New York, NY 10003.  
 Thank you.



THE HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST OF NEW YORK CITY

*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.*



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