

Shorto and Gehring Receive Irving Medal at Fall Stated Meeting



Russell Shorto and Charles Gehring

Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World* (Doubleday, 2004), and Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Institute, accepted the Saint Nicholas Society's Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence at the Fall Stated Meeting on 21 October 2004. The meeting was held at the Racquet & Tennis Club, where a large and admiring audience gathered to hear the creators of a most fascinating work on the founding of New Netherlands by the Dutch.

Based on a trove of long-overlooked documents written in 17th century Dutch, Mr. Shorto's book argues that the Dutch had a far greater influence on the development of America than is realized. He surmises that historians paid little or no attention to the Dutch partly because they tended to emphasize Britain's impact and also because the Dutch records were difficult to read or understand.

Thanks to Mr. Gehring's almost lifelong work in Albany of *interpreting* (not merely translating) the official records of the New Amsterdam colony, the first settlers of Manhattan have come into focus. Using this hitherto unavailable knowledge, Shorto

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Vartan Gregorian Honored at 2004 Feast of St. Nicholas

It may be said in the future that the world is divided between those that did, and those that did not, attend the Saint Nicholas Society's 170th annual dinner honoring its patron saint on 6 December 2004 at the Racquet & Tennis Club. Those that were privileged to attend the event will doubtless cherish the memory for years to come; and those that did not will never know what they missed.



Vartan Gregorian

On that auspicious occasion, the Society's Medal of Merit, for "outstanding service to

the City of New York," was presented to the much-honored Vartan Gregorian. Dr. Gregorian bore only one decoration, but it was an extraordinary one: the Medal of Freedom awarded to him by President Bush in 2004.

Dr. Gregorian is the twelfth president of Carnegie Corporation of New York, a grant-making institution founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1911.

Prior to his current position,

which he assumed in June 1997, he served

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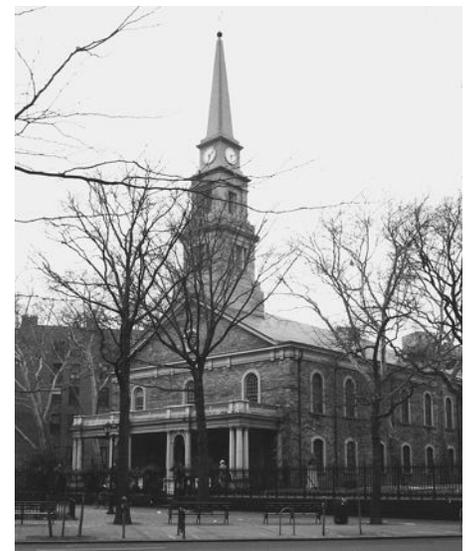
2005 Paas Festival to Benefit St. Mark's in-the-Bowery Church

In a move to broaden the Society's activities, the 2005 Saint Nicholas Paas Festival will be a fundraiser event benefiting the historic St. Mark's in-the-Bowery Church. The black tie dinner dance will take place in the very heart of Old New York at India House, 1 Hanover Square, on Friday 1 April 2005.

The church's roof is in critical condition and needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$40,000. The Board of Managers endorsed a proposal by First Vice President John Shannon, who also chairs the Paas Festival and the St. Nicholas Fund, to donate any surplus funds raised from this year's festival to the St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund, earmarked for the repair of the roof.

In addition, while it has been a tradition since the 1960s for young ladies to be presented at Paas festivals, none will be presented this year. However, it is expected that members' daughters will make their debuts in 2006.

The St. Nicholas Fund aims to support worthy causes that relate to the history and peo-



ple of New York. St. Mark's in-the-Bowery (originally "Bouwerie," meaning "farm" in Dutch) Church has unique associations not only with New York's Dutch heritage but also with the Society. Built on land that was

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Gregorian Honored

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for nine years as the sixteenth president of Brown University.

He was born in Tabriz, Iran, of Armenian parents, receiving his elementary education in Iran and his secondary education in Lebanon. In 1956 he entered Stanford University, where he majored in history and the humanities, graduating with honors in 1958. He was awarded a Ph.D. in History and Humanities from Stanford in 1964. (Between now and then he has been awarded an astonishing 50 honorary degrees by colleges, universities and seminaries.)

Dr. Gregorian taught European and Middle Eastern history at San Francisco State College, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the University of Texas at Austin. In 1972 he joined the University of Pennsylvania faculty and was appointed Tarzian Professor of History and professor of South Asian history. He was founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania in 1974 and four years later became its twenty-third provost until 1981.

For eight years (1981-1989), he served as a president of the New York Public Library. For saving the NYPL, at a time when it and New York City were in dire financial straits, he deserves the eternal gratitude of all New Yorkers. In 1989 he was appointed president of Brown University.

The Society is not the first worthy organization to honor Dr. Gregorian: in 1986, he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and in 1989 the American Academy of the Institute of Arts and Letters' Gold Medal for Service to the Arts. He was also honored by the Urban League, the League of Women Voters, the Players Club, PEN-American Center, Literacy Volunteers of New York, the American Institute of Architects and the Charles A. Dana Foundation, to name just a few.

After a fine introduction by John Elliott, Jr. who has known Dr. Gregorian for many years, President William R. Follett invited Dr. Gregorian to the podium to present him

with the Society's Medal of Merit. The honoree graciously thanked the Society for the new honor it had bestowed upon him and then enthralled his audience with a riveting narrative of his life, which led him from a small village in Iran to Lebanon, then to America, and from Stanford to the University of Pennsylvania to Brown to the New York Public Library to, finally, the Carnegie Corporation and (dare we claim?) The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York. It is an extraordinary odyssey, an epic Horatio Alger story, which he averred could not have happened without the intervention of strangers who took an interest in him as a child and helped him to move on, and away, and eventually up.

Four new members were also inducted at this dinner. Admissions Committee Chairman George H. McNeely IV did his usual inimitable job of presenting Messrs. Ronald O'Neal Johns, Christopher Praileur Smith, Barrett John Taylor and Donald Westervelt to the large audience. Each received a handshake, a diploma, a lapel pin and a copy of the 150th anniversary book.

The 2004 Feast of St. Nicholas was a highlight of the year.



Dorsey Smith



Chief Steward Joe Wittmann III, new members: Donald Westervelt, Barrett John Taylor, Christopher Praileur Smith, Ronald O'Neal Johns (elected 2003); President William R. Follett



Jill Spiller



Mrs. Alexander O. Vietor



Francis P. Powers



Marguerite Platt, David N. Platt, A. Walker Bingham III, and Nicolette Bingham



John Elliott, Jr.



William M. Manger, Jr.



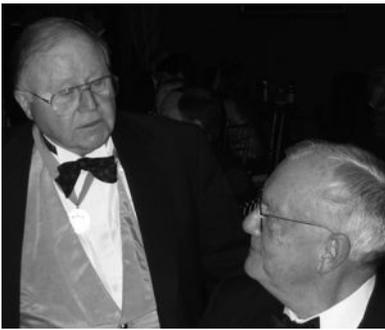
Budd Hallberg and John P. T. Blake



R. Brandon Fradd, Shawn Davis, and Edward J. Collins



Harry and Elizabeth Lindh



Timothy Field Beard and Michael S. de L. Neill



Lansing R. Palmer



Brian A. Blake



Thomas H. Lipscomb



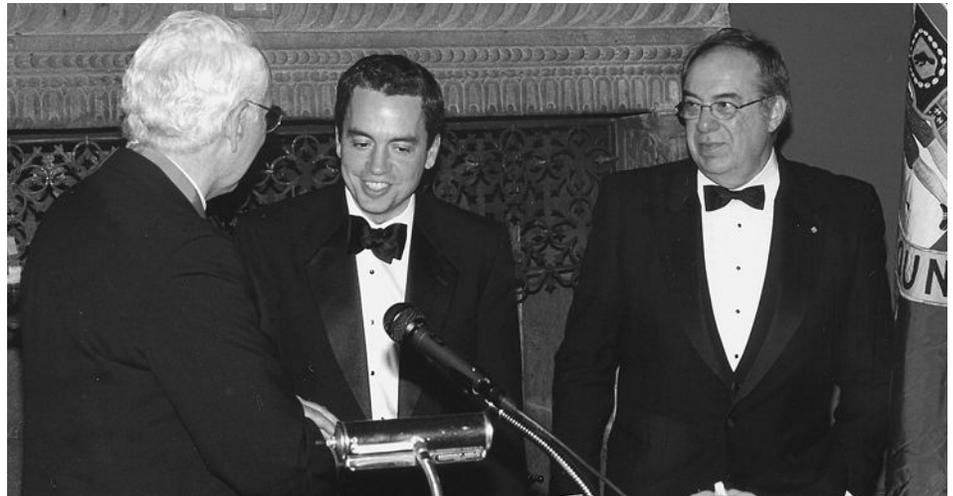
President William R. Follett inducts a new member, the Rev. Martin L. Chase, as Admissions Committee chairman George H. McNeely IV observes

Fall Stated Meeting

Continued from front page

transports his readers from the center of global power that is Manhattan today back to a wooded wilderness island, home to wolves and bears, and hunting ground for Indians. It was on this strategically located island that a largely forgotten collection of smugglers, traders, prostitutes, pirates, and entrepreneurs formed America's original melting pot, and created a society that helped shape the nation that was to come.

The heart of the story is the struggle between Peter Stuyvesant and Adriaen van der Donck. New Amsterdam was a commercial outpost of the Dutch East India Company rather than a political colony of the Netherlands. Peter Stuyvesant was named governor of the outpost and served the Company. But the residents were beginning to chafe at their status as subjects with no rights. Van der Donck, the first trained lawyer to come to North America, became their spokesman and led a movement to grant provincial status to



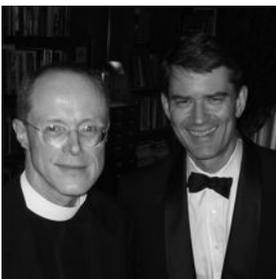
Past President John M. Baker welcoming Russell Shorto and Charles Gehring at the podium

New Netherland, with concomitant civil rights for its inhabitants. Over the opposition of the Company, van der Donck persuaded the States-General of The Netherlands that New Netherland should become a province; but war broke out between England and

Holland and the decision was never implemented. In the end, New Netherland became a British possession and was renamed the Province of New York.

The Washington Irving medal has never been awarded to two persons simultaneously; but, in this instance, to award it to either one or the other gentleman would have been inappropriate. *The Island at the Center of the World* relies on the work of dozens of scholars who have devoted themselves to a reappraisal of the Dutch colony, but more than anything it relies on the translation work of Charles Gehring. Based at the New York State Library in Albany and under the auspices of the NEH-supported nonprofit organization he formed, the New Netherland Institute (formerly the New Netherland Project), he has spent thirty years translating and publishing the court cases, council minutes, and correspondence of the colony, and so bringing this forgotten piece of American beginnings to light.

Russell Shorto has written two previous books: *Gospel Truth*, about the search for the historical Jesus, and *Saints and Madmen*, about psychiatry and religion. For *Island*, he spent three years studying documents and working with scholars in the US and the Netherlands. The hub of his research was the New Netherland Institute in Albany.



The Rev. Martin L. Chase and George H. McNeely IV



President William R. Follett



The late William C. Crooks, with Floyd Sanford and Kent L. Straat



Van Furniss, Susan Williams, Margy Furniss, and Samuel D. Williams



R. Brandon Fradd and Thomas F. Pike, Jr.

BROM BONES BOWL AND TASTING DINNER

“Dad, the bowl has been passed to you. Either drink the contents or tell a joke!” What’s going on here? It’s the 2004 Tasting Dinner hosted by the Chief Steward. This year it was held at Keen’s Steakhouse in New York City on 19 November. Nine members attended, including four stewards. What happens at a Tasting Dinner? An hour of cocktails for sure, and then a hearty dinner followed by round after round of storytelling. This year the event was arranged by Chief Steward Joseph vanB. Wittmann III.

Dinner consisted of a salad, two-inch-thick roast beef with potatoes and vegetables, and cheesecake for dessert. A well-fortified planter’s punch provided the lubrication for the diners to remember stories, songs and jokes to tell after dinner. Everyone received a nice wood picture frame containing a picture of Washington Irving. The room in which this was held was interesting of itself. Called the Lillie Langtry Room after

the well known Edwardian British actress, it is decorated with 1,100 well-smoked Dutch long pipes attached to the ceiling, along with memorabilia of Miss Langtry.

The tradition of the dinner goes back to the Society’s earliest days when it was the forum for sampling menus and wines for the Feast of Saint Nicholas on 6 December. Each year the Chief Steward plans and MCs the Tasting Dinner. The tradition continued with John Blake, who donated the famous Brom Bones Bowl – the bowl mentioned above. This bowl evokes the celebrated bowl of Farmer van Tassel. You know the one: it contained the fiery liquid at his annual Halloween party and caused so much mischief that night with Ichabod Crane.

But who was Brom Bones? Abraham van Brunt. Incidentally, aside from our story, there are van Tassels and van Brunts still living in Northern Westchester! Mr. van Brunt received that nickname from his

Tarrytown neighbors because of his rangy figure and how he rode with his troop of gallants through Tarrytown with their “lustful gospel of whoop and holler.” One of these times Mr. van Brunt, after imbibing steadily of the famous bowl’s contents, mounted his great black stallion and disguised himself as the Hessian Ghost Rider. Under a black hood, with a grinning pumpkin-head under his arm, he lurked at a crossroad with the intention of teaching Crane a lesson. Washington Irving tells us that Miss Katrina van Tassel’s affections were directed towards Mr. Crane instead of Mr. van Brunt. The scare tactic worked, and Katrina and Abraham “lived happily ever after.” Or so the story goes.

So, you see, Farmer van Tassel’s famous bowl lives on, along with the merriment which goes with it.

Joe Wittmann, Jr.

JAMES BRONSON GARDINER II (1907-2003)

James Bronson Gardiner II died in Manhattan on December 11, 2003. He joined The Saint Nicholas Society on April 12, 1962 in right of descent from Albert Heymanse Roosa, who arrived in New Amsterdam on April 15, 1660 aboard the ship “Spotted Cow.”

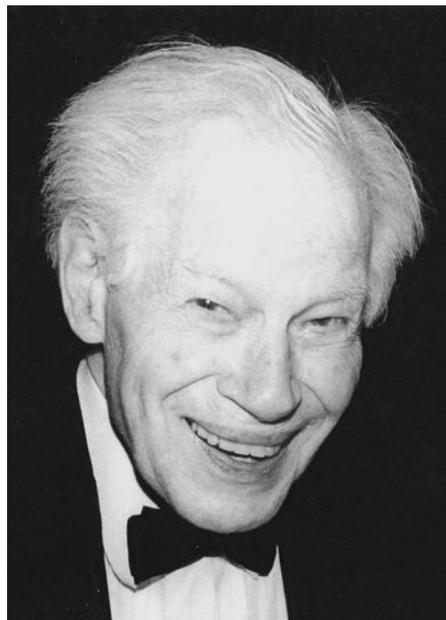
Jim was born in 1907; he graduated from Governor Dummer Academy in Byfield, Massachusetts in 1924. Yale awarded him a Ph.B. in 1928.

In 1929 he joined Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, just weeks before the great stock market crash. After reaching mandatory retirement age in 1972, he retired from his position of vice president in charge of group pensions of MetLife and joined the New York State Insurance Department, with an office on the 81st floor of the World Trade Center. In 1975 he organized an event that became an annual practice: climbing the 107 floors of the WTC. He continued this feat until 1993, his 86th birthday.

On 9/11/2001 he was working about four blocks from the World Trade Center when his office was destroyed by the terrorist attack. He told of the white fog of powdered concrete that made it impossible to see

street signs. He reached a Wall Street subway stop that he recognized, turned east and walked four miles to his apartment in Stuyvesant Town.

Finally, on October 31, 2002 he decided to retire once and for all. By that time, he was the country’s oldest working life actuary.



Jim was instrumental in working out the standards for the state’s public retirement systems. And in the mid-1970s, when New York City faced bankruptcy, Jim was detailed to serve on the blue-ribbon task force that worked to bring solvency to the city’s pension plans.

He was elected a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America in 1935. In 1969 Jim was elected President General of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was also the oldest living former President General of the SAR and one of the oldest living members of The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York when he died.

Many of New York City’s heritage society members knew Jim as the Chairman of the Flag Ceremony conducted each November on Veterans’ Day. He performed that task for 27 years and was renowned for his remarkable “Gardiner punch,” provided for attendees following the service.

He married Nancy in 1937, Margaret in 1950. (Their son, James III, joined our society in 1972; their grandson, James IV in 1991). In 1993 he married Alice, his third wife.

Thomas E. Bird



THE WASHINGTON HOTEL

Birthplace of The Saint Nicholas Society

Saint Nicholas members are thoroughly versed in New York City history, and to certain of us no doubt the name “Washington Hotel” (where our Society was founded in 1835), is as familiar as Delmonico’s, the Plaza, and the Waldorf. However to some (as for example to myself) the significance of the name “Washington Hotel” has not been obvious. Furthermore, when I tried to dig into historical sources to find out more about the locale of our first meetings, I found that several different early 19th-century places went by this name. Which one, I wondered, saw the first meetings of our Society? With a little investigation into the fine collections of the library at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, I was able to identify the place, and to find out about it a number of details, which I hope will interest members.

Washington Hall (as it was initially known) was a grand, imposing building at the southeast corner of the intersection of Broadway and Reade Street. It was erected as a headquarters for the Washington Benevolent Society, a civic organization formed on July 12, 1808. The building was designed by John McComb, Jr. (1763-1853), one of the architects of City Hall; he was also an architect of Trinity Parish’s beautiful St. John’s Chapel (completed 1807; demolished 1918). The cornerstone of Washington Hall was laid on Washington’s birthday 1809, and the structure was completed in 1812. The neoclassical architectural style harmonized with the Federalist principles of the founders of the organization. The building was mainly intended to serve as a public meeting and banqueting hall, where hotel accommoda-

tions could also be obtained. The first hotelier was Daniel W. Crocker.

At Washington Hall in 1824, James Fenimore Cooper organized the Bread and Cheese Club, whose members were leaders in arts and letters in the city. In 1830 the name “Washington Hall” was changed to “Washington Hotel,” but as is usual in such cases, New Yorkers being perhaps more tradition-minded than they sometimes realize, the old name continued in use side by side with the new one. As an attractive meeting-place, according to a contemporary commentator, “none held higher rank” (Theodore S. Fay, *Views in New-York and Its Environs*, 1831, as quoted by David W. Dunlap in *On Broadway*, 1990, p. 47).

It seems altogether fitting that at the
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The Washington Hotel

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Washington Hotel, Irving and others met to discuss the idea of organizing a society that would commemorate the heritage of New York. The minutes of the organizational meeting read: "At a Meeting of several gentlemen, residents and natives of the City of New York, held at Washington Hotel, on Saturday evening, February 14th, 1835, to consider the expediency of establishing a Society to be composed of old residents and the City of New York and their descendants...."

Among those present was Philip Hone (1780-1851), a former mayor of New York (elected in 1825). In his diary he recorded: "*February 14, 1835.*—I attended this evening a meeting at Washington Hall of a number of New Yorkers, with a design to form a regular Knickerbocker society, as a sort of set-off against St. Patrick's, St. George's and more particularly the New England. The meeting was large and exceedingly respectable; there were the Irvings, Moores, McVickars, Renwicks, Rapelje, Stuyvesant, Laight, Fish, Wilkins, the Schermerhorns, Brinckerhoffs, Costers, Colden, etc.,—a goodly show of good fellows who will not disgrace their ancestors.... I suppose we shall have a few annual dinners which will be pretty much all that will grow out of this project."

This event was followed by a dinner held at the Washington Hotel on February 28th, when the first members were elected to The Saint Nicholas Society, for a total of 275.

About a year and a half later, on December 6, 1836, Hone attended the anniversary dinner, as one of a relatively small group of 50 or 60 guests. He still seemed skeptical about the future of the Society, for he commented that the meeting was "a rather forced concern." However, when he attended the dinner two years later, on December 6, 1838, he was considerably more enthusiastic, and called it: "as good a dinner as I ever sat down to; all excellent, hot and well served, and the wines capital.

There was the usual quantity of toasting and speaking. The President (Mr. Verplanck) made a long address, in the form of an annual report of the state of the society, in his quaint, amusing style. Dr. Francis, as Physician-General, was very happy. I made a short address when called upon, and concluded with the following toast: New Yorkers, 'at home' to all the world; let them not forget that they are masters of the house."

Perhaps a principal reason why the Washington Hotel is not better remembered is that the impressive structure burned on July 5, 1844, and soon afterwards A. T. Stewart built his department store on the site. After the store moved out, the complex became an office building (still standing). Eventually it served as headquarters for the famous newspaper *The Sun*, commemorated in the large clock at the corner of the building, inscribed with the motto of the paper: "It shines for all." (The current *New York Sun* is located not far away, at 105 Chambers Street.) Presently the space is largely occupied by New York City offices.

Washington Hall (or Washington Hotel) after 32 years disappeared forever, and there was no successor institution to carry its name and tradition down to the present day. However, the name is remembered within The Saint Nicholas Society as the place where our group was founded. Contrary to the prediction in the early comments by Philip Hone in his diary, The Saint Nicholas Society has grown, and flourished, and continues vigorous to this day, 170 years later.

Note: Minutes of the first Saint Nicholas meeting are quoted from the Society's published Genealogical Record book for 1923, volume III, p. 127. The extracts from Hone's diary are quoted from the same source pp. 131-132, with text evidently based on the complete original manuscript text of the diary, including portions absent from the published volumes of extracts as edited by Bayard Tuckerman (1889), and by Allan Nevins (1927).

Festival Benefits Church

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originally part of Peter Stuyvesant's estate, the church stands on the spot originally occupied by a chapel dating back to Stuyvesant's time. Stuyvesant, the last governor of New Amsterdam, is buried in a vault under the church along with several of his descendants. Nearby are the remains of Sir Edmond Andros, the first British colonial governor of New York.

As noted on a plaque at the church, 14 founding members of Saint Nicholas Society are buried there: Peter Gerard Stuyvesant, first President; Henry Brevoort; Peter Goelet; Martin Hoffman; Murray Hoffman; Philip Hone; David Samuel Jones; Jacob Lorillard; Daniel LeRoy; Augustus Van C. Schermerhorn; John Simon Schermerhorn; Peter Brinckerhoff Schermerhorn; Peter Augustus Schermerhorn; and Gerard Stuyvesant. In 1957 the Society's Constitution was amended to state explicitly that the rector of St. Mark's Church may be elected an honorary member of the Society for as long as he is the church's rector. For many years, the Saint Nicholas Society held an annual church service at St. Mark's.

For all its glorious Dutch and historical associations, the church has had its share of misfortune. It was ravaged by a fire in 1978, just after a restoration had been carried out, and the church had to undergo the trouble and expense of a second restoration between 1978 and 1984. The parish is small, and the neighborhood in which it is situated (Second Avenue at 10th Street) has been in flux.

The handsome India House, which dates from the 1850s, was originally the headquarters of the Hanover Bank, then the New York Cotton Exchange and then W. R. Grace & Co. It is now a private lunch club. Named for the Hanoverian dynasty, the square is one of Manhattan's oldest squares. The royal name was changed after the Revolution but, by popular demand, was later restored.

WILLIAM CLAYTON CROOKS



Bill Crooks died suddenly 14 November 2004 of a heart attack, at the age of 56. He was elected a member of the Society 14 May 1996 in right of descent from Job Benson, with a supplemental line from Abraham Pierson; he had been a Saint Nicholas board member since 2002. His daughter Christiana Brinton Crooks came out at the Saint Nicholas Paas Festival 26 March 2004.

Bill was born in Philadelphia, 10 July 1948, son of Robert M. Crooks and the former Lois M. Anderson. He graduated from Lawrenceville School, and from

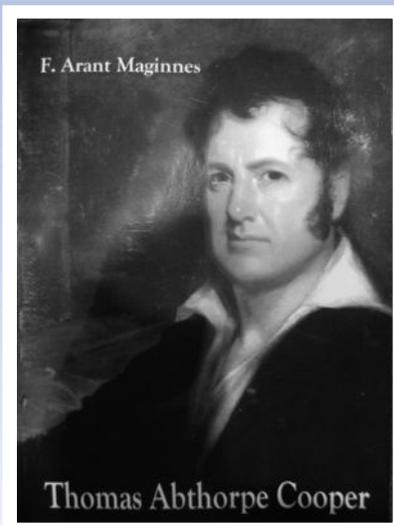
Yale University, class of 1970. He then took three graduate degrees at the University of Pennsylvania: M.A. 1971; M.B.A. 1974; and J.D. 1975. His career was as an investment banker with Bankers Trust Company. Bill lived in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he was active in the local historical society, and at the Bruce Museum, where the Society held a recent meeting. In New York, he often read at the NYG&B library. He married the former Karin B. Johnson; children: Christiana B. Crooks, and William Clayton Carter Crooks.

BOOK REVIEW

Fairlie Arant Maginnes

Washington Irving was an enthusiastic theatergoer, and he was a friend of Thomas Abthorpe Cooper, the leading tragedian of the American stage during the early nineteenth century. Cooper was especially admired for his portrayals of tragic Shakespearean heroes, such as Macbeth, Othello, and Richard III. Cooper was born in England in 1775, and began his career on the British stage. But he had notable successes in America after 1796, and in 1799 he married a New Yorker, Joanna Johnstone. After a few years during which Cooper played both in Britain and in the U.S.A., he decided in 1804 to devote himself mainly to the American stage.

Cooper's wife died in 1808, and in the same year he met Mary Fairlie, a friend of Irving's. Her father, Major James Fairlie, had served in the Revolution as an aide-de-camp to Steuben, and after the war Fairlie was a prominent member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati. The couple were married in 1812,



when Cooper was at the summit his theatrical career. Irving continued to keep in touch with Cooper, and in 1831 visited him and Mary Fairlie "at his pretty cottage in the pretty town of Bristol, on the banks of the Delaware" (not far from Philadelphia). Cooper is said to have won the house (during the winter of 1811-1812) in the course of a card game in Paris with a stranger from Philadelphia.

Cooper's last stage appearance in New York was in the role of Antony in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, in 1835. Cooper later held posts in the United States government civil service. Cooper's daughter Priscilla in 1839 married John Tyler, who was elected vice president

*Thomas Abthorpe Cooper:
Father of the American Stage,
1775-1849.*

Jefferson, North Carolina & London:
McFarland & Company, Inc.,
Publishers, 2004.

Pp. xiv + 234. Price: \$25.00 (paperback).

under William Henry Harrison ("Old Tippecanoe"). After Harrison's sudden death in 1841, John Tyler became president of the United States. Thomas Abthorpe Cooper died in 1849.

Fairlie Arant Maginnes's fascinating biography is based on many years of research with original manuscripts, contemporary playbills, and other primary sources. Her account is filled with allusions to interesting contemporaries of Cooper's: not only to American literary personalities, such as Irving, and to many theatrical figures, such as members of the Kemble family, but also to figures such as the philosopher William Godwin, who had been a foster parent to Cooper. Cooper also knew Godwin's wife Mary Woolstonecraft, author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). Fairlie Maginnes's text is supported by full scholarly documentation, and enhanced by numerous illustrations from contemporary paintings and prints, and by (on the cover) a fine color reproduction of an oil portrait by Thomas Sully.

SALMAGUNDI

Ian Baker is author of *The Heart of the World: A Journey to the Last Secret Place* (The Penguin Press, 2004). A riveting adventure and an intimate journey into the heart of Tibet's fabled Tsangpo Gorge.

John and Ellen O'Malley are parents of a son, John Arthur Elcock O'Malley, born 27 November 2004.

Frank Sypher has published *Minutes of Coroners Proceedings, City and County of New York, John Burnet, Coroner, 1748-1758*, in *Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society*, vol. XVI (New York, 2004), which was discussed in a profile article about Frank by Gary Shapiro for his

Knickerbocker column in *The New York Sun*, December 30, 2004.

Herndon Werth, writing under the by-line "The Sage of Sutton," has a historical article in the Winter 2005 issue of the *Sutton Area Community News Bulletin*, published by and for residents of the Sutton Place neighborhood.

Dan Seitz writes us that in *Those Days* by Hamilton Fish Armstrong (New York, 1963), pp. 148-149, is a reminiscence about child-sized chairs made from the wood of the Stuyvesant pear tree (see *The Weathercock*, Fall 2004). We wonder, Where are the chairs now?

Call for Back Copies of THE WEATHERCOCK

The editors of *The Weathercock* would like to ask members to please see if they have back issues that they can donate to the Saint Nicholas office, so as to complete our files. We would especially like to have original copies (or photocopies) of the following issues:

- October 1964
- any issues from June 1974 to June 1977 inclusive
- any issues from 1981 through 2001

Many thanks for your help. – Eds.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Martin Leslie Chase	18 May 2004	Gysbert Op Dyck
Barry Christopher Howard	6 Dec. 2004	Johannes Pieter Silbernagel
Christopher Praileur Smith	6 Dec. 2004	Joseph Waldron
David Franklin Smith	6 Dec. 2004	Joseph Waldron
Barrett John Taylor	6 Dec. 2004	Geleyn Vinge (Vigne)
Donald Westervelt	6 Dec. 2004	Lubbert Lubbertsten van Westervelt

NECROLOGY

Since publication of the last *Weathercock* the Society has received notice of the death of the following members:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
Donald Roderick Perkins	21 Jan. 1988	31 May 2004
William Clayton Crooks	14 May 1996	14 Nov. 2004

SPRING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 1	Prospective Members reception at the home of Joie and Dennis Delafield
Thursday, February 17	Winter Stated Meeting at Christie's
Friday, April 1	Paas Festival, India House in the heart of Old New York to benefit Peter Stuyvesant's Church, St. Mark's in-the-Bowery
Thursday, April 21	Board of Managers Meeting, at the Society's offices
Thursday, May 19	Spring Stated Meeting, location and program TBA

The Paas Festival Debutante Ball has been scheduled for **Friday, March 31, 2006**.

THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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GEORGE H. McNEELY IV
FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

STEPHEN B. BILLICK
SECRETARY

WILLIAM POTTER JOHNS
TREASURER

THE WEATHERCOCK

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION
OF THE SOCIETY,
WRITTEN, EDITED AND PRODUCED
BY

FRANCIS J. SYPHER, JR.
JOHN McC. SHANNON