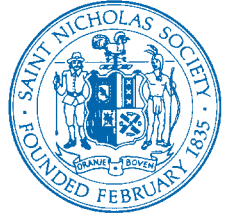


# The Weathercock



## HAMILTON BIOGRAPHER CHERNOW RECEIVES IRVING MEDAL

The fall stated meeting held on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at the Racquet & Tennis Club, at 52nd Street and Park Avenue, was distinguished by the award of the Society's Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence to Ron Chernow, for his book *Alexander Hamilton* (Penguin Books, 2004), which tells the extraordinary story of a man who overcame all the odds to shape, inspire—and occasionally scandalize—the newborn America.

Hamilton, of course, became a New Yorker by adoption and is therefore of particular interest to members of The Saint Nicholas Society, a goodly number of whom assembled to hear the author's take on the statesman whose face adorns the ten-dollar bill of our national currency.

As he was an illegitimate, mostly self-taught orphan from the Caribbean, Hamilton's brilliant future was difficult to divine. But after he made his way to North America, he rose to become George Washington's aide de camp in the Continental army,

co-authored *The Federalist Papers*, founded the Bank of New York, led the Federalist Party, and became the Republic's first Secretary of the Treasury.

The French might describe Hamilton's life, passions and affairs as *mouvementé*. From his shame about his birth to his fiery aspirations, from his intimate relationships with childhood friends to his feuds with Jefferson, Madison, Adams, Monroe, and Burr, and from his high-profile affair with Maria Reynolds to his marriage to Eliza Livingston—we may infer that life with Hamilton was seldom dull. Nor was his departure from this world, in the famous, but also mysterious duel with Aaron Burr in July of 1804.

Mr. Chernow proclaims that America's current political and economic primacy is the result of Hamilton's ardent advocacy of economic ideas that were often controversial during his time. "To repudiate his legacy," he writes, "is, in many ways, to repudiate the modern world."

President William R. Follett led the proceedings attired in the traditional style: white tie and tails, historic *tricorne* hat, and gold medal of office suspended from his neck. Regular attendees of Stated Meetings know to expect a gracious speech featuring a few "new" jokes, a state of the Society report, and a pleasing yet dignified expeditiousness in dispatching business matters so that all may enjoy the food and drink. In this regard, the fare at the Racquet Club did not disappoint.

Admissions Committee Chairman George McNeely IV displayed his flawless technique of introducing one new member, David F. Smith, who was then inducted by President Follett.

The Fall Stated Meeting more than satisfied the objectives of the Society: to collect and preserve knowledge about New York, and to promote social intercourse among the members.



Brian A. Blake, Steward, with Joseph vanB. Wittmann III, Chief Steward



David and Marguerite Platt with M. P. and Bob Naud



David F. Smith



The Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike, a guest and Adam Van Doren



Eugene L. Church and Stewart R. Manville



David Church and guest



Author Ron Chernow concisely described the legacy of Alexander Hamilton. "To repudiate his legacy is, in many ways, to repudiate the modern world."



Barry C. Howard with President William R. Follett



John Mauk Hilliard, Courtney Haff and Malin Cedarquist

# Society Sponsors Tulip Bulbs for St. Mark's Church

As part of the citywide celebration "5 Dutch Days—5 Boroughs: Dutch Art and Culture Past and Present" (November 16-21, 2005) The Saint Nicholas Society joined with other organizations at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16, in a ceremonial planting of bulbs in the churchyard at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, 10th Street and Second Avenue. We were fortunate to have unusually mild, springlike weather for the day. The bulbs were donated by Mr. Hans van Waardenburg, owner of B&K Flowerbulbs of Holland; in recent years, especially since 9/11/01, he has donated literally millions of bulbs for planting in and around New York. For example, in Central Park, in the springtime, the brilliant yellow daffodils arise from bulbs generously given by Mr. Van Waardenburg. The Honorable Cora Minderhoud, Consul General of the Netherlands, spoke at the ceremony, as did Mr. Theodore Prudon, of the Netherland-America Foundation. Nicholas Fish, Esq., a direct descendant of Peter Stuyvesant, was master of ceremonies for the event. His forebear, Lt. Col. Nicholas Fish (an original member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati), married Elizabeth Stuyvesant at St Mark's Church, April 30, 1803. The couple moved into the handsome brick federal-style house built for them as a wedding present, at 21 Stuyvesant Street. The house is still standing, just down the street from St. Mark's.

In his comments, Mr. Fish noted that the church location is the oldest site of continuous worship in Manhattan. The Stuyvesant family chapel stood there over 350 years ago, when the area was part of Peter Stuyvesant's bouwerie (or farm), and in 1799 the present St. Mark's Church was erected on the same grounds. Our president, William R. Follett came as an honored participant in the ceremonies; our executive director, Jill Spiller joined in, wearing a cheerful hat; several others represented The Saint Nicholas Society, in-



*President William R. Follett (in foreground) with Hans van Waardenburg, Theodore Prudon and Dutch Consul General Cora Minderhoud*



*President Follett with the Rev. Julio Torres, Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery*

cluding: Courtney Haff; Sandy Sanford; John McC. Shannon, First Vice President; and Frank Sypher. Following are words spoken for the occasion by William R. Follett, President of The Saint Nicholas Society:

"Thank you for inviting me to be here today and for having me be a part of this celebration. It has been an honor, and a pleasure, for The Saint Nicholas Society to work with Hans van Waardenburg, owner of B&K Flower Bulbs of Holland. For years to come, his bulbs will bring a beautiful Dutch spring to this historic soil. The Saint Nicholas Society was founded 170 years ago to preserve and promote the history of old New Amsterdam and New

York. I can think of no better way to support that mission than with our participation in this event. Surely there can be no more attractive charge than to create a beautiful garden on Peter Stuyvesant's farm. I offer my thanks to Mr. Van Waardenburg, to the Dutch Consulate in New York, and to the Five Dutch Days creators for their gifts—gifts of time, talent, and vision. Many years ago St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery celebrated spring with a tulip festival. It is very gratifying to be part of the effort to return that tradition to this historic neighborhood. Thank you."

After remarks by the speakers, and introductions of various dignitaries—such as our host for the event, the Reverend Julio Torres, Rector of St. Mark's—the participants, led by Mr. Van Waardenburg, began digging and carefully planting bulbs at a spot near the bust of Peter Stuyvesant, who sternly overlooked the entire proceeding, we trust with warm approval. After the principal events were over, Mr. Van Waardenburg returned to the plot and gently brushed some leaves over the new plantings, to cover and protect them until spring.

A few weeks after this event, St. Mark's held a special church service in honor of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. Several members of The Saint Nicholas Society participated, including President William R. Follett. This event is scheduled to be an annual occurrence in future years, with particular reference to participation by our Society, which has a long history of close and cordial connection with St. Mark's. (See article on "Saint Nicholas Society Sunday.")

In response to the Society's participation in Five Dutch Days, we received from the organizers, Susan De Vries, Felicia Mayo, and Sean Sawyer, a card of thanks, and a beautiful poster, which can be seen at our office, handsomely framed.

## Obituary: JOHN ELLIOTT, JR.



John Elliott, Jr. died at the age of 84 on Saturday, October 29, 2005, of a cerebral hemorrhage. Jock Elliott was elected to membership in The Saint Nicholas Society on May 8, 2000, in right of descent from Stephen Coerte Van Voorhes. In 1995 he was awarded the Society's Medal of Merit. As a member, he

served on the Speakers and Medals Committee, bringing many prominent New Yorkers into our midst.

Jock was born on January 25, 1921, in Manhattan, son of John and Audrey Osborn Elliott. He attended the Browning School in Manhattan, and St. Paul's in Concord, New Hampshire, and he graduated from Harvard, A.B. 1942. During World War II he was a major in the U.S. Marine Corps. Jock had a distinguished career in advertising, becoming chairman of Ogilvy & Mather International, and retiring in 1982. Jock was well known as an author and book collector, with a specialty in material relating to

Christmas. His superb collection formed the basis of his delightful volume *Inventing Christmas: How Our Holiday Came to Be* (Harry N. Abrams, 2002), an illustrated history of the celebration of Christmas. He was a member of the Century Association, and of the Grolier Club, as well as of other organizations.

Our sincere condolences to his wife, Eleanor Thomas Elliott, recipient of the Society's Medal of Merit in 2002. A funeral service was held at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue and 53rd Street, on Wednesday, November 2, 2005.

# SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO IRVING'S SUNNYSIDE

On Saturday, September 17, 2005 members of The Saint Nicholas Society and their guests gathered at Irvington, New York for an excursion and tour of Washington Irving's house, "Sunnyside." For the occasion, President William R. Follett gave the following address.

"Washington Irving bought a small house on this land in 1835. He was one of the founders of The Saint Nicholas Society in that same year. He was the driving force behind the creation of our Society. It was his belief that, as the St. George's Society represented the English, the St. Andrew's Society represented the Scots, and the St. David's Society represented the Welsh, there also should be a society that represents early families of New Amsterdam and New York. This Society remains unique today because of his hand. We are known to value wit, self-deprecation, and humorous stories; in short, we have fun. You can imagine Irving at a Stated Meeting in, say, 1841 standing during dinner and sharing a clever story, perhaps about his travels in Spain, or about the Van Tassels' daughter. The assembled gentlemen would be laughing and applauding all the way through. We recall that seventeenth-century Manhattan was a wonderful, great mix of cultures, and we keep up many Dutch traditions that continued in use long after the English changed our city's name to New York. The simple, romantic beauty of Irving's images still inspires us.

"Our Society remains vital because we carry his spirit with us still. Humor and a congenial atmosphere, mixed with intellectual discussions about our history, about the present day, and about the future of New York. This is the fuel that will keep The Saint Nicholas Society strong and growing for another 170 years.

"As we sit here in this beautiful place, consider this quotation from Irving: 'I think it is an invaluable advantage to be born and brought up in the neighborhood of some grand and noble object of nature; a river, a lake, or a mountain. We make a friendship with it, we, in a manner, ally ourselves to it for life. It remains an object of our pride and affections, a rallying point, to call us home again after all our wanderings.'

"I grew up on Lake Champlain and understand that sentiment completely. I am drawn to it as he was drawn here.

"I am certain that our founders and many early members of our Society visited Sunnyside often. You must think they are happy to see us here today. Could they have

imagined that this Society would survive this many years?

"It is my pleasure to announce that The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York will be donating several hundred flower bulbs, imported from Holland, to be planted here at Sunnyside. More will be planted at other Historic Hudson Valley sites. This is a small token of appreciation to the man who built this place, the man

who inspired the movement to create our Society. One final note: This home was purchased from Irving's family in 1945; two years later it was opened to the public. The purchase and restoration were financed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who in the year of the opening, 1947, was awarded our Medal of Merit, to honor him for his effort to preserve this historic home.

"Thank you all for coming today."



*Sunnyside*



*Sandy Sanford, John Mauk Hilliard and Maria Dering*



*Lianne Neuhauser, Tom and Mary Lynne Bird, and Charles Neuhauser*



*At the beginning of the tour the group heard a brief recapitulation of how, why and when Washington Irving settled at Sunnyside.*



*Terry Blake with her son Owen Blake*



*President Bill Follett delivers his address.*



*A guide in period costume described features of Irving's home.*



*Mary Lynne Bird with John Blake*



*Erika Billick with her uncle, Stephen B. Billick*



*Joe and Barbara Wittmann*

## MARIAN HEISKELL IS AWARDED MEDAL OF MERIT AT 171ST FEAST

On Tuesday, December 6, 2005, members of The Saint Nicholas Society and their guests celebrated the feast of our patron saint, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. The event took place, with full traditional panoply, at the Union Club, on Park Avenue at 69th Street. The evening began with a cocktail reception on the balcony, where a beautifully decorated Christmas tree announced the spirit of the season, and a friendly fire blazed in the hearth near the bar. Old friends and new exchanged greetings until called to await the procession of honored guests, officers, stewards, and past presidents. At the invitation of President William R. Follett, our chaplain, the Reverend Thomas F. Pike, gave the invocation and the group joined in singing the traditional Dutch hymn "We Gather Together." After President Follett's message of greeting, 1st Vice President John McC. Shannon offered the traditional toast to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, followed by the national anthem of the Netherlands, "The Wilhelmus." The Honorable Cora Minderhoud, Consul General, graciously accepted the toast, and answered with one to the President of the United States of America, which was followed by "The Star Spangled Banner." The round of traditional toasts continued with one to our ancestors, eloquently pronounced by 2nd Vice President John P. T. Blake, perching upon his chair, and in his inimitable manner reciting the wonderful verses which have become such a delightful and memorable part of our observances. And finally, John Mauk Hilliard, 3rd Vice President, gave the toast to St. Nicholas, the *goed heilig man*, whose fame has passed down to posterity in memory especially of his kindness and generosity to the young, such as the young women for whom he provided gold marriage portions. As a token of his example of generosity, everyone found at their place a gift bag containing a Delft ceramic Christmas ornament, and a package of Dutch Christmas cookies, or *speculaas*.

Dinner began with an asparagus salad, with an excellent white wine, followed by roast beef, vegetables, and tiny new potatoes, with a fine red wine. All was topped off with a delicate apple tart, and a dish of *speculaas*, with coffee and tea. As the elegant dinner progressed, we enjoyed another kind of progress, in the form of the procession of the Weathercock, proudly held aloft by Chief Steward Joe Wittmann III, whose itinerary to the podium was helped along by the motion of countless handkerchiefs waved to create a breeze (smoke-free, as required by City ordinance since 2004).

President Follett reminded us that our handsome antique vane was a gift from Washington Irving to the Society in 1848. All indications are that it came from the former federal building (previously the City Hall, constructed about 1701), which until the early 1830s stood high over Wall Street, facing down Broad Street. There, George Washington was sworn in as first president of the United States. The structure was replaced by the U.S. Custom House building, erected in 1833-1842 (later the U.S. Sub-treasury Building, 1862-1925, and now a museum known as Federal Hall National Memorial).

We were delighted to welcome five new members who were inducted into the Society, with impressive introductions by George H. McNeely IV, Chairman of Admissions: Peter Livingston Bogardus, Sidney Tuttle Bogardus, Bromme Hampton Cole, Stanley Dean Heisler, and Charles Michael Anthony Winn. An enthusiastic welcome was offered to one and all.

The centerpiece of the evening was the presentation of The Saint Nicholas Society Medal of Merit to Marian S. Heiskell, "For

*Continued on next page*



*Charles and McDowell Winn with Campbell McCrary*



*Kazie Harvey with Stephen Billick*



*Maria Dering and her husband, Floyd ("Sandy") Sanford*



*Ronald and Betsy Atkins*



*Past President Kent and Donna Straat with Bob Naud*



*President William R. Follett with past President Henry Darlington*



*Past President Samuel D. Williams with George H. McNeely IV*



*President William R. Follett and Medals Committee Chairman John Milnes Baker presented the Society's Medal of Merit to Marian Heiskell at the podium after an eloquent introduction by Lys McLaughlin (Mrs. Thomas F. Pike), Director of Council on the Environment of New York City.*



*Dutch Consul General Cora Minderhoud with Ambassador Edward R. Finch, Jr.*



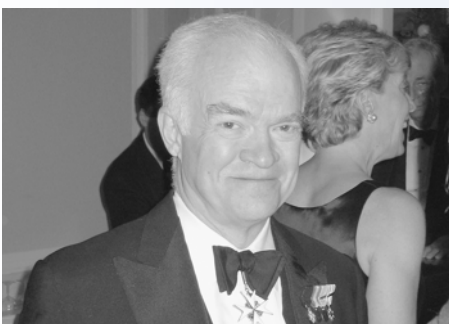
*Society Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike with President William R. Follett*



*George Rudd Mackenzie and W. Seton Ijams*



*Victor Dupont, Dr. Francis Persse Powers and Lynn Dupont*



*John C. Harvey*

outstanding service to the City of New York, in recognition of her vision, advocacy and leadership.” His Honor, the Mayor of the City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, sent his personal greetings and words of welcome to the Society, with his commendation of members “for your commitment to carrying on the organization’s traditions and for everything you do to protect our City’s rich historic heritage.”

Mayor Bloomberg particularly offered his congratulations to Marian S. Heiskell on receiving the Medal of Merit: “First presented to Robert Moses in 1937, this award pays tribute to those who are working to make our City a better place. Like the Saint Nicholas Society, Ms. Heiskell has had a profound impact on New York. She has been an exemplary leader for our City, and her civic-minded spirit sets a wonderful example for us all.”

The Mayor closed his communication with an expression of “his best wishes for an enjoyable event and for continued success.” (Received by fax transmission, December 6, 2005.)

After Ms. Heiskell’s acceptance speech, with many vignettes of her career in civic good works, the evening closed with a benediction by Dr. Pike, and singing of the traditional Scottish parting song (as led by St. Nicholas former president John Milnes Baker) “We’re Nae Awa’,” with its chorus: “Oh we’re nae awa’ to bide awa’ / We’re nae awa to leave ya / We’re nae awa’ to bide awa’ / We’ll aye come back and see ya” (that is, in 21st-century American, “We’re not [going] away to stay away, we’ll always come back and see you”).

Honored guests, in addition to The Honorable Cora Minderhoud, and Marian S. Heiskell, were: Eleanor Thomas Elliott, Medalist in 2002; Alan Frese, President, New England Society in New York; Annette Geddes, President, Colonial Dames of America; James McNaughton Hester, Medalist in 1967; and Natalie T. Pray, President, The Saint George’s Society.

Patrons of the event included: Daniel H. Baldini, Daniel S. Curtis, Henry Darlington, Jr., Eleanor Thomas Elliott, R. Brandon Fradd, George H. McNeely IV, Andre Thorne Naud, Robert Armstead Naud, Dr. Francis Persse Powers, and Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dunstan Williams.

## ST. MARK’S PROCLAIMS SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY SUNDAY

By resolution of the clergy and vestry, St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery proclaimed, as of April 21, 2005, that the first Sunday in December shall be called “Saint Nicholas Society Sunday” in recognition of the long-standing association of the Society with St. Mark’s. On Sunday, December 4th, St. Mark’s held a church service in honor of our patron saint, Nicholas of Myra, and the Society was represented by our President, William R. Follett. The wording of the resolution (which may be seen, handsomely framed, at our headquarters) notes that the Society “has generously expressed its support of St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery and honored its significance to New York City history, especially its associations with New Amsterdam and Peter Stuyvesant”; also noted is the Society’s “recent award to St. Mark’s” in recognition of “the church’s ongoing importance through its diverse and innovative ministries”; it is therefore resolved “that the Wardens, Vestry and Priest-in-Charge, on behalf of the people of St. Mark’s, do hereby declare the first Sunday in December *St. Nicholas Society Sunday* as an expression of gratitude and a sign of the earnest desire to foster and on-going bond between the Society and the Church.” Signed by: Fr. Julio Torres, Priest-in-Charge; Marti Mackenzie, Senior Warden; and Jerry Long, Clerk of the Vestry. At the bottom of the resolution is the following summary in Dutch: “*De St. Mark’s Kerk aan de Bouverij heeft dit besluit genomen in de ere van de St. Nicholas Vereniging de met veel ijver de Nederlandse geschiedenis van de Stad New York bewaard en als dank voor hun ondersteuning, die deze vereniging aan de St. Mark’s Kerk verleend.*”

# Book Review

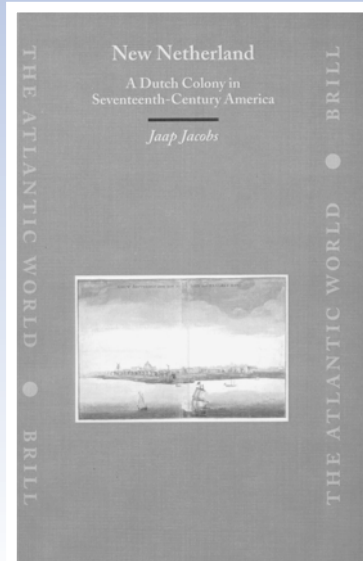
Saint Nicholas members will be greatly interested in *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth-Century America*, a handsomely printed book of permanent value (well worth the price). This volume deserves to reach a wide public at this time of rekindling of interest in our Dutch colonial heritage.

The author, Jaap Jacobs, holds a Ph.D. (1999) from the University of Leiden. His work was originally published in Dutch, as *Een zegenrijk gewest: Nieuw-Nederland in de zeventiende eeuw* (Amsterdam: Prometheus/Bert Bakker, 1999), and he himself wrote this English translation, thoroughly revised and updated. (The Dutch title may be translated: "A blessing-rich region: New Netherland in the 17th century"; the first words allude to a contemporary Dutch description of the natural wealth and beauty of the land.)

Jacobs gives a remarkably full, accurate, and authoritative account of the Dutch colonial settlement in North America. The most striking feature of his work is that it is founded primarily upon archival material that the author read in the original Dutch manuscripts (or in photocopies or microfilms of them), both in the Netherlands and in the United States. Few, if any, previously published general studies of New Netherland have been based on such close, first-hand study of manuscript material in both locations.

Jacobs calls attention to historical developments, but his work is not in the form of a chronology of New Netherland events from the 1620s until 1664. Rather, it is a close-up portrait of Dutch-American society from a variety of angles: 1) early eyewitness accounts of New Netherland; 2) patterns of immigration and settlement; 3) government and administration; 4) finance and trade; 5) religion; 6) class and social structure; 7) customs, folklore, and everyday life. The bibliography lists archival sources (with locations) and printed sources.

There is also an illustration section, with reproductions of early maps, pictures of historical figures, and photos of manuscripts, as of the famous letter (in the Dutch National Archives, The Hague) from Peter Jansz. Schaghen (or Schagen) to the States General, November 5, 1626, announcing that the Island of Manhattan had been purchased from the Indians "for the value of 60 guilders" ("*voor de waerde van 60. gld.*"); i.e. for trade goods valued at 60 guilders. This is of course the original documentary source of the hoary old canard that the Dutch bought Manhattan for \$24.00 (as computed by nineteenth-century historians, at the exchange rate of 2 1/2 silver Holland guilders to one U.S. silver dollar).



## *New Netherland; A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth-Century America*

Jaap Jacobs

Leiden, The Netherlands:  
and Boston, Mass.:  
Brill Academic Publishers, 2005  
ISBN 90 04 12906 5  
Pp. xix + 559 (hardcover)  
Price: \$195.00 US; Euros 150.00

The manufacturing and import of alcohol seems to have been of prominent concern to the early settlers, with the principal local product being beer (for use in the colony) and the main alcohol imports being wine, brandy, and gin as luxury items. Early settlers had noticed the abundance of wild grapes, and had thought of developing a wine industry in New Netherland, but this plan was not put into effect at the time (at the present day, excellent wines are produced in several regions of New York State). However, the growing of tobacco, both for domestic use and for export, was a major agricultural activity in the colony. Tobacco was shipped in barrels, like those depicted on the seal of our Society, and on the arms of the City of New York.

Among New Netherlanders, sports included such pastimes as bowling (familiar to readers of the story of Rip Van Winkle), target shooting, and, in the winter, ice skating and sleigh riding. One then-popular recreation that has happily disappeared was "pulling the goose" (*ganstrekken*). This involved suspending a hapless goose in the air by a rope: people would ride by, and try to grab hold of its greased neck and yank its head off; the successful contender got to keep the decapitated goose. One is glad to learn that this revolting activity was condemned by the director general and the council. Apparently (and perhaps not surprisingly) the event had often been accompanied by a good deal of rowdy and disruptive behavior on the part of the participants and spectators.

An important part of Jacobs's discussion necessarily centers on the fur trade, which provided one of the primary incentives for establishing the Dutch colony (a beaver appears prominently on the coat of arms of the

City of New York and on the seal of our Society). The author presents contemporary statistics indicating that over the period from 1624 to 1635, approximately 80,000 beaver pelts (worth 6 to 10 guilders each) were exported from New Netherland. The letter by Peter Schaghen, referred to above, mentions that the same ship which in 1626 brought home the news of the purchase of Manhattan, also carried 7,246 beaver pelts.

I have often been puzzled by the question of why beaver pelts were so valuable at that time. Jacobs does not go into detail about the question, since it does not directly concern his portrait of New Netherland. The answer, as many Saint Nicholas members are doubtless aware, is that beaver fur was used in making the broad-brimmed, high-crowned hats (worn by men and by women) that one notices in paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Frans Hals, and other 17th-century artists. Peter Stuyvesant is often portrayed wearing this style of hat. The hat was not made from the beaver pelt itself; rather, certain kinds of hairs were carefully removed from the pelt and made into felt, which then, by an elaborate series of complicated, skilled processes would be made into a hat. The great expense of these luxurious hats was as much in the manufacturing as in the cost of the beaver pelts. In later years, as beavers were hunted almost to extinction, changing fashions (and the availability of machine-made felt after 1846) led to the general discontinuance of the quest for beaver pelts.

Jaap Jacobs's comprehensive and authoritative study, based on primary source materials, is doubtless destined to become an essential work for anyone interested in New Netherland.

Francis J. Sypher, Jr.

## IN MEMORIAM: *Fred Gleason*

Frederick Brockway Gleason III died on November 28, 2005, in Savannah, Georgia, where he had been living for some years. He was gunned down, according to reports, in an apparent “botched robbery” attempt upon him and his wife outside their home in Savannah.

Fred was born November 15, 1941, son of the late Frederick Brockway Gleason, Jr., and Mary Dewart Gleason, and grandson of William Dewart, publisher in the 1930s and 1940s of the famous New York newspaper *The Sun*, which was sold in 1950. His Saint Nicholas membership dated from September 28, 1970, in right of descent from Gerrett Hendricks Dewees. He was born in New York City, and attended several local schools (including Trinity School, for

second grade), before going to Choate. He then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania; from the Wharton School of Business he received the degree of MBA in 1970. In New York, Fred worked for a number of securities firms before eventually moving to Savannah, where he taught history to underprivileged students, and continued his long-standing interest in journalism. He had a deft way with words, both in speaking and in writing, and was enthusiastically involved in the launching in 2001 of the present-day *New York Sun*, where the long-familiar masthead, with its



Photo: *The New York Sun*

memorable motto “It shines for all,” can now be seen again on New York newsstands. Fred was active in numerous clubs, organizations, and hereditary societies, including the Pilgrims of the United States, the Society of Colonial Wars, and the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. He was also a member of the Veteran Corps of Artillery, and of the Society of the War of 1812.

He is survived by his wife, the former Ann Powell Lackey, and their daughter, Ann Powell Dewart Gleason, who made her debut at the Paas Festival in 2000. News articles appeared in *The New York Sun*, November 30, 2005 (also an editorial), and in the *Savannah Morning News*, December 2, 2005.

## NEW MEMBERS ELECTED

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Election</i>	<i>Ancestor</i>
Peter Livingston Bogardus	Dec. 6, 2005	Domine Everardus Bogardus
Andrew Lanark Bogardus	Dec. 6, 2005	Domine Everardus Bogardus
Sidney Tuttle Bogardus	Dec. 6, 2005	Domine Everardus Bogardus
Bromme Hampton Cole	Dec. 6, 2005	Barent Jacobsen Cool
Stanley Dean Heisler	Dec. 6, 2005	Lambert Jochemse van Valkenburg
Nicholas Cownhoven Taylor	Oct. 13, 2005	Wolfert Gerritse Van Kouwenhoven
Charles Michael Anthony Winn	Oct. 13, 2005	Stephen Knowlton

## SALMAGUNDI

**Courtney C. Haff**, at an event in “Five Dutch Days” (a five-day-long celebration of Netherlandish culture in New York), gave a lecture titled “Vision for the New Amsterdam History Center”; this was part of a panel of lectures sponsored by the New Amsterdam History Center, and the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter and American Planning Association NY Metro Chapter; the event was supported by Collegiate Church Corporation, and New Netherland Institute. Among speakers were: Christopher Moore, trustee of the New Amsterdam History Center; Frank Sypher; and Jeroen van den Hurk, Dissertation Fellow, New Netherland Institute.

**Robert Stephen Roberson**, of Newport News, Virginia, noticed in the last issue of *The Weathercock* the statement that our files were missing a copy the issue for

October 1963, and at once realized that, having been elected to membership on September 30, 1963, he had saved his copy of that issue, since it contained the announcement of his election. He located it in his files and generously donated it to the Society, which now has a full and complete set of issues. We express our gratitude to him, and to all members who donated back issues to complete the set.

*The Weathercock* issues for October 1962 through Fall 2005 were consigned last summer to a professional bookbinder for sewing and binding into a handsome hard-cover volume, with a sturdy slipcase. The cost of binding was supported by the Society, aided by contributions from board members, such as **Thomas E. Bird**, to whom the Society is grateful. We trust that the series (including the previously missing issue of October 1963, received in time

to be bound in with the rest) will now remain intact, so that future members will be able to consult its record of our activities during the past 43 years.

**Frank Sypher** is author of *Letitia Elizabeth Landon: A Bibliography* (Ann Arbor: Scholars’ Facsimiles & Reprints, 2005), volume 15 in his series of books (1990-2005) by and about this early 19th-century British poet and novelist (1802-1838). His biography of Landon was published in 2004.

Chief Steward **Joseph vanBeuren Wittmann III** and Jennifer L. Wittmann are parents of a daughter, Elizabeth Margaret Schuyler Wittmann, born September 12, 2005, at Mount Kisco, Westchester Co., N.Y. The Schuyler name is well established among members of the Wittmann family.

## NECROLOGY

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>
Carlisle Norwood	Feb. 27, 1933	July 11, 2005
John Winthrop Malcom	Oct. 11, 1994	July 30, 2005
Davis Van Beuren Mitchell	Nov. 3, 1947	Aug. 4, 2005
Beverly Cory Chew	April 29, 1963	Aug. 26, 2005
Thomas Frederick Spencer	Jan. 19, 1981	Aug. 28, 2005
Charles Gifford Miller	Jan. 30, 1998	Aug. 2005
John Elliott, Jr.	Oct. 11, 1994	Oct. 29, 2005
Frederick Brockway Gleason III	Sept. 28, 1970	Nov. 28, 2005
Russell Brown, Jr.	Nov. 3, 1947	2005

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006

<b>Thursday, February 23</b>	Winter Stated Meeting	St. George's Church
<b>Friday, March 31</b>	Paas Festival	St. Regis Hotel
<b>Thursday, April 20</b>	Board of Managers Meeting	Office
<b>Thursday, May 18</b>	Spring Stated Meeting	Racquet & Tennis Club

## OFFICE RELOCATION

Before the Society relocates to a new office (the move is presently in the planning stages), members should get in touch if they would like to acquire any old event photos, books, or other items (including a 40" tall Herring-Hall-Marvin safe) that will not be taken to the new headquarters.

[www.saintnicholassociety.org](http://www.saintnicholassociety.org)

## THE SAINT NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

122 EAST 58TH STREET,  
NEW YORK, NY 10022-1909  
TELEPHONE: 212-753-7175  
FAX: 212-980-0769  
EMAIL: stnick@bestweb.net

### OFFICERS

WILLIAM R. FOLLETT  
*PRESIDENT*

JOHN McC. SHANNON  
*FIRST VICE PRESIDENT*

JOHN P. T. BLAKE  
*SECOND VICE PRESIDENT*

JOHN MAUK HILLIARD  
*THIRD VICE PRESIDENT*

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

The Saint Nicholas Society  
of the City of New York  
122 East 58th Street  
New York, NY 10022-1909

