

Billick Elected President at Spring Stated Meeting and Author Judith Thurman Speaks

Stephen Bates Billick was elected President of the Saint Nicholas Society at the Spring Stated meeting on May 22, 2008. He succeeds John McConville Shannon who retired from office after two years. A complete slate of officers was elected at the same meeting.

The climax of the evening was the traditional installation ceremony wherein the three-cornered hat and president's medal were ceremoniously transferred from Mr. Shannon to Dr. Billick. In addition, Judith Thurman, a veteran novelist and writer for *The New Yorker*, told the assembled members some delightful anecdotes about working at the



Stephen B. Billick is "crowned" after his election as President of the Society

famed publication. The black-tie event was held at the Racquet and Tennis Club, at 370 Park Avenue.

During its long existence it does not appear that a psychiatrist has ever been

elected president of our Society; but now it has. Dr. Billick is in full-time private practice of clinical child, adolescent and adult psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. Dr. Billick is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at New York Medical College (NYMC) and Associate Chair for Faculty Development at St. Vincent's Hospital/NYMC, and supervises psychiatry residents, child psychiatry residents and forensic psychiatry residents in their clinical and research activities. He is also an active faculty member (Clinical Professor of Psychiatry) of New York University School of Medicine and also of

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TWO PRESENTED AT ELEGANT PAAS FESTIVAL

Maintaining tradition dating back over four decades, two young ladies were presented at the Saint Nicholas Society Paas festival held at the St. Regis Hotel on 28 March. The lovely debutantes were Rebecca Krom, daughter of Frederick Brewer deHamel Krom III; and Phoebe Lord Blatchford Ijams, niece of W. Seton Ijams, the Society's Treasurer.

In his welcoming remarks, President John

McC. Shannon stated: "I am delighted to welcome you tonight at this auspicious event at which we celebrate continuity and renewal. This is an ancient tradition at the Saint Nicholas Society where we lovingly preserve the old customs of hospitality, sociability and enjoyment brought over from the Netherlands by the city's earliest settlers."

Along with members of the co-sponsoring

societies – The Holland Society, the Colonial Dames of America, the National Society of Colonial Dames, and Society of Daughters of Holland Dames – the assembled guests communed with the spirits of our New Amsterdam forebears who settled on Manhattan centuries ago; and rejoiced at new beginnings, as embodied by the attractive young ladies who were presented.

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Long Range Planning Group Recommends Changes

What is the state of the Society and are the members content with it? This was the broad question debated by the Long Range Planning Group, which was established at the May Board of Managers meeting on 28 July at the Society's office.

The brief of the committee is to recommend ways to update the Society's operation. The members of the committee all have first-hand operational experience with the organization: three past Presidents, John M. Baker, John McC. Shan-

non and Samuel D. Williams; two past Chief Stewards, Brian A. Blake and Joseph vanB. Wittmann III; a past Paas Festival Chairman, Joseph vanB. Wittmann, Jr.; the Assistant Genealogist, Francis J. Sypher; one new member, Randall L. Taylor; the Executive Director, Jill Spiller; and President Stephen B. Billick.

Many topics were discussed, ranging from the challenge of recruiting members to the purpose and nature of the social events to the state of the treasury. All are related. The discussion generated a list of recom-

mendations that will be submitted to the Board of Managers for approval.

Top of the list is to declare that membership growth is the Society's top priority for the next five years. Everything the Society does should have as its objective, whether overt or covert, to attract new members. Secondly, measures were recommended to increase revenues and the endowment. Thirdly, measures were recommended to modify the annual program of social activities to reflect the interests of the membership.

Spring Stated Meeting

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Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (Lecturer in Psychiatry), supervising and lecturing to residents in their didactics and in their clinical work. Dr. Billick also lectures to the psychiatry residents at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

Our new President has held high office in professional associations. He is President-Elect of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL), Past-President of the American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry (ASAP), Past-President of the New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (NYCCAP), Past-President of the Tri-State Chapter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, and Past-President of the New York Chapter of the American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry. He is Chair of the Section on Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and Past-Chair of the Section on Psychiatry of the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM).

His contributions to the field have been recognized in other ways as well. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Fellow of AAFS, Fellow of NYAM, and Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In addition he has received a variety of awards for, among other things, Outstanding Service Award (AAPL) and Outstanding

Mentor (AACAP, NYMC), the Hulse Award (NYCCAP), and the Staples Award and Schonfeld Award (ASAP).

Dr. Billick was created a Knight of Justice in the Order of St. John by HM Queen Elizabeth II. He is Vice Chancellor of the Order's American Priory. He is a member of several lineage and patriotic societies (including Mayflower, Huguenot and Colonial Wars), Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue and the Union Club.

Our guest and speaker at the meeting was Judith Thurman, a writer of stories and feature articles for *The New Yorker*. She spoke entertainingly about what it was like to be a writer for the famous magazine. Her initial connection with the weekly magazine came from a long family association. Her grandfather was a successful baker on the Upper East Side, and knew Raoul Fleischmann, owner of Fleischmann's Yeast Company, who bankrolled the magazine when it was founded in 1925 by Harold Ross and others, with Ross as editor. At one point Ms. Thurman's mother was looking for a job, and through Mr. Fleischmann, she became a receptionist at *The New Yorker*. Thus Ms. Thurman grew up with an inside knowledge of this discreet and sometimes mysterious institution of the American literary scene. Ms. Thurman's presentation was filled with amusing remarks and clever asides, and thoroughly delighted the audience.

Following are the names of the officers for the year 2008–2009, unanimously elected on May 22, 2008:

President, Stephen B. Billick MD; 1st Vice President, the Rev. Thomas F. Pike; 2nd Vice President, William M. Manger, Jr.; 3rd Vice President, Jonathan C. Jones; 4th Vice President, George H. McNeely IV; Secretary, John P. T. Blake; Treasurer, W. Seton Ijams; Historian, Thomas E. Bird; Genealogist, Michael S. De L. Neill; Assistant Genealogist, Francis J. Sypher, Jr.; Chaplains, the Rev. Martin Leslie Chase, John Mauk Hilliard, and the Rev. Barry C. Howard; Physicians, Paul Cushman, Jr., MD, and Francis Perse Powers, Jr., MD. Members of the Board of Managers are: Class of 2009: Hayden S. Baker, W. Traylor McLellan, Joseph Wittmann, Jr. Class of 2010: John P. T. Blake, Robert A. Naud, Joseph Wittmann III. Class of 2011: Bromme H. Cole, William F. Price, Jr., Craig H. Weaver. Class of 2012: Brian A. Blake, Guy N. Robinson, Charles W. Neuhauser. Members of the Board of Stewards: Cody D. Constable, Chief Steward; Charles R. Mackenzie, Graham P. Sultan, Gregory M. Outwater, Robert B. St.C. Morse, Charles M. A. Winn.



John C. Harvey, Randall L. Taylor, Judy Taylor and Kazie M. Harvey



Adam Van Doren with Thomas F. Pike



Brian A. Blake with Brent H. Feigenbaum



Adam Van Doren and Kent L. Straat



President John McC. Shannon with inductees Randall L. Taylor and Craig H. Metz



Craig H. Weaver with John D. Bowman



President Billick with the evening's speaker, New Yorker writer Judith Thurman



Charles W. Neuhauser and John Mauk Hilliard



A posse of past Presidents: John McC. Shannon, Kent L. Straat and Samuel D. Williams

BOOK REVIEW

The Dutch in the Americas 1600-1800: A Narrative History with the Catalogue of an Exhibition of Rare Prints, Maps, and Illustrated Books from the John Carter Brown Library

by Wim Klooster

Providence, R.I.: The John Carter Brown Library, 1997

Pp. xviii + 102, illustrated, paperback

\$35.00

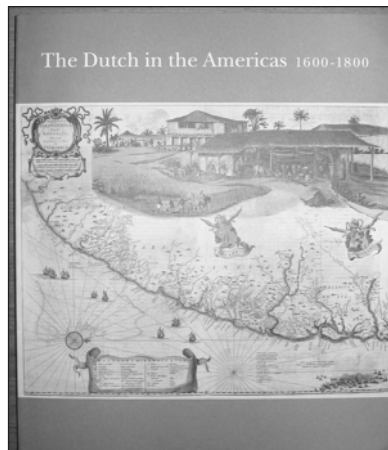
ISBN 0-916617-51-3

Distributed by Oak Knoll Press, 310 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720

order no. 53869; email: www.oakknoll.com

Although *The Dutch in the Americas 1600-1800* was published some years ago, the volume is still in print, and it is of timeless interest, especially for Saint Nicholas members. This is a large-format book (9-1/4" by 11"), filled with finely reproduced illustrations, color as well as black and white, of rare prints and maps—all of them from items in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Members of our Society are well aware of New York's Dutch heritage, since its commemoration is one of the principal objects of the Saint Nicholas Society. However, some of us may perhaps be less aware of Dutch mercantile and colonial ventures in other parts of the New World. This book reminds us of Dutch explorations in the Caribbean, and along the entire coast of South America, from Venezuela to Tierra del Fuego, where Dutch navigators in 1616 named Cape Horn after their home town of Hoorn. Elsewhere in the Americas, the Dutch had adventures at the Rio de la Plata, at Bahia, and at many other places.



In 1628 the Dutch established New Holland, centered around Recife, on the coast of Brazil, and for a number of years attempted to encourage the growth of the colony; but in 1654 the Portuguese forced the Dutch to surrender their claims, resulting in the flight of Dutch refugees from Brazil to New Amsterdam and other Dutch possessions. Several members of the Saint Nicholas Society and of the Holland Society trace their ancestry to members of this group.

Other Dutch outposts or colonies were in Guiana (from the 1590s), and in Suriname, which the Dutch took over in 1667 from the English. Further posts were on Caribbean islands near the coast of Venezuela: Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao (easily remembered as A-B-C). For modern vacationers these are well-known destinations, as are St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, and Saba in the Windward Islands.

The many vivid illustrations in this volume encourage a keen appreciation of the Dutch presence in these and other places in the Americas.

A Spring Outing to Manhattan's Private Marble Cemetery

The spring outing was a private tour, on Saturday, May 3, 2008, of the New York Marble Cemetery, led by Anne Wright Brown, a trustee of the cemetery, a small walled burial ground in the East Village, in the center of the block between Second and Third Avenues, and between East 2nd and East 3rd Streets. It is the oldest public non-sectarian cemetery in the city. Most of the 2,070 interments took place between 1830 and 1870; the last was in 1937. All burials are in 156 below-ground vaults made of

solid white Tuckahoe marble. There are no gravestones. The names of the original owners are on plaques in the walls around the perimeter.

The New York Marble Cemetery is not to be confused with the nearby New York City Marble Cemetery, a more traditional burial ground on East 2nd Street, between Second and First Avenues. In this ground the remains of President James Monroe were briefly interred, until they were removed to Virginia.

■ SALMAGUNDI ■

Tracy and Peter Kimber announce the birth of George Harold Kimber on August 20, 2008.

Lauren and Hayden Baker announce the birth of Carter Oelkers Baker on August 27, 2008.

Thomas E. Bird and Mary-Lynne Miller Bird celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 7, 2008.

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WANTED: Two ice buckets for the office. Please contact Jill Spiller.



Rebecca Krom, Frederick B. Krom, President John McC. Shannon and Chief Steward Brian A. Blake receiving guests at the St. Regis Roof



Rebecca Krom, accompanied by her escort, is presented by her father, Frederick B. Krom



Phoebe Lord Blatchford Ijams was escorted by her father, John Horton Ijams, and her uncle, W. Seton Ijams



Elizabeth P. Lindh with Joseph vanB. Wittmann, Jr.



Charles W. Neuhauser with Charles R. MacKenzie

Paas Festival

Continued from front page

At the appointed time, President Shannon took the podium to lead the popular egg-cracking competition, in which guests at each table picked up a dyed hard-boiled egg and attempted to crack their neighbors' without breaking their own. In the second phase, the winner at each table met on the dance floor and repeated the exercise. The winner and runner-up each won a handsome Tiffany prize.

Adding to the enjoyment was the parading of the venerable Weathercock, borne by the Stewards, and wafted by the guests waving their napkins; and the music of Alex Donner's Orchestra, a top society band. Wine and drinks flowed liberally, helping to keep spirits high.

Producing a successful Paas Festival is a major undertaking. Thanks are due to Bromme H. Cole, Chairman, Brian A. Blake, Chief Steward, and Jill Spiller, Executive Director.



Diane and John B. VanDerbeek, President of the Holland Society



D. Campbell McCrary with Brian A. Blake



Henry C. B. Lindh and Francis Persse Powers



Dutch Consul General Gajus Scheltema, President Shannon and Paas Festival Chairman Bromme H. Cole



Robert A. Naud, Audrey Svensson, Peter and Tracy Kimber.



W. Seton Ijams, Treasurer of the Society



Samuel and Susan Williams



Victoria Campbell Kirsten and William P. Johns

Coach Expert Merri Ferrell Speaks at Winter Stated Meeting



Coaching expert and speaker Merri Ferrell

The winter stated meeting of the Saint Nicholas Society, on Thursday, February 28, 2008, featured author and carriage expert Merri Ferrell and dinner at the Coffee House Club, just one floor up from our Saint Nicholas Society office, at 20 West 44th Street. The Club was an unusually attractive venue for us from several points of view. First of all the location is convenient to virtually everyone, since it is near both Grand Central Terminal, and Pennsylvania Station, no to mention major subway and bus lines.

We enjoyed drinks in the club's anteroom, decorated with interesting memorabilia, and then dinner in the long dining-room which has very much an atmosphere that reminds one of a college or fraternity house dining hall, with long tables, and long rows of Windsor chairs. The festive appearance of the tables was magnified by the enormous candelabra that lighted our feast.

Our speaker, Merri Ferrell, is a noted authority on horse-drawn vehicles, and former curator of carriages at the Museums at Stony Brook, now the Long Island Museum. In her talk, illustrated with numerous slides, she described the coaching revival in America during the so-called Gilded Age. Her latest book, *Record of the Road* (privately published, 2007), presents an 1880s pictorial record of the Meadowbrook Hunt and the New York Coaching Club, with photos from the albums of August Belmont II (1852–1890).

She explained how coaching as a sport was based on the Royal English Mail Coach system, which sped the mails all over Britain until the coming of the railroads began to make coaches obsolete—a process that was completed when the automobile came in, at the beginning of the twentieth century. But as the practical applications of coaching disappeared, the art of coach driving became a sport, filled with nostalgia and the “romance of the road.”



George H. McNeely IV and John McC. Shannon with inductee Peter Kimber



Donald Westervelt and Michael Sivy



Michael S. deL. Neill with Joseph vanB. Wittmann, Jr.



Eugene L. Church and Rev. Martin L. Chase



John Bowman and P. Layton Sanders



William P. Johns, D. Brenton Simons, Field Horne and Rev. Thomas F. Pike



D. Brenton Simons (right) was inducted by George H. McNeely IV and John McC. Shannon

Here in the United States, the New York Coaching Club was formed in 1875 by a group including Col. William Jay, who was inspired by his frequent visits with the noted amateur coaching enthusiast, the duke of Beaufort. Their first meeting was at the Knickerbocker Club, on Fifth Avenue and 28th Street. The New York Coaching Club elevated the sport of driving to a fine art. The exquisite turn-outs, the clatter of horses' hooves on the pavement, and the skill of the whips on the box seat made the Coaching Club meets dramatic and popular public spectacles. Among the first members were Leonard Jerome, Delancey Kane, August Belmont, Thomas Newbold, William Jay, William Douglas, Frederick Bronson, James Gordon Bennett, A. Thorndike Rise, and S. Nicholson Kane. Their goal was “to encourage four-in-hand driving in America.”

Two new members were inducted at this meeting: D. Brenton Simons and Peter J. Kimber. In addition, Theodore S. Wickersham received the Saint Nicholas Society President's Medal.



Theodore S. Wickersham received the Saint Nicholas Society President's Medal.

New Members Elected

Name	Date of Election	Ancestor
Curtis McLellan Estes	September 25, 2008	Edward Faulkner

NECROLOGY

The Society has received notice of the death of the following members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Walter Watson II	May 3, 1943	April 3, 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008-09

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008	Fall Stated Meeting Cocktail Reception with Piano	3 West Club
Nov. 12-16, 2008	Five Dutch Days	Various locations
Friday, Dec. 5, 2008	Feast of Saint Nicholas	The Union Club
Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009	Board of Managers Meeting	Office
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009	Winter Stated Meeting	TBA

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