

177TH ANNUAL

## FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS - AND - PRESENTATION OF DEBUTANTES

On Monday, December 5, 2011, members and guests gathered at the Union Club, 69th Street and Park Avenue, to celebrate the Saint Nicholas Society's 177th Annual Feast of St. Nicholas, and the presentation of two debutantes, Claudia Abigail Keep and Sara Whitney Shiels.

The evening began with a gala reception on the Union Club balcony, tastefully decorated for the season with generous bundles of pine boughs and a glorious Christmas tree,

shimmering with bright lights. As the company circulated, they enjoyed drinks from an open bar, and hot hors d'oeuvres passed by the Union Club staff. The ladies in attendance were models of elegance, and many of the gentlemen were festively attired in white tie, with the rest in varying styles of black tie, including one distinguished gentleman with a spectacular silk waistcoat.

In due course, the gong sounded a warning that the hour for dinner was approaching,

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*Claudia Abigail Keep  
being presented by her father, C. Russell Keep, Jr.*



*Sara Whitney Shiels  
escorted by her father, Robert David Shiels*

## FALL STATED MEETING

### Members Reject Constitutional Amendment

The Fall Stated Meeting of the Saint Nicholas Society was held at 6:00 p.m. on October 22, 2011 at the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, 20 West 44th Street. The amendment that had been presented in writing at the May 2011 Stated Meeting (see text in *The Weathercock*, No. 73) was moved for adoption by the membership, by procedures in accordance with Article VIII, Section 1 of the Society's Constitution. A quorum of at least 40 members is necessary to vote on a constitutional amendment, and an affirmative decision requires at least three-quarters of those present to vote in favor. A little after six o'clock an official count of attendance was taken and a quorum was found to be present.



President Thomas F. Pike opened the discussion by noting that the Society's members, and especially the Board of Managers, had a responsibility to be good stewards of the organization. This requires the Board to look at the Society's governance structure, including its constitution, to ensure that the organization is well-positioned to compete in today's environment.

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### PROFILE:

## Leonard C. Meeker

*Saint Nicholas Member  
Since 1937*

As of this year Leonard C. Meeker will have been a member of St. Nicholas for 75 years and he is celebrating his 96th birthday. Having been in cordial correspondence with him about the process for membership of his sons and grandson, we asked him for some details on his history, which he graciously provided. Many in his family have been active at the Saint Nicholas Society. Mr. Meeker's maternal grandfather, Leonard James Carpenter, became a member in 1875, and three sons of his joined later—Charles Leonard Carpenter (elected 1894), Edward Aaron Carpenter (e. 1904), and Henry Cannon Carpenter (e. 1904), as also Mr. Meeker's

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# FALL STATED MEETING

*Continued from front page*

Past President John McC. Shannon was asked to describe the reasons for the proposed change in the constitution, which would create an associate category of membership, open to men and women who adhere to the principles and values of the organization, regardless of ancestry.

Mr. Shannon explained that the proposed amendment had been the suggestion of a presidential committee, which he chaired, appointed to consider ways of expanding the membership of the Society and increasing attendance at Society functions. The reason this was seen as an issue is that membership in the Society has declined significantly over the years.

According to the constitution, the maximum number of members is set at 750, with an allowance for the admission of "legacy" members beyond that number. In 1966 the membership was not far from its maximum, at 717. By 1981 there had been only a relatively slight decline to a membership of 693. However, in subsequent years the numbers rapidly began to fall. The year 1984 showed 644 members, and by 1990 the figure was down by more than one hundred, to 539. After another six years, the total was at 474, and in the year 2000 it reached 443 representing a decline of almost another hundred. As of 2010 there were 350 members on the list.

To President Pike and the members of the committee, it was apparent that if this trend were to continue, the Society would soon be so greatly diminished as to impair its proper functioning. What the committee suggested was the creation of a new class of membership, to be called "associate members," consisting of men and women who would be eligible for election without having to present genealogical qualifications. A number of details of the proposal were addressed, such as whether "associate members" was an appropriate term, or whether simply "associates" might be preferable.

But the crux of the matter was whether the admission of such a group would be desirable. In general, a sizeable number of the members in attendance felt strongly that the genealogical requirement for admission was the very heart of the Society, and that any dilution or reduction of those qualifications would be detrimental. Several members expressed the opinion that the requirements of



*Eduard Cadmus, Donald Macleod, Ryan B. Weddle and Arthur L. Scinta*



*Douglas C. Wright, N. Gregory Pettit and William R. Follett*



*John McC. Shannon and Peter J.A. Kimber*



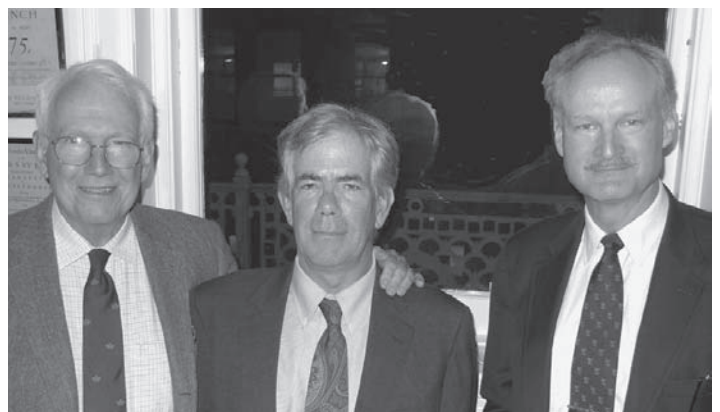
*N. Gregory Pettit and W. Campbell McCrary*



*William M. Manger, Jr. and Donald Macleod*



*Curtis M. Estes*



*John Milnes Baker, Edward H. Baker and C. Peter Junker*





*Scott M. MacWhinnie, Sean G. O'Sullivan and William M. Manger, Jr.*



*Brent T. Blake*



*Stephen H. Bacon, Jr.,  
and Eduard Cadmus*



*William R. Follett, Jill Spiller and W. Seton Ijams*



*Arthur L. Scinta, Scott M. MacWhinnie and Sean G. O'Sullivan*



*President Thomas F. Pike  
and Ryan B. Weddle*



*William M. Manger, Jr., Caley O'Neil and Thomas Petty*



*Brian A. Blake and Terry Blake*



*Charles R. Mackenzie  
and Donald Mackenzie*

the Society were satisfactory as presently established, and that if the Society were to be smaller that would not necessarily be a bad thing. Also, some expressed doubts that the decline in membership was necessarily a continuing phenomenon. It was pointed out that as a result of recent successful efforts to bring in new members the Society was no longer in such danger of decline, and in fact was likely to increase in the near future. Thus there was no necessity for such an amendment.

With guidance from Theodore S. Wickersham, chairman of the Law Committee, and Craig H. Weaver, also an attorney, the discussion was carried on in a thoroughly parliamentary manner, with careful adherence to Robert's *Rules of Order*. The tone of the comments was uniformly courteous and considerate, as befits a Society that prides itself on its civility. When the question was finally called by John Mauk Hilliard and put to the vote, a clear majority was against the amendment, which was therefore defeated, and the question of membership was once again up for future discussion.

The meeting was held in the large and attractive room known as the Assembly Hall, on the first floor up from the ground level of the Mechanics Institute building. The hall is furnished somewhat like a courtroom, with a large, elevated desk at the south end, flanked by smaller desks for the secretary and one of the vice presidents of the Society. A generous number of handsome, leather-upholstered armchairs are available to accommodate those in attendance. The walls of the room are adorned with old prints and paintings that lent an air of dignity appropriate to the proceedings.

The business meeting adjourned a little before seven o'clock, and the members, together with ladies, guests and prospective members, repaired to the Coffee House on the fifth floor of the building for a lively reception with drinks and generous offerings of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. The previous discussion clearly energized the members and there was a distinct and perceptible buzz in the room. Several new members were inducted into the Society: Eduard Henry de Cuyper Cadmus (ancestor: Thomas Fredericksen), Donald Terry Macleod, Jr. (Hendrick Hendrickson Kip), Arthur Lott Scinta (Abraham Lott) and Ryan Bradford Weddle (Joris Jansen Rapalje). John Baker and John Blake entertained the company with a lively comic song.

# FALL STATED MEETING

WINTER  
STATED  
MEETING



WINTER STATED MEETING  
with  
Society of  
Colonial Wars

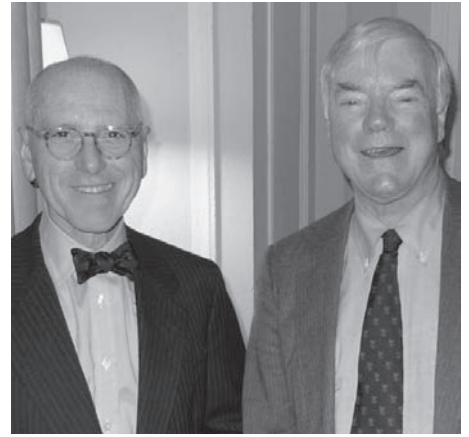
The Winter Stated Meeting of the Saint Nicholas Society was held jointly with the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York at the Union Club, 101 East 69th Street, on Thursday, February 23, 2012. This is the second year (twice makes a tradition, it is said) that the two societies have joined forces for this event. Last year we met at the National Arts Club at Gramercy Park and since that event was considered a fine success, it was concluded to try a replay, this time on the Upper East Side.

The numerous guests filled the available space on the balcony of the Union Club, and enjoyed cocktails and hot hors d'oeuvres as the West Room was being prepared to receive them for dinner. A couple of the members circulated among the group snapping numerous photos and conversation seemed unusually animated as the two groups intermingled. In due course the dinner chimes were sounded and guests began to move westward.

When all were at their tables, President Tom Pike offered words of warm reception, highlighted by an anecdote about the architect Stanford White, who said of a certain project: "If you put good things together they always look good." And so President Pike concluded that the combination of the two organizations was indeed a good thing. Furthermore, he added, since the membership requirements



*Stephen D. Perkins, President of Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York*



*Gary L. Dycus and John P.T. Blake*



*Francis J. Sypher, Jr., and Ian H. Fraser*



*Leighton H. Coleman III with Thomas Jones*



*Michael L. Sivy and George H. McNeely IV*





*Craig H. Weaver and William M. Manger, Jr.*



*Scott M. MacWhinnie and Sean Geoffrey O'Sullivan, who was inducted as a member of the Saint Nicholas Society*



*D. Roger B. Liddell and Theodore S. Wickersham*



*Brian P.T. Blake and John P.T. Blake*

have certain similarities, such meetings offer the possibility that members of either organization may consider joining the other.

President Pike's cheerful welcome was followed by warm greetings from Stephen Perkins, Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars, after which the Chief Steward of the Saint Nicholas Society rose to introduce and to formally induct a new member, Sean Geoffrey O'Sullivan, elected January 19, 2012 in right of descent from Wolpherts Gerretse Van Kouwenhoven.

Our elegant dinner began with a choice of white or red wine, and a most attractively presented serving of very thinly sliced prosciutto with almost equally thin slices of cantaloupe set in a graceful pattern of curves upon the plate. Soon the main course followed, with stuffed Cornish hen with wild and long-grain rice, and green beans. Dessert consisted of a pastry coupe filled with delicious strawberries and blueberries, accompanied by coffee, decaf, and tea.

The speaker of the evening, Barnet Schecter, is a distinguished historian well known to many of us for his erudite lectures at various assemblies of persons with an interest in American history, especially of the colonial and Revolutionary period. For this occasion he used PowerPoint to display a number of maps that had been drawn by and/or were personally used by George Washington in the course of his career. The illustrations were drawn from Mr. Schecter's recent book, *George Washington's America: A Biography through His Maps* (New York: Walker and Company, 2010), copies of which were available for purchase.

*Continued on next page*



*Barnet Schecter, author of George Washington's America: A Biography through His Maps*

# WINTER STATED MEETING



WINTER  
STATED  
MEETING



*Continued from previous page*

Early maps, made by Washington in his days as a surveyor, showed his keen awareness of the importance of geography for the future of the country as it would inevitably expand westward. Indeed, Washington's vision of future westward growth was a major theme in his outlook throughout his life and helped shape both his strategies during the Revolution, and his policies as president of the United States.

Mr. Schecter went on to discuss maps relating to campaigns that Washington served in during the colonial wars, especially in the vicinity of what is now Pittsburgh, before our speaker turned to the familiar territory of the early Revolutionary campaigns at Boston and in Canada. He reminded us of the very remarkable naval battle at Valcour Island, in Lake Champlain, where Benedict Arnold, although defeated, held off the British so that they had to winter in the north before attempting to march toward New York City. The delay proved precious for the Continentals for it allowed time to prepare the defenses that ultimately led to the great victory at Saratoga, a major turning point in the war in favor of the new nation.

We then were introduced to maps relating to the siege of Charleston, and to the decisive battle in 1781 at Yorktown, which ended the fighting but not the war, which technically continued until the treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. Finally Mr. Schecter spoke about the Indian wars in the Old Northwest, so crucial for the territorial expansion of the United States in its early years.

The presentation was warmly received and its impact was apparent in the numbers of guests who left with large books, enhanced by inscriptions from the talented author.



*Saint Nicholas Society President  
Thomas F. Pike*



*Jill Spiller and Eugene L. Church*



*Brian Ross Owens*

*Charles R. Mackenzie*



*Francis J. Sypher, Jr., and Frank Rogers*



*John McC. Shannon and Ian H. Fraser*



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## PROFILE: Leonard C. Meeker *Saint Nicholas Member Since 1937*

*Continued from front page*

grandmother's younger brother, Augustus Henry Carpenter (e. 1897).

Mr. Meeker grew up in Montclair, New Jersey, where his father was a practicing physician, and was often invited to attend the annual Feast of St. Nicholas. Later on, Mr. Meeker was also invited, and he was proposed for membership in 1937 by his uncle Henry Cannon Carpenter, and elected November 29, 1937 in right of descent not only from his grandfather as a member of the Society, but ultimately from early Long Island residents, descendants of Joseph Carpenter (1635–1683) of New England; see vol. 1 (1904), p. 31 of the first genealogical record book.

After attending the College High School in Montclair, Mr. Meeker went to Deerfield Academy, followed by Amherst College, and Harvard Law School. For the next year after law school he worked in the Office of the General Counsel of the Treasury in Washington; then for a year in the Office of the Solicitor General, Department of Justice.

In 1942 he entered the US Army as a private, later rising to master sergeant. While serving in China he was commissioned a second lieutenant and six months later promoted to first lieutenant. On return to the United States he joined the Office of the Legal Adviser of the State Department. He was named Assistant Legal Adviser for United Nations Affairs in 1951, Deputy Legal Adviser in 1961, and Legal Adviser of the Department in 1965. In 1969 Mr. Meeker went to Romania for four years as US Ambassador. Back in Washington he served as an attorney at the Center for Law and Public Policy, a public-interest law firm. While there he traveled to countries in Africa and Latin America to assist local lawyers in promoting and protecting human rights.

Mr. Meeker was married in 1947 to Christine Rhoda Halliday, and they had three children: Richard, a publisher of

weekly newspapers in Portland, Oregon, and Santa Fe, New Mexico; Charles, a lawyer, who served on the City Council of Raleigh, North Carolina, for eight years and then for ten years was mayor; Sarah Louise, an architect who is managing partner of the firm she founded in Los Angeles. Mr. Meeker's wife Christine died in 1958, when the three children



were very young. Eleven years later he was married to his present wife, Beverly. They have three children: Eliza, a lawyer in Paris, France; James, an orthopaedic surgeon, now a fellow at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle; and Benjamin, with a real-estate investment firm in Chicago.

Beginning in 1930 and continuing through 1992 Mr. Meeker traveled a number of times to countries in Europe. Starting in the late 1980s he undertook to do some writing: *Possibilities of Knowing* (cognition and philosophy); *America on the World Stage* (US foreign policy 1945–1995); a volume titled *Stories*; and a collection of four autobiographical pieces: "Experiences," "Travels 1918–1992," "Places," "People."

Two of Mr. Meeker's volumes are at the Saint Nicholas Society office for access by interested members of the Society. *Philosophy and Politics* (2007) contains two works: *Possibilities of Knowing*, a stimulating collection of thoughtful reflections on philosophical questions, ranging from the sensory bases of experi-

ence to questions of causation, free will and ethics. The second part of the book consists of *America on the World Stage*, a fascinating insider's review of American foreign policy questions from the time of World War II to the present, including richly detailed discussions of Indo-China and especially Viet Nam, and extensive commentary on questions of human rights, international adjudication and disarmament. The discussions deal with issues and events in which Mr. Meeker was directly concerned during his professional career.

The other volume, *Stories* (2007), contains four works of fiction: *Long Bay Summer*; *Adventures in Venice—U.S.A.*; *Searching*; and *Seasons of Ashmont*. Each of these is independent, but all have in common a sensitive concern for human relations and relationships between men and women. Many different fictional points of view are presented, and it is notable that the female characters are prominently realized. Also, there is vivid presentation of the American atmosphere of places such as the seashore, a California city, and an academic town.

In 2002 Mr. Meeker moved from Washington to Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, where he has served as member and later chairman of the island Planning Board. He has our grateful thanks for his kind help with this profile, and we offer our warmest congratulations and energetic wishes for this birthday and more to come.

Leonard C. Meeker, *Stories*, 2007 (distributed by Xlibris Corporation); ISBN 978-1-4257-5461-7 (hardcover); ISBN 978-1-4257-5456-3. Contains four fictional works.

*Philosophy and Politics*, 2007 (dist. by Xlibris Corporation); ISBN 978-1-42575451-8 (hardcover); 978-1-4257-5448-8 (softcover). This volume contains *Possibilities of Knowing* (copyright 1997), and *America on the World Stage* (copyright 1995).

# FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS – AND –

## 177TH ANNUAL



*Brian A. Blake*



*Peter J.A. Kimber*



*Robert and M.P. Naud*



*Malin Cedarquist, Courtney Haff, Elizabeth Lindh and Elbrun Kimmelman*



*W. Seton Ijams and President Thomas F. Pike*



*Theodore and Norma Wickersham*



*William R. Follett and his son, Benjamin B. Follett*



*Elizabeth Lindh and Dr. Francis P. Powers*



*Frank E. Morgan II, Brent H. Feigenbaum and Donald Mackenzie*



*John P.T. Blake*

*Continued from front page*

and the receiving line assembled before the imposing double doors of the main dining room. After the company entered and assembled at their tables, the Chief Steward announced by voice and by his staff of office (hand-carved with an image of St. Nicholas) the entrance of the officers and honored guests. Our president, the Reverend Thomas F. Pike, stepped to the podium to give a formal opening to the festivities. In his remarks he recalled the Feast of St. Nicholas in 1973, when the famous theatrical producer Joseph Papp

was presented the Society's Medal of Merit. President Pike recalled Papp's opening words: "I didn't know that people like you were still alive!" Yes, Joe Papp really did say this, as your Weathercock reporter can attest, because we were also there, at the Plaza Hotel, and saw the distinguished speaker, attired in a closely-fitted velvet jacket and a large butterfly bow tie, and heard his memorable remark, which occasioned much comment among the membership, then and ever since that long-ago evening. And now, as of 2011, going on 2012, as President Pike affirmed, we are *still* here,

and continuing to celebrate St. Nicholas as no doubt we shall continue to do for many years and generations to come.

President Pike noted the connection between the founding of the Saint Nicholas Society by Washington Irving and others, and Irving's popularization of Christmas. This year, for the first time, our programs had Irving's familiar words about Christmas printed with a line of attribution to satisfy those who may have wondered (as some did, and asked about it) where exactly they came from in



# PRESENTATION OF DEBUTANTES

177TH ANNUAL



*The guests wafted the Weathercock aloft in the ballroom*



*President Thomas F. Pike*



*Patricia Lambert and Alan G. Moore*



*William P. Johns and Kataryn Forgan*



*Lt. Col. Thomas F. Pike, Jr., and Guest*



*William N. Tift and Gary L. Dycus*



*Nancy Shackelford Jones, President of The Colonial Dames of America, and William R. Follett*



*Luigi Terruso and Edvard Jorgensen*

our author's very voluminous works. The words of his description of Christmastime are from the section headed simply "Christmas" in *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*: "It is, indeed, the season of regenerated feeling—the season for kindling, not merely the fire of hospitality in the hall, but the genial flame of charity in the heart."

Following President Pike's welcome, John Mauk Hilliard offered words of grace and blessings for the debutantes, in recognition of St. Nicholas's role as a patron of young women, since his legendary acts of generos-

ity included the provision of dowries as well as gifts to children. Then, after John Baker led the company in singing the familiar hymn "We Gather Together," the traditional toasts were offered: to HM Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (by Past President John McC. Shannon), followed by the Dutch national anthem, "The Wilhelmus"; to the President of the United States (by First Vice President William Muir Manger, Jr.), followed by "The Star Spangled Banner"; and to St. Nicholas, "Goed Heilig Man!" by John Baker.

The stewards commenced the procession of the Weathercock, wafted by the collective breeze from the guests' dinner napkins, prospering him on his way to his perch to stand alertly on the watch for potential incursions by New Englanders. This year the venerable bird took on a distinctly military bearing as he was held aloft by Lt. Col. Thomas F. Pike, Jr., to the singing of our "Salute to the Weathercock," also titled "Ornithem Salutamus," with words composed by John P. T. Blake in 1999.

*Continued on next page*

# FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS – AND – PRESENTATION OF DEBUTANTES

## 177TH ANNUAL



*Francis J. Sypher, Jr.*



*Elbrun Kimmelman,  
Directress-General  
of the Society  
of the Daughters of  
Holland Dames*



*The Society's famed Weathercock*



*Chief Steward Charles R. Mackenzie,  
President Thomas F. Pike,  
and Sims Suydam Lansing, who was inducted*



*President Thomas F. Pike with his son,  
Lt. Col. Thomas F. Pike, Jr.*



*Jill Spiller and Nancy Shackelford Jones,  
President of The Colonial Dames of America*



*John P.T. Blake  
and Susan D. Williams*



*Robert A. Naud, past debutante Courtney Keep and President Thomas F. Pike*



*Gary L. Dycus with Peter and Elbrun Kimmelman*

Recognition of past presidents included, in addition to Messrs. Baker and Shannon: William R. Follett, and Stephen Bates Billick. Distinguished guests included Elbrun Kimmelman, Directress General of the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, dressed in a magnificent gown of orange with blue to present a striking display of the Dutch colors.

The presentation of the debutantes was presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Naud. First to enter was Claudia Abigail Keep, presented by her father, C. Russell Keep, Jr., elected January 21, 1980. After presentation

and an impressive curtsy, she was succeeded by Sara Whitney Shiels, presented by her father, Robert David Shiels, and her godfather, John Milnes Baker, elected January 18, 1971. After her graceful curtsy, the two couples began the dancing, and were soon joined by others in the company of the evening.

In addition a new member was introduced, Sims Suydam Lansing, proposed by Timothy Field Beard, seconded by Francis J. Sypher, Jr., and a descendant of Gerrit Gerritse Lansing.

Amid all of these festive activities, the impeccable staff of the Union Club was serving our dinner of roast duck, accompanied by wild and long grain rice, served with string beans. The dessert was a magnificent cheesecake served with a luscious sauce of strawberries. Excellent white and red wine flowed generously throughout the evening. And John Blake delivered his inimitable toast to our ancestors, this year from the podium itself, rather than from the improvised podium created by standing precariously upon a dinner chair as sometimes in the past.





Amoret and **Edvard Jorgensen**, in their New Year's letter report that they have recently moved into a beautiful house in Chappaqua, New York, where they are enthusiastically involved in decorating and refurbishing. Their three girls, Dorothea, Diana, and Emma Grace are absolutely loving it there.

Steven Cambron and **Matthew Leaycraft** were married on Saturday, September 24, 2011 in Woodstock, New York at St. Gregory's Church (Episcopal). Details are given in the announcement (with photo) in *The New York Times*, Sunday, September 25, 2011, p. ST16.

Kathryn and **Campbell McCrary** announce the birth of their daughter Eugenia, born August 13, 2011.

**George McNeely** was the subject of an impressive write-up (with photo) in *The New York Times* of Sunday, October 30, 2011, p. ST14, about auctioneering at charity events. George, referred to in the headline as "The Charmer," is senior vice president, business development, at Christie's; he offered expert advice on how to achieve optimal results in a charity auction.

At the Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, **Frank Sypher** was curator and author of the catalogue of an exhibition of books and prints, March–May 2011: *The World of Letitia Elizabeth Landon, A Literary Celebrity of the 1830s*.

*Exploring Historic Dutch New York: New York City, Hudson Valley, New Jersey, and Delaware*. Edited by Gajus Scheltema and Heleen Westerhuijs. New York: Museum of the City of New York/Dover Publications, 2011. Pp. 254. Illustrated. Paperback. \$19.95. ISBN 978-0-486-48637-6

This wonderful volume is, we believe, the first of its kind—a visitor's and traveler's guide to present-day Dutch historic sites throughout the New Netherland region, especially in New York City, the Hudson Valley, New Jersey, and Delaware. Originally, a portion of Connecticut was also included in New Netherland. A Dutch settlement named Fort Good Hope (Het Fort Goede Hoop or Het Huijs Goede Hoop) was established in 1633 on the Connecticut River (called the "Versche rivier"—"Fresh River"—by the Dutch) at the site of present-day Hartford. But the fort soon became surrounded by English settlers, and in 1650 it was effectively given up by the Dutch. In general the traces of Dutch settlement in Connecticut were relatively few, and they were soon overwhelmed by English influence.

Gajus Scheltema was for several years the much-admired consul general of the Netherlands in New York; his keen interest in New Netherland inspired him to conceive the excellent idea for this book. He is also a fine and accomplished photographer, and an indefatigable traveler. A great many of the beautiful photos that ornament the book were taken by him in the course of his visits to Dutch sites in the area covered. His colleague in authorship, Heleen Westerhuijs, developed the book and helped bring it to publication by the Museum of the City of New York and Dover Publications. It is a handy-sized yet handsomely produced volume, with exceptionally good color reproductions.

But this is much more than a guide to the sights of the area. Interspersed with the descriptions and photos are 17 informative essays on Dutch culture in New Netherland, written by accomplished scholars such as Jaap Jacobs, David William Voorhees, and others, including Heleen Westerhuijs, who contributed a fine study of New Netherland architecture. Other topics covered are, to cite

only a few headings: "Dutch Paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art"; "The Dutch Influence on the American Kitchen"; "The First Jews in New Amsterdam"; "The Dutch Reformed Church in New Netherland and in British Colonial America"; "American-Dutch Antiques"; "The Enslaved Africans and the Native Americans"; and "Dutch Words in American English." There is an excellent introduction by Russell Shorto, the distinguished author of *The Island at the Center of the World*, for which he and his colleague Charles Gehring in 2004 were awarded our Society's Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence.

The volume also has 12 maps to help visitors locate the exact sites, which include many historic houses, as well as churches, monuments, and cemeteries, such as Dutch burial grounds in Brooklyn, and the Old Huguenot Burial Ground in New Paltz. In this connection, there are photographs of old gravestones carved with Dutch inscriptions. In the Reformed Church of Flatbush Cemetery (Brooklyn), for example, is a stone reading: "Hier leyt het Lichaam van HYLLETIE Vn. Dr. Bilt huys vrouw van LEFFERT MARTENSE overleden den 26 Sepr. Ano. 1779 oude zynde 58 jaaren" ("Here lies the body of Hylletie Van Der Bilt, wife of Leffert Martense, died the 26th September, anno 1779 being 58 years old"; the last lines, concealed by turf, do not appear in the photo; p. 9).

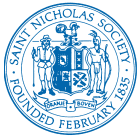
Another illustration shows a stone reading: "1744 IN HET IAER ONSES HER IS TEUNIS PIER . . ." ("In the year of our Lord 1744 Teunis Pier . . ."; the lower part of the inscription is not visible; p. 170).

A touching triangular stone reads: "A + D 1801 NOVEMB DE 5 IS GEERTYE HOPPER OVERL OUT 9 YAER 26 D" ("On November the 5th, AD 1801, Geertye Hopper died, aged 9 years, 26 days"; p. 180).

Gajus Scheltema, Heleen Westerhuijs, and the other contributors have done a magnificent job on this attractive, carefully edited, pioneering work, which we strongly recommend to St. Nick members and others interested in New Netherland and in the Dutch contribution to American history.

F. J. Sypher





**The Saint Nicholas Society**  
*of the City of New York*  
 20 West 44th Street, #508  
 New York, NY 10036-6603

### New Members Elected

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Charles Starr Burlingham	Sept. 29, 2011	Isaac de Forest
Tracy Ashley Crocker	Sept. 29, 2011	Nathaniel Sylvester
Christian Kirkpatrick Keesee	Sept. 29, 2011	Louis du Bois
Gerrit Livingston Lansing	Sept. 29, 2011	Gerrit Gerritse Lansing
Sims Suydam Lansing	Sept. 29, 2011	Gerrit Gerritse Lansing
Donald T. Macleod, Jr.	Sept. 29, 2011	Hendrick Hendrickson Kip
Arthur Lott Scinta	Sept. 29, 2011	Abraham Lott
Ryan Bradford Weddle	Sept. 29, 2011	Joris Jansen Rapalje
Benjamin Cluster Gilman Meeker	Jan. 19, 2012	Joseph Carpenter
James Edward Weeks Meeker	Jan. 19, 2012	Joseph Carpenter
Sean Geoffrey O'Sullivan	Jan. 19, 2012	Wolpherts Gerretse Van Kouwenhoven
Thomas Williamson Petty	Jan. 19, 2012	Johannes Van Buren

### 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>
Edward Crane	May 4, 1959	November 2011
Henry Darlington III	January 20, 1975	January 25, 2012
Andrew Whitelaw Brink	October 9, 1990	November 25, 2011

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Saturday, 21 April 2012	Paas Luncheon	Anglers Club
Monday, April 30, 2012	Board of Managers	Office
Thursday, May 17, 2012	Spring Stated Meeting	Racquet & Tennis Club

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