MEMBERS?

HAVE YOU MET THESE CHAPTER MEMBERS?

JEFFERSON MANSELL’S interest in history and architectural preservation was sparked by trips through the Mississippi countryside with his grandparents to visit Columbus and Natchez and the old houses of cousins. Now executive director of the Roslyn Landmarks Society on Long Island, he grew up on a cotton farm near Pickens, which is between Jackson and Yazoo City.

At Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mansell received two degrees, one in history and a second in communications and public relations. Aiming to become a teacher, he went on to earn a master of education degree. Meanwhile he worked at Mississippi State in student affairs. After a while, he decided to go to Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, where he earned an M.A. with an emphasis on historic preservation.

Before coming to the Roslyn society, he worked for the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society in Alabama and Historic Beaufort Foundation in South Carolina. At Roslyn, he has started a program in which high school students earn credit for their work in historic preservation.

Before Dziedzic joined the Metropolitan Chapter, she was already taking tours of the city, among them expeditions led by Joseph Svehlak, a Chapter member who is a professional tour guide. She told him about the Victorian Society offerings and she added them to the compendium of activities she enjoys in retirement. She has subscriptions to the Metropolitan Opera, the Philharmonic Orchestra and some 10 theater companies. She also belongs to two hiking clubs.

Among Dziedzic’s hobbies is the creation of distinctive stationery. She gathers flowers and leaves, presses them and then makes color photocopies, perhaps with a notation of the specimen’s place of origin.

She grew up in New Haven and went to work for the New York Life Insurance Company right after high school. She stayed with the company for 43 years until she took early retirement at age 58. Over the years, the company moved her to different locales, and she took on varying duties. She started in the New Haven office and went from there to Boston, Stanford, Brooklyn and finally the company headquarters in Manhattan. Along the way she rose through the ranks to administrative positions. At different times she was manager of claims and manager of new business.

Vacations from work provided opportunities to travel. She has been to Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, East and South Africa and the South Pacific as well as Hawaii and Alaska.

Recently Dziedzic has been trying to arrange herself of brochures and booklets accumulated over the years. Leash to simply discard them, she tries to find appropriate recipients and has passed on some to a young friend interested in biodiversity and quite a few on historic sites to the Metropolitan Chapter’s Tour Committee.

Before being informed that she had won a Pulitzer Prize for biography, Dorthy Applegate (pictured below) learned she was to receive an award from the Metropolitan Chapter for her book The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher. She accepted the award for biography at the Chapter’s Annual Meeting on May 22 at the New York School of Interior Design and charmed guests and members at the ceremony and the reception that followed.

The biography culminated the author’s 20 years of research on the influential nineteenth-century clergyman who “used his pulpit at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights to champion major religious, cultural and political issues of his day such as abolition of slavery and women’s suffrage,” said Dorthy.

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For more than 15 years, Dziedzic has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Metropolitan Chapter’s Tours, particularly relating to the greater metropolitan New York City area, explained Shackley, who chairs the Awards Committee. Others on the committee that selected the awardees were Jeffrey Solomon, Joyce Mendelson and Lainey Parrot. Melissa Bakstow assisted with the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied the fast-paced, informative ceremony.

The Donnell Library, 105 E. 42nd St., will be the site of the Fall 2007 MeClard Award Ceremony and Reception on Thursday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony’s 11 awards honored individuals and organizations for significant contributions to the understanding and preservation of our nineteenth- and early twentieth-century heritage, particularly relating to the greater metropolitan New York City area, explained Shackley, who chairs the Awards Committee. Others on the committee that selected the awardees were Jeffrey Solomon, Joyce Mendelson and Lainey Parrot. Melissa Bakstow assisted with the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied the fast-paced, informative ceremony.

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EMBERLISHMENTS

The decorative details found throughout this newsletter are taken from Likedine, the William K. Vanderbilt, Sr. estate in Oakdale, a stop on the Fall 2007 bus tour. Of his many residences, Lilico housed Vanderbilt’s favor and the only one constructed to satisfy his tastes rather than those of his demanding wife. As to why no foundry plate has been found, he surmised that it might have been removed when the ground floor was been removed when the ground floor was.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 4 PM

Tours of the Williamson Saloon, 38 Union Street East End

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 4 PM

Tours of the Surfside Sportsmen’s Club, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 6 PM

Lectures by Dr. Alixson McManus

The confluence of Cole and Durand as landscape painters occurred from 1840 to 1848. Critical responses to their works in the 1840s included overriding preconceptions and expectations that shaped the reception of their work. Inspired by their individual beliefs, artists were called upon to answer other concerns to the evocation of a perfect landscape imbued with a sense of age and pastoral ease suggestive of an ideal place.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6 PM

Tours of the Bayard Cutting Arboretum and artists’ colony

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 6 PM

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6 PM

Schools of Design for Women in Late Nineteenth-Century New York

Margaret K. Hower, curator of history

at The New-York Historical Society and co-author of the exhibit "A New Light on Tiffany: Charles Louis and the Tiffany Girls"

Rapid expansion of textile manufacturing and metalworks in the 1880s and 1890s in New York opened new opportunities for women as cultural barriers toppled and "industrial art" became an acceptable career for them. Educational opportunities followed. The New-York School of Applied Design for Women, Institute for Applied Art, and the Women’s League of New York City trained numerous women to establish successful careers in industrial design.

Tours

Members receive detailed flyers before an event’s scheduled time. Events must be reserved in advance. To reserve for tours, return flyer reservation form with check. If you are not a Metropolitan Chapter member, contact us to receive a flyer.

Friday, October 3, 7 PM

Regimental Review

Private tour explores the Seventh Regiment Armory (1877-79) designed by Charles W.F. Rehm instead of the Minton’s. The building is now a cultural center with a variety of uses, including exhibits.

Saturday, October 5, 3 PM

Lectures by Dr. Teresa A. Carbone

Developed for Women, Institute for Applied Design for Women, and the Women’s League of the New-York City Training numerous women to establish successful careers in industrial design.

Saturday, October 26, 6 PM

Lectures by Dr. Alixson McManus

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SaturdaY, November 20, 8 AM

Capitalists on the Connestoga

A trip along the Ohio River by the 19th-century Great Lakes Steamboat, Eastward Ho, which plied the Ohio River.

Sunday, November 24, 1:30 PM

Ferry on the Connecticut River

Walking tour of the historic town of Northampton, Massachusetts, and its relation to the Whitney family.

Sunday, December 1, 8:30 AM

Seasonal Signals: SALTIER ISLAND

All-day holiday bus tour will visit the Alice Austen House with its parlor looking at it did in the mid-19th century and the Alice Austen Museum. The tour will include a visit to the Museum where in 1851 an inventor gave the Italian painter refuge. The afternoon will be spent at the Stag, Harbor Cultural Center at the Great Hall, Music Hall, and the Chapel, which are both included in the tour.
The decorative details found throughout this newsletter are taken from Idlehour, the William D. Moore. The former director of the Masonic Library on 23rd Street who is now on the faculty of the University of North Carolina, including Nassau Street, which was being transformed into a major jewelry district. The new façade, Shockley concluded “was a Driscoll and the...
Before being informed that she had won a Pulitzer Prize for biography, Dabney Appleplate (pictured below) learned she was to receive an award from the Metropolitan Chapter for her book, *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*.

At the ceremony on Monday evening, September 11, at 6 p.m. at the Donnell Library, the biography culminated the author’s 20 years of research on the influential nineteenth-century clergyman who “used his pulpit at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights to confer major social-cultural and p olitical issues of the day such as abolition of slavery and women’s suffrage,” reported Jay Shockley in presenting the award. Appleplate will be the first lecturer in the Chapter’s fall series, speaking on Beecher on Tuesday, September 11, at 6 p.m. at the Donnell Library.

The ceremony’s 11 awards honored individuals and organizations for significant contributions “to the understanding and preservation of our nineteenth- and early twentieth-century heritage, particularly relating to the greater metropolitan New York City area,” explained Shuckley, who chairs the Awards Committee. Others on the committee that selected the awardees were Stephen Corstorphine, Joyce Mendelson and Landsy Parrott. Melisia Battcock assisted with the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied the fast-paced, informative ceremony.

Dabney’s Own Work: The Civil War Doughboys and The Fight for Reconstruction America by Barnett Schutz was recognized with an award for social history. The author, an independent historian who lectured for the Chapter on the book’s topic in February 2006, set the July 1863 riots in their historic context and explored how the unresolved issues and conflicts led to the demise of Reconstruction.

An exhibition award went to Vaudeville Nation at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, curated by Barbara Cohen-Stratyner with support from Jacqueline Z. Davis, the library’s executive director, the multi-media exhibition included photos, postcards, scripts, film scores, sound recordings and filmed performances from the library’s entertainment holdings.

Management of vaudeville tours was based largely in New York and impacted such related businesses as music publishing and recording.

There were awards given for exhibitions and their catalogues, Frederic Church, Winslow Homer, and Thomas Moran: Travels and the American Landscape at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, focused attention on the juncture of landscape painting, tourism and conservation in late-nineteenth-century America. Covid S. Davidson, Floramare McCarron-Cates and Barbara J. Blomkamp were the curators of the exhibition and principal authors of the catalogue.

Off the Pastoral: New Women in the Art of Honor, Chase and Sargent at The New Museum depicted

63 NASSAU IS LANDMARKED

On the day after her 99th birthday Margaret Gayle got something she had long wanted: the designations of 63 Nassau Street as an official New York City landmark. On May 15 she watched from her wheelchair as the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously added the cast-iron-fronted building to those under its protection.

At a November 14 hearing, her testimony in favor of designation had been read for her by Jay Shuckley, president of the Metropolitan Chapter (see spring 2007 Newsletter). While no foundry plate has been found affixed to the building, she said in the testimony: “After years of research on the life and work of James Bogardus, I have come to the conclusion that 63 Nassau Street appears to have been constructed by James Bogardus, the pioneer inventor and builder of cast-iron-fronted commercial buildings in America.” She reached this conclusion based on stylistic elements similar to other known Bogardus buildings.

Jay Shuckley, a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission’s research staff, found further evidence to bolster the connection to Bogardus. The cast-iron front, he reported to the Commission, certainly appears to have been produced by Bogardus sometime between 1857 and 1859. One of the oldest surviving cast-iron-fronted buildings in the city, it is among the very few in Lower Manhattan.

The building was owned from 1856 to 1860 by William V. Curtis, a business associate of Augustus Thomas in a silk goods importing firm. Thomas’s father, who manufactured tinware in an 1840s associate of Augustus Thomas in a silk goods importing firm. Thomas’s father, who manufactured tinware in an 1840s

LEGACY OF PREACHER, ACTRESS AND OTHERS CITED AT AWARDS CEREMONY

Continues on page 2

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