



# LIBRARY NOTES

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2, JUNE 1999

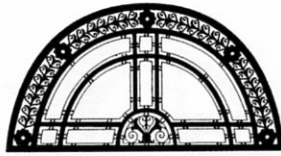


## NYSL's Home Page

The New York Society Library is pleased to announce the launching of its new web site at <http://www.nysoclib.org>. This site establishes our international presence on the web and provides continuous information to anyone with an internet connection interested in learning more about the Library. Our site contains general and member-specific information, including Library hours, upcoming events, and links to other membership libraries. The current editions of both the *New Books List* and *Library Notes* are also available on-line.

Web pages fuse text and graphics together and are dynamic in nature; the information on this site may be altered, added to, or removed at any time. Web pages are also non-linear, allowing the viewer the ability to skip (or "surf") to desired sections without having to read previous sections first. When you enter our site, you will see the main (or "home") page containing the master index to all subsequent pages. To enter these additional pages, click on the appropriate link (links will generally be underlined and a different color than the regular text). To return to the main page, click the "Return to NYSL Main Page" link at the bottom of the current page. At the bottom of the main page is the date when the web site was last updated and a guest book for viewer comments.

Please visit our site and add your comments. We know this is only a first step and look forward to your feedback.—Ingrid Richter, Computer Specialist & Webmaster



1855: View south from 42nd Street (NYPL)



Bootsblacks, 1896 (Alice Austen. Staten Island Historical Society)



1895, New York World



Mayor La Guardia, 1939 (Municipal Archives, NY)



## THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY'S

The Library's Book Award was established in 1994 to honor current authors who capture the essence of the city. Past award winners: in 1995, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, edited by Kenneth T. Jackson (Yale University Press and The New-York Historical Society); in 1996, *Brooklyn! An Illustrated History*, by Ellen M. Snyder-Grenier (Temple University Press); and in 1997, *Manhattan in Maps, 1557-1995*, by Paul E. Cohen and Robert T. Augustyn (Rizzoli International Publications) and *Terra-Cotta Skyline: New York's Architectural Ornament*, by Susan Tunick and Peter Mauss (Princeton Architectural Press).

### *GOTHAM: A HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY TO 1898*

By Edwin G. Burrows & Mike Wallace (Oxford University Press)

#### The New York Society Library 1998 Book Award:

Like the city itself, *Gotham* is a magnum opus, a multi-layered, wildly divergent, energetic, and rollicking adventure through New York, from its modest beginnings to its grandiose expansion in 1898. Weighing in at seven-plus pounds, and twenty years in the making, *Gotham* is New York's definitive history. This first of two volumes skillfully fuses epic and minor themes, the words and deeds of disparate contemporaries, and the scholarship of myriad urban historians with the authors' own insightful and provocative views into a literate and celebratory tome.

—Barbara Cohen

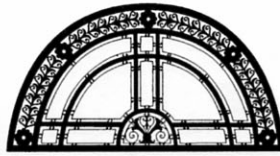
### *DISPLAYING WOMEN: SPECTACLES OF LEISURE IN EDITH WHARTON'S NEW YORK*

By Maureen E. Montgomery (Routledge)

#### Special Award for a Work on an Unusual Topic:

Maureen Montgomery works with debutantes' diaries, correspondence between spooning couples, obscure gossip periodicals, and successive editions of etiquette guides, to depict vividly the social customs and confines of upper-class New York women in Edith Wharton's time. At the same time, Dr. Montgomery has brought out opinions and attitudes that shaped the new metropolis, including the vulgarity of electric light, the "cold-heartedness" of Swedish servants, and the new glare of the media on formerly private lives in the late nineteenth century. This is a model for a microscope-like study of a specific topic.

—Christopher Gray



## NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS, 1998

The Award Committee consists of the following Library members: Barbara Cohen, former proprietor of the New York Bound bookshop; Joan K. Davidson, civic leader and former commissioner of New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; Christopher Gray, architectural historian and author of the "Streetscapes" column for *The New York Times*; Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, executive director of Cityscape Institute; and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein.

### *WRITING NEW YORK: A LITERARY ANTHOLOGY*

Edited by Phillip Lopate (The Library of America)

#### Special Award for a Work of Fiction:

At last there is a cure for every New York insomniac. There is no reason to sleep or even drift into random anxiety when there is Phillip Lopate's extraordinary collection to dip into repeatedly. With almost a musical touch for theme and variation, Mr. Lopate has brought Louis Auchincloss, Allen Ginsberg, and Willa Cather together. This text, from the writing of James Fenimore Cooper to James Baldwin, has all the rhythm, elegance, and grit of the city. A city and a literary history emerge that give those of us who still live in New York—or remain New Yorkers in our minds—a genuine sense of home.

—Wendy Wasserstein

### *NEW YORK: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE*

By Allon Schoener (W. W. Norton & Company)

#### Special Award for Photographic Work:

Exactly seventy years after Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes completed his retrieval of the visible evidence of the emerging infrastructure of New York City, and forty-five years after John Kouwenhoven gave us the graphic revelation of its developing form and features, Allon Schoener has put before us nothing less than the picture of all of New York's people. What a great historic portrait. Schoener, inspired by the design scheme of Massimo Vignelli in *Harlem on My Mind*, gives us page after page of new-found images that bubble with informative detail and bolsters them with quotes and observations, illuminating the side-ways of population growth.

—Joan K. Davidson

The Castello Plan of New Amsterdam, c. 1660 (NYPL)



"Leap Year," Charles Dana Gibson, 1916



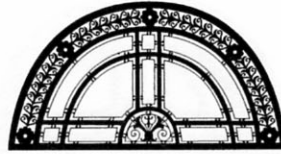
Riverside Park, 1875 (Old York Library)



Hooverville, Central Park, c. 1931 (MCNY)







# POETRY PALOOZA!

## A FESTIVAL OF POEMS!

Students in grades 3 through 6 were invited to enter poems about "New York Dreams" in "Poetry Palooza," a festival sponsored by radio station WNYC and The New York Society Library. Three students in each grade won \$50 and the chance to read their poems on the April 25 "New York Kids" program, which is broadcast on WNYC-AM (820) each Sunday from 6:00-8:00 P.M. Nearly 3,000 entries came in from around the region.

### NEW YORK DREAM: NO TRAFFIC!!

Every morning and every night,  
I try to ignore these sounds with all my might  
HONK! BEEP!! MOVE IT!!!  
Traffic is NO fun,  
Even under the sun  
Traffic is there when you want your car to  
ZOOM  
Because you need to use the bathroom!  
Hurry, hurry you're very late,  
Very late to meet your date  
New York City would be better than a-okay,  
If the traffic here would go AWAY!  
Traffic doesn't belong in a place that's busy  
Traffic is a PEST in New York City!  
Listen to me, if you can hear  
Make all the traffic here disappear  
I bet this is something you can't do  
But try to make this New York dream come  
true  
No more BEEPS! No more HONKS!  
Or I'll give your head a great big BONK!!

—Leslie Flores, Grade 5

### NEW YORK, MY CITY

A city of love  
A city of hate  
A city of smiles  
A city of fate  
A city that says "I love you all"  
But also says "Be careful or you'll fall"  
  
A city of glimmer  
A city of lights  
A city of darkness  
A city fright  
A city that says "You'll never sleep"  
A city that smiles, but often weeps  
  
A city that screams, "You can have it all!"  
But if you make a mistake, It's a very  
hard fall  
So get on your knees and say a prayer  
New York, you're my city, and I really do  
care!

—Robert Angona, Grade 4

### I DREAM OF NEW YORK

I dream of New York with no more  
killing  
No dealers on the corner talkin'  
about chillin'  
No gangs askin' do you wanna  
join?  
No mean dogs lookin' at you like  
you're sirloin

—Cherette Garcia, Grade 5

### THE WINNERS



Please write to Jenny Lawrence, editor of *Library Notes*, care of the Library, with any comments and suggestions.

**THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY**  
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New York, N.Y. 10021

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