

NOTES



Volume 9, Number 1, January 2002

“Depression is the flaw in love. . .
it is the aloneness within us
made manifest.”



Joyce

ANDREW SOLOMON AUTHOR OF *THE NOONDAY DEMON*

□ DEPRESSION, TOO, IS A THING WITH FEATHERS □

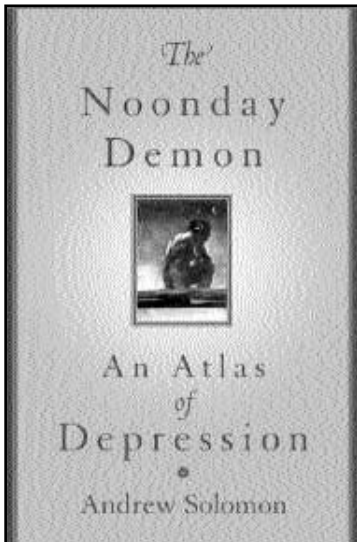
Wednesday, February 6

6:30 P.M., Members' Room

In 2001, Andrew Solomon joined Rachel Carson, Barbara Tuchman, Paul Monette, and Gore Vidal as a winner of the National Book Award for Nonfiction. In 2002, he comes to the Library to share his knowledge and wisdom about “the noonday demon,” depression. Solomon, a novelist and writer for *The New Yorker* and *Artforum* and himself a victim of depression, interviewed sufferers and experts around the world for his groundbreaking book, which *The New York Times* called “one of the rare volumes that deserves the adjective ‘definitive.’”

Emily Dickinson, whose poem “Hope is the thing with feathers” is evoked in the lecture’s title, is a frequent presence in Solomon’s experience of depression; hers are “among my favorite poems ever in the whole history of the world,” Solomon says. Depression may crowd out hope, but “it was also in depression that I learned my own acreage, the full extent of my soul.” He also offers concrete hope for sufferers in new and developing treatments.

New Yorker columnist Adam Gopnik described *The Noonday Demon* as “charming, lively, intelligent and. . . never the least bit depressing,” while novelist Louise Erdrich named it “an act of redemption in an epidemic of sorrow.” While covering the history of depression’s victims and descriptions, its treatments and myths, and his own harrowing experience, Solomon evokes a deep and resonant sense of the human psyche.



SPECIAL EVENTS

January 12, February 2, March 2 10:00 A.M. The Library Top to Bottom Tours	January 23 6:00 P.M. Gayden Wren “H.M.S. <i>Pinafore</i> : Things Are Seldom	January 26 10:00 A.M. Library Catalog Focus Group	February 6 6:30 P.M. Andrew Solomon “Depression, Too, Is a Thing with Feathers”	February 25- March 6 all day Project Cicero Book Collection at the Library	Feb. 7, Feb. 13, and Feb. 28 5:30 P.M. Susan Buckley and Elspeth Leacock “Storytelling	February 27 6:00 P.M. Gerard Piel “How Scientists Learned in the Twentieth Century”
--	---	--	---	--	--	---

To register for any Library event or to receive the monthly Children’s Events Calendar, call the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or e-mail sara@nysoclib.org.

Please note that the third session of the Art of Biography Reading Group has been moved to January 15.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND OUTREACH

PROJECT CICEROSM 2002: SENDING BOOKS TO THOSE WHO NEED THEM MOST

February 27-March 6: Book Collection at the Library

March 6: Book Sorting



Last year, in its first annual book drive, Project CiceroSM distributed more than 70,000 books to underserved New York City schools, tutoring centers, hospitals, and shelters. This year, Project CiceroSM will collect books from public,



private and parochial schools, and other drop-off points in all five boroughs. The project is a partnership of the Library and other leading New York institutions and individuals.

To help, bring your new or gently used children's and young adult books to the Library between Monday, February 25 and Wednesday, March 6. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Children's participation is needed to sort books at the Library on Wednesday, March 6. Please contact Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman at (212) 288-6900 x234 for more information.

STORYTELLING YOUR HISTORY

WORKSHOPS WITH AUTHORS SUSAN BUCKLEY AND ELSPETH LEACOCK

For third- through eighth-graders and parents

Thursday, February 7; Wednesday, February 13; and Thursday, February 28

5:30 P.M., Members' Room

Elsbeth Leacock and Susan Buckley are co-authors of the recent books *Journeys in Time* and *Places in Time*, children's atlases that tell the stories of American history through "story maps" of particular places and events. "History is everyone's story. It is what happened in your past, in your family's past, in your community's past, in our nation's past," Buckley says. The books introduce well-known figures such as Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Boone and Louis Armstrong, as well as unfamiliar people like Dame Shirley, a woman in the Gold Rush, and Venture Smith, an enslaved African prince.

Elsbeth Leacock's interest in journeys and history began on a childhood trip to Naskapi Indian country in Canada. She holds a degree in American history and has been praised by critics and teachers for her innovative textbooks and edu-

cational tools. Buckley, a Library member since 1978, is descended from John



Orlando French writes home during the Civil War, from *Journeys in Time*

Howland, whose story of falling off the *Mayflower* is told in *Journeys in Time*. She has worked in educational publishing for almost

four decades, directed programs for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and acted as general editor of the major textbook series *We the People*.

On February 7, Buckley and Leacock will discuss the creation of their books from story-gathering to publication. In the second session, they will engage participants in

creating story maps of their own family histories. The third session takes the form of a storytelling festival where participants will share their work. "We invite you to join us in telling the history of America," the authors say. "You have stories to tell and many ways to tell them."

These workshops are for children working with a parent or grandparent. To register, call the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or e-mail sholliday@nysoclib.org.



Rosa Cristoforo departs for America, from *Journeys in Time*

LIBRARY LECTURES

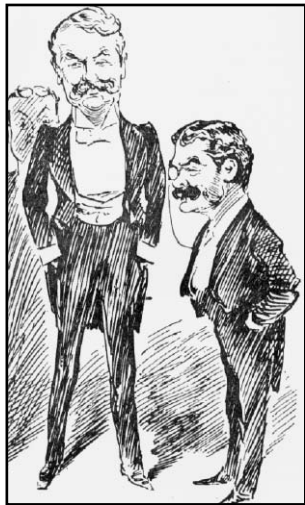
GAYDEN WREN

AUTHOR OF *A MOST INGENIOUS PARADOX: THE ART OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN*

□*H.M.S. PINAFORE: THINGS ARE SELDOM WHAT THEY SEEM*□

Wednesday, January 23

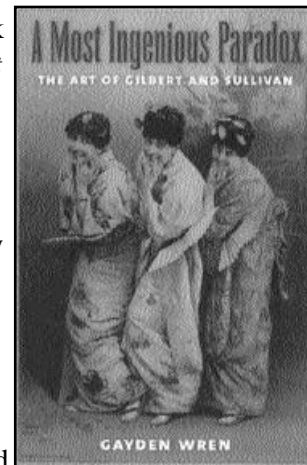
6:00 P.M., Members' Room



Gilbert and Sullivan, drawn by Arthur Bryan for the 1894

Director and playwright Gayden Wren charmed New York with *Very Truly Yours, Gilbert & Sullivan* in 1997 and *A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Carol* in 2001. In *A Most Ingenious Paradox*, newly published by Oxford University Press, he investigates the enduring appeal of the world's most popular body of musical theater. Wren's bold thesis finds the key to the operas' longevity not in the clever lyrics, witty dialogue, or catchy music, but in the central themes underlying the characters and stories.

In this lecture, Wren will address one of the most beloved operas in the English language, *H.M.S. Pinafore; or, the Lass That Loved a Sailor*. Audiences have enjoyed *Pinafore's* wit and tunefulness for 123 years, but beneath the sparkling text Wren finds a pointed commentary on appearances, stereotypes, and social status. Musical examples will be provided by soprano Sara Holliday and pianist Stephen O'Leary.



GERARD PIEL

AUTHOR OF *THE AGE OF SCIENCE*

□*HOW SCIENTISTS LEARNED IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY*□

Wednesday, February 27

6:00 P.M., Members' Room

In his 2001 book *The Age of Science*, Gerard Piel confesses that when he founded *Scientific American* in 1948, "I had the most unlikely preparation." Today, after thirty-eight years as publisher of that magazine, he is America's most knowledgeable layman in many branches of science. His history of scientific discovery in the twentieth century was

The New York Times as "similar to a text for general science. . .but infinitely more interesting."

His lecture, "How Scientists Learned in the Twentieth Century," will explore the philosophy and values that the search for objective knowledge implies, and the ethics of the power that knowledge confers. For the generations which have encountered the atomic bomb, space travel and the mapping of the human genome, examining the values of scientific inquiry is of obvious importance.

Piel has received over twenty honorary doctorates and numerous awards in the scientific community; he has also acted as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His books include *Science in the Cause of Man*, *The Acceleration of History*, and *Only One World*.

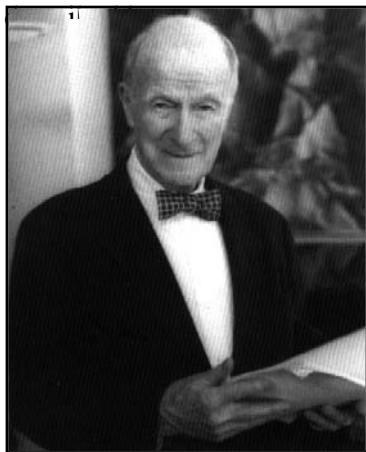


photo by Jerry

TECHNOLOGY AND STAFF NEWS

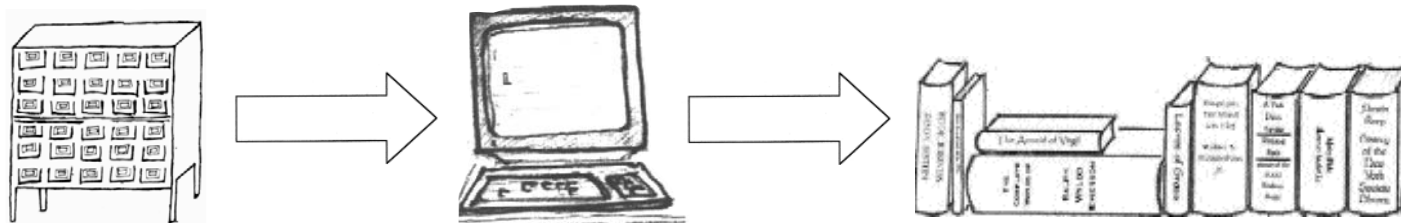
NEW LIBRARY CATALOGER

The Library welcomes Paul Burley to the staff as a full-time cataloger and systems-administration assistant. He most recently cataloged at the Museum of Modern Art; before that, he worked at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and taught English in rural Japan. "I have already fallen in love with the collection here," Paul says, "and I look forward to cataloging materials as quickly and accurately as possible." He will also be our systems administrator on selected Saturdays and will lead the catalog focus group, described below.

ARE YOU ONLINE?

GET NEWS BY E-MAIL!

The Library is compiling a list of our members' e-mail addresses. Responding members will receive updates on new electronic resources, including remote access to FirstSearch, the Oxford English Dictionary and American National Biography (available in early 2002). If you have a current e-mail address, please send a message to webmaster@nysoclib.org with the subject line "Electronic Resources." If you would prefer not to receive any e-mail from the



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CATALOG FOCUS GROUP

Saturday, January 26

10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

How do you find books in our Library? The Systems Department is calling for Library patrons of all ages and levels of computer experience to participate in an informal discussion about Library catalogs and how you search for NYSL materials. Cataloger/systems assistant Paul Burley will present questions for discussion. Light refreshments will be provided. Registration is required; please call the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or e-mail sholliday@nysoclib.org

Please write or phone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

53 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021