

NOTES



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2004

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250TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON: LIBRARY LECTURES

EDWARD MENDELSON

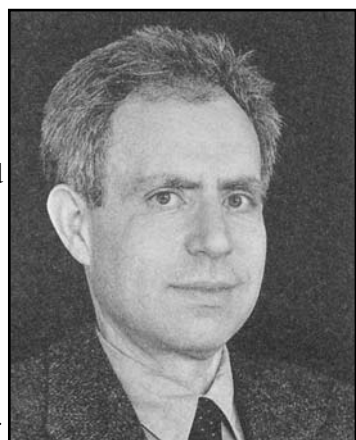
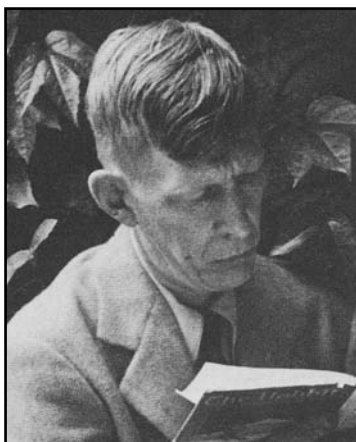
CHILDBIRTH, MURDER, AND THE SHAPE OF W.H. AUDEN'S BIOGRAPHY

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

"Isolated, intense, and severe in his earliest writings, [Auden] came to write poetry that, more than any other, contributed to the understanding of his time. He became the most inclusive poet of the twentieth century, its most technically skilled, and its most truthful." Mendelson, *Early Auden*

Poet, essayist, translator, and librettist, Wystan Hugh Auden captured the truths of his century in his long and diverse career, and his poetry continues to influence and inspire artists and readers today. His practice of involving popular culture and current events in his work, combined with a passionate moral sense, made him one of the premiere explorers of the human condition.

Edward Mendelson is Auden's literary executor and the leading expert on his works. A professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, he is the author of the comprehensive critical surveys *Early Auden* and *Later Auden* and the editor of *The Complete Works of W.H. Auden*, being published by Princeton University Press. This lecture is \$10 for members and guests.



MIKE WALLACE

NEW YORK CITY: THE HOME FRONT

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM



Mike Wallace won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1999 for *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898*, co-authored with Edwin Burrows. Now he is writing a companion volume which will carry the story of the Empire City through the twentieth century. In this event, he will discuss the part of his work in progress dealing with New York City during World War II—including upheavals in race and gender roles, growth in theater and popular culture, and the problems and benefits of focusing the city's massive industries on the war.



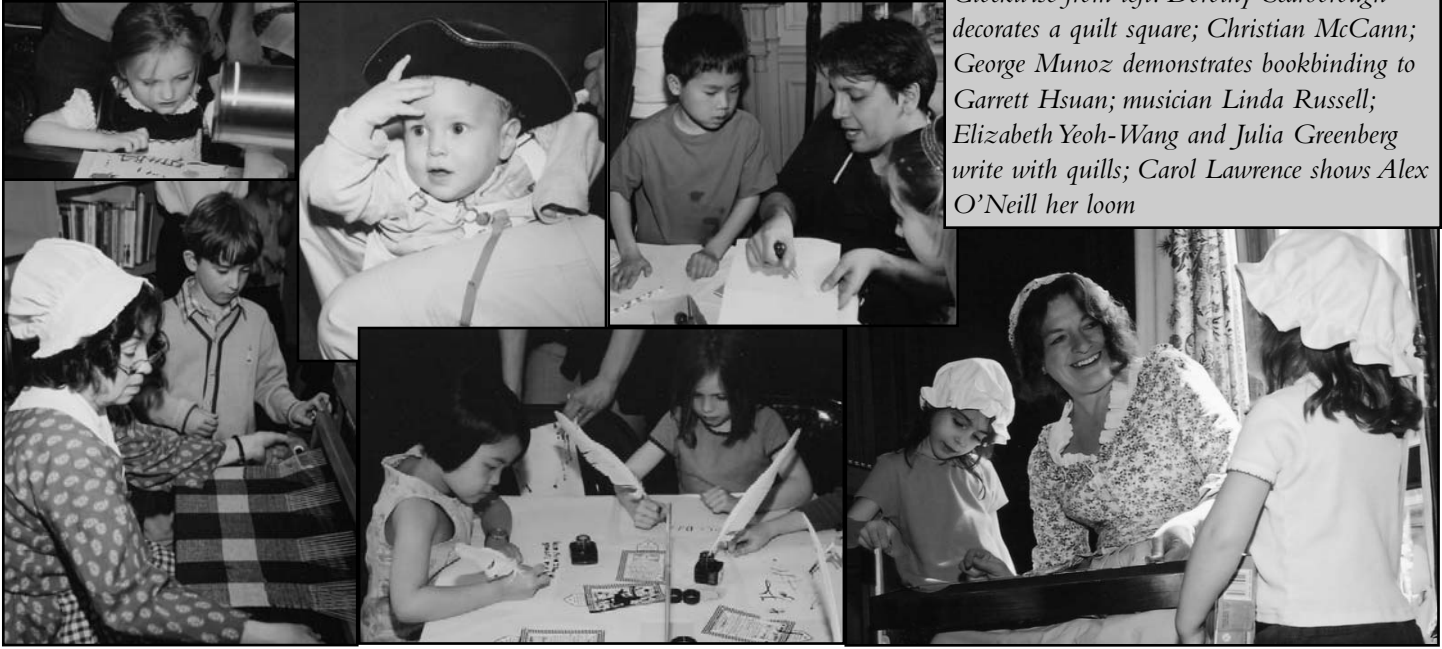
Wallace serves as director of the Gotham Center for New York City History and has taught history at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice since 1971. He is a founder and longtime editor

of the *Radical History Review* and acted as consultant and participant in Ric Burns' *New York: A Documentary Film*. His other books include *Mickey Mouse History and Other Essays on American Memory* and *A New Deal for New York*. This lecture is \$10 for members and guests.

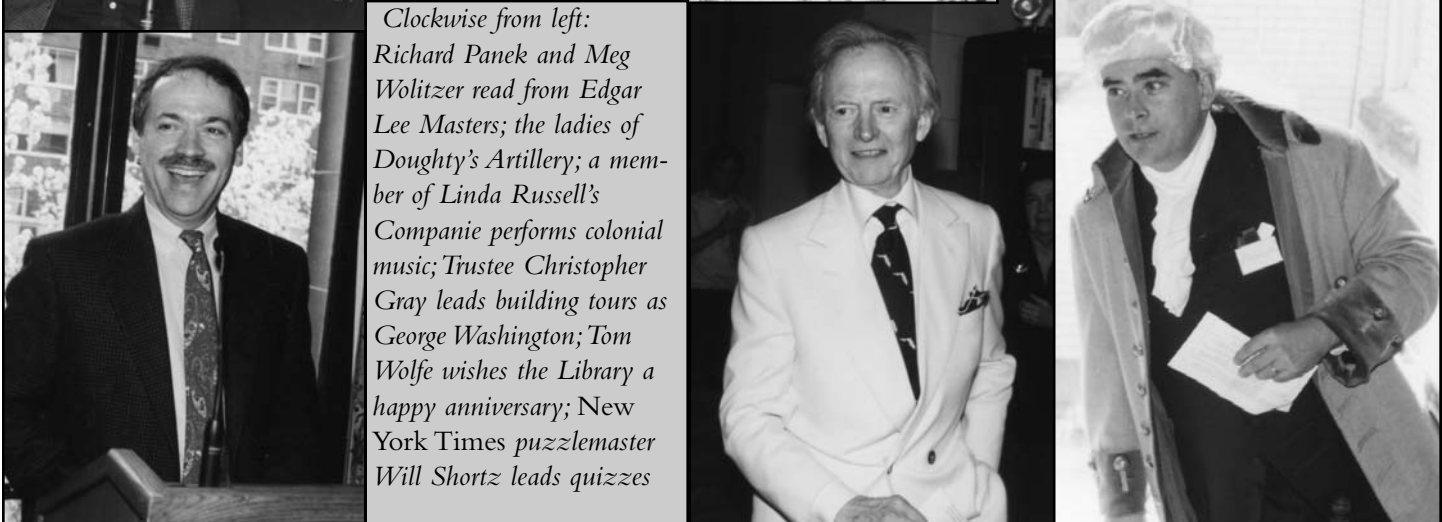
- ❖ **Registration is required for all events. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. Listed fees may be paid at the door.**
- ❖ **To receive technology news and articles electronically, send an e-mail to webmaster@nysoclib.org. To receive the monthly Children's Events Calendar, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.**

250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Approximately 250 children and their parents attended the children's event, "A Day in the Colony of New York," on the afternoon of April 17, and almost 450 members came for the Membership Celebration on April 18. David Ortiz and Star Black photographed the events.



Clockwise from left: Dorothy Scarborough decorates a quilt square; Christian McCann; George Munoz demonstrates bookbinding to Garrett Hsuan; musician Linda Russell; Elizabeth Yeoh-Wang and Julia Greenberg write with quills; Carol Lawrence shows Alex O'Neill her loom



Clockwise from left: Richard Panek and Meg Wolitzer read from Edgar Lee Masters; the ladies of Doughty's Artillery; a member of Linda Russell's Companie performs colonial music; Trustee Christopher Gray leads building tours as George Washington; Tom Wolfe wishes the Library a happy anniversary; New York Times puzzlemaster Will Shortz leads quizzes

THE NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY

Book of the Year

David Von Drehle

Triangle:

The Fire That Changed America

Award for Historical Fiction

Jon Boorstin

*The Newsboys' Lodging House or
The Confessions of William James*

Award for Photography

Stanley Greenberg

*Waterworks: A Photographic Journey
Through New York's
Hidden Water System*

Special Citation of Merit

Christopher Gray

New York Streetscapes



All photos by David Ortiz



Clockwise from left: Presenter Joshua Freeman and David Von Drehle; Jon Boorstin at the reception; Presenter Michael Henry Adams and Suzanne Braley, accepting for Christopher Gray; Stanley Greenberg

PROJECT CICERO 2004

Project Cicero, founded in 2001, has completed another massive book drive to benefit New York City's under-served schools. More than 200,000 new and gently used children's books were gathered from over 60 public, private and parochial schools, from publishers, and from a donation by the FirstBook organization. Almost 1,000 teachers and librarians selected books. Project Cicero's next book collection will take place March 7-10, 2005. The Library and the Project Cicero committee thank everyone who donated or volunteered.

THE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

More than 150 young members submitted poetry and prose about books and libraries for the second annual Young Writers Awards competition.

The Library is pleased to announce the winners: in the third-fifth grade category, Charlie Panek for his story "Spine Language" and Morris Kracier for his poem "Books;" in the sixth-eighth grade category, Mark Rapaport for his poem "A Book;" and in the ninth-twelfth grade category, Kate Aufses for her essay "Vade Mecum." Honorable mentions were given to Kal Victor for his story "Lost in the Trance of Reading," and to Sarah M. Yeoh-Wang for her poem "Books in the Library."

Authors Robert Quackenbush, Dave Johnson, Elizabeth Winthrop, and Edra Ziesk judged the competition. The winners and all the participants were honored at a ceremony on April 27.



Judge Elizabeth Winthrop and Mark Rapaport, one of the winners



INSIDE THE LIBRARY

THE RENOVATION

The Library's long-awaited renovation will begin this summer. The building will remain open and circulation functions will continue, but certain areas will have to be closed from time to time. We ask for members' cooperation during this time of transition, which will end with increased space for books and for readers.



Renovation details to note:

- ◆ The Members' Room will not change in appearance, although it will have new air conditioning. It and other public rooms will retain their special ambiance.
- ◆ Updates about the progress of the renovation and upcoming room closings will be posted on the bulletin board just outside the lobby doors.
- ◆ The full construction plans will be available for members to look at. Just ask at the circulation desk.
- ◆ Extra study tables are being added on each stack level, most with full laptop hookup capability.

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY: 250 YEARS NOW AVAILABLE

Copies of the Library's anniversary commemorative book are now available at the front desk. If you reserved a copy, please indicate this when you pick it up so you can be checked off the list. If you did not reserve a book, you can still pick one up; one copy per membership, please. Questions about this process can be directed to Sara Holliday at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

❖ *Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at www.nysoclib.org.*

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

53 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021