

FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN

Though people who know me realize I am more of a cat person, I do love the fact that working at the Society Library means meeting some lovely creatures of the canine variety. I hope you all enjoy the collection of photos of the Library's furry friends on pages 4-6. As Circulation Supervisor Patrick Rayner will remind you, you can bring your dog into the Library while you drop off your returns, pick up books on hold, or get the latest *New Books* list at the front desk.

RENOVATION UPDATE AND REMINDERS TO MEMBERS

We made it. With the exception of some final tweaks to the handicapped accessibility at the front entrance and touch-ups to the fifth floor, the renovation is complete. Our first issue of *Library Notes* in the new year will be a full-color feature issue with photos and narrative about the renovation this summer and fall. At this time of writing, Renovation Projects Librarian Andrew Corbin is preparing this report for *Notes*.

I did want to take a moment to make a few announcements to all members who frequent the renovated fifth floor:

- We make the fifth floor study rooms available for five bookings at a time. Ask at the front desk and they'll explain the booking system in detail.
- The heating and cooling system is operational on the fifth floor. During the cooler days of winter, we will set the temperature at 72. We apologize in advance if there is some variance in comfort between the open space of the Hornblower Room and the study rooms. Library staff will be responsible for adjusting the thermostats.
- It is imperative that members keep water bottles off the tables, desks and bookcases at all times; any liquid getting into the laptop electrical plug-ins is dangerous. Please note that only water in a closed container is allowed on the fifth floor: no soda, juice, coffee, tea, etc.
- Recycling and garbage bins are available upstairs. Please use them.
- We were pleased to re-hang some new and old items from the art and archive collection on the fifth floor. For those of you who have been using the study rooms, we hope you are already enjoying the items on display; watch for more in the hallways and Hornblower Room in the next year.

LOOKING TOWARD 2011

We have a fabulous season of lectures, performances and workshops starting up again in January. I am thrilled that we will present author Simon Winchester in the Members' Room on January 19. Mr. Winchester will speak about his new book, *Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms, and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories* (Harper, 2010). It is no secret that Sir Simon has been a favorite of many a NYSL reader over the years. His books have included writings about scientist Joseph Needham (*The Man Who Loved China*); lexicographer James Murray, editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (*The Meaning of Everything*); the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 (*A Crack in the Edge of the World*); and his travels to many regions.



Other events in the winter/spring season will include Kenneth T. Jackson on *The Encyclopedia of New York City: Second Edition*, the plays of Ruth Wolff, a special conversation with American novelists Meg Wolitzer and Elizabeth Strout, and, in May, the Young Writers' Awards (underwritten by Paul Wagner and Jeannette Sarkisian Wagner) and the New York City Book Awards. Our fourth Open Mic Night will be held in March as part of the 2011 Writing Life daytime and evening programming, both underwritten by Jenny Lawrence.

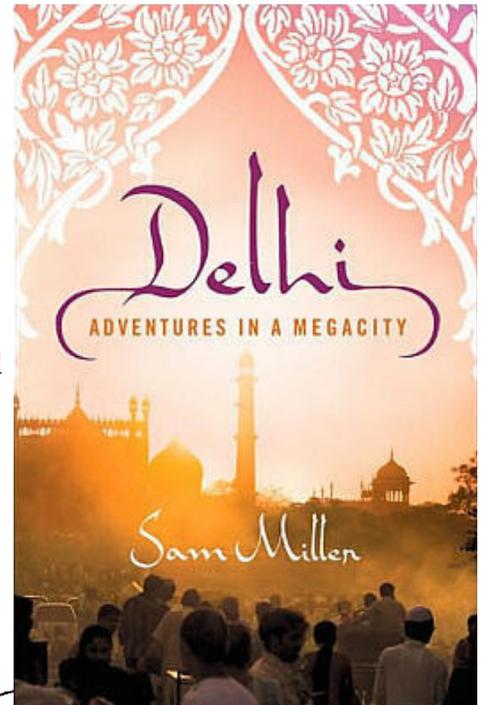
ON A PERSONAL NOTE

It has been another great year at the Society Library. Next summer marks my fifth anniversary as Head Librarian of this growing and vibrant institution, and I am proud we have been able to both restore and improve our building since I came.

In closing, I wanted to share that my wife and I will be traveling to two very special parts of the world in the new year: India and Nepal. In India, my wife Sue and I plan to spend a week in New Delhi and then ten days in Katmandu, where my sister and brother-in-law are living and working. I'm boning up for the trip with old and current books, including *Delhi: Adventures in a Megacity* by Sam Miller (2009), and *Travelers' Tales Nepal: True Stories of Life on the Road* (2009). Each and every moment will be an adventure. As life should be.



Mark Bartlett
Head Librarian



A NOTE FROM DEVELOPMENT

INCREASE YOUR GIVING THROUGH MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers sponsor corporate matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions their employees make. Your Annual Fund gift to the New York Society Library may double or even triple. Some companies also match gifts made by their retirees or employees' spouses.

Please contact your company's human resources department to see if they have a matching gift program. For more information, or to let us know of a matching gift, contact Director of Development Joan Zimmett at 212-288-6900 x207 or jzimmett@nysoclib.org. Thank you for your support!



*Then and Now:
the main-stairwell skylight c. 1920 (above) and today (left)*

This year's events and features newsletters are generously underwritten by Ada Peluso and Romano I. Peluso in memory of Assunta Sommella and Ignazio Peluso.

CELEBRATING LONGTIME MEMBERS

On November 1, the Library held its second celebration of members who joined forty or more years ago. Author, cartoonist and playwright Jules Feiffer offered remarks about his career and life in New York City, and members shared memories, some of which are included here.

As of that date, the Library had seventeen memberships from 1970, ninety-six from the 1960s, nineteen from the 1950s, and a remarkable five from the 1940s.

Photos by Karen Smul: Jules Feiffer with trustee Barbara H. Stanton, chair of the event's planning committee; Arlette Brauer-Bria and George Bria; Ethel Bowditch, Peggy Edsall, and Mary Bundy;

Excellence beyond praise: After I mentioned leading a book group, I found that two useful books on book groups were left for me on reserve at the desk. I had not requested them because I was unaware that there were such books. The Library and especially the wonderful staff are a treasure that enhances my life.

—*Jacqueline Stahl Aronson Ph.D, member since 1961*

When the children were small, I would get a babysitter and then set off for the Library to roam the stacks in blissful silence and afterwards treat myself to tea at Schrafft's on 79th Street.

Miss Ruskell loved baseball, and I watched the end of a Mets game with her on a small black-and-white TV in the circulation workroom. It was the year the Miracle Mets won the Series (before they retreated to mediocrity)!

One day Miss Hilton was writing my books on the cards used then. At the last book she said, "This must be a mistake." It was a biography of Ted Williams, and I stood my ground by saying I grew up listening to the Red Sox, and he was my favorite player!

—*Peggy Edsall, member since 1962*

I will always remember walking past the New York Society Library on September 11, 2001 and seeing its open doors. Though I was on my way to church, I never got there. Instead, I entered the Library, familiar to me from childhood, and steeped myself in its civilizing atmosphere, at once calming and reassuring.

—*Margaret P. High, member since 1951*

I read a lot, but my husband read about 4-5 books a week. If we had had to buy them, we would have had to move out of NYC for more storage space. Thank you for being here.

—*Ann Raymond, member since 1960*

My mother was a member. My summer reading gave me a choice of *Mission to Moscow* by Joseph Edward Davies or *War and Peace*. Always the lazy one, I asked her to have *Mission to Moscow* sent to my grandfather's home, where we were spending part of our summer. *War and Peace* arrived in the mail. I've always thought of that book, which took me all summer to read, as identified with the Society Library.

—*Phoebe Stanton, member since 1960*

I remember when I first saw and entered the Members' Room and knew it would become my home away from home!

—*Margaret Eugenia Willard, member since 1969*



OUTSIDE OF A DOG

PATRICK RAYNER

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." —Groucho Marx

"I like a dog at my feet when I read,/Whatever his size or whatever his breed." —Edgar Guest

"If dogs are not there, it is not heaven." —Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

Perhaps you have found yourself in the Members' Room, leisurely paging through the day's newspapers, when a loud noise startled you from your reading, and you thought, "Did something in here just...bark?" Although we do not encourage barking, it has long been the pleasure of Library staff to host the dogs that accompany our members into the Circulation Hall. We keep treats in a Circulation Desk drawer to spoil our four-footed friends. Here, a few of the dogs we've had the privilege of befriending, with some titles they would be sure to recommend.

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

Buehner, Caralyn – *Superdog: The Heart of a Hero* (Juv-E B)

Tired of being overlooked because he is so small, Dexter, a big-hearted dog with big dreams, transforms himself into a superhero.

Ehlert, Lois – *Wag a Tail* (Juv-E E)

Assorted graduates of the Bow Wow School meet at a farmers market and a dog park, where most of them remember their obedience training.

Feiffer, Kate – *Which Puppy?* (Juv-E F)

Puppies from around the world—along with some imitations—compete with one another to become the First Family's new puppy. Inspired by Barack Obama's promise to his daughters that they could adopt a puppy if he won the presidential election.

Hill, Eric – *Where's Spot?* (Juv-E H BOARD BOOK)

A mother dog finds eight other animals hiding around the house before finding her lost puppy. Flaps conceal the animals.

Kerby, Mona – *Owney, the Mail-Pouch Pooch* (Juv-E K)

In 1888, Owney, a stray terrier puppy, finds a home in the Albany, New York, post office and becomes its official mascot as he rides the mail train through the Adirondacks and beyond, criss-crossing the United States, into Canada and Mexico, and eventually traveling around the world by mail boat in 132 days.



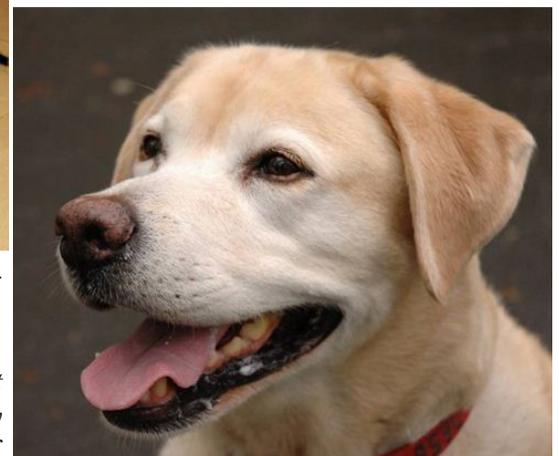
Teddy sometimes tries to squirrel away a treat in the mystery section.



The Duchess: nobility comes in all sizes.



Fred (a poodle) and Theo (a dachshund) are brothers in soul, if not in genes.



William has gone on to that great dog run in the sky, but he is fondly remembered by patrons and staff.

McCarty, Peter – *Hondo & Fabian* (Juv-E M)

Hondo the dog gets to go to the beach and play with his friend Fred, while Fabian the cat spends the day at home.

Winthrop, Elizabeth – *Dog Show* (Juv-E W)

When Harvey enters his dog, Fred, in the annual dog show, Fred is none too pleased, but when the show is over, he does not want to leave.

Zion, Gene – *Harry, the Dirty Dog* (Juv-E Z)

When a white dog with black spots runs away from home, he gets so dirty his family doesn't recognize him as a black dog with white spots.

CHILDREN'S CHAPTER BOOKS

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin – *Biscuit* (Juv-YR C)

A little yellow dog wants ever one more thing before he'll go to sleep.

Cleary, Beverly – *Ribsy* (Juv-F C)

Separated from his owner, Henry Huggins, in a shopping center parking lot, an ordinary city dog begins a string of bewildering adventures.

DiCamillo, Kate – *Because of Winn-Dixie* (Juv-F D)

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Estes, Eleanor – *Ginger Pye* (Juv-F E)

The disappearance of a new puppy named Ginger and the appearance of a mysterious man in a mustard yellow hat bring excitement into the lives of the Pye children.

Hoff, Syd – *Barkley* (Juv-YR H)

When he gets too old to perform his act in the circus, Barkley tries to find something else to do.

Knight, Eric – *Lassie Come-Home* (Juv-F K)

A collie undertakes a 1000-mile journey in order to once again meet her former master at the school gate.

London, Jack – *The Call of the Wild* (Juv-F L)

A classic novel of adventure relating the story of a heroic dog, who, caught in the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature.



Glamorous Graham



You can hear how much Henry loves the Library by the sound of his wagging tail hitting the Circulation Desk.



Louie used to snack on books, but he has learned to control himself.



Zoey hits the park after a Library visit.



Jango is watching his figure and foregoes the treats, but he's still happy to visit.

Meister, Cari – *Tiny's Bath* (Juv-YR M)

Tiny is a very big dog who loves to dig, and when it is time for his bath, his owner has trouble finding a place to bathe him.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds – *Shiloh* (Juv-F N)

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Rylant, Cynthia – *Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures* (Juv-YR R)

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.

Seidler, Tor – *Gully's Travels* (Juv-F S)

Gulliver leads a life of luxury with his master. But when his master falls in love with a woman who is allergic to dogs, Gulliver is sent to a new home. He finds himself with a family of raucous human beings and three mutts. But just as Gulliver begins to make a grudging peace with his new reality, he gets swept up in a harrowing new adventure.

Smith, Dodie – *The Hundred and One Dalmations* (Juv-F S)

Details the adventures of a canine couple, Pongo and Perdita, who produce fifteen adorable puppies, only to have them snatched by the merciless Cruella De Vil.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

George, Kristine O'Connell – *Little Dog Poems* (Juv. 821 G)

Short poems present a day in the life of a little dog and its owner.

Jenkins, Steve – *Dogs and Cats!* (Juv. 636.7 J)

Are you a cat lover? A dog person? Either way, this book is for you! Read about how your favorite companion came to be a pet and how its body works. Then flip the book over and find out about the other kind.

Kirk, Daniel – *Dogs Rule!* (Juv. 821 K)

A collection of twenty-two poems from a dog's perspective, such as "Bad Dog," "Dog-Bone Blues," and "Purple Rhinestone Collar."

Turner, Pamela S. – *Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog* (Juv. 92 HAC)

Relates the true story of a dog who accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years.

CLASSICS

Ackerley, J.R. — *My Dog Tulip* (828 A)

Herriot, James — *All Creatures Great and Small*, and other memoirs (92 H5677H)

Terhune, Albert Payson — *Lad, a Dog*, and other novels (Juv-F T and F T)

Thurber, James — *Thurber's Dogs* (827 T)

Elizabeth (pseud.) — *All the Dogs of My Life* (636.7 E)

Woolf, Virginia — *Flush, a Biography* (F W)

RECENT WORKS

Wroblewski, David — *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* (F W)

Stein, Garth — *The Art of Racing in the Rain* (F S)

Mayle, Peter — *A Dog's Life* (F M)

Quinn, Spencer — *Dog On It: A Chet and Bernie Mystery* and its sequels (F Q)

Grogan, John — *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog* (636.7 G)

Horowitz, Alexandra — *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know* (636.7 H). Audio of Ms. Horowitz's lecture on the book can be found at www.nysoclib.org/notes/2010/inside_dog.html.



Hannah waits patiently while books are selected.



Jasper, a sweet mixed-breed, is technically a 'granddog.'



Tobie is one of our newest and most enthusiastic dogs.

THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SOCIETY LIBRARY

NINA ROOT

Member Nina Root, Director Emerita of the American Museum of Natural History, researched and wrote this article as part of the Library's fall launch of the digital version of the *First Charging Ledger (1789-1792)*. The full text can be found at www.nysoclib.org/ledger/articles/root_nina.html, and the ledger contents are available at www.nysoclib.org/ledger.

In 1789 New York City was still recovering from the British occupation during the Revolutionary War; the city had sustained explosions and fires. In 1776 a quarter of the city, including Trinity Church and Broadway, was destroyed by a major fire. The British forces and Loyalists finally departed on November 25th, 1783, and the same day General Washington reclaimed New York, addressing his troops in a farewell speech at Fraunces Tavern. The city was described as “a most dirty, desolate, and wretched place,” but returning New Yorkers, then as now, were unbowed and set about rebuilding the physical, commercial, and social city. Washington was inaugurated President on April 30th, 1789 on the porch of Federal Hall (1 Wall Street), the remodeled City Hall. The French-American Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant added a Doric portico to the 1701 building, making it a suitable site for the temporary capital. Slowly the city was reconstructed: a grid system was instituted; banks were established; streets were paved; docks were rebuilt; commerce returned with merchants who had departed; learned and professional societies were organized; and young dandies and belles attended inaugural routs. The city was turning into a thriving metropolis.

The New York Society Library had suspended operation during the years of British occupation, and the collection had been dispersed. Federal Hall again served as the home for the Library, and the entire legislature, as well as the paying subscribers, had use of the collection. Late 18th-century NYSL members were the generation of patriots who declared independence, fought in the Revolutionary War, wrote the Constitution, and rebuilt and revitalized the city. This is the generation that grew up and was educated during the Enlightenment that began in European salons, but whose ideas were fulfilled in the founding of the United States and elegantly expressed in the Declaration of Independence. It is, therefore, fascinating to peruse the charging ledger for 1789-1792 and see what the founding Fathers and the returning veterans were reading and whether patterns can be discerned.

NYSL members were the leading citizens of New York: the lawyers, merchants, physicians, clergy, and socially prominent women. The names are still inscribed in street and place names: Broome, Bowne, Allen, Bleecker, Varick, Kip, Randall, Hamilton, Houston, Jones, Livingston, Clinton, Van Wyck, and Schermerhorn. The Library membership personifies the democratic precepts espoused by the country's founders: fifteen women and at least three prominent Jewish New Yorkers are included in the first roster of dues payers.

Selected by the Library trustees from catalogs and lists, the collection is a typical 18th-century library including the classics (Aristophanes, Cicero, Cato, Ovid, Virgil, Milton, and Shakespeare), histories (Gibbon) and biographies, encyclopedias (*Encyclopædia Britannica*) and dictionaries (Johnson), with a good smattering of military history, the Revolution, the latest literature, poetry, and plays (Beaumont and Fletcher, Chesterfield, Congreve, Pope), and the latest novels such as Le Sage's *Gil Blas of Santillane* and Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* and *Clarissa*. Sciences, nature, farming, gardening, economics (Adam Smith), and mathematics were included along with Franklin's *Experiments and observations on electricity*. Some texts on religion were also to be found. A sizable number of sentimental, romantic novels were included and borrowed frequently by gentlemen; some sound absolutely lurid, reminiscent of the Barbara Cartland variety. The titles are descriptive: *The Fortunate country maid*; *Love and madness, a story too true*; *History of the fair adultress*. These stories were the vogue and were read by everyone, including the clergy.

Among the historical material being read were books on the Ottoman Empire, Islam, the life of Muhammad, and North Africa. The young nation was being harassed by Barbary pirates; American ships were being captured and the crew and passengers held for ransom. Congress even appropriated funds to pay the ransoms. The great age of exploration began in the 18th century, and many elegant, illustrated reports were published. Books on travel and exploration were popular, especially Cook's multi-volume work. Cook's voyages were among the first to be accompanied by a naturalist and an artist. The folios are illustrated with engravings and with detailed description of the inhabitants of distant islands and the flora and fauna. The voyages of Anson, Bruce, Forster, and Sparrman were read with equal interest.



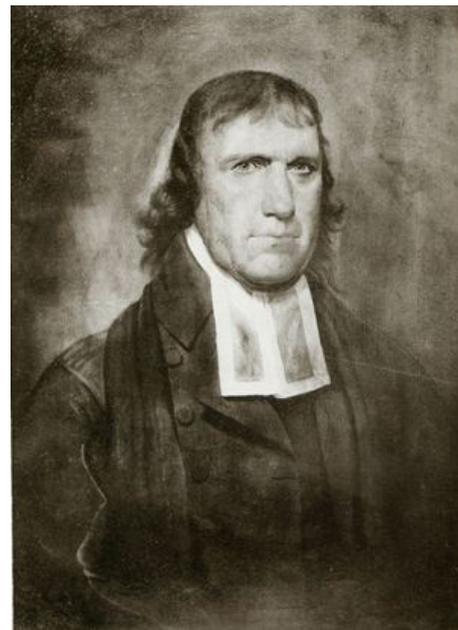
DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828)

Women members read a lot more than the latest sentimental novels. Notably, Henrietta Maria Colden had very wide reading interests. As an intimate of the Hamiltons and Burrs, she was a welcome addition at dinner parties. Aaron Burr also borrowed books on a wide variety of topics, and his brilliant daughter, Theodosia, may well have read the same volumes and perhaps discussed them with Mrs. Colden. Abigail Adams, known for her intelligence, was in residence during this period, but neither she nor her husband borrowed the latest literature.

Samuel Judah, one of the Jewish members, borrowed a number of plays, perhaps for his son, Benjamin B.H. Judah, who became a successful playwright until he wrote *Gotham and the Gothamites* (1823), for which he was indicted for libel and imprisoned. Benjamin Seixas, a Revolutionary War veteran and avid reader, was the great grand uncle of Arthur Hays Sulzberger, editor of *The New York Times* from 1935 to 1961.

A few books are of interest to mention. *The History of Women* by William Alexander (1779, two volumes) was borrowed by a significant number of men, but not by a single woman. The advertisement states: "AS the following Work was composed solely for the amusement and instruction of the Fair Sex; and as their education is in general less extensive than that of the men; in order to render it the more intelligible, we have studied the utmost plainness and simplicity of language; have not only totally excluded almost every word that is not English, but even, as much as possible, avoided every technical term." Enlightenment gentlemen seem to have been as perplexed by the fairer sex as are the men of today. An essay on brewing by Michael Combrune was borrowed a few times by only one NYSL member, Alexander Robertson, a merchant and elder of a church. A little moonshine or sacramental wine? And then there's *Essay on the art of ingeniously tormenting, with proper rules for the exercise of that pleasant art* by Jane Collier, 1757. This was a bestseller read by a goodly number of members, including Reverend William Linn, chaplain to the Congress, and the indomitable Henrietta Maria Colden.

So, here we have a picture of the reading habits of 18th-century members. I suspect that a review of today's borrowers would produce a similar portrait.



Rev. William Linn (1752-1808)

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
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in electronic form
at www.nysoclib.org/notes.html