

Edith Wharton's New York City: A Backward Glance

MARCH 15 - DECEMBER 31, 2012

This new exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of the birth of author Edith Wharton. One of America's most acclaimed writers, Edith Jones was born January 24, 1862 at 14 West 23 Street into an old New York family with links back to colonial New York City. The narrow world of nineteenth-century New York society inspired Wharton's greatest fiction, from *The House of Mirth* to *The Age of Innocence*.

The exhibition reveals exciting new information about Wharton's world and the New York Society Library, then located at 67 University Place. Wharton's father, George Frederic Jones, withdrew books from the Library, as did many other family members, including Wharton's sister-in-law Mary Cadwalader Jones—like Wharton, a close friend of Henry James. On display will be rare family portraits, Wharton letters to family members, and first editions of novels and short stories, including Wharton's autobiography *A Backward Glance*. The exhibition will showcase several books Wharton read as a girl, on loan from the Mount in Lenox, Massachusetts.



The Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

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THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

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