The Society’s Medal of Merit was presented to E. L. Doctorow at the 173rd Annual Celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas held on Tuesday 6 December 2007 at the Harvard Club of New York City. The evening featured the usual ceremonials with a distinguished cast of characters. The invocation was delivered by the Rev. Canon James Rosenthal of the Anglican Communion Office in London. An authority on our patron saint, Canon Rosenthal also spoke about our patron saint’s influence and popularity in other countries, particularly the Netherlands.

The new Dutch Consul General in New York, Gajus Scheltema, offered a toast to the President of the United States, in response to the toast offered by President John McC. Shannon to the Queen of the Netherlands.

Also gracing the occasion were several distinguished guests, including Peter M. Felix, CBE, President of St. George’s Society of New York; John Mauk Hilliard, President of the Sons of the Revolution; Floyd (Sandy) Sanford, President of the Huguenot Society; John B. VanDerbeek IV, President of the Holland Society; Audrey Svensson, President General of the Colonial Dames of America; and Jean Cameron Grainger, President of the National Society of Colonial Dames.

Past Presidents in attendance were John Milnes Baker, Timothy Field Beard, Henry Darlington, Jr., William R. Follett, Kent L. Straat and Samuel D. Williams.

In his remarks, President Shannon stated: “Our Society honors individuals who have brought renown to New York City. These have ranged from public figures like Mayors John Lindsay and Fiorella LaGuardia to philanthropists like Henry Luce III and Brooke Astor to artists such as Helen Hayes and Joseph Papp. Each has done something for our city. As has E. L. Doctorow, one of our nation’s most admired littérateurs. Mr. Doctorow’s achievement is humbling; at least it is to me! Who among us

Continued on page 7
Billy Collins Honored at Fall Stated Meeting

Billy Collins, the American poet, received with the Washington Irving Medal of Literary Merit at the Fall Stated Meeting on 18 October 2007. The presentation took place at the Racquet & Tennis Club in New York. The black tie event followed the usual pattern of stated meetings, beginning with the indispensable cocktail reception during which members and guests greeted each other. The mood was upbeat and the libations plentiful.

President Shannon, attired in traditional white tie with tricorn hat and wearing the president’s scarf and medal, conducted Society business at intervals during the dinner. George H. McNeely, chairman of the Admissions Committee, introduced the new members present and awaiting to be inducted: Lewis Stetson Allen and Gregory Michel Outwater.

First Vice President John Mauk Hilliard described Mr. Collins, a distinguished professor of English at Lehman College in the Bronx, where he joined the faculty in 1968 and has taught for over 30 years. He is also one of America’s most honored poets, having been appointed Poet Laureate of the United States for two years.

Born in New York City in 1941, he is the author of several books of poetry, including Nine Horses (Random House, 2002); Sailing Alone Around the Room: New and Selected Poems (2001); Picnic, Lightning (1998), The Art of Drowning (1995), which was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize; Questions About Angels (1991), which was selected by Edward Hirsch for the National Poetry Series; The Apple That Astonished Paris (1988); Video Poems (1980); and Pokerface (1977).


President Shannon presented the large and handsome medal bearing the face of our founder, Washington Irving, to Mr. Collins, who accepted it and thanked the Society for the honor it had bestowed upon him.
President’s Farewell

Fellow St. Nickers,

This issue of The Weathercock is my last as President of our Society. The honor of being chosen by my fellow members to serve as their president is both gratifying and humbling – particularly when I see who has preceded me. I hope I have acquitted myself well.

Over the past two years the Society maintained a steady program of social events – stated meetings, outings, Paas Festivals, Feasts of St. Nicholas. Each required planning and thought, and I want to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and advice I received from Jill Spiller, our loyal executive director. She is the backbone of our office and our Society.

I also want to record my eternal gratitude to the key players who helped me bear the burden of office. It was a joy to have Brian A. Blake as my Chief Steward. A fourth-generation St. Nicker, he was a model of responsibility. Frank Sypher oversaw the production of our Weathercock, one of the finest quality lineage society newsletters produced. George McNeely made sure that membership applications did not get mired for want of a letter. Leighton Coleman and, before him, Dan Curtis, as Chairmen of the Speakers and Medals Committee, found excellent speakers and medalists for the Society. I also enjoyed the unstinting assistance of Seton Ijams, our Treasurer; and Bob Naud and Steve Billick, who were Secretaries. Bob also chaired an excellent Paas Festival, as did his successor, Bromme Cole. The Festival is a social and economic challenge but both did a fine job.

Tom Pike and Martin Chase were never fazed whenever I asked them, at the last minute, to give an invocation at a meeting. Barry Howard and Joe Wittmann, Jr., helped to give the Society a modern look by designing and maintain a professional-looking website (www.saintnicholasociety.org for those of you who have not yet seen it).

It was always reassuring to see Sam Williams and John Baker, two of my predecessors, at Board of Managers meetings, whom I served in different capacities. Having experienced what they did, I have an even higher regard for them now than before.

The achievements of which I am most

Continued on next page

Five Dutch Days

Continued from front page

Members of St. Nick know that St. Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery was built on site of Peter Stuyvesant’s family chapel on land donated by his great-grandson. Stuyvesant is buried beneath the church. The bust mentioned above is the work of noted Dutch sculptor, Toon Dupuis, and was given to the people of New York City in 1915 by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

Her daughter, Queen Juliana, visited St. Mark’s in 1952 – en route to the UN – and laid another wreath.

Five Dutch Days is a collaborative exercise managed by the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum (Susan De Vries), the St. Mark’s Historic Landmark Fund (Felicia Mayro) and Department of History at Columbia University (Sean Sawyer). The full title of project is “5 Dutch Days 5 Boroughs: Dutch Arts and Culture Past and Present.” This is the third annual five-day-long event, this year with 29 participating organizations representing all five boroughs of New York City and ranging from single Dutch-American historic sites, such as the Dyckman or Wyckoff farmhouses, to some of the City’s most prominent cultural organizations, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, and the Morgan Library and Museum.

Five Dutch Days celebrates the continuous influence of Dutch arts and culture in New York City— from the City’s enterprising, multicultural origins as a Dutch colony to the pivotal role of contemporary Dutch artists and designers in today’s international cultural scene. The event is anchored by Dutch-American Heritage Day, which is celebrated annually on November 16. This project brings together arts and cultural organizations from across the city, including museums, galleries, historic sites, preservation groups, and professional organizations, and Dutch-centered professional, genealogical, and business groups. The 5-day-long event promotes public programs and activities presented by the organizations themselves.

Left: Simone Kreutzer, Dutch Consul for Press and Cultural Affairs and Dorine van Norren, Senior Policy Officer, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Above: Stephen B. Billick and Bromme H. Cole

Below: The New Amsterdames of the Flying Figs Theatre at the bust of Peter Stuyvesant
President’s Farewell
Continued from page 3

proud are the move to the new office at 20 West 44th Street and the production of the new lineage record. My experience of moving other offices before was no preparation for dealing with a not-for-profit landlord. The move should have been easier than it was and we’re still not there; but I believe that, in time, everything will finally be concluded to our satisfaction. Above all it will be economically beneficial.

There had been no volume containing the lineages of new members since 1980. As many as half of our members were unrecorded – including me. From Day One my top priority was to remedy that situation. I seem not to have been alone in thinking this way because, when I asked for contributions to underwrite the cost of production, the members responded generously and enthusiastically. The book, designed by Jerry Kelly, and edited by Frank Sypher (again), is beautiful and shows that we are alive and well. Here again, I am indebted to all those who made it possible.

The Saint Nicholas Society will always have a special place in my heart. We are the stewards of something precious and unique, and that must – I believe – be preserved. I look forward to serving my successor in any way I can; wearing my past president’s medal at future events; and chairing a Long-Term Planning Committee to analyze the Society’s operations and consider ways of improving them.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support, generosity and friendship.

Oranje Boven.

John McC. Shannon
92nd President

St. Nick Commemorated at St. Mark’s in-the-Bowery

By resolution of the clergy and vestry, St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery proclaimed, as of April 21, 2005, that the first Sunday in December shall be called “Saint Nicholas Society Sunday” in recognition of the long-standing association of the Society with St. Mark’s. On 2 December 2007 President John McC. Shannon represented the Society at a service to commemorate St. Nicholas and the benefactions of the Saint Nicholas Society, most recently a grant to help recover the church roof.

The connection between St. Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery and the Saint Nicholas Society goes back to the early 19th century. The church, situated in Manhattan on Second Avenue at 10th Street, is built on land that was once part of Peter Stuyvesant’s boerwerkerd, or farm, and is thought to be on the site of his private chapel. The church contains a Stuyvesant burial crypt (now closed), where the first Governor-General of New Amsterdam is buried, as well as numerous founders of the Society.

Book Review

A Huguenot on the Hackensack: David Demarest and His Legacy

by David C. Major and John S. Major • Madison and Teaneck, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007
Pp. 261, illustrated, hardcover. • $29.50
ISBN: 978-0-8386-4152-1

Order from Associated University Presses, 2010 Eastpark Blvd., Cranbury, NJ 08512.
Tel: 609-655-4770. email: aup440@aol.com

The authors of A Huguenot on the Hackensack: David Demarest and His Legacy, David C. Major and John S. Major, are brothers (as their names suggest), and PhD’s, a circumstance attested by the detailed scholarship that went into the research for this excellent volume. David Demarest is in some ways an exemplary figure for such a study, since his story is typical of many. His family origins were in France amongst members of the Protestant community; but during the 17th century, French Protestants were viewed with increasing intolerance, in spite of the protections guaranteed by the Edict of Nantes, of 1598; finally Louis XIV in 1685 revoked the edict entirely, and began an all-out persecution.

Demarest early saw better opportunities outside of France; he emigrated well before the worst persecutions began. After his departure, he first lived in Middelburg, the Netherlands, where he appears on June 29, 1640 as a member of the Walloon Church. He was then about twenty years old. He later moved to Mannheim, Germany, where there was a numerous colony of Huguenots. The baptism of David, son of David Demarest and Marie Sohier, is registered in the records of the French Church of Mannheim for 1651. Eventually Demarest decided to try his luck in New Netherland, and in 1663 he sailed with his family aboard the Bonte Koe (“spotted cow”) out of Rotterdam bound for New Amsterdam. Here he lived in several locations before settling on the Hackensack River, where he prospered, and became a respected citizen of the community. His descendants continued to be prominent in Bergen County, New Jersey, where the town of Demarest commemorates their name. In later years, as branches of the family multiplied, they moved all across the growing United States.

Although numerous records show vital events in the history of David Demarest and his family, there remain few personal documents about him, as is the case with so many immigrants of the period. What makes this study especially impressive—and a model for researchers who might wish to write similar works on their own immigrant ancestors—is the way the authors have delved into background materials so as to present the historical context in which Demarest and his family lived. The discussion is enhanced by numerous illustrations, in some cases from more or less contemporary prints, to show what the towns they lived in looked like. The Majors, by presenting a detailed picture of places, and of economic and political conditions, succeed admirably in bringing Demarest and his family to life, in spite of the relative scarcity of personal documents.

Continued on next page
Several members of the Demarest family are listed in the index of the new Saint Nicholas Society Genealogical Record (volume X, 1980–2007). Many Saint Nicholas members (including the author of this review) will be able to recognize in this study discussions of places where members of their own families lived, such as Mannheim, New Harlem, and Hackensack, New Jersey. Coming down to later times, the volume offers a generous helping of local history information on Bergen County towns such as Englewood, Tenafly, Cresskill, Closter, Bergenfield, Dumont, Haworth, and others. Readers will find much to enhance their understanding of the context in which colonists lived in New Netherland and in colonial New York and New Jersey.

**BOOK REVIEW**

*Washington Irving: An American Original*  
www.arcadepub.com • Pp. xii + 468; illustrated, hardcover. • $29.99  
ISBN: 978-1-55970-836-4

Many members of the Society will doubtless find it reassuring to learn that Irving was a poor student in school, and hated the law, mercantile activity, and business in general. He liked reading, day-dreaming, going to the theater, the opera, and the ballet, and just hanging out with friends. One sees distinctly the lineaments of the quintessential and archetypal Saint Nicholas Society member. Jones’s emphasis is on Irving’s life and personality, rather than on his writings.

But one need not conclude that Irving was a mere goof-off. Much as he might have wished to be one, Irving was instead destined to be a high achiever in spite of himself. His comic *History of New York* (1809) grew out of his early work writing humorous newspaper and magazine columns, and was a tremendous success from the first, both nationally and internationally. In the War of 1812, he was stationed at Sackets Harbor, and served as aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Daniel D. Tompkins (concurrently governor of the State of New York).

In May of 1815 Irving sailed for Europe, intending a short stay, looking after family business interests. But he wound up remaining for 17 years. One of his first adventures was a visit to Sir Walter Scott (see Irving’s “Abbotsford” in *The Crayon Miscellany*, 1835). Irving soon tried his hand at writing romantic tales and sketches, and the resulting *Sketch Book* (1819) became for him another, even greater international success. In 1826 he was appointed to a post at the American embassy to Spain, and in 1829 he was secretary to the legation at London, where he was lionized as perhaps the first American author in this period to achieve recognition on an equal footing with British contemporaries.

**SALMAGUNDI**

Stephen Billick, M.D. has been named Associate Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of Psychiatry at St. Vincent’s Catholic Medical Center/New York Medical College. He has also recently become Vice Chancellor of the Priory in the United States of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (U.K.).


**SOCIETY PUBLISHES NEW GENEALOGICAL RECORD BOOK**

In early December 2007, just in time for distribution at the celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, the Saint Nicholas Society published volume ten in its series of genealogical record books, begun in 1905. It is a hard-cover volume, handsomely printed and bound, designed in similar style to the 1905 book. After a brief preface and introduction, it presents 348 lineages of members elected between January 1980 and May 2007, with a detailed index (prepared by Roger Joslyn), including approximately 7000 names.

In the early days of the Society—that is, from its founding in 1835—proposers and seconders normally had first-hand knowledge of a candidate’s family background, and no written lineage data was submitted by candidates for membership. But as years went by, and such information receded into the past beyond living memory, the Society, from around 1870 or so, began to request prospective members to fill out a form with details on their lineage. In the early 1900s it became apparent that it would be desirable to publish this information, both as a matter of record, and as a means of partial fulfillment of one of the stated objects of the Society: “to collect and preserve information respecting the history, settlement, manners, etc. of the City of New York” (constitution, article I, section 1).

After the publication of the first volume, the Society brought out new volumes in 1916 (vol. II), 1923 (vol. III), 1934 (vol. IV), 1945 (vol. V), 1950 (vol. VI), 1958 (vol. VII), 1968 (vol. VIII), and 1980 (vol. IX). A valuable feature of the first four volumes is a section of biographies of qualifying ancestors, who lived in New York City or State before 1785. To have written these for the new volume would have required extensive additional research, and publishing them would have increased the size and cost of the book beyond practical proportions. A worthwhile project for a future date would be a comprehensive volume of concise biographies of identifiable qualifying ancestors since 1835.

In 1993, Timothy Field Beard (President of the Society from 1993 to 1995), with assistance from Patricia Bleeker Jones, Executive Director of the Society at the time, prepared a manuscript of lineages of members from 1980 to 1992, but for various reasons it did not go into publication, although

Continued on next page
Genealogical Record Book
Continued from page 5
luckily a copy of the preliminary draft remained among files at the Society office (and the material has been incorporated into the present volume).

The present book is mainly due to the efforts of President John McC. Shannon, who upon being elected in May 2006 set as one of his goals the publication of a new genealogical record. He immediately initiated a fund-raising campaign, which gratefully received generous contributions from 80 donors, including the Colonial Lords of the Manor. Editorial work on the book proceeded during the spring and summer of 2007, and it went into production in September, for delivery at the beginning of December. The new collection of lineages is titled: The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York: Genealogical Record, volume X, 1980–2007, edited by Francis J. Sypher, Jr. (New York: Printed by Order of the Society, 2007). The book should be of interest not only to those who are listed in it, but also to genealogical researchers, and to prospective members, who can check the index for leads to eligible lineages. Copies may be ordered from the Society office at $50.00 each.

Fall Outing
Continued from front page
After the informative visit, the members and their companions repaired to B Bar, located across the street at the corner of The Bowery, for a well-earned brunch. Compared to outings in recent years, this one did not entail leaving the island of Manhattan; but it was popular nonetheless and those who participated were delighted. It was an outing to Old New York.

NOTA BENE
Attention has been called to the following errata in the Genealogical Record. Members are recommended to correct their copies accordingly:
p. 50: lineage of Cornwell Crystal Martin, line 8: for Hester Pine please read Hester Paine
p. 67: lineage of Patrick Layton Sanders, Jr., line 1: for Sara Alma Perkins please read Sarah Alma Perkins
Feast of St. Nicholas

Continued from front page

has achieved even a fraction of what he has.
But it is also inspiring and a role model for
Americans everywhere.”

After accepting his award, Mr. Doctorow
said he was honored and pleased to have
been chosen, since he
had looked up the Soci-
yty on the internet and
was interested to know
its history. He quoted a
passage from one of
his novels that he
thought was appropri-
imate – a description of New York and all
that it represents to him.

The suspense was gripping when John P. T.
Blake paused while reciting his famous
Knickerbocker Toast. Had he forgotten his
own verses? But he charged on and was
rapturously applauded
when he completed the
poem.

Reverend Dr. Thomas F.
Pike, Chaplain, gave a
benediction at the close
of the evening.

In Memoriam: Richard Curtis Deyo

At his home in Short Hills, New Jersey, Richard Curtis Deyo died
on Monday, January 28, 2008. Dick was born May 21, 1938 in
Elizabeth, New Jersey, a direct lineal descendant of Hendricus
Deyo, of Ulster County, New York. Dick was elected to member-
ship in the Saint Nicholas Society on April 29, 1968. He grew up
in New Jersey, where he attended Pingry School, and graduated BA
from Princeton University in 1960, then served as president of his
class from 2000 to 2005. He earned the degree of MBA in 1966
from Harvard Business School, and had his career in marketing
management. From 1978 he was with the Carter Products Division
of Carter-Wallace, Inc., as vice president of marketing administra-
tion, from which he retired in 1997.

Dick was a member of many historical and patriotic societies,
including the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York
(governor, 1989–1991), and the Society of Colonial Wars in the
State of New Jersey; from 2000 to 2004 he served as governor gen-
eral of the General Society of Colonial Wars. He was a member of
the Sons of the American Revolution, the Holland Society, the
Foundation of Fort Ticonderoga, trustee of the Huguenot Society of
New Paltz, and chairman of the Historical Preservation Comis-
sion in Short Hills, where he lived for many years. He was also a
member of the Canoe Brook Country Club, the University Club of
New York, and the Nassau Club, of Princeton. As one would ex-
pect, Dick had a keen interest in history, especially of the colonial
and Revolutionary periods, but he also had a detailed knowledge
of ancient history, in connection with his extensive collection of
fine coins of ancient Greece and Rome. Dick leaves his wife Kathy
(née Reilly) and daughter Alexandra.
The Society has received notice of the death of the following members:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Election</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bayard Leroy King</td>
<td>May 4, 1959</td>
<td>January 1, 2008</td>
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<td>Frederick A. Parker, Jr.</td>
<td>May 2, 1988</td>
<td>July 10, 2008</td>
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<td>David Curfman</td>
<td>December 5, 2002</td>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008

- **Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008**: Fall Outing at Parrish Art Museum
- **Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008**: Board of Managers Meeting at Office
- **Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008**: Fall Stated Meeting with Cocktail Reception with Piano at 3 West Club
- **Nov. 12-16, 2008**: Five Dutch Days at Various locations
- **Friday, Dec. 5, 2008**: Feast of Saint Nicholas at The Union Club
- **Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009**: Board of Managers Meeting at Office
- **Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009**: Winter Stated Meeting at TBA