MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow St. Nickers! This is the first issue of the Weathercock not under the direct editorial control of Frank Sypher. Although we cannot expect it to come up to the level of excellence of Frank’s prior issues, we will do our best. So, we should take this opportunity to once more thank Frank for his many years of dedication to communicating with all of our many members, and restate once more how it is our hope to maintain his standard of editorial excellence in the future. As you read this, please do think of how you may contribute to future issues, especially Salmagundi, the place for mentions of noteworthy happenings, events or accomplishments of our members and their families.

We take this opportunity to also thank our outgoing past President Richard Vietor for his years of service to the Society. Most notably, Richard organized and revitalized our membership growth efforts. With Chuck Mackenzie and Arthur Sultan spearheading Membership, we can expect Richard’s legacy of building a strong and active membership to endure.

I look forward to the next few years as your President with anticipation of continuing our traditions of good fellowship and camaraderie. I like to think that the spirit of the St. Nicholas Society is best exemplified by the lighthearted, fun-loving legacy of our New Netherland forbears. In that regard, the most recent recipient of our Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence, the very entertaining satirical journalist Joe Queenan proved to be a most appropriate and worthy honoree. Joe’s remarks at our recent Spring Stated Meeting were very well received by a larger-than-usual group, and were very much in keeping with the humorous traditions of our illustrious founder for whom the Medal is named. The Model Room of the New York Yacht Club provided via the sponsorship of Richard Vietor added especially to the atmosphere and celebratory spirit of the evening!

Our Society can only maintain its vitality through the continuing efforts and engagement of all of us the membership. Please do not be shy about offering your suggestions for events, and potential awardees of both our Literary Medal and Medal of Merit. Make note of the dates of our future gatherings and plan to attend. That, and keeping a sharp eye out for potential new members who will help to assure a bright future for our Society. I look forward to seeing many of you at those future events!

Oranje Boven,
CHARLES NEUHAUSER

Charles William Neuhauser, Jr. was installed as our Society’s 97th President at this past May’s Stated Meeting. Charles is a Life Member of our Society by right of his descent from David Pieterse Schuyler of Fort Orange.

Charles, his wife Lili, and their son Charles Schuyler are long-time residents of Tuxedo Park, New York. Lili has recently retired as Mayor, and Schuy is off to start his college career at Haverford this Fall. Charles has been an investment manager (CFA; Chartered Financial Analyst) for his working career. His connection to New York City began with his undergraduate years at Columbia where he served as President of his fraternity, Saint Anthony Hall. When he is not being tormented by the stock market, Charles is an avid bird shooter and court tennis player.

PROFILE OF Charles W. Neuhauser 97th President of the Saint Nicholas Society

Debutante Charms at 2016 Paas Heritage Ball

By Brian A. Blake

On Friday, April 1st, our Society partnered again with The Society of the Daughters of Holland Dames to celebrate the Easter season with the fourth annual Paas Heritage Ball. With fond memories of past successes near at hand, the Ball Committee sagely returned us to the elegant Racquet and Tennis Club. The evening began with a reception in the high ceilinged, plushly appointed receiving room on the second floor, overlooking Park Avenue and the magnificent plaza of the landmark Seagram Building. Your correspondent noticed that many of the nearly one hundred attendees arrived early, leading to an exceptionally lively cocktail hour. It’s a testament to the joy we take in our cordial gatherings, whether we are drawn primarily for conversation, dancing, cocktails, or all three.

Continued on page 4
The impressive Model Room at the New York Yacht Club was the spectacular setting for the Spring Stated Meeting on the evening of May 17, 2016.

The clubhouse, designed by famed architects Warren & Wetmore, opened in 1901, just a decade earlier than the same firm’s nearby monumental Grand Central Terminal. Both the interior and exterior of the clubhouse are decorated creatively with nautical motifs, including three galleon-style bay windows looking over 44th Street, dripping with seaweed and shells. Noted architect Robert A. M. Stern has described the building as “Warren’s masterpiece of bravado.”

The New York Yacht Club was founded in 1844, soon after the founding of the Saint Nicholas Society. In a lecture given as part of the centenary celebrations for the clubhouse in 2001, Mosette Broderick, a professor at New York University, explained: “The old mercantile class of New York, the old gentry to about 1840, were engaged in the clipper trade. They were big in boats because that was how they would get the stuff back. So this club evolved from those who took that seriously. Then New York changed from a port-based economy to capital-based, financial economy. This club might not have managed to survive if they had not had that wacko idea of taking a fast race across the Atlantic.” That idea was the creation of what later became known as the America’s Cup race, and the magnificent trophy cup itself was housed at the Yacht Club from 1857 to 1983, when the race was lost to Australia.

Coincidentally, one of the nine founders of the New York Yacht Club was William Edgar (1810–1887), who was also a founding member of the Saint Nicholas Society.

In celebration of that illustrious and shared history, members and guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the grand surroundings of the Model Room and admired the innumerable scale models of Yacht Club members’ yachts that are displayed in glass cases reaching to the ceiling. The ninety members and guests then enjoyed a delicious dinner. The usual parading of the Weathercock and waving of the white napkins looked particularly festive and nautical in that particularly splendid setting.

The formal parts of the evening were overseen by our fearless president, Richard Vietor, suitably crowned with the black tri-cornered hat of the Society.

Charles Mackensie, Third Vice President and Chairman of the Admissions Committee, then introduced the new members in turn. They proceeded one by one to the podium, where President Vietor presented each with the customary rosette and history of the Society. We were delighted to welcome a particularly large number of new members that night, including S. Talbot Logan III, David Disi, Donald Scott Lurding, James Allen Walters, Edward N. Rianhard, Eliot W. Rowlands, Richard F. Pagano, Philip Norkeliunas, C. Dulany Morison, Jesse Robert Boykin III, Neale Nutcheson, and William Bodine.

Next came the major business of the meeting, the election of new officers for the Society—see the full list on page 6. The slate as prepared by our hardworking Nominating Commit-
The 2016 recipient of the Saint Nicholas Society’s Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence is one of America’s leading satirists, Joe Queenan. This year’s award is especially fitting, for not only does Joe follow in our founder’s tradition of skewering contemporary shibboleths, but he actually lives a mere few hundred feet from Sleepy Hollow New York! One of the most prolific writers in America today, he is the author of nine books, including *Red Lobster; White Trash and the Blue Lagoon;* and *If You’re Talking to Me, Your Career Must Be in Trouble.* His best-selling memoir *Closing Time* was a 2009 *New York Times* Notable Book.

In addition to writing the “Moving Targets” column for the *Wall Street Journal* and regularly contributing to *Barron’s* and *The Weekly Standard,* Joe writes about movies and music for Great Britain’s *The Guardian.* Formerly an editor at *Forbes* and *Spy,* television critic at *People,* and a columnist at *TV Guide, GQ, Smart Money, Men’s Health,* *Barron’s Online,* he has published stories in *Rolling Stone, Esquire, The New Republic, Time, Newsweek, the Washington Post,* the *Los Angeles Times,* *Playboy, Golf Digest, Us, Cosmopolitan, Vogue, Town & Country, Allure,* the *New York Daily News,* and *New York.* His work has appeared overseas in *The Independent, The Spectator, The Toronto Globe & Mail,* and the *Times of London.*

Joe has been a guest on *The Late Show with David Letterman, Real Time with Bill Maher, The Daily Show, Today, Good Morning America, Charlie Rose* and *Late Night with Conan O’Brien,* as well as *Imus in the Morning.* He regularly writes and hosts radio features for the BBC, and for three years was host of the BBC’s *Postcard from Gotham.* In 2005, he won a Sports Emmy for his work on HBO’s *Inside the NFL.* He has also made a low-budget film about people with maddening addictions, entitled *12 Steps to Death.* A native of Philadelphia and a graduate of St. Joseph’s College, he is married, with two children, and lives in Tarrytown, New York.
This year’s celebration was enhanced by the addition of the debut of Miss Caroline Stuart Quillen. Miss Quillen, currently of London, England, was joined by her father, Mr. Cecil Quillen, his wife, Mary, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Humes. The debutante and her family informed us in conversation that they were taking advantage of their stateside sojourn to visit colleges. Miss Quillen certainly gave all those in attendance the impression that, whichever colleges she chooses to visit, she shall have her pick. Dressed in a diaphanous white gown and carrying a bouquet of pink and orange roses, Miss Quillen impressed us throughout the evening. Later, when presented, she exhibited the poise and grace that are the marks of an exceptional young woman ready to take on the world.

After the cocktail hour, which for some might have extended into another blissful hour, given the option, we proceeded through the receiving line to the glowing corner dining room, and the Bob Hardwick Orchestra sprang into action with their customary verve. Once we found our tables, which were adorned with nests of white kalanchoe, our President, Richard Vietor, joined by Daughters of Holland Dames Directress Elbrun Kimmelman, welcomed us warmly. Our fellow members produced hearty toasts and humble grace, and upon a cue the band struck up the tune to “Mynheer van Donck,” which started the procession of our legendary emblem, the Weathercock.

While the evening’s customary high point is the presentation of our debutantes, Paas guests also look forward to our more singular customs. This year, Chief Steward Scott MacWhinnie was joined by Max Cadmus to wind cheerily between the tables with the “sentinel bird” held high, while we joined in enthusiastic waving of napkins and singing of song. This year’s
egg-cracking contest was no exception to past years’ high-energy encounters. Table winners came away with handsome gold ostrich eggs. This is truly a tradition which can hardly exist outside of St. Nick.

Over the course of dinner many of us made new acquaintances even as we were joined by old friends. The R&T is renowned for its excellent kitchen, and our dishes came out full of flavor. The accompanying wine had been artfully selected by our hosts, and as it flowed freely, we were happy to notice the dance floor filled with couples.

As dinner wound to a close, dancers took to the floor in great numbers. We noted especially that Mrs. Kimmelman, in a striking, Paas-appropriate, orange gown enlivened the mood, ensuring with her felicitous skill as a hostess that each guest felt welcomed. Among other honored guests seated at the head table with President and Mrs. Vietor were representatives of our brother and sister societies. This table of dignitaries led much of the dancing which was still going strong when your correspondent left for a cigar on the balcony at what may have been 11:30 p.m.

The Paas Heritage Ball, is of course the re-establishment of a tradition dating back to the 1950s, when Past President Reginald Townsend introduced the presentation of debutantes to our annual Easter feast, and rechristened it the Paas Festival Ball. Over the years the pool of eligible and willing young ladies has varied with the fashions, and we are very thankful to Past President William Manger for his efforts to revive the practice in recent years. We are honored by the presence of these young ladies in our midst. And we are especially grateful for the efforts of Mrs. Kimmelman, President Vietor, and the Ball Committee, in ensuring the continuation of this tradition which leaves so many fond memories for us to recall; and of course, something to anticipate next year!
SLATE OF Elected Officers 2016–2017

Officers elected to serve during the year 2016–2017 were: Charles W. Neuhauser, President; Robert A. Naud, First Vice President; Douglas C. Wright III, Second Vice President; Charles R. Mackenzie, Third Vice President; Dennis Campbell McCravy, Fourth Vice President; Michael Ferrara, Secretary; W. Seton Ijams, Treasurer; Francis J. Sypher, Jr., Historian; Floyd S. Sanford III, Genealogist; Charles R. Mackenzie, Assistant Genealogist.

Chaplins elected were: the Reverend Thomas F. Pike; the Reverend Martin Leslie Chase; and the Reverend Barry C. Howard. Physicians elected were: Stephen Bates Billick, MD; Paul Cushman, Jr., MD; and Francis Persse Powers, MD.

To serve on the Board of Managers the following classes of board members were elected: Class of 2017: Daniel Oliver, Jr.; David N. Platt; Michael Sivy. Class of 2018: John A. O’Malley; Brian R. Owens; Peter S. Schermerhorn. Class of 2019: George Boyd V; Gary L. Dycus; W. Wells Van Pelt, Jr. Class of 2020: Ian Fraser; Scott MacWhinnie; Thomas F. Pike, Jr.

For the Board of Stewards were elected: Maximilian de Cuyper Cadmus, Chief Steward; Christian A. Burke; William E. E. Campbell; Nathaniel Klutz; T. Michael Martin; Sean G. O’Sullivan; Meredith de Rham; and Gordon B. Stewart IV.

George McNeely is the co-editor of World Monuments: 50 Irreplaceable Sites to Discover, Explore and Champion (Rizzoli), which was published in October 2015 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of World Monuments Fund. The book features chapters on pressing issues in world preservation by such noted authors as John Julius Norwich (Lord Norwich), Andrew Solomon and William Dalrymple. The photography was curated by the International Center of Photography in New York. As we are seeing terrible destruction of historic buildings in the Middle East and climate change, the book is particularly timely. Also, George took three weeks this summer to attend the Attingham Summer School, a study tour of English country houses. The course takes participants “behind the scenes” at some of England’s wonderful houses, including Chatsworth, Petworth and Harewood, and also visits a number of privately owned houses that are rarely opened to the public. The application process for Attingham is competitive but those who love English architecture, painting and decorative arts might want to investigate.

John Shannon On his June visit to London John Shannon and a group at American friends attended the annual service of the Order of the Garter at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor, on Monday, 13 June. There were no St. Nickers in evidence there or at Royal Ascot the next day. But on Wednesday he was at a remarkable dinner at the elegant art-filled London home of Philip Norkelius and Amin Jaffer, featuring a cosmopolitan array of American, British, and French guests. Finally on Friday John looked in at a reception at the Turf Club where there was a drinks party for British and American members of the Colonial Dames of America, the Society of Colonial Wars, and the Friends of Sulgrave Manor. Among the attendees was yet another St. Nicker passing through London, namely Charlie Neuhauser.

Francis J. Sypher, Jr. is the author of: L. E. L.: Letitia Elizabeth Landon, The English Improvisatrice: Catalogue of a Collection of Manuscripts and Books Held by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Columbia University (New York: Columbia University Libraries, 2016). This catalogue of a collection of 233 items donated by the author to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Columbia University is published by the Columbia Libraries in connection with an exhibition in the Chang Octagon gallery, 6th floor, Butler Library, of selected items from the collection, from July 5 to September 16, 2016. Frank writes: “The British poet and novelist Letitia Elizabeth Landon (1802–1838) in her day enjoyed international fame, with her work translated into French, German, and Dutch, and widely sold and reviewed throughout the United States, as well as on the European Continent. I became interested in Landon in the 1980s while living in Lomé, Togo, West Africa, teaching English and American Literature at the Université du Bénin (now the Université de Lomé). On a visit to Accra, Ghana, I learned that Landon had lived nearby at Cape Coast and died there in 1838 at the age of 36. I wondered what had led the celebrated British author to West Africa. On my return to the USA I began to study Landon and her works, and to publish studies about her and editions of her work. In the course of research I assembled an extensive collection that in 2015 I donated to Columbia and which is the basis for the exhibition and catalogue.”
On the cover of Susanah Shaw Romney’s *New Netherland Connections* is a color photo of Johannes Vermeer’s well-known painting at the Frick Collection in New York, titled *Officer and Laughing Girl* (or, in Dutch, *De soldaat en het lachende meisje*), ca. 1657. At the outset of the book, the author discusses the implications of this scene, which exemplifies some of the personal relationships that she explores in this fascinating, original, thoroughly-researched study.

In the foreground, with his back to the viewer, a soldier is emphatically silhouetted through the artist’s dramatic use of perspective. He and his purpose are dark to us in more ways than one. The face is turned only just enough to be slightly visible. His right arm is jauntily posed on his hip, where one notes the elaborately frilled white cuffs of his shirt. Over his right shoulder is a black military sash. On his head is a high-crowned, broad-brimmed beaver hat in a style that was then ultra-fashionable and very expensive. At that time it was not unusual for a man to wear a hat indoors, as shown in countless paintings and prints of the period. Through a complex process of manufacture, fur was carefully shaved from beaver pelts and made into felt that provided the material for the hat. In the early days, the Dutch settlement of New Netherland was primarily motivated by the substantial profits from trade with Indians for beaver pelts, which is why beavers are prominently displayed on the arms of the City of New York.

Opposite the soldier, and in the spotlight, almost literally, as she sits before a window from which the sun is pouring in, is a young woman wearing a white cloth cap that covers her hair so as to highlight her brightly smiling face. She is dressed in a gown with a golden bodice and sleeves with gold brocade stripes. She certainly does not look like a servant and she seems quite at home in the gracious, comfortable room, with carved and upholstered chairs at a table before a partly open casement window of decoratively arranged panes of glass. Hanging on the wall behind her is a large engraved map of the Netherlands, so precisely rendered by the artist that the Dutch publisher (Blaeu) and the specific edition can be identified. In her right hand is a wineglass with golden white wine in it. Her left hand lies open upon the table toward the soldier as if in expectation—of what?

What is going on in this scene? Is she welcoming a close relative or dear family friend on his return home from a tour of duty? Or is there perhaps a more romantic relationship implied, as if she is waiting to take his hand? Or could there be a mercenary dimension to their encounter, in which her open hand could suggest that a golden payment of some kind is desired or expected?

Romney discusses this scene in detail and with special consideration of its strong suggestion of the Dutch empire as a context for the scene, indicated by the window open to the outside world, and the map showing ships from all over the globe arriving in and departing from the Netherlands. Her theme is that personal connections of all kinds—familial, friendly, romantic, mercenary, legal—linked men and women in 17th-century New Netherland with people at home in the Dutch Republic, and all over the world, wherever the interests of the far-flung Dutch empire extended, including Africa, the West Indies, South America, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific, as well as Manhattan and environs.

She states in her prologue: “Seventeenth-century Dutch expansion along the Atlantic coast of North America cannot be fully understood without bearing in mind the correlations between intimacy and empire captured in Vermeer’s painting... Vermeer’s painting reveals in a dramatic, visual way a truth about how people constructed, interacted with, understood, and resisted long-distance trade and colonization. Intimacies did essential social, political, and economic work to sustain the empire” (p. 5).

Romney illustrates the “connections” referred to in the title of the book by using many contemporary sources, especially court records that bring to light claims and counter-claims between men and women at all levels of society. This use of documentary materials gives authenticity and immediacy to her examples, and greatly strengthens her presentation of her main point, which is that New Netherland was never an isolated entity, but was always tied to outside interests, and must be understood in its global context.

By contrast, Washington Irving’s depictions of the Dutch as beer-swilling, pipe-puffing provincial boors are comic caricatures. The title of his famous *History of New-York* (1809), by the fictional Diedrich Knickerbocker, teems one to take it as a work of history, as many readers, unfortunately, have done. It was highly amusing to 19th-century readers—and still provokes smiles in the 21st century.

But Irving’s collection of satirical fantasies was never intended to be a work of history; the ironic title is part of the joke.

Susanah Shaw Romney’s excellent book is a salutary reminder that the women and men of New Netherland were part of a powerful 17th-century Dutch mercantile network that encircled the globe, and they deserve to be taken seriously.
The Saint Nicholas Society
of the City of New York
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N E C R O L O G Y

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>Peter A. Hinrichs</td>
<td>January 16, 1978</td>
<td>June 22, 2016</td>
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<td>Frederick Fuller Kellogg, Jr.</td>
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<td>Lawrence Henry Conklin</td>
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CA L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

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<td>Fall Stated Meeting</td>
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<td>December 2, 2016</td>
<td>Feast of Saint Nicholas</td>
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<td>April 7, 2017</td>
<td>Pas Heritage Ball</td>
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<td>May 16, 2017</td>
<td>Spring Stated Meeting</td>
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