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Tiffany Studios, Trumpet Creeper shade on mosaic base, c. 1900-1910, Gift of Dr. Egon Neustadt, N84.99.

We are proud and delighted with the accomplishments of the New-York Historical Society this year. Under the excellent leadership of Dr. Louise Mirrer, we have seen a dramatic rise in attendance and uniformly positive reviews for our exhibition program. Our success in carrying out the Society’s mission of Making History Matter could not be more vivid.

Last October, we embarked on a two-year initiative examining the little-known subject of Slavery in New York. Nearly 175,000 people came to Central Park West to view this landmark exhibition – a record for the Society. We are especially proud that our Education Department hosted almost 50,000 K-12 students and 4000 college students. In addition, almost 35,000 school children and students came on their own, with parents, or with church or community groups. We have been working, as well, with public and private schools to incorporate the exhibition’s educational material into the K-12 curriculum. Slavery in New York was complemented by an ambitious series of related public programs that included seminars, distinguished speakers, musical concerts and family events. We were pleased to continue this initiative with our first-ever contemporary art exhibition, Legacies: Contemporary Artists Respond to Slavery. It was with great anticipation that the final installment of the project, New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War, opened in the fall of 2006.

In addition to mounting major history exhibitions, we have also sought to continue to promote and highlight the expansive permanent collections of both our library and museum. Under the leadership of Vice President and Director of the Library, Dr. Jean Ashton, and Vice President and Director of the Museum, Dr. Linda S. Ferber, these collections are getting the attention and praise they so richly deserve. Masterpiece paintings from our Hudson River School collection and exquisite Audubon watercolors are always on view and continue to attract visitors to the Society.

Our major events of the past year have included the annual History Makers Gala, which honored Roland Betts and Tom Bernstein for the significant role they played in revitalizing the Chelsea Piers. First Lady Laura Bush presented their awards and recognized, in her remarks, the national importance of the Society’s collections. We were also pleased to honor Christine Quinn and Betsy Gotbaum, undisputed “first ladies” of New York City government, at our Strawberry Luncheon this year. Lynn Sherr, award-winning correspondent for ABC’s 20/20, spoke eloquently on the origins and significance of the song America the Beautiful and the backgrounds of its authors.

Last spring we launched the Society’s Chairman’s Council, a new leadership group of committed individuals who share our vision. The Council sponsored an extraordinary weekend with stimulating presentations and discussion from eminent historians, including keynote speaker, Doris Kearns Goodwin.

As the New-York Historical Society enters its 203rd year of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the nation, we have embarked on a new Strategic Plan. The plan translates our belief that history has the power to change lives by outlining a series of goals that ensures that every individual touched by the Society’s programs and exhibitions, both onsite and online, learns something new, makes connections between the past and their present-day lives, expands their thinking, and is inspired. The Strategic Plan, which includes improved access for our visitors, enhanced educational programs and new fellowships, and a long-term exhibition program of the highest quality among its goals, will require the ideas and support of all our generous members and donors.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we express deep appreciation for partnership in our mission.

Sincerely,

Richard Gilder

Nancy Newcomb

Co-Chairs, 2006
Our Redesigned Website

The N-YHS was pleased this year to launch its redesigned flagship website, www.nyhistory.org. The new site allows the Society’s online visitors greater access to the institution’s extraordinary museum and library collections.

The site’s new look and feel starts with the homepage, where visitors are quite literally brought to the Society’s front door. The consistent theme is history, which is prominent throughout. The daily fact sheet, “This Day in History,” displayed adjacent to the navigation within each section, provides brief enticing details about events that happened on a given day in New York. The information architecture adopts a wide-ranging color palette using images from the Historical Society’s collections to distinguish the website’s sections.

Many of the sites frequently visited prior to the redesign have been retained, including the interactive American Revolution New Media Project, The American Musicals Project and Seneca Village. Among the site’s new features are: the New-York Historical Society’s first online store, the N-YHS Media Center, easily searchable collections databases, prominent display of companion websites, and the season’s roster of public programs. Interested visitors may now sign up for membership online.

Greg Steinberg of Something Digital and Jill Ayers of Design 360 led the redesign project team.

We are particularly delighted that the New-York Historical Society website, and the website that was developed to accompany our exhibition, Slavery in New York, each won an American Graphic Design Award. The websites will be published in the December or January issue of Graphic Design USA magazine.

From the President

Dear Friends:

The pages of this Annual Report give a sense of our deep conviction that telling the story of American history—in its broadest sense and through the prism of New York—is important. Thanks to your support, we have been able to begin translating this conviction into a new Strategic Plan, which will help us toward achieving our most ambitious goal: becoming the preeminent institution for serious study of, engagement in, and enjoyment of the history of this country, through works of art, objects, artifacts and documents.

I am pleased to share with you the objectives that we have set for ourselves over the next several years:

• The visitor experience, palpable at the moment of entry, will be radically different and maximize exposure to the breadth and meaning of the Society’s collections.
• The Society will be recognized as a premier museum venue for compelling, engaging and authoritative exhibitions on American history.
• The Society’s education programs, in partnership with schools, colleges, and universities will be recognized as essential to the teaching and learning of history in this country.
• The creative use of digital technology will position the Society to be a highly accessible world-class resource for all.
• The Society will be a leading forum for discourse and debate.
• The Society’s museum collections will be woven into a grand narrative that demonstrates the relationship between works of art, culture, and the history of the nation to the broadest range of audiences. This will be a story that encourages those who visit once, to come again and again.
• The Society’s library will be fully recognized as a leading center of research and scholarship for the study of American and regional history.

Your support is paramount to the Society’s mission to Make History Matter. I thank you for the help you have provided this splendid institution, and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Louise Mirrer
President and CEO

. . . telling the story of American history—in its broadest sense and through the prism of New York . . . to Make History Matter.
MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

SLAVERY IN NEW YORK

The story of New York’s rootedness in the enslavement of Africans is largely unknown to the general public. New Yorkers, though, traded in slaves, distributed slaves, insured slave ships, and owned slaves. At the time of the Revolution there were more slaves in New York than in any colonial city except Charleston, South Carolina.

Recent scholarship has recovered many fascinating details of the hidden worlds of New York’s enslaved people. Among the richest sources for that new scholarship have been the library and museum collections of the New-York Historical Society. Supplementing material from our collection with treasures from the New York State Library, the New York Public Library (especially the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture), the Municipal Archives, and the Gilder Lehrman Collection, as well as the archaeological investigations that followed the re-discovery of the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan, Slavery in New York provided new understandings to the broadest possible public.

The exhibition used substantial technical and artistic talent to tell a compelling and dramatic story. School groups were guided on pathways that connected directly to pre- and post-visit classroom lessons. Public programs carried the historical narrative forward into the lives of our city today. Free weekend concerts of gospel and spiritual music added another dimension, and weekday readings by actor Charles Turner, of the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, made history come alive.

A record 175,000 people visited Slavery in New York. The exhibition was extended for three weeks, until the end of March, to accommodate the many schools anxious to visit. More than 50,000 school children, K-12, and almost 4,000 college students participated in tours hosted by our Education Department. Almost 35,000 school children and college students visited with church and community groups, their parents, and on their own or with friends. Visitor response videos show that Slavery in New York transformed New Yorkers’ understanding of this city, past and present. The second phase: New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War opened November 17, 2006.
Emancipation Proclamation
The Society was privileged to exhibit, for two weeks only, the original handwritten draft of the *Emancipation Proclamation* that President Abraham Lincoln wrote while waiting in the telegraph office of the War Department.

Finding Priscilla’s Children: The Roots and Branches of Slavery
The vast majority of the ten million Africans taken across the Atlantic remain nameless. The story of Priscilla however - a ten-year-old girl taken in 1756 on the slave ship *Hare* from Sierra Leone to a plantation in South Carolina - emerged from the pages of history and was told using original documents from the Historical Society. The exhibition traveled to other venues as well.

Slavery in New York Panel Exhibition
This initiative launched a new outreach effort, presenting a sample of the larger *Slavery in New York* exhibition to different audiences in locales ranging from the Bronx to San Francisco. The compilation of text and imagery illuminates the role of enslaved people in creating the foundations of New York merchant wealth. One panel exhibition is on permanent display in the Society’s Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture.

The Historical Society is showcasing together more than 100 famous paintings by artists of the Hudson River School, including Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, John F. Kensett, Jasper F. Cropsey and Albert Bierstadt, in a series of exhibitions drawn from the Society’s extraordinary American art collection. The exhibition includes a selection of seldom seen works on paper in the Luman Reed Gallery.

Audubon’s Aviary
The Society’s Audubon collection is the largest single repository of Auduboniana in the world. Each spring the Society presents a selection of 40 one-of-a-kind watercolors by Audubon, displayed with other objects and documents from our collection and accompanied by the sounds of the represented birds.

Historical Fictions: Edward Lamson Henry’s Paintings of Past and Present
The exhibition, organized by the Yale University Art Gallery, explored how Henry’s (1841-1919) fascination with “historical fictions” – pictorial visions of historic sites and events – found expression in his paintings.

Group Dynamics: Family Portraits and Scenes of Everyday Life at the New-York Historical Society
The exhibition, drawn from the Society’s extensive holdings, explored the evolution of American images from colonial era masterpieces to souvenir tintypes and daguerreotypes. It examined the significance of setting, fashion, pose, and social/family status, providing visitors with a visual narrative of American life.

A one-day symposium drew experts in art history, cultural history and sociology. Their papers are published in the Spring/Summer issue of the New-York Journal of American History.

Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery
*Legacies* brought together the works of critically acclaimed contemporary artists who have thought deeply about how America’s history of racially based slavery has shaped our society. This groundbreaking exhibition featured works by Faith Ringgold, Carrie Mae Weems, Fred Wilson, Mel Edwards, Betye Saar and others in a remarkable ensemble of innovative art and historical reflection. The exhibition complemented the historical exhibitions *Slavery in New York* and *New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War*. 

Linda S. Ferber, Vice President and Museum Director, at the opening reception and preview of *Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery*, June 21, 2006. Behind Dr. Ferber is Fatima Allotey’s *Me, Myself, My Ears*, 2000, Courtesy of Florence Lynch Gallery.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

The Day Line: Holiday on the Hudson
For more than eighty years the Hudson River Day Line was the favorite way for New Yorkers to travel between Albany and New York City for a day in the country.

Welcome Home, Al
This presentation introduced a recent acquisition: the elaborate sterling silver humidor by Tiffany & Company that was presented to four-time New York governor and presidential candidate Alfred E. Smith in 1930.

History Made Here – A Look at Original Documents from the Society’s Archives.
Historical documents that were highlighted included: Rufus King’s notes of the closed proceedings of the Constitutional Convention (1787); Napoleon’s wine-stained authorization for the sale of Louisiana (1803); and Freedom’s Journal, the first American newspaper published by African Americans (1827-1829).

The Games We Played: American Board and Table Games from the Liman Collection Gift
The Games We Played presents a rotating selection from the more than five hundred games generously donated to the Historical Society by Ellen Liman in 2000.

“Thou wondrous dizzy pile!”
Selections from the Cass Gilbert Collection
The Library’s collection includes drawings, letters, brochures, and ephemera from the personal and professional papers of the architect of the Woolworth Building.

Winter Wonderland
This celebration of the winter season included an elegant sleigh from about 1890 and the desk at which Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863) is said to have written “A Visit from St. Nicholas.”

Curiosities and Wonders: Selections from the Broadside Collection
This Library exhibition highlighting nineteenth century broadside advertisements of sensationalistic entertainment–headless roosters, mental alchemists, and mummies–was mounted in conjunction with a three-year cataloging project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Designer of the Jazz Age: The New-York Historical Society Celebrates Viktor Schreckengost’s Centennial
In celebration of Viktor Schreckengost’s 100th birthday, the Historical Society displayed this acclaimed industrial designer’s masterpiece, the Jazz Bowl of 1930, designed at the request of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Bronzes for the Gilded Age: Mythology and the Ideal in American Sculpture
Bronzes for the Gilded Age explored the flowering of American bronze sculpture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including works by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Frederick MacMonnies, and John Quincy Adams Ward.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The museum collections of the New-York Historical Society are deep and rich with an amazing range chronologically and in terms of materials. The history and culture of the city, state, and nation are reflected in these remarkable holdings. Acquisitions made in 2006 expand this reach and importance in a number of ways. The early 19th century gaming table, said to have belonged to the Society’s founder John Pintard, strengthens the furniture holdings, as does the innovative side chair designed by the idiosyncratic New York furniture maker, George Hunzinger. The Society’s great silver holdings are enriched by Tiffany & Company’s sumptuous tray and decanter set commemorating a great Hudson River estate, while the early skyscrapers of New York City are reflected in the handsome Art Deco silver hand mirror. The important woven coverlet, a coup for the textile holdings, proudly announces its provenance with the arms of New York State in each corner.

The art collections are strengthened with the acquisition of the cache of James Penney’s watercolor studies for New York City murals and designs for covers for *The New Yorker*, as well as by Asher B. Durand’s charming decorative panel made for the art gallery of Luman Reed. Historical artifacts comprise one of the most significant aspects of the Society’s holdings. A collection of political and social cause buttons announces many of the issues of the latter twentieth century. “Little Red,” a doll found in the rubble of the World Trade Center, reminds us that the Society’s extraordinary collections continue to develop and to document the history of New York and the nation.

**Acquisition Highlights, 2005-2006:**

- James Cunningham (1793-after 1865), *Woven Jacquard coverlet with the arms of New York State* (detail), ca. 1840, wool, cotton, Museum Purchase (2005.9)

- Unidentified maker, New York City *Gaming table owned by John Pintard (1759-1844)*, ca. 1810-1820, mahogany, mahogany veneer, tulip poplar, light and dark wood inlays, brass, Gift of Natalia Icaza Holland (Mrs. Stuart Holland) (2005.11a-d)

- George Hunzinger, New York City (1835-1898), *Side chair*, ca. 1880 (patents of 1869 and 1876), Walnut with original fabric-covered steel wire upholstery; modern seat cushion, Gift of Ronald S. Kane (2005.12)

- Tiffany & Co. (active 1851-present) *Decanter and tray*, ca. 1905, Silver and 18K gold tray; crystal decanter and stopper with silver mounts, Tray engraved at center with landscape scene of Woodbine estate, Gift of Leila Elliott Burton Hadley Luce (2006.4.1-2ab)

- Various designers and manufacturers *Collection of 228 Political Campaign and Social Cause Buttons, all ca. 1960-2005*, Primarily circular metal pin back buttons, other media and forms also included, Gift of Ralph W. Nerbel (2006.5.1-137) and (2006.14.1-91)

- Louis W. Rice (American, active 1928) *Skyscraper Design Hand Mirror, 1928*, (made for Bernard Rice’s Sons, Inc.) Silver-plated brass, beveled mirror glass Museum Purchase (2006.10)


Library

American Revolution Digital Learning Project, developed by the Society’s education department; and Witness to the Early American Experience, created by the education department at New York University, through a grant awarded jointly to NYU and N-YHS by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A three-year project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is near completion, with a total of 18,000 broadsides and song sheets now cataloged and available through the library’s online catalog.

Library collections were spotlighted in two exhibitions: History Made Here and The Day Line: Holiday on the Hudson, both curated by Nina Nazionale. Collections were also featured in museum exhibitions, including the landmark Slavery in New York and its accompanying exhibition, Priscilla’s Homecoming: the Roots and Branches of Slavery. Reading room cases displayed: An Interior for a Gilded Age: The Marshall Orme Wilson Residence, 3 East 64th Street, “Thou wondrous dizzy pile!” Selections from the Cass Gilbert Collection; Curiosities and Wonders: Selections from the Broadside Collection, Illustrated Bird Books: Catesby and Wilson; and Recent Library Acquisitions. An ongoing rotation of library treasures was featured in a case in the Great Hall.

Collections were loaned for exhibitions at the Associated Press, Buffalo Bill Historical Society, Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, Franklin Institute, Hirschsl & Adler Gallery, Museum of the City of New York, National Library of Medicine, Rosenbach Museum and Library, Smith College Museum of Art and the Wolfsonian.

Through purchase and donation, the library acquired more than 1440 items. Highlights include: a New York slave birth certificate, 1804; documents relating to the architect John McComb, 1820-1884; tax and water bills for Brooklyn, 1862-1893; broadsides advertising goods for sale, ca. 1790, in Manhattan and real estate available in Brooklyn, ca. 1844; a letter from John James Audubon to Senator Benjamin Tappan, 1841; issues of The Circular, published by the Oneida Community, a nineteenth century Utopian movement, case tin type of a Union soldier standing with a young black man, ca. 1861; an archive relating to Civil War widow Mary A. Watkin’s legal battles, 1865-1874; William H. Wylie etching of ships in New York harbor, ca. 1895; theater programs from the early 20th century; photographs of Chrysler Building construction, 1928-1930; folder of 20th century ephemera from the Schreyer family; two Red Grooms lithographs (1972, 1982); Hausman & Rosenberg Architectural Record Collection, ca. 1970s-1990s; and, color photographs of each block of Broadway from north to south, 2001.

The N-YHS is grateful to the individuals and institutions that supported the Library in 2005-2006, with gifts that added significantly to our Library collections.

ACA Galleries
ACME
AIA
Ahmanson Foundation
Alfred P. Berman Foundation
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
American Water Works Association
Google
Booth
Schreyer

The N-YHS is grateful to the individuals and institutions that supported the Library in 2005-2006, with gifts that added significantly to our Library collections.
Education

The Education Department of The New-York Historical Society offers a wide array of programs to schools throughout New York City, the tri-state area and the nation. FY2006 was our most successful year yet, as we continued to expand services. The department served almost 66,000 students, teachers, and participants in adult group and college tours.

School Programs, Exhibition Tours and Teacher Training
In FY06 almost 50,000 K-12 students participated in interactive tours and programs at the N-YHS. School programs, which teach analysis and interpretation of primary sources, enable students to sharpen their critical thinking skills and learn to think like historians. Popular programs included: Objects Tell Stories, Life in New Amsterdam, Learning History Through Paintings, and The American Revolution in New York.

The highlight of the Department’s gallery offerings were tours of our landmark exhibition, Slavery In New York. Specially trained educators led students through the history of slavery in New York from the Dutch period through abolition, in 1827.

Students also learned about the lives of enslaved people through hands-on gallery experiences. Other exhibition tours included: Finding Priscilla’s Children: The Roots and Branches of Slavery, Audubon’s Aviary and The Hudson River School at the New-York Historical Society: Nature and the American Vision.

Teacher training workshops build content knowledge and help teachers work with students on developing research and analysis skills. More than 5000 teachers attended professional development sessions that corresponded to Slavery In New York, enabling them to bring this content into classrooms in ways that are accessible to students.

New to the department’s printed offerings is an outstanding binder of curriculum materials developed around the Slavery In New York exhibition. This binder includes a teacher’s guide, background materials, reproducible materials for students, reproductions of primary source documents and newspapers, story maps, and a DVD.

The binders have been distributed to more than 5700 teachers in New York City, and the metropolitan area, and even across the nation. These materials can also be accessed on the Slavery in New York website. The curriculum materials were sponsored by JPMorganChase, The History Channel, and The Educational Foundation of America.

This was also the first year of the New York Life Learners program. This program, funded by the New York Life Foundation, provides 25 schools each year with a package of activities and materials that enhance studies in American History at the elementary and middle school levels. Classes in participating schools may take part, free of charge, in unique hands-on history programs designed by educators at the New-York Historical Society. The project combines onsite visits to the N-YHS with outreach visits to the schools.

Saturday Academy
With generous support from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the N-YHS offered a second year of Saturday Academy programming to New York City high school students. The tuition-free Saturday classes provide students with enrichment opportunities that enhance their studies in American history. Students attended from schools across the city, including Stuyvesant and Townsend Harris High Schools. Classes included “Slavery in New York,” “The History of Central Park,” and “Exploring Historical Documents Through Drama,” and were taught by professional educators and N-YHS curators.

The American Musicals Project
The American Musicals Project continues to grow. This project uses the power and emotional energy of American musical theater masterworks, and evocative primary sources from the museum’s vast collections, to enliven the teaching of American history and literacy for 7th and 8th grade teachers and their students. Since its inception in 1998 project staff have trained more than 1000 teachers in more than 400 schools. The project is chaired by Trustee Alan Levenstein.

A young girl takes part in a family program during Winter Holiday activities.

A high school student learns about the triangle trade during his visit to Slavery in New York
Historical Society attracts new gifts and new members

Roger Hertog
Chair of the Development Committee
Chair of the Board of Trustees, as of January 2007
New-York Historical Society

One benchmark for a not-for-profit institution is the number of new donors and the amount of new donations attracted during the year. There is no doubt that fiscal year 2006 was a success for the New-York Historical Society. Our newly established Chairman’s Council drew in nearly 200 new members who contributed approximately $1 million in aggregate, boosting total funds raised during the fiscal year to a record $12.7 million. Our Board members alone contributed a record $6.3 million; and support from the government, corporations, and foundations also bolstered the Historical Society.

Having served as chair of the Board’s Development Committee, I believe that the reason for that financial success, and the most meaningful measure of our institution’s fiscal year, is what we accomplished substantively. Money follows ideas. People are generous when they can see for themselves what an institution is contributing to their lives and the lives of their fellow citizens. More and more people are aware of the Historical Society’s significant and substantive agenda.

This year was marked by two important achievements. First was our Slavery in New York exhibition, whose critical acclaim was matched by a record 175,000 visitors, including almost 90,000 elementary, high school and college students and 5,000 teachers, plus 800,000 unique visitors to our website equivalent. And our inaugural Weekend With History, a two-day experience produced for our Chairman’s Council members and featuring a dozen of the nation’s top historians, was a major success, largely due to the pure force and power of Pam Schaffer’s efforts.

But while history is a look back, the Trustee Development Committee must always look forward. And we have much ahead to anticipate. Aby Warburg of the great philanthropic family said, “The courage to do something speculative in an intellectual connection - that is the greatest privilege of private philanthropy.” If speculative means different and bold and interesting, this describes the New-York Historical Society today. Earlier in 2006, we completed a detailed strategic plan describing just how we plan to be bold and different. Our goal is to raise Americans’ consciousness about our national story through great exhibitions, not-to-be-missed conferences, debates, and lectures and captivating teaching tools that enrich the experience of learning about history.

How to go about it? For one thing, we plan to renovate the entire first floor of our building to produce a palpable sense of excitement when one enters the door. Second, we plan to develop and distribute exciting new teaching materials so that the more than 1 million New York schoolchildren will be eager to learn more about their birthright as Americans. Third, we plan to establish scholarships and fellowships for historians, doctoral candidates, and postdoctoral students, and thereby build a community of scholars studying America’s past at our institution and elsewhere in New York. Finally, we plan to enhance our presence on the Internet through the digitization of our conferences, lectures, panels, exhibitions, and the array of important documents that form our magnificent collection. Digitization will give people all over the world the ability to travel our hallways and exhibits virtually in their own exploration of history, led by the very curators who develop our exhibitions.

Your support of our vision inspires us. It tells us that there are private philanthropists out there who recognize bold new ventures and want to become part of them. I speak for all our visitors and Board members in thanking you most sincerely for your support and your partnership in this great endeavor.

Roger Hertog
First Lady Laura Bush presents the 2005 History Makers Award to Roland Betts (left) and Tom Bernstein, History Makers Gala, November 8, 2006

Our goal is to raise Americans’ consciousness about our national story through great exhibitions, not-to-be-missed conferences, debates, and lectures and captivating teaching tools that enrich the experience of learning about history.
Happenings at the Historical Society

People are generous when they can see for themselves what an institution is contributing to their lives and those of their fellow citizens.

Pictured from left: Louise Mirrer, N-YHS President and CEO, Honorees Betsy Gotbaum, New York City Public Advocate, and Christine Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council, and Nancy Newcomb, Co-Chair, N-YHS Board of Trustees, Strawberry Festival Luncheon, May 16, 2006


Below: Susan Turcotte and Josephine Cantwell of The Young Friends, enjoy an Evening at the Society, March 9, 2006.

Above: Donald Trump, Melania Trump and Pat Altschul co-hosts: An Evening with André Leon Talley, a holiday themed book party to support N-YHS educational programs, December 5, 2005.

Above: André Leon Talley and Damon Dash
Dear Friends:

This year, the New-York Historical Society launched the Chairman’s Council, a group of individuals especially committed to securing the Society’s future as pre-eminent in American history. I have the pleasure and the privilege of serving as Chair.

The Chairman’s Council was conceived by Trustee Roger Hertog, whose leadership, along with that of President and CEO Louise Mirrer, Co-Chairs Richard Gilder and Nancy Newcomb, and the Board of Trustees, set the stage for a banner first year: we attracted 197 Chairman’s Council members and raised nearly $1 million.

The kickoff for the Council was our first annual Weekend with History in May, two days of discussion, panels and informal conversation attended by nearly 150 Council members and a cadre of the country’s most respected historians. A highlight of the Weekend was the presentation of the New-York Historical Society’s first annual Book Prize, awarded this year to Doris Kearns Goodwin for Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln.

As we embark on our second year of the Chairman’s Council, we look forward to sharing our passion for history at events created exclusively for the Council, including the second annual Weekend with History on April 27-28, 2007. We thank all those who joined the Council and who contributed to its tremendous success.

Sincerely,

Pam B. Schafler
Chair

From the left: Nancy Newcomb, Board of Trustees Co-Chair; Louise Mirrer, N-YHS President and CEO; Doris Kearns Goodwin, winner of the first annual New-York Historical Society American History Book Prize; and Pam B. Schafler, Chair, Chairman’s Council

Chairman’s Council of the New-York Historical Society
Pam B. Schafler, Chair

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Candace King Weir
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From the left: Susan Hertog, Trustees Roger Hertog and Sue Ann Weinberg, Council Co-Chairs

Chairman’s Council Honorary Co-Chairs Eric Foner and Joyce Appleby at the kickoff dinner for the
first annual Chairman’s Council Weekend with History.

Below left: Howard Berkowitz, Martin Gross, Council Co-Chair, and Judy Berkowitz, Member and
N.Y.H.S. Trustee
Below right: Council members Lulu Wang and Fred Stein at Saturday morning’s panel, What Would
the Founders Do?
**Financials**

**Balance Sheets**

**JUNE 30, 2006 and 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$138,907</td>
<td>444,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest and other receivables</td>
<td>120,499</td>
<td>128,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory and other assets</td>
<td>667,761</td>
<td>298,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants receivable</td>
<td>3,693,383</td>
<td>2,583,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art, books, and prints held for sale</td>
<td>474,926</td>
<td>474,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>22,904,354</td>
<td>21,871,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets, net</td>
<td>27,335,978</td>
<td>28,315,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$55,335,808</td>
<td>54,116,844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$1,490,991</td>
<td>1,255,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>12,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset retirement obligation*</td>
<td>2,750,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>4,246,991</td>
<td>1,268,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>641,712</td>
<td>803,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in fixed assets</td>
<td>24,585,978</td>
<td>28,315,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted</strong></td>
<td>25,227,689</td>
<td>29,118,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>2,832,690</td>
<td>701,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>23,028,438</td>
<td>23,028,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>51,088,817</td>
<td>52,888,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>$55,335,808</td>
<td>54,116,844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Asset Retirement Obligations*

In March 2005, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Interpretation No. 47 (FIN 47), Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations. Under FIN 47, organizations must accrue for costs related to legal obligations to perform certain activities in connection with the retirement, disposal, or abandonment of assets. The capitalized portion is depreciated over the remaining useful life of the asset.

The Society has identified asbestos abatement as a conditional asset retirement obligation and estimated that the cost of remediation is $2,750,000. The Society believes that the most reasonable remaining useful life should be consistent with its depreciation policy. Accordingly, the entire amount of $2,750,000 was reflected as a cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle in the accompanying statement of activities.

Beekman Family Coach, c. 1771. Gift of Gerard Beekman, 1911.25.
## Statements of Activities

### Year Ended June 30, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue, gains, and other support:</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private contributions and grants</td>
<td>$4,585,778</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4,585,778</td>
<td>4,588,806</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9,174,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>536,200</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>536,200</td>
<td>840,225</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,376,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events, net of expenses</td>
<td>1,890,714</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,890,714</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,890,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>466,679</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>466,679</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>466,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>869,981</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>869,981</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>869,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net investment income and gains</td>
<td>1,203,805</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,203,805</td>
<td>1,862,148</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3,065,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees, royalties, and other</td>
<td>619,947</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>619,947</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>619,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary activities</td>
<td>1,217,716</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,217,716</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,217,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, gains, and other support</strong></td>
<td>11,390,820</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11,390,820</td>
<td>7,291,179</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>18,681,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>4,859,827</td>
<td>300,297</td>
<td>5,160,124</td>
<td>(5,160,124)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, gains, and other support</strong></td>
<td>16,250,647</td>
<td>300,297</td>
<td>16,550,944</td>
<td>2,131,055</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>18,681,999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

**Program services:**

| Library services                      | 1,351,657 | 197,859 | 1,549,516 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,549,516 |
| Museum programs                       | 1,446,628 | 141,327 | 1,587,955 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,587,955 |
| Special exhibitions                   | 6,890,933 | 833,830 | 7,724,763 | — | —                      | —                      | 7,724,763 |
| Public and education programs         | 1,370,783 | 98,929 | 2,069,712 | — | —                      | —                      | 2,069,712 |
| Auxiliary activities                  | 1,180,168 | 141,327 | 1,321,495 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,321,495 |
| **Total program services**            | 12,840,139 | 1,413,272 | 14,253,411 | — | —                      | —                      | 14,253,411 |

**Supporting services:**

| Management and general               | 2,223,894 | 109,021 | 2,332,915 | — | —                      | —                      | 2,332,915 |
| Development                           | 1,023,697 | 47,140 | 1,070,837 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,070,837 |
| **Total supporting services**         | 3,281,591 | 156,161 | 3,437,752 | — | —                      | —                      | 3,437,752 |

**Total expenses**

$16,121,528 | 1,570,302 | 17,691,830 | — | —                      | —                      | 17,691,830 |

### Year Ended June 30, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue, gains, and other support:</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private contributions and grants</td>
<td>$2,318,560</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,318,560</td>
<td>8,643,494</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10,962,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>232,816</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>232,816</td>
<td>1,170,759</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,403,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events, net of expenses</td>
<td>1,049,129</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,049,129</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,049,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>438,067</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>438,067</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>438,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>591,527</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>591,527</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>591,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net investment income and gains</td>
<td>1,184,691</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,184,691</td>
<td>161,272</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,345,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees, royalties, and other</td>
<td>386,166</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>386,166</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>386,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary activities</td>
<td>982,762</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>982,762</td>
<td>1,079,732</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,062,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, gains, and other support</strong></td>
<td>7,554,406</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7,554,406</td>
<td>9,075,575</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>16,630,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>8,758,206</td>
<td>716,385</td>
<td>9,474,591</td>
<td>(9,474,591)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, gains, and other support</strong></td>
<td>16,312,612</td>
<td>716,385</td>
<td>17,028,997</td>
<td>500,934</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>17,529,931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

**Program services:**

| Library services                      | 1,305,423 | 135,757 | 1,441,180 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,441,180 |
| Museum programs                       | 1,402,115 | 96,970 | 1,499,085 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,499,085 |
| Special exhibitions                   | 7,822,318 | 572,121 | 8,394,439 | — | —                      | —                      | 8,394,439 |
| Public and education programs         | 1,625,416 | 67,878 | 1,693,294 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,693,294 |
| Auxiliary activities                  | 982,762    | 96,970 | 1,079,732 | — | —                      | —                      | 1,079,732 |
| **Total program services**            | 13,138,034 | 969,696 | 14,107,730 | — | —                      | —                      | 14,107,730 |

**Supporting services:**

| Management and general               | 2,221,494 | 75,421 | 2,296,915 | — | —                      | —                      | 2,296,915 |
| Development                           | 875,715    | 32,233 | 908,048 | — | —                      | —                      | 908,048 |
| **Total supporting services**         | 3,097,209 | 107,654 | 3,204,863 | — | —                      | —                      | 3,204,863 |

**Total expenses**

$16,235,263 | 1,077,440 | 17,312,703 | — | —                      | —                      | 17,312,703 |

### Increase (decrease) in net assets before transfers and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle

| Increase (decrease) in net assets before transfers and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | 77,349 | (361,055) | (283,706) | 500,934 | — | — | 217,228 |

### Net assets at beginning of year

$723,911 | 28,676,370 | 29,402,281 | 200,701 | 23,028,438 | 52,631,420 |

**Net assets at end of year**
The timeless elegance of New York’s first museum, featuring a variety of spaces filled with spectacular objects from our collections, is the perfect place for special events and meetings. Housed in a landmark building overlooking Central Park, the New-York Historical Society is a treasure trove of gracious entertainment spaces including galleries, a grand foyer, a 320-seat theater and a beaux-arts library with 50-foot ceilings. Decorated with priceless artwork, these versatile spaces are available for charitable events, meetings, cocktail receptions, dinners, conferences, product launches and weddings. Many groups take advantage of private viewings and guided tours of our special exhibitions – guaranteed to make any event a special event.


Competitive rates and an experienced staff ensure service and satisfaction. Our Special Events Department is delighted to work with individuals and groups to create events that are truly memorable.

The Bernard and Irene Schwartz Distinguished Speakers Series continues to be the heart of public programming at the Historical Society. In 2005-06, the Society greatly increased the quantity and variety of its public programs. In response, an unprecedented number of guests attended the lectures, concerts, and walking tours – almost 11,000 in all - many of which sold out. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz.

The majority of Fall and Winter programs were organized to enhance our landmark exhibition Slavery in New York. These included lectures, panel discussions, and conversations featuring a diverse group of scholars and writers, including James M. McPherson, Howard Dodson, James O. and Lois Horton, Nell Painter, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Ira Berlin and many others. The programs covered a broad range of topics related to slavery. “Complicity” examined the role of the North in promoting and prolonging slavery; “Why They Fought” explored the motivations of the various participants in the Civil War and a three-part series examined the effect of slavery on women. The Society also hosted readings and discussions with the authors of historical novels, including Pulitzer Prize winner Edward P. Jones (The Known World) and Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison (Beloved), both of whom drew overflow crowds. Two sold-out concerts, “The Evolution of Afro-Cuban Music” and “The Evolution of the Blues,” were organized by Grammy award nominee Paul Peress. On weekends Gospel and Spiritual Concerts filled the Society’s halls with music, and history came alive on weekdays with daily readings by actor Charles Turner from the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.
The Spring featured a diverse schedule of programs appealing to all tastes of the historical palate. Associate United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer discussed the United States Constitution with noted scholars Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., and Akhil Reed Amar. Journalist Pete Hamill and former mayor Edward I. Koch engaged in a lively conversation about Boss Tweed with author Kenneth D. Ackerman. A three-part series celebrating Benjamin Franklin’s 300th birthday featured noted Franklin scholars Philip Dray, Stacy Schiff, Claude-Anne Lopez, and J.A. Leo Lemay. Several programs were held in conjunction with Audubon’s Aviary, including three bird-watching walks in Central Park. Other highlights included: “The Rise of American Democracy” with Princeton historian Sean Wilentz; “At Canaan’s Edge” with Martin Luther King, Jr. biographer Taylor Branch; “Yankee Stadium: The House that Ruth Built” with Bert Sugar, Marty Appel, Tony Morante, and Warner Wolf; “Harlem with Barry Lewis”; “The Solitude of Self” with Vivian Gornick; and “The Art of Memory,” a series of walking tours of war memorials culminating in an evening with author Cal Snyder and former N-YHS President Kenneth T. Jackson.
The New-York Historical Society acknowledges the following donors whose gifts promote a deep understanding and appreciation of American history.

$1,000,000 and up
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Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Danziger
Mr. and Mrs. Philip de Lobkowicz
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Jane and William Donaldson
Lynne Doss
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Dresher
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Durkin, Jr.
Roy Eddey
Susan H. Edwards
Cheryl and Blair Effron
Mindy and Michael Engelberg
Bobbie and Robert Falk
Laurette Soong Feng

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Opposite page, by row:
Row 3: Lois Chiles and Richard Gilder, Board of Trustees Co-Chair, at the opening reception and preview of Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery, June 21, 2006. A student takes notes at the exhibition, Slavery in New York, William Sidney Mount (1807-68), Dregs in the Cup (The Fortune Teller) (detail), 1838, oil on canvas, Gift of the New-York Gallery of the Fine Arts, 1858.5.7.
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