

**New Waterfront Book**

The Society's new book, The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront, was published by New York University Press in December, 1989. At the annual meeting, held on December 14 at N.Y.U.'s Vanderbilt Hall, Society members celebrated the publication of the book, which had been in preparation for two years.

Edited by Regina M. Kellerman, Executive Director of the Society, the book documents for the first time in text and photographs each of the 350 buildings and piers in the 36-square-block Village neighborhood. The architectural history presented is particularly important because the waterfront area was arbitrarily omitted from the adjoining Greenwich Village Historic District at the time of designation. Today its 19th and turn-of-the-century buildings, low skyline and open vistas to the sea are in real jeopardy for lack of preservation and planning safeguards.

To bring the subject of the waterfront's history -- and the issues concerning its future -- to the attention of a wider audience, the Society will expand upon the research contained in the book for a major exhibition to be held in September and October at the Urban Center Galleries and co-sponsored with the Municipal Art Society.

The book is available in both hardcover and paperback and may be ordered directly from the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10003. To order or to pick up a copy, you may call the Society at (212) 924-3895.



At the Society's December 14 event the new book is admired by: (l-r) Colin Jones, Director of N.Y.U. Press; Richard Barnett, President of the Society; Regina Kellerman, editor of the book and Society Executive Director; and N.Y.U. President, John Brademas.

**Fall Waterfront Exhibition**

The Society is planning an exhibition on the cultural and architectural history of the Greenwich Village waterfront for the fall. Entitled "Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge", the exhibition will be co-sponsored by the Greenwich Village Society and the Municipal Art Society. It will open on September 19 at the Urban Center Galleries at the Villard Houses, Madison Avenue and 51st Street, and be in place through October 25.

Plans call for the exhibition to have a scale model of the waterfront area, in addition to photographs, maps and text. It is hoped that the exhibition might also include a computer that would allow for ground-level view corridors into the area, therefore affording an opportunity to contemplate or to design future options for the neighborhood.

The executive committee of the Greenwich Village Society is currently in the process of raising the necessary funds to cover the costs of mounting the exhibition. Society members will be notified with more information in the near future.

**1990 Calendar of Events**

**APRIL**

- Mon., April 9 2:00 pm Tour of Rambusch Studios; Free (limited to 20 members)
- Thurs., April 12 10:00 am Repeat Tour of Rambusch Studios; Free (limited to 20 members)

**MAY**

- Tues., May 8 6:00 pm Lecture: "Henry James's and Edith Wharton's Washington Square", reception preceding; speaker: Scott Marshall  
Salmagundi Club

**JUNE**

- Thurs., June 14 6:00 pm Annual June Meeting  
Grace Church complex

**SEPTEMBER**

- Wed., Sept. 19- Thurs. Oct. 25 Exhibition: "Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge"; Urban Center Galleries
- Wed., Sept. 26 5:00 pm Members' Reception for Exhibition; Urban Center Galleries
- Date to be announced Walking Tour of the Gansevoort Market Area

**DECEMBER**

- Date to be announced Annual December Meeting  
Location to be announced

## April Tours

Society members will have a unique opportunity in April to tour one of the Village's oldest and most respected restoration businesses, The Rambusch Company. A unique combination of design studios and crafts workshops, Rambusch is structured as two divisions -- Custom Lighting and Crafts. The Crafts Division includes a Liturgical Arts Department and the Architectural/Restoration Crafts Department.

In over eight decades, the Rambusch firm has designed and/or executed work on over 18,000 projects, including state capitols, cathedrals, hotels, banks, theaters and other major monuments and landmark structures. In New York City, important projects by the firm have included the restoration of the Villard Houses occupied by the Helmsley Palace, the stained glass ceiling of the model room at the Yacht Club and

the painted decorations, lighting fixtures and stained glass Tiffany windows of the Middle Collegiate Church on Second Avenue.

Founded in 1898, the firm is now run by the fourth generation of the Rambusch family. The two April tours, led by Mrs. Viggo Rambusch, will give Society members an opportunity to view the workshops in action and to ask questions about work in progress. Because tours will take place during working hours, they must be limited to 20 members each on Monday, April 9 at 2:00 pm and a repeat tour on Thursday, April 12 at 10:00 am. Please return the enclosed reservation form to the Greenwich Village Society office as soon as possible.

## May Lecture

Both Henry James and Edith Wharton lived near and set some of their best fiction on or around Greenwich Village's Washington Square. Each also produced extensive autobiographical writings about this area, which had a formative influence on their lives and was representative of their era of Old New York from the 1840's to the turn-of-the-century.

On Tuesday, May 8 at the Salmagundi Club, the Society will present a slide lecture entitled "Henry James's and Edith Wharton's Washington Square." The speaker will be Scott Marshall, former Assistant Director of Edith Wharton Restoration at The Mount, Lenox, Massachusetts, and now Executive Assistant at the Greenwich Village Society. A Wharton scholar and enthusiast, Mr. Marshall has lectured on Edith Wharton at the Grolier Club in New York, the Litchfield County Historical Society and other organizations. A reservation form for the slide lecture and reception is enclosed in this mailing.

## Annual June Meeting

The annual June Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14 at 6:00 pm at the Grace Church complex. Grace Church, designed by James Renwick in 1843-45, is one of New York City's greatest religious and architectural landmarks. The Municipal Art Society has called it one of the ten Manhattan buildings judged worthy "to be preserved at all costs." Renwick, a resident of Greenwich Village, was later architect of Calvary Church at Park Avenue and 21st Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue and the original Smithsonian Institute building in Washington, D.C., among others. The June meeting will include a tour of the church, plus looks at other areas of the complex not open to the general public. Society members will receive a separate invitation to this special event in the near future.



Henry James in 1905

Edith Wharton in 1905

## Useful and Available

A major problem for Villagers -- as well as for all New Yorkers -- is that of removing graffiti from buildings. The Society recommends a 1988 booklet, Keeping It Clean, for practical and straightforward solutions. Written by Anne Grimmer for the Technical Preservation Services of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the booklet deals with removing exterior dirt, paint, stains and graffiti from historic masonry buildings. Copies may be obtained by writing to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325. The cost is \$2.50; make checks payable to Superintendent of Documents.