

From the History and Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association

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Gift gives library another key to Nast and his world

By Christine Jochem Morristown and Morris Township Library

John Adler is neither a historian nor a computer expert but for the last 10 years his life has revolved about both. With all the passion of the truly committed convert, he has spent his time and a good bit of his fortune -- \$15 million at last count - to creating HarpWeek, a vast, user-friendly database holding 56 years of *Harper's Weekly, A Journal of Civilization* - a publication often called the 19th century version of *Newsweek* and *Time*.

This labor of love was his way of making accessible a publication that featured the work of artist Winslow Homer, photographer Matthew Brady and political cartoonist Thomas Nast, a magazine that shaped the country's opinions from the Civil War to the end of the 19th century.

This month, Adler brought HarpWeek to Morristown, donating it to the Morristown & Morris Township Library. It was a thank-you gift to Alice Caulkins, a Thomas Nast scholar who has helped him in his research, and to the library, which is a center for Thomas Nast research.

"We could never have acquired this on our own, " said Christine Jochem, who heads the library's Local History Department. "The full database costs over \$84,000 with an annual maintenance fee of \$900."

The library becomes one of only two sites in New Jersey with HarpWeek. The other is Princeton University, whose libraries are not open to the general public.

Adler, a retired advertising executive who makes his home in Greenwich, CT, first became continued on page 3

Archives Day set for October 15

Archives Week will be celebrated for the 10th consecutive year at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan, NJ. Archives and History Day on October 15 will feature table displays by more than 70 history organizations, including MARAC members. The keynote address will be by Dr. Alex Magoun on "The RCA Origins of Everyday Things." CAPES Coordinator Elsalyn Palmisano will conduct a presentation on the benefits of that consulting program for historical societies and libraries with archival collections. The Jane Clayton Award will be presented to Flora Higgins and the MARAC/NJ Caucus Award to Princeton University Library. Earlier in the week, the film "National Treasure" will be screened on October 11. Two workshops will be offered on October 12: Care and Identification of 19th Century Photographs, presented by Elizabeth Shepard and Gary Saretzky; and Teaching the Modern Civil Rights Struggle. Workshop for Teachers, Grade 4 to 12, taught by Giles Wright. For information, contact Gary Saretzky, gsaretzk@co.monmouth.nj.us or 732-308-3772.

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Letter from the President

Greetings to all section members. As NJLA embarks upon another year library advocacy I am eager to lead this elite group of archivists, librarians, and preservationists. With good intentions, knowledge and a strong pattern of success the section will continue its tradition of educating the larger library community of the importance of properly preserving our collections. As a relatively recent resident of New Jersey my knowledge of the state's history was rather general. Now after two years living in the state and working in a field that has allowed me to explore the state's history my understanding of New Jersey's contributions to our nation is significantly more profound. This has been an exciting couple of years and I look forward to expanding my knowledge and experience. This section has been an integral part in my recent education and I thank all members for allowing me to this opportunity to lead us in our efforts.

The section has begun planning the year's events and I believe we have gotten off to a strong start. The awards committee is already meeting to discuss the Susan Swartzburg award and we have begun setting our lineup of speakers for the Spring 2006 NJLA conference. A full schedule of section meetings is on tap with the next one slated for October 26 at 10:00 AM. at the David Library of the American Revolution at Washington Crossing, PA. The library staff will give a tour of their facilities before the meeting.

The section also wants to bring to your attention events of importance to the archival community. Our section begins the year by publicizing in this newsletter the SHRAB archival workshops being held throughout the fall. These are topical classes designed to provide practical advice to institutions conducting preservation projects.

And of course there is the annual

Archives Day to be held on Saturday October 15. This is a perennially successful endeavor that gives us an opportunity to showcase the importance of archives to our communities. If your institution is not participating I encourage you to get involved. Gary Saretzky is always eager to discuss the day with interested individuals.

Next year also brings us an unusual opportunity. MARAC has decided to hold their fall convention in Morristown. Several members of the section will play active roles in organizing the event. We wish them good luck. These are just a few of the events occurring this year. The Section will keep you apprised of other items of interest. Please check the NJLA website for more information.

Lawrence Green Morristown and Morris Township Library

2005-2006 H/P Section Board

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interested in the magazine in 1967 when he formed a company to research the effects of advertising on consumers. He began to look at old ads, especially those in Harper's Weekly - a magazine established in 1857 by the four Harper brothers, publishers whose name lives on today in Harper Collins (book publishing) and Harper's Magazine.

He acquired a full set of the magazine in 1972, thinking that as a retirement project he would have the journal indexed. "Harper's Weekly never had a useful index," he explains. "So until now there has been no way for students and researchers to access the illustrations, cartoons, news, literature, editorials and ads that these volumes contain without spending hours poring over microfilm or original copies in rare - book rooms.

"Harper's Weekly is really the only consistent, comprehensive week-to-week chronological record of what happened world-wide in the last half of the 19th century."

The magazine was first and foremost a family publication, he said, aimed at a middle and upper class audience. At its peak, it had a circulation of more than 100,000 and was read everywhere - in city parlors, by Civil war campfires and in the trenches and the wards of hospitals.

Adler admits that he knows little about computers today and knew less then. So he turned to consultants and specialists in both history and computers. Over the years, he hired up to 12 indexers with advanced degrees to read every work and study every illustration and cartoon in the magazine.

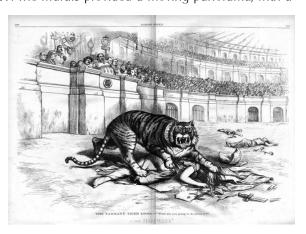
Thomas Nast, the nation's leading political cartoonist, worked for Harper's Weekly from 1862- 1886. He introduced the world to the Democratic party's mascot, the donkey, and created the Republican party's elephant, Uncle Sam, Columbia, and the Victorian image of Santa Claus. He was credited for bringing down New York's notorious Boss Tweed, who said "I don't care what the papers write about me - my constituents can't read, but they can see them damned pictures."

It was during the Tweed era that Nast's connection to Morristown began. At the height of the Tweed scandal, Thomas Nast moved his family to Morristown, to a house just a block from the library. After his death in 1902, Nast's youngest son, Cyril, donated original drawings and paintings to the library. These became the core of the Nast collection, one of the finest research collections of published and original material on Nast's life and work

The library's Local History Department is directly responsible

for the founding of the Thomas Nast Society which promotes scholarly research and publishes an annual Journal. And the Department has provided research on Nast for PBS and BBC programming, and for stories in daily newspapers and other publications.

It was because of Nast that Adler first came to Morristown 10 years ago and met Alice Caulkins, a Nast scholar and former Nast curator for the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum. Mrs. Caulkins helped him with his research and earlier this year she wrote a piece for HarpWeek on Nast's popular Grand Caricaturama, a series of 33 paintings for a performance exhibit at the Bal de L'Opera in New York 1867. The murals provided a moving panorama, with a



narration read by an actor and a musical accompaniment. In return for her work. Mrs. Caulkins asked Adler to give the Library free access to HarpWeek.

The Morristown library has original copies of Harper's Weekly, Jochem said, but the drawings are not indexed and copying from the oversized volumes is awkward and not in the best interests of preserving the documents.

"HarpWeek provides the crucial element we lacked," Jochem said, "a database of images of Nast's political cartoons published in Harper's Weekly."

All of the drawings have been indexed, including Nast's 2,250 cartoons. Every character has been identified, Adler said, even the hundreds of obscure personalities, minor aldermen and functionaries, most long forgotten.

The new database also offers help to other researchers. "Thomas Nast aside, HarpWeek also will provide researchers with access to a searchable database of information about life, history and politics of the 19th century," Jochem noted, " including news stories, editorials, biographies, literature and even advertisements that shaped and reflected public opinion in this era."

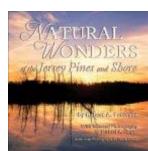
Read any good books lately?

By James Collins Morristown and Morris Township Library

Peterson, Robert A. *Natural Wonders of the Jersey Pines and Shore*. Plexus Publishing, 2005.

A collection of 57 vignettes on South Jersey flora, fauna, people and nature presented with hundreds of color photographs by Michael Hogan and Steve Greer of the distinct region that is Southern New Jersey and the Pinelands. The text of this volume, is by the late Robert Peter-

son author of a celebrated column for *The Egg Harbor News*. The essays cover a wide range of topics that deal with the natural world in the Pine Barrens region and discuss specific plants, animals and birds. Peterson, while writing about these topics integrates etymology, poetry, science and history with the world of nature being discussed.



The book contains dozens of color photographs that complement and illustrate each piece of writing. With the text and the photographs, the book also describes how the different plants and animals under discussion interact with man. Additionally, some of the pieces give specific locations so that readers may see for themselves the natural beauty that is so well documented in these pages.

Causley, Monroe S. *Arthur W. Rushmore & The Golden Hind Press*. Oak Knoll Press, 2005

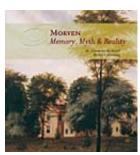
Arthur Rushmore was born in Brooklyn in 1883 and after graduating from the Adelphi Academy joined the publishing house of Harper as a clerk. Over the next few years Rushmore became more involved in jacket and book design and by 1917 he had designed his first complete book for the company. After moving his family to Madison, New Jersey in 1923, Rushmore felt increasingly constrained by commercial publishing and eventually formed his own company, the Golden Hind Press in 1927. This private press allowed Rushmore to experiment with design and decoration as well as use his expertise with ty-

pography and printing. While continuing his career with book design at Harper, Rushmore and the Golden Hind Press published over sixty books as well as pamphlets, broadsides and invitations. Rushmore died in 1955 and is now seen as one of the twentieth century's most influential book designers.

Monroe Causley's book is both a history of Rushmore and his work as well as a complete descriptive bibliography of the books that were designed and printed by him at Golden Hind. The bibliography includes descriptive information on the books themselves as well as annotations on specific authors and the texts. The Madison Public Library, to which Rushmore was a member of the Board of Trustees and to whom the Rushmore family donated his papers and private library, is the associate publisher of this book. Rushmore's theory that books have a "functional as well as aesthetic purpose" is made very apparent in this loving appreciation.

Greiff, Constance M. And Gunning, Wanda S. *Morven: Memory, Myth and Reality.* Historic Morven Inc., 2004.

This illustrated history of Morven, the home of the Stockton family in Princeton that later became the governor's mansion attempts to document the complex history of a house—one that over the centuries has acquired a myth of its own. Morven was built in the early 18th century by Richard Stockton in Princeton and later was expanded



by his great-grandson Richard Stockton (know as The Signer) in the mid 1700's. Through text and illustrations the book gives the history of the Stocktons and their home, which also is a history of an important part of New Jersey history. Through the decades the fortunes of the family and the changing grounds of their home is presented through primary sources and illustrated with blue-prints, paintings and other images. The story moves into the twentieth century when the private home became the governor's mansion and at the beginning of the 21st century, the restored museum which it is today.

Call for award nominations

The NJLA History & Preservation Section is seeking nominations to recognize NJLA members' accomplishments in the fields of history, conservation and preservation. In addition to presenting the Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award, the H&P Section is seeking nominations of outstanding New Jersey libraries and librarians working in this field, which it will consider submitting for other state and national awards. Your nomination letter should address the aspects of their contributions described below:

The Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award.

This award honors the memory of a librarian whose leadership in New Jersey inspired and influenced many others in our profession, particularly in the areas of preservation of library materials, archives and the book arts.

Criteria: The History & Preservation Section will confer this award annually, beginning in 2003, on an individual NJLA member in recognition of his/ her leadership and dedication to the preservation or interpretation of archival, library or historical materials. The nominee should exhibit one or more of the following qualities:

- Leadership. Examples of this would include: support for funding of conservation projects; promoting education of
- conservation issues; and increasing the visibility of archival/history materials.
- Creativity. Examples of this would include: developing new and interesting methods of interpretation through exhibits, programs, lectures and publications.
- Commitment Examples of this would include: building an impressive body of work at one or more institutions in the areas of conservation, archives and/or historical fields; and exhibiting knowledge of and concern for the basic
- principals of preservation over time.

The Swartzburg Award was instituted under the guidance of former President of the History & Preservation Section - Joe Da Rold, and past winners have included: 2003 Elsalyn Palmisano, 2004 Ralph Ocker, 2005 Betty Steckman.

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and Heritage Preservation Award.

Nominations will be evaluated of a New Jersey library "that has been exemplary in the importance and priority it has given to conservation concerns and in the commitment it has shown to the preservation and care of its cultural property." Nominations which come to the NJLA H&P Awards Committee must conform to the eligibility guidelines for the award as promoted by the sponsoring agencies.

This year's History & Preservation Awards Committee is being chaired by Alan Delozier. Other committee members are Deborah Mercer and Elsalyn Palmisano, both long time members of our H&P Section. Nominations must be postmarked by November 4, 2005, to Alan Delozier; Msgr. William Noe' Field Archives & Special Collections Center; Seton Hall University; Walsh Library - First Floor; 400 South Orange Avenue; South Orange, NJ 07079 or via e-mail at: delozial@shu.edu

SHRAB workshops scheduled for Fall 2005

The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) has announced their schedule of archival workshops for Fall 2005. The workshops are sponsored by MARAC NJ Caucus and the State Historical Records Advisory Board and funded in part by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Upcoming workshops cover topics such as preserving photographs, using church archives, and preparing your collections for the New Jersey Digital Highway.

For more information, visit the SHRAB website at http://www.njarchives.org/links/shrabworkshops.html.