

# Views From The Veranda

## *“The Lower Edge of Splendor: Middle Class Jewelry in Context” by Ulysses Grant Dietz*

Monday, January 18th at 8pm

Montclair Women's Club~82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ

The Victorian Society in America Northern New Jersey Chapter is so very pleased to present our popular guest speaker, Ulysses Grant Dietz in *“The Lower Edge of Splendor: Middle Class Jewelry in Context.”* Mr. Dietz is the senior curator of the Decorative Arts for the Newark Museum, widely known and consulted for his expertise on furniture, jewelry, ceramics, silver, clothes and quilts.

The birth of the jewelry manufacturing industry in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Newark, and the discovery of American gold deposits, created a precedent for the next hundred years: jewelry in 14k gold aimed expressly at a rising middle-class consumer. Manufactured jewelry offered consumers, for the first time in history, the opportunity to express their social and economic aspirations through wearing jewelry that echoed aristocratic traditions of the past while being appropriate for life in the modern world.



In 2015 Mr. Dietz reinstalled the Lore Ross Jewelry Gallery at the Newark Museum, showcasing over 150 pieces of jewelry from the 1400s to the present day. Entitled *“Jewelry: From Pearls to Platinum to Plastic,”* the focus of the newly designed installation is the wide array of materials, both noble and humble, that have been used over the centuries to create things of beauty for personal adornment. This gallery accompanies a long-term exhibition entitled *“City of Silver and Gold: from Tiffany to Cartier,”* which covers the century when the city of Newark was the thriving hub of the precious metal industry in the United States.



Join us for an informative and engaging evening with Ulysses Dietz and make plans to visit the Newark Museum. The museum is the state's largest, and holds fine collections of American art, decorative arts, contemporary art, and arts of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the ancient world. The Lore Ross Jewelry Gallery is located on the second floor of the Ballantine House at the museum.



*Meetings of The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter are normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm at the Montclair Women's Club 82 Union Street - Montclair, NJ. Meetings are free for members - Non-members \$5 - Yearly membership only \$25! If your last name begins with the letters U, V, W, X, Y, & Z, please bring refreshments to the next meeting. Any questions please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or email [Christina.mayer@fmglobal.com](mailto:Christina.mayer@fmglobal.com).*



## Greetings From the President

*Dear Members:*

*What a terrific Holiday Party which featured floral designer, Marjorie Hulstrunk. She demonstrated the art of Victorian flower arrangement, and shared tips on how to handle fresh flowers and make them last longer. She created five beautiful arrangements as she spoke. The arrangements were a nice variety of large, small and novel designs, such as the rose bouquet in a vintage evening purse. Five lucky members in the audience each received one of these captivating creations to take home with them. Afterwards we feasted on fabulous food. I would like to thank all the board members for their delicious contributions, Sarah Dunn for her splendid Victorian punch table, and a special thanks to Christina Mayer for her remarkable effort all year long to create an extraordinary refreshment table. The crowd was convivial and it was a most enjoyable evening.*

*We welcome 2016 with our favorite annual speaker, Ulysses Dietz, who always has something interesting to share with us. We have a large crowd every time he comes.*

*Wishing you the best of everything in the new year!*

*~ Jane* 



Marjorie Hulstrunk and her Victorian themed creations

## Liberty Hall Celebrates Downton Abbey Finale

***"Downton Abbey Luncheon" - Saturdays, February 20th and March 12th, noon to 3pm***

If you are a fan of the British television period drama Downton Abbey, step back in time to the 1920s and experience a luncheon like the Crawley family at **Liberty Hall Museum** in Union, NJ.



The mouthwatering buffet includes your choice of red or white wine. A tour of the museum follows. \$55/person; reservations required. ***"Downton Abbey Ball" - Sunday, March 6th, 6:30pm*** - Celebrate with fellow Downton Abbey fans with a formal sit-down dinner, live music and dancing, and a private showing of the final episode LIVE! \$125/person; reservations required. See [www.kean.edu/libertyhall/events](http://www.kean.edu/libertyhall/events) for more events and information. For reservations, please call 908-527-0400 or email [libertyhall@kean.edu](mailto:libertyhall@kean.edu).

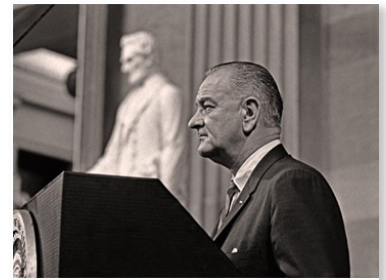
## *The National Historic Preservation Act ~ 1966-2016*



*“The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people . . . the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans”*

— *National Historic Preservation Act, 1966*

**What is the National Historic Preservation Act?** Signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on October 15, 1966, the country officially recognized the value of historic preservation and created the federal framework supporting the preservation and protection of the irreplaceable buildings, landscapes and archeology in communities across the United States. This was enacted after the destruction of numerous buildings and sites in the years following World War II. The NHPA encourages Americans to identify and preserve our nation’s cultural and historic resources. The act created the *National Register of Historic Places*, the list of *National Historic Landmarks*, and the *State Historic Preservation Offices*.



**Preservation50** is the United States’ four-year effort to celebrate, learn from, and leverage the National Historic Preservation Act’s first five decades to assure historic preservation’s vibrant future in America. For more information on their many events and resources, visit their website at [www.preservation50.org](http://www.preservation50.org).



To celebrate the NHPA turning fifty and itself becoming historic, we will be featuring the logos of **Preservation50** in our monthly *VSANNJ* newsletter. This month’s logo focuses on the *National Register of Historic Places*, the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. Many historic homes are listed on the National Register, as are many other kinds of properties – commercial buildings, schools, urban and rural historic districts, bridges, archaeological sites, monuments, and more – encompassing 1.4 million individual resources. The National Historic Preservation Act has helped encourage the renovation, repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic homes and other properties throughout the nation, enhancing our quality of life. Property owners and investors benefit from grants, tax incentives, and technical assistance made available through the law and related programs over the years.



## In the Limelight: "Smokey" of Lambert Castle



A bear has recently made a triumphant return to his home at the Lambert Castle Museum in Paterson, headquarters for the Passaic County Historical Society. Known as **"Smokey"** from his days as a fire-company mascot, the local icon who had been on display at the museum for almost six decades, was sadly in need of restoration. The four-foot high, 75-pound American black bear was preserved through taxidermy more than 125 years ago.

George Dante, who did the recent restoration, called Smokey a *"wonderful example of Victorian taxidermy."* The artificial eyes created by the original artists needed only to be cleaned and polished. Dante, who has done work for the Smithsonian as well as Harvard University, worked carefully and diligently on the vintage piece. There were rusted iron wires, corroded string, bald spots on the coat, splits and cracks, weakened arms and other repairs which had to be addressed. Smokey's nose and lips, which were originally painted fire-engine red, are now the normal brown-flesh color of a bear.

No information is known on how the stuffed version of Smokey ended up as mascot for Paterson's Lafayette Engine Company No. 8 in the 1880s. Smokey's next residence was in the building of Paterson's Exempt Firemen's Association at the corner of Clark and Smith Streets. In the 1950s, he belonged to Harry Haines, owner of the now-defunct Paterson News, who donated the stuffed bear to the historical society.

Smokey now stands proudly (with a new steel rod in his back) in a glass case in front of a marble fireplace of Lambert Castle. All visitors are welcome to see him.



### THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

[www.VictorianSociety.org](http://www.VictorianSociety.org)

Northern NJ Chapter

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*The VSANNJ is part of the only national non-profit organization committed to historic preservation, protection, understanding, education, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage.*

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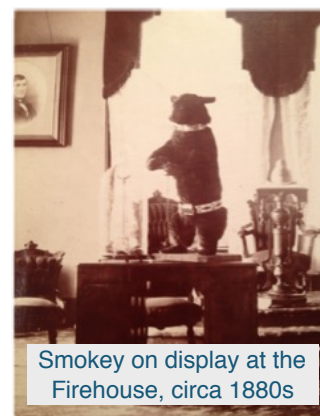
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82 Union Street is  
handicap accessible



Smokey on display at the  
Firehouse, circa 1880s