

Views From The Veranda

“Style, Status, Sterling: the Meanings of Silver in America” with Ulysses Grant Dietz

Monday, January 16th, 2017 at 8pm

82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ

Nobody needs silver. Nobody has *ever* needed silver. And yet, silver objects have been made and used and treasured since Europeans first set foot in North America. Why is that?



Elemental silver bars
Atomic number 47, symbol is **Ag** from
the Latin *argentum*

The Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Victorian Society in America is so very pleased to have our favorite guest speaker, Ulysses Grant Dietz, Chief Curator of Decorative Arts for the Newark Museum, on Monday January 16th at 8pm. His program entitled “*Style, Status, Sterling: the Meanings of Silver in America*” is sure to be engaging and informative.

From Colonial America, when silver was seen as cash-on-hand, to modern America where silver is a charming anachronism that clings to a romantic sense of elegance, the making, use and display of silver objects in the American home has changed dramatically. Having collected American silver of all periods for the Newark Museum for over 35 years, Ulysses Dietz has some insight into how this all happened.

Mr. Dietz is widely known and consulted for his expertise on furniture, jewelry, ceramics, silver, clothes and quilts. At the Newark Museum, he is responsible for over 100 exhibitions throughout the years covering all aspects of the decorative arts, from colonial to contemporary.



Handcrafted pitcher with
rope-twist handle, 1910-20
Lebkeucher and Company
Silver

Please join us for a lustrous, gleaming, and argent evening!



*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 \$30! Why not consider joining today or giving a gift membership to a friend? Call Catherine Sullivan at 973-762-6453, or send her your contact info at 9 Vose Avenue Apt 220, South Orange, NJ 07079. If your last name begins with the letters **A, B, C & D** please bring refreshments to the next meeting. Any questions please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or email cristina.mayer@fmglobal.com.*

Greetings From the President

Dear Members:

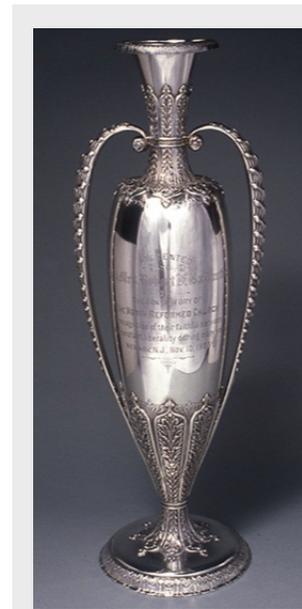
We had a Dickens of a Christmas Party in December! The tables were decorated with holly, gingerbread men, chestnuts and cloved oranges. Fabulous wreaths were on the walls while candles flickered around the room. "Charles Dickens" circulated throughout the crowd and read examples of his writing. A Victorian Caroler and a London Bobby also joined our festivities that evening. The buffet table groaned with plenty of food: wassail, trifle, roasted chestnuts and puddings

from Victorian times were included along with our delicious dinner selections. The WomanSong Intergenerational Chorus entertained us with Christmas and contemporary songs. The room vibrated with the melodic sound of their voices. Professional actor, Timur Kocak entertained us with his artful one-man performance. He gave a seamless retelling of The Christmas Carol, complete with rattling chains and clanging bells. The audience was mesmerized.

I would like to thank all the Board members whose many contributions made this event possible.

In January our long standing favorite speaker will be Ulysses Dietz. He will discuss the allure of silver as a precious metal and its other uses in America. Looking forward to seeing you then. Happy New Year!

-Jane



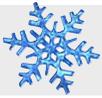
CITY OF SILVER AND GOLD: from Tiffany to Cartier

Among the many exhibits currently on display at the Newark Museum is "City of Silver and Gold: from Tiffany to Cartier". For more than a century, the City of Newark was the thriving center of the precious metal industry in the United States and home to the design workshops of famed jewelry goldsmiths and silversmiths such as Tiffany & Co. and Kremenz. The glamorous core of this exhibition consists of unique Tiffany & Co. pieces that can be found in no other museum in the nation.

A tall "Greek" vase given to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ballantine in 1903 celebrated the great Newark beer-brewing family's generosity. A jewel-encrusted coffee set in the "Viking" style was designed by Paulding Farnham for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, while a pair of art deco candelabra were custom-made by Tiffany for the 1939 New York World's Fair.

City of Silver and Gold showcases more than 100 objects drawn from the Museum's holdings documenting the rise of the city's gold and silver industry from modest beginnings in the early 1800s to national prominence by the turn of the 20th century.

Visit www.newarkmuseum.org or call 973-596-6544 for more info.



Reflections on Victorian Ice Skating



Victorians enjoyed the grace, exercise and healthfulness of skating on the ice. Skating parties, also known as “skating frolics” were popular and allowed people of all ages to participate.



Three skating dresses were featured in an 1880s issue of *Peterson's Magazine* showing the same confining fashions of the day ... just shorter in length!



The Skating Pond, Central Park, NYC
Currier and Ives~1862 lithograph

While falls were inevitable, and sometimes resulted in serious injury, the worst danger to the skater was falling through thin ice. *“For even a good swimmer may find himself suddenly sucked under the ice, and from the mud raised by his fall, may find the water so tinted that he cannot see the hole to which he must return to save his life. ...long ropes, fir planks, and several hand-drags, should be kept ready in a house or tent near the place, so that they may be speedily got at when wanted”.*

Fear of falling through ice led to early attempts of artificial ice rinks in the 1840's. These early rinks used a substitute consisting of a mixture of hog's lard and various salts. These venues soon fell out of fashion as customers grew tired of the “smelly” ice substitute. Thirty years later, refrigeration technology had developed to produce the world's first mechanically frozen ice rink, the *Glaciarium* in London in 1876. It measured 40 by 24 feet.



Interior of the *Glaciarium*, 1876



One of the greatest attractions for winter fun in 1890 was the new *Palais de Glace* in Paris. It was the first Parisian skating rink with artificial ice.



Before thrill rides and virtual reality, skating was often called, *“the nearest approach to flying of which the human being is as yet capable.”* Ice skating, and also roller skating, became very fashionable during the Victorian era, and helped lead to more freedom in dress and behavior for women.





“The Woman Who Had a Town Built and Named For Her” **

presented by Gloria Hintz - October 20, 1986

8pm at the Montclair Women’s Club

82 Union Street - Montclair

Like so many wealthy young American women of the 19th century, Medora Von Hoffman married a European nobleman. Her life, however, did not follow the usual pattern of living in her husband’s country. Her husband, the Marquis de Mores, left France for the Badlands of North Dakota planning to revolutionize the meat packing industry. His venture failed but remnants of his

short-lived empire, as well as their twenty-six room chateau with many of the original furnishings and personal effects of the family, remain to be seen in Medora, North Dakota, the town her husband built and named for her.

We will hear more about this woman, who began her life in Stapleton, Staten Island and became a marquise, from one of the Victorian Society’s own member, Gloria Hintz. Gloria, a resident of Glen Ridge, was born in North Dakota (but not in Medora), is a graduate of St. John’s College in Kansas with a degree in education and has just received her degree in history from Bloomfield College.

****** nota bene: above article is taken directly from our 1986 archives and is not a current program.



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

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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82 Union Street is handicap accessible

"January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the *Calends*, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts."

