

Le Petit Salon

A HISTORY OF ITS
FIFTY YEARS

1924~1974

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620 St. Peter Street

New Orleans, Louisiana

We dedicate this book . . .

To the Ladies

of 1924



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Built in 1838 by Victor David,
 Le Petit Salon — As it was then
 from the watercolor by Boyd Cruise

LE PETIT SALON

1924 - 1974

A History

by

Genevieve Munson Trimble

Time the preserver is also time the destroyer.

We become mindful of this fact as soon as we begin the history of the fifty years of Le Petit Salon.

Already time has taken its toll, we discover, of all written records in our files prior to 1933, a gaping lack of ten of the most formative, important and intriguing years. And time has taken eyewitnesses as well: with the death of Mrs. Joseph Haspel, in October, 1969, the last of Le Petit Salon's charter members passed away and with them went answers to many questions.

How fortunate then that there is this milestone—this Golden Anniversary we now celebrate in 1974—to make us look back to recall and reconstruct our past while it is still possible! In so doing we are made to gather data and to preserve memorabilia that have scattered through the years and would otherwise all-too-soon be lost to posterity.

Scant records may hamper research but they give rise to many charming conjectures and reminiscences concerning the origin of Le Petit Salon. Several of our older members, when asked, felt that the Salon was an outgrowth of another organization, possibly the Quartier Club, a venerable club of an earlier date that used to meet in the Jackson House across from our present building. Others believed it derived from a close alliance with our esteemed neighbor to the left, Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré.

Mrs. Duncan Parham, one of our present members, whose mother, Mrs. James A. Peuch, was one of the original Board members, remembers when her mother was busily engaged in helping to or-

ganize the Salon and recalls it was her mother, in fact, who suggested the name for the organization.

Mrs. William Tompkins West, our past president, whose mother was also an early member, believes the concept of the Salon grew from a nucleus of ladies who once lived on Esplanade Avenue and who, steeped in Creole and French traditions, had earlier begun having salons of their own — that is, entertaining and receiving friends at home on certain given afternoons of the week. This would seem plausible when we note that Miss Grace King, the first president of Le Petit Salon, was for many years rather famous for her "Friday afternoons" at her home on Coliseum Place.

But if the above theories are all without substantiating evidence, there is one fact about the Salon's origin that needs no documentation: from the moment of its beginning, the Salon was — and remains to this day — *unique*, a one-and-only of its kind, and so was the group of remarkable, intelligent, gifted, graceful women who founded it!

Picture them, if you will, as they were in 1924! The *crème de la crème*, as Miss Jean Brodie would have put it, of New Orleans society! They were extremely *avant-garde* as well, for it is important to remember that coming to the French Quarter as it existed in 1924 was not coming to the French Quarter as it exists today. It may, in retrospect, have been safer to walk the banquettes then but the point is that those who did walk the banquettes were pioneers of a sort, those who had discovered here among the old buildings, many of which were rundown and disreputable, a rare atmosphere of tradition and culture, worthy of being resurrected and preserved.

The Quarter, in 1924, had just begun to be the gathering place of artists and writers — the *litterati* of the day — many of whom were to go on to be luminaries of literature and the arts: Lyle Saxon, Roark Bradford, William Faulkner, Edmund Wilson, Oliver LaFarge, William Spratling, J. Hamilton Basso, Sherwood Anderson. (Indeed, a social note of the time reveals that Sherwood Anderson occupied an apartment here in St. Peter Street the very winter that our Salon was founded.)

These women, our Founders, knew them all! They were believers in, and preservationists of, the arts, the old buildings, a graceful way of life. This was the ethos in which Le Petit Salon was founded and the spirit that pervaded it. It is perhaps the first his-

torical fact we need to know about ourselves as an organization and one we must never forget!

A letter found among old documents reveals that, as early as 1938, uncertainty existed concerning the date of the founding of Le Petit Salon and the names of the founders. The letter signed by a committee composed of Mrs. Roydan Douglas, Mrs. Joseph Haspel and Mrs. William E. Weeks, states:

To the Officers and Members of Le Petit Salon:

The Committee appointed by Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Governors of Le Petit Salon, to furnish the names of the founders of Le Petit Salon, met in the St. Charles Hotel on May 17, 1938.

The Committee decided to furnish a copy of the founders, the officers and a list of the charter members from the records extant, as per list attached herewith.

After each name was checked separately and the Committee was in accord on these names, the meeting adjourned.

Undoubtedly, this bit of documentation led to the erection, two years later, of the plaque which now hangs on the Salon's upstairs hall wall near the front entrance. It states: Le Petit Salon organized November 14, 1924. It lists as the six organizers: Mrs. Joseph Haspel, Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr., Mrs. William E. Weeks, Mrs. A. Sidney White, Mrs. Roydan Douglas and Mrs. George B. Penrose. It gives the first officers and names of the charter members. Underneath it states: Placed by Mrs. E. M. Gilmer (Dorothy Dix) President, and members of the Board of 1940.

All names and information seem to be correct as presented on the plaque with one *glaring* discrepancy: the date of founding, November 14, 1924!

A microfilm of *The Times-Picayune* issue of Thursday, October 16, 1924, contains the first mention of Le Petit Salon in print and reveals the date of founding *as a month earlier than our plaque signifies!*

But let Miss Anna B. Ellis, then society editor and later one of the Salon's honorary members, tell in her own words about that historic occasion:

The great activity and many private machines almost blocking the vicinity about the corner of Royal and St. Peter Streets Tuesday afternoon told to the passers-by that some-

thing out of the usual was happening in this historical old section of old, old New Orleans.

The new club with its domicile at 714 St. Peter Street* and with Miss Grace King as president had called a meeting of the charter members to complete the plans of organization and to have an election of officers. The club promises to be a most needed and delightful addition to things worthwhile in New Orleans, with its object purely social as well as literary and artistic, which means of course a cordiality and culture that add to the life of any community. The plans and prospects spell success in the opening and although the name of the club has not been definitely decided on, the "Old Quarter Club" being only a rumored name, the officers and board of managers and the like were all elected at the meeting Tuesday.

Miss Grace King, the noted authoress, is president. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Gilmer (Dorothy Dix), the famous journalist, is first vice-president; second vice-president is Mrs. A. Sidney White; third vice-president, Mrs. George B. Penrose; secretary and treasurer is Mrs. Roydan Douglas [note: she, incidentally, was a lawyer and this city's first woman public notary]; and recording secretary, Mrs. Joseph Haspel.

Then follows a revealing description of our first club rooms over at 714 St. Peter Street:

The rooms of the Club with their cream-colored walls and curtains and green panels and doors are delightful and the old courtyard into which they open is a fitting addition to the new clubhouse of the prominent coterie of Orleanians who are organizers and charter members of the new club so full of promise.

The Club will be closed to all but members, their special guests and strangers in New Orleans to whom the members may wish to extend the privilege of use for a stated time. As neighbors, it has Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, the Green Shutters and the Patio Royal around the corner, all daily meeting places for prominent men and women and typical of the old French or Spanish regime in setting.

A week later, on October 25th, Miss Ellis, in her column, let the world in on the secret: the *name* of the new organization!

Le Petit Salon has been chosen as the name for the new club which has been under the process of being definitely organized by a number of prominent women for the last few weeks.

There was a very delightful meeting Thursday afternoon in the club room at 714 St. Peter. Miss Grace King, presi-

*Now, the Coffee Pot Restaurant.



dent, gave a most interesting talk on "French Salons" from which the name of the club was unanimously chosen by all committee members

We may wonder what Miss King told the ladies, that afternoon our name was chosen, concerning the French Salon, that unique 18th Century institution that began in Paris after the death of Louis XIV and which was dominated by women of society who opened their apartments to make of them the rendezvous of arts and letters.

Did Miss King perhaps tell them about Madame Geoffrin or Madame du Deffand or Madame Necker or Madame de Staël — all famous rulers of the Salon? Likely, she did. She may even have pointed out to them that it was not beauty that distinguished these women for, like our own founders, all were middle-aged or older. No, it was a high order of intelligence, grace, tact and influence that enabled them to assemble in their salons men and women of wit and wisdom.

As Cyril Connolly, in the foreword of his book *Les Pavillons*, explains the philosophy of the Salon from which we derived ours: "They regarded making life pleasant for each other as an end in itself — and politeness as a vocation."

Freedom of discussion was the rule, provided it did not ever exceed the bounds of good manners or good taste.

Edward Gibbon in 1777, in a passage applauding the Salons of Paris as "the perfection of that inestimable art which softens and refines and embellishes the intercourse of social life," sounded strangely like the words framed by our own founders.

Hear then the similarity in our purposes contained in our Charter, Article IV:

To keep alive the love of the old traditions of New Orleans and where possible to keep and preserve old historic buildings to promote enjoyment, harmony, refinement of manners and intellectual improvements, and to revive, promote and continue the pleasant intercourse of the Salon, which give grace and brilliancy to the old society of this City

Truly, Edward Gibbon could not have said it better!

Le Petit Salon was legally chartered on December 31, 1924, just a little over two months after its first glowing meeting of organization.

The original charter was signed by Miss Grace King, Mrs. George B. Penrose, Mrs. A. Sidney White, Mrs. Lamar Quintero, Mrs. Walter Flower, Mrs. Frank B. Williams, Miss Emma Zacharie, Mrs. W. E. Weeks, Mrs. Roydan Douglas, Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr., Mrs. Abraham Goldberg (later, Mrs. Eberhard Deutsch), Mrs. Mark Kaiser, Mrs. Joseph Simmons, Miss Annie R. King (sister of Grace King), Mrs. James McKee, Mrs. L. D. Kennard (who became the first chairman of the executive committee), Mrs. Harry Howard, and Mrs. Joseph Haspel.

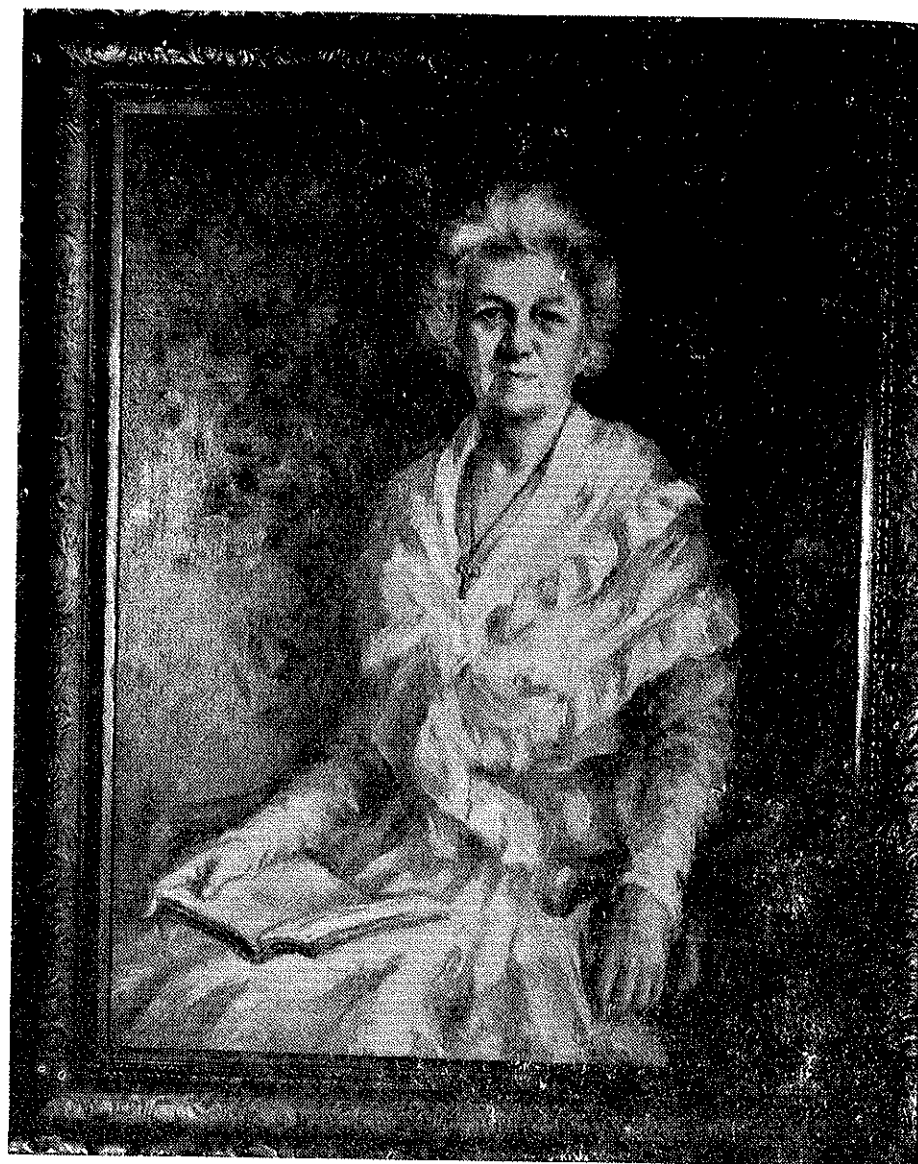
From this group was to be selected our first Board of Governors with the addition of Mrs. Benjamin Gallant, Mrs. Paul Jahnoke, Mrs. John Dibert, Mrs. Paul Michinard, Mrs. A. J. Stallings, Mrs. Joseph Devereaux, Mrs. Randall Dugue, Mrs. Christian Schertz, Mrs. James Thompson, Mrs. E. V. Benjamin, and Mrs. James A. Peuch.

A formidable list of names!

They were not women's libbers, either. The original advisory board consisted of three *men*: Mr. Lynn Dinkins, Mr. Henry Garic, Mr. Charles Gostenhoffer.

It was not long before Miss Ellis of *The Times-Picayune* was writing ecstatically again on her society page:

Tucked away down in St. Peter Street is Le Petit Salon . . . the *new* club, you know, of course — with its special Thursday meetings becoming real factors among things that count in the world of 'worthwhiles'. The whole block is simply frothing with atmosphere, the low closely-built houses stretching trim and neat in their fancy-colored new paint and the iron gateways opening into the most picturesque of courtyards. Such a spot is the unpretentious but fascinating home of Le Petit Salon, which has just opened its doors but which has "I am going to grow, I am going to count" written all over it. . . . to those who can read the writing on the wall. Miss Grace King, the noted authoress, was presiding last Thursday . . . and as many more of the charter members were all arranging and deciding about plans for the Club's regular activities to soon begin. The Salon is very lucky in its president and officers, is it not? And it will be a 'center' this season . . . just watch! A part of its social life will be the musical and literary Thursday



Miss Grace King
Le Petit Salon's First President
from the portrait by Edith Duncan

afternoons and the informal gatherings after the opening performances each month at the Little Theater for tea.

These informal gatherings after the opening performances of Le Petit Théâtre became a long-standing custom.

An early inventory of the Salon's first quarters does bear out that it was indeed "unpretentious," as Miss Ellis put it. A sampling: 1 large mirror (loaned by Mrs. Marcus Feingold), 1 Baby Grand piano (loaned by Mrs. Albert Godchaux), 1 art square (this with a notation: stolen but we were refunded by insurance \$37.50), 4 yellow domestic curtains, 24 green folding chairs, 6 walnut chairs, 4 convent benches, 15 water glasses, 25 punch cups and 1 punch bowl.

But being limited to one punch bowl and a mere 25 punch cups could never stop our founders! They might have had 4 yellow domestic curtains at the windows but oh! the company they kept inside! Listen:

November 6, 1924: "Special guests for the usual afternoon at the Salon will be Count and Countess Endree Zichey of New York, formerly of the Imperial Court of Vienna."

On November 15, 1924: "The special guests of honor for the afternoon were Miss Georgine Campbell of New York and Washington, noted miniature painter; Dusolina Gioanini, noted singer who was heard here in concert Tuesday, and Miss Meta Schumann, Madame's accompanist."

On December 3rd: "And after the Little Theatre performance Monday evening, Le Petit Salon, the new club which has opened with so much aplomb and charm kept 'open house'. Following the play, *The Yellow Jacket*, members wended their way over to the cozy quarters with its general air of quaintness and fascination. The club rooms were bright with flowers and the warming fires in the little open grates—and in the library was the tea table lovely with a basket of roses and pretty old-fashioned settings."

The first report that Mrs. W. E. Weeks, chairman of the House Committee, gave to the Board of Governors demonstrates the rare, right-to-the-penny policy that would come down through the years:

Opening tea: 80 in attendance—Cost, \$14.50. There were 5 night parties, 24 Thursday teas with an average of 55 in attendance. In all, according to Mrs. Weeks' report, that first year, they fed 1,650 ladies for \$144.50 averaging, as Mrs. Weeks pointed out, 9¢ per person.

It was inevitable that the newly-formed Salon, originally limited

to 150 members, would grow quickly out of its small quarters at 714 St. Peter Street. By Spring, the officers were all house-hunting.

A letter written by Miss Grace King to Mrs. Christian Schertz, which is now in the possession of Mr. J. Waldo Pitkin, the nephew of Mrs. Schertz, tells in charming fashion what Miss King and the ladies were up to that Spring of '25. The letter, typewritten on standard typewriter paper, follows in its entirety:

Date: March 21, 1925

Dear Mrs. Schertz:

I am going to imitate you as to paper and writing at a tremendous distance behind you as to writing as you will see.

Your report is splendid and I am excited over it. The "Hotel," as it should be called, of the Marquis de Vaudreuil [sic] is by long odds the most desirable, to my notion, even if our richest member, Mrs. F. W., cannot go upstairs. It is a bargain at \$20,000. We could call ourselves Le Salon de Vaudreuil [sic], the *petit* Salon being inappropriate, the name alone is worth money as well as historically valuable. I shall go down and look at the upstairs early next week and shall certainly endorse it as a selection.

Gayarre never had a home on Barracks Street, I remember him in an apartment on Barracks and Dauphine but that is as far as I can go to oblige Sherwood Anderson.

I am afraid our ladies are going to prove rebellious to the notion of issuing stock or assuming any liabilities whatever — as far as I know all want the Grima House at a small rental.

Please go on and frame a proposition that we could consider, I mean a financial proposition.

I have just telephoned Mrs. White. She is opposed to any buying, wants to rent the drawing room of the Grima House, but she has promised to go look at the Hotel and report on it. I suppose married women have to consult husbands and they are not free to assume obligations. Poor things! She will call a meeting in Passion Week, but will submit your report only to the officers of the Salon. Thanking you heartily for your good work, Cordially yours,
Grace King

[Note: Undoubtedly, the Marquis to whom Miss King refers in her letter was the Marquis de Vaudreuil, the famous French nobleman who came to New Orleans as Governor in the 1750's and whose regime is recognized as the beginning of the fashionable life in New Orleans. We cannot be certain what house Miss King has in mind here for the Vaudreuil house, according to Lyle Saxon, was destroyed by fire in 1788 and was on the site of the Court of The Two Sisters at 613 Royal Street.]

Despite the fears of Miss King that her ladies were going to be rebellious about buying a building or issuing stock, by August it was a *fait accompli*!

On August 10, 1925, the record shows Le Petit Salon purchased through the Liberty Homestead Association for \$13,500.00 its permanent home — 620 St. Peter Street, adjoining Le Petit Théâtre. It secured the services of Armstrong and Koch, Architects, to restore the old building for \$8,076.59, making a total cost of \$21,576.59 (this did not include all improvements to the courtyard, nor the furnishings).

On August 31, 1925 — just 21 days after the purchase — and eight months after it had been chartered — the Salon amended its Charter: "Be it known that on this 31st day of August, Judith Hyams Douglas, a notary public, personally came and appeared . . ." Her purpose was to amend Article III pertaining to membership. Now it would read: "The capital stock of this corporation shall be twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) divided into 800 shares of the par value of twenty-five dollars." At this point, members were allowed — *encouraged*, really — to purchase as many as 10 shares each as an attractive investment. The membership had then reached 350. (Today it is limited to 330.)

Miss Grace King had overruled her rebellious cohorts! Le Petit Salon had not only a treasure of a house but had issued stock, and a new phase of its life had thus begun.

Samuel Wilson, Junior, well-known architect, historian and preservationist, in writing a brief on this house, gives the following testimonial:

To these ladies [of Le Petit Salon] . . . belongs the distinction of having taken the first steps in the restoration and rehabilitation of the Vieux Carre. One of the most significant acts to save the architectural heritage of New Orleans, by adapting its crumbling old buildings to new and compatible uses, was the purchase in 1925 of the fine old Greek Revival residence that had been built here in 1838 by the successful hardware merchant, Victor David.

Victor David is thought to have been one of the numerous groups of Frenchmen who immigrated to the United States in the wake of the fall of Napoleon. He arrived in New Orleans at some time before 1819, we know, for in that year he was married in St. Louis Cathedral

to Anne Rabasa in a ceremony performed by the fabled pastor Perè Antoine.

David's business in hardware soon made him wealthy, a prominent citizen of the city living in a comfortable house at 57 Bourbon. But he and his wife, wishing something more elegant, bought, in 1837, a lot in the most stylish part of town in sight of the fashionable Place d'Armes, and adjacent to the Pontalba-Miro Mansion that was later to become Le Petit Théâtre.

The resulting house he built is considered by authorities to be Greek Revival at its best, one of the most exquisitely designed houses in the city.

Edith Elliott Long, local historian, describes it thus in her story on our house which appeared in the March 30, 1965, issue of the *Vieux Carre Courier*:

This elegant confection is an aristocrat from its substantial English basement to its delicately detailed cornice. Slim and tall, it fairly exudes assurance And well it might for without a doubt this glorious building has remained intact and faithful to its original design because of the few and lengthy periods of its ownership and because of the distinguished calibre of its owners.

As far as can be ascertained, the house in its history has had only one threatening moment of destruction: on December 24, 1861. *The Picayune* reported on that day:

Mystery surrounded a mid-week fire in the garret, long shut up, of the fine residence of Mr. Victor David, hardware merchant, 42 St. Peter Street, between Chartres and Royal, just opposite the Arsenal — where a great quantity of cartridges, rounds and gunpowder was stored. While firemen were putting out the fire, some volunteer civilians undertook to carry boxes of powder from the Arsenal to the armory of the Orleans Guards on Orleans — *this* through a lane full of people, many of whom were smoking. The Guards returning from Drill on the Levee took over the task, forming a double line between the two places, passing the boxes from man to man and afterwards (after the fire) returning the powder to the Arsenal.

The house is made of imported red brick, four and a half stories high and only three windows wide but elegantly proportioned. Granite columns support the first floor gallery which is approached from the street by a winding cast-iron stairway. The galleries, or balconies, have always been considered one of the finest features of the house.

The wrought-iron railing on each floor is of a different pattern, the fourth floor having the most unusual, the crossed-arrow pattern.

This brings up a most entertaining fact about the house: One of our present members, Mrs. Ernest Villere, is Victor David's great-great-granddaughter. She tells a story about the balconies that, although not documented, is so charming that it earns a right to be repeated. Mrs. Villere recalls that Mrs. Bryan Bell once told her the reason for the differences in the ironwork of the balconies was because Mr. David had three daughters and he allowed each to choose her pattern. One wished a bow-and-arrow pattern and, when it arrived, it had the French version: delicately-crossed arrows tied together with a graceful French bowknot. A legend, if not fact, that should be preserved!

The plaque on the outside of the building was presented by Mrs. James J. Flotte, Junior and Mrs. William J. Wright, also descendants of Victor David.

By December, Armstrong and Koch had completed the renovations and the ladies were busily planning for the opening reception. An inventory of the expenses turned in by indefatigable Mrs. Weeks, chairman of the House Committee, gives insight into the frantic preparations that must have been involved in getting everything in readiness:

(From her report)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1 man — for 6 days at \$3 a day | \$18.00 |
| 1 man — for 4 days at \$3 a day | 12.00 |
| Cleaning out the attic | 8.00 |
| Moving trash — 3 loads | 9.00 |
| Moving all the furniture upstairs | 6.00 |

Oriental rugs were lent by Dombourian. Mrs. LeGrand Crumb lent curtains and draperies — and the tea table itself was borrowed from Waldhorn!

But the opening tea was a smashing success on December 3, 1925. Mrs. Weeks happily reported:

The opening tea was given on December 3rd. Full membership attended (about 250 were present). Mrs. E. E. Richardson and Mrs. Leon Gibert poured tea. We served 750 sandwiches, 350 cakes, 4 pounds of candy, 3½ gallons of coffee, 2 pounds of pecans and about one million biscuits!

She then makes the notation, typical of her reports, that it cost "an average of 14¢ a person"!

A mere 14¢ never bought so much! The Thursday afternoons that followed came brilliantly one after another, golden afternoons, bringing with them a collection of the Beau Monde.

From the start, a register was kept at the door for guests to sign with addresses and a notation "introduced by" — a charming custom that has, sad to say, gone by the board, for it was an indelible record of people who have come and gone at Le Petit Salon.

From Paris and Rome and New York, from *everywhere* came guests through the years: from General Maud Ballington Booth, founder and commander-in-chief of the Volunteers of America, to Prince Matchabelli to Oliver LaFarge to Sherwood Anderson to Dr. Peter Marshall, the famous preacher, to Tennessee Williams, who it is noted was "unable to make a speech but consented to say a few words." There is even a small card with the inscription: "In memory of a happy visit to New Orleans and to the charming Le Petit Salon, [Signed] Eleanor Roosevelt."

At first, programs and guests were confined to the drawing room floor — the other floors, including the present auditorium, were apartments bringing in much-needed revenue.

From Alice Montana, our present housemaid, came unexpected information about those first programs held in the drawing room. Noticed at the bottom of one of Mrs. Weeks' faithful house reports was the notation: "Present Maids, Pauline Jackson [now deceased] and Alice Montana." Although Alice herself is no longer certain how long she has been employed here, by means of this report it is computed that she has been a maid at the Salon for 48 years.

Alice remembers those meetings well. The piano, she recalls, was placed by the front window in the drawing room. There was a small platform provided for the speaker or performing artist. Alice recalls that she and Pauline each week brought the folding chairs up from the ground floor, where they were stored, and arranged them informally around — salon-like — in the drawing room and dining room. They took them down immediately following the program to make room for tea.

Old clippings bear out that there was nearly always music of some kind to accompany the programs, sometimes resulting in a most unusual double-billing combination. For example: "This Thursday afternoon there will be a talk on 'Aristotle and the Human Soul' with songs by Miss Wolfe." "Mr. Sheppard will speak on 'The Im-





The Drawing Room – Another View

pact of Relief Problems on Local Government' followed by songs by Mr. Theodore Montegut."

Often the performers were the Salon's own members. There were Miss Jessie Tharp and Mrs. Helen Pitkin Schentz and Mrs. Eberhard Deutsch and Mrs. Allen Johness, Sr., and others, all noted thespians from next door, talented enough to provide entertainment—a charming reading or an excerpt from a play—at the drop of a flowered hat. "Mrs. Eberhard Deutsch gave the program this afternoon at Le Petit Salon—she recited poems to the music of Edward McDowell and Liszt, an old English ballad to music by Brahms, and two poems by Robert Browning, accompanied by Professor Squires of Centenary College who came to New Orleans especially for the occasion."

Oh, how delightful and gay must have been those gatherings! And how they dressed for them! Early newspaper photographs show them in their furs and chiffons and crêpe de Chine and their gloves and their inevitable hats. Odes could be written to the hats alone! And above it all, the French language flowed as delightfully and as deliciously as the afternoon tea.

The meager furnishings brought from the first headquarters were not long in being followed by other more pretentious and suitable pieces as devoted, generous members from the start—and through the years—donated and bequeathed antique furniture and objets d'art.

Of the original furnishings from the 714 St. Peter Street address, only a few pieces remain today: five high-backed chairs with cane seats and four convent benches that were originally used in the old Ursuline Convent on Chartres Street.

The two large chandeliers of hand-painted Sevres porcelain and bronze that dominate the dining room and drawing room have a fascinating history. They came from the girlhood home of our former president, Mrs. William T. West. Her father, Mr. Henry Fay Baldwin, acquired them from the old Tilton home on Canal Street, moved them to his handsome residence at 1020 Esplanade Avenue, a house built by Gallier and a wedding present to the first wife of General P. T. Beauregard. The chandeliers bring happy memories to Mrs. West for it was beneath them that she danced in 1910, the year she made her debut and was Queen of the Carnival. From the stand-

point of year of reign, Mrs. West today enjoys the distinction of being the oldest living Queen of Carnival.

Also, in the drawing room, is a handsome needlepoint screen from the same Tilton house, a gift of Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster, another of our esteemed past presidents. This screen was hand-worked by Mrs. Tilton and given to Mrs. Brewster's mother-in-law as a wedding gift.

The 34-year-old will of Madame George de Montrond reveals the source of the main pieces of the drawing room:

This is my last will and testament my estate consists partly of assets inherited by me from my husband who had previously inherited same from his sister, Mrs. Clotilde de Montrond Bassetti [one of the Salon's early members]. For that reason, the following bequest

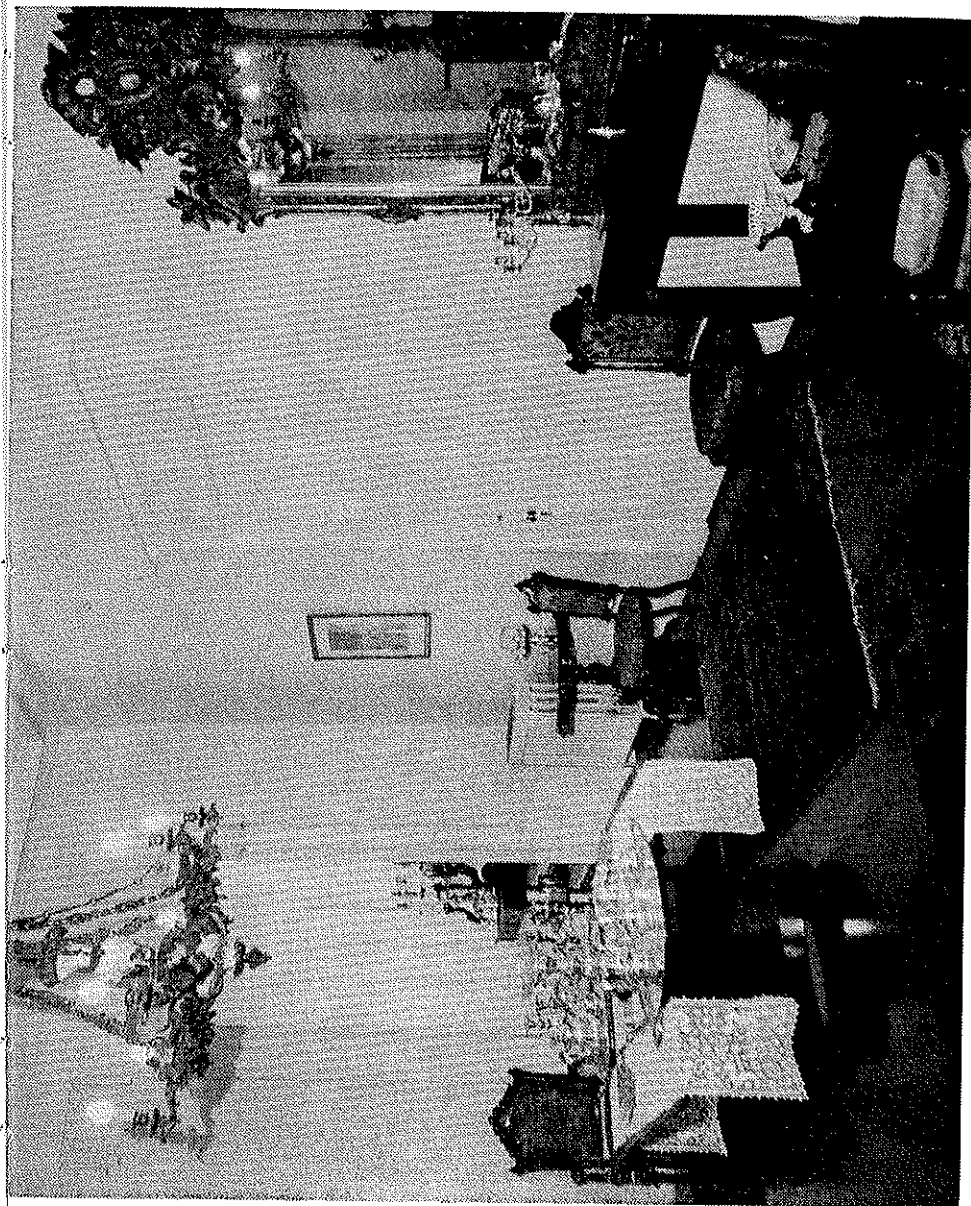
I leave and bequeath to Le Petit Salon, a social club of New Orleans, my share of stock therein and also

- a. The Mallard Rosewood parlor set
- b. The genuine Boule desk and chair
- c. Oval mirror and gilt, green marble top table carved to match mirror and bronzes on said table
- d. Two matching mantel mirrors
- e. 5 hand made lace and embroidered window panels* made in Belgium, and the two lace and embroidered banquet sets
- f. Silver pitcher on buffet in dining room, and the three silver trays. Also all cups and saucers in pantry — all as contained at the time of my death at the residence, 1839 Esplanade Avenue.

I request that all the foregoing be accepted in memory of Mrs. Attilius Bassetti and Madeline Bassetti whose property it was, and I further request that no part thereof be sold.

In the dining room is the handsome rosewood set consisting of two settees, two armchairs and six side chairs, belonging once to Pierre Soulé and used by him when he was U.S. Ambassador to Spain. They are particularly interesting for the musical motif on the frames: charming still lifes of musical instruments, each one different. This set was given to the Salon by Mr. Walter G. Weiss.

*Mrs. Bassetti and her daughter, Madeline, bought the material for the window panels mentioned in the will and embroidered them by hand, having learned the art abroad in Italy. The panels finally disintegrated and were replaced.



The Dining Room

The Gobelin tapestry that hangs in the hall was given by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Gilmer (Dorothy Dix). Nearby a bookcase contains a collection of rare books, many of them first editions and out-of-print works of Miss Grace King, George Washington Cable, and the like.

The portrait of Dorothy Dix was painted by our honorary member, Miss Ella Miriam Wood, and given by her to Le Petit Salon. The gilt-frame portrait of Madame de Pompadour once belonged to Mrs. Marcus Feingold.

In the auditorium, the Steinway piano was a gift of Mrs. I. I. Lemann, and the wall clock, very old, originally hung in the first Chess, Checkers and Whist Club and was used until that club went out of existence. It was given to the Salon by the late Mrs. J. B. Donnes, once the Salon's historian. Even the loud speaker system was donated — by present member, Mrs. Roy B. Harrison.

The fountain in the courtyard was a gift of Mrs. Frederick W. Hull in 1926.

Our history so far has spoken of places, events and furnishings, but what now of the handful of women who have guided the Salon since its beginning?

In the front hall, on a plaque directly opposite the Founders Plaque, is one that bears four names only. It says

IN MEMORIAM Miss Grace King,
President
Mrs. E. M. Gilmer (Dorothy Dix),
President
Mrs. Arthur Nolte,
First Vice-President
Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr.,
Chairman of the Board

In a way it is symbolic for the names of *three* of these four could be called the Great Triumvirate of the early days of Le Petit Salon: Miss King, Mrs. Gilmer and Mrs. Buck. And the fourth, Mrs. Nolte, the program chairman for many years and a guiding spirit, was a woman so dedicated that, it is said, even in her last hours she spoke endearingly of the Salon.

Nothing could have provided the young and budding Salon with more *éclat*, assurance of status and success, than having the noted

author, historian, essayist, novelist Miss Grace King presiding as its first president from the date of its founding until she died in 1932.

The literary protégée of Charles Gayarre, noted historian, who was to be her lifelong inspiration, Miss King as a very young woman began to contribute to leading American magazines. Her urge to write, she often said, came from her feeling of loyalty to the South that was so badly represented in literature; she received her greatest pleasure from knowing that in her lifetime the South had progressed to the forefront in contemporary American literature.

When she took office as president of Le Petit Salon, she was at the height of her career—the *grande dame* of New Orleans—with not only local fame but international prestige and recognition. She had already written the most beautiful stories of Creole life: *Creole Families of New Orleans*, *Balcony Stories*, and *New Orleans: The Place and the People*. She had been decorated by the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of England and had had a Doctor of Letters degree conferred upon her as early as 1915 by Tulane University. She was the friend of literary greats such as George Washington Cable, Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, and of Lyle Saxon who, at her death, was to say, "Grace King was our greatest writer and our greatest woman."

A card, solemnly edged in black, issued when she died at the age of 78 in 1932, simply states, "Members of Le Petit Salon will meet in the Parish House of Trinity Church to honor its late president at 3."

Mrs. Charles F. Buck's tribute to Grace King at that time was "She was more than a president. She was a friend and counsellor to each lady in our group Le Petit Salon has lost its guiding star."

On November 29, 1951, on the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Grace King, a special commemorative service was held at 3 p.m. at the Salon. John Hall Jacobs, city librarian at the time, and Dr. Garland Taylor, Tulane University librarian, spoke in tribute to her memory as did two of her most intimate friends, Mrs. Roydan Douglas and John S. Kendall, Tulane professor.

But if Miss King were, indeed, *King*—or *Queen*, or *royalty*—then, to preserve the analogy further, Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr., as Chairman of the Board, would have to be designated as the Prime Minister!

Named Miss Citizen U.S.A. by Mayor deLesseps Morrison, in 1952, the year she died, Mrs. Buck was until her death a moving force in the community. Chairman for 30 years of the women's volunteer services of the American Red Cross, Co-Chairman with Will Rogers for the Relief Fund for Citizens of the 1927 Mississippi River Flood, President of the New Orleans Symphony, Chairman of the Women's Guild of the New Orleans Opera Association and recipient of *The Times-Picayune* Loving Cup Award as a super citizen, Mrs. Buck somehow still had time to "run the show" at the Salon. "The great and only one of her species," Dorothy Dix proclaimed her. Her daughter, Mrs. George J. Mayer, presently carries on the continuity as a valued member of the Salon's Board of Governors.

Mrs. Buck continued to be the very active Chairman of the Board when Mrs. Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer (better known to millions as Dorothy Dix) became the second president of the Salon upon the death of Miss King in 1932. It is believed to be the *only* office she ever held in her many years and friends explained that it took considerable persuasion to get her to agree to accept the position.

An old letter to Mrs. Marcus Feingold in 1942 would bear this out:

Dear Mrs. Feingold:

I still think it would be better for the Salon to have a president who could give to it more time and service than I can but if the members still desire to honor me with that high office, I shall feel that I am drafted and have no choice but to accept the compliment.

[Signed] Dorothy Dix

It is probably not necessary to say to anyone who pre-dates Ann Landers that Dorothy Dix was one of the most widely-known women columnists of her generation and one of the great sob-sisters of the 1900's.

She began her career when Mrs. Eliza Jane Nicholson, owner and editor of the old *Times-Picayune*, bought one of her stories for three silver dollars. It was William Randolph Hearst, looking for journalistic talent, who spotted Mrs. Gilmer's work in the *Picayune* and hired her then and there for his *New York Journal*. Her first murder trial story was the sensation of the decade: she covered the Stanford White slaying and soon became the best-known girl reporter

of murder trials in the nation. This fact caused one judge to comment, "Dorothy Dix has arrived; the trial may now proceed!"

In those days, it was the practice of women reporters to adopt pen names. Mrs. Gilmer, in explaining hers, said that she chose *Dorothy* because it sounded sensible and not mushy. Her last name she derived from a family servant on the Tennessee plantation where she was born. He was always called "Mr. Dicks" by the family. On the spur of the moment, she added his name — spelled Dix — to Dorothy and the new nom de plume, Dorothy Dix, exploded on the American journalism scene.

Mrs. Gilmer once told a friend the reason she chose the love-lorn line: "I thought a long time about it and then it came to me that everything in the world has been written about women and for women, except the truth."

During Mrs. Gilmer's regime, the elevator in the back solarium was installed, an occasion for a letter to Mrs. Buck that demonstrates the sharp wit and humor that was to make up the Dorothy Dix legend.

It was written on August 5, 1948, from Battery Park Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina:

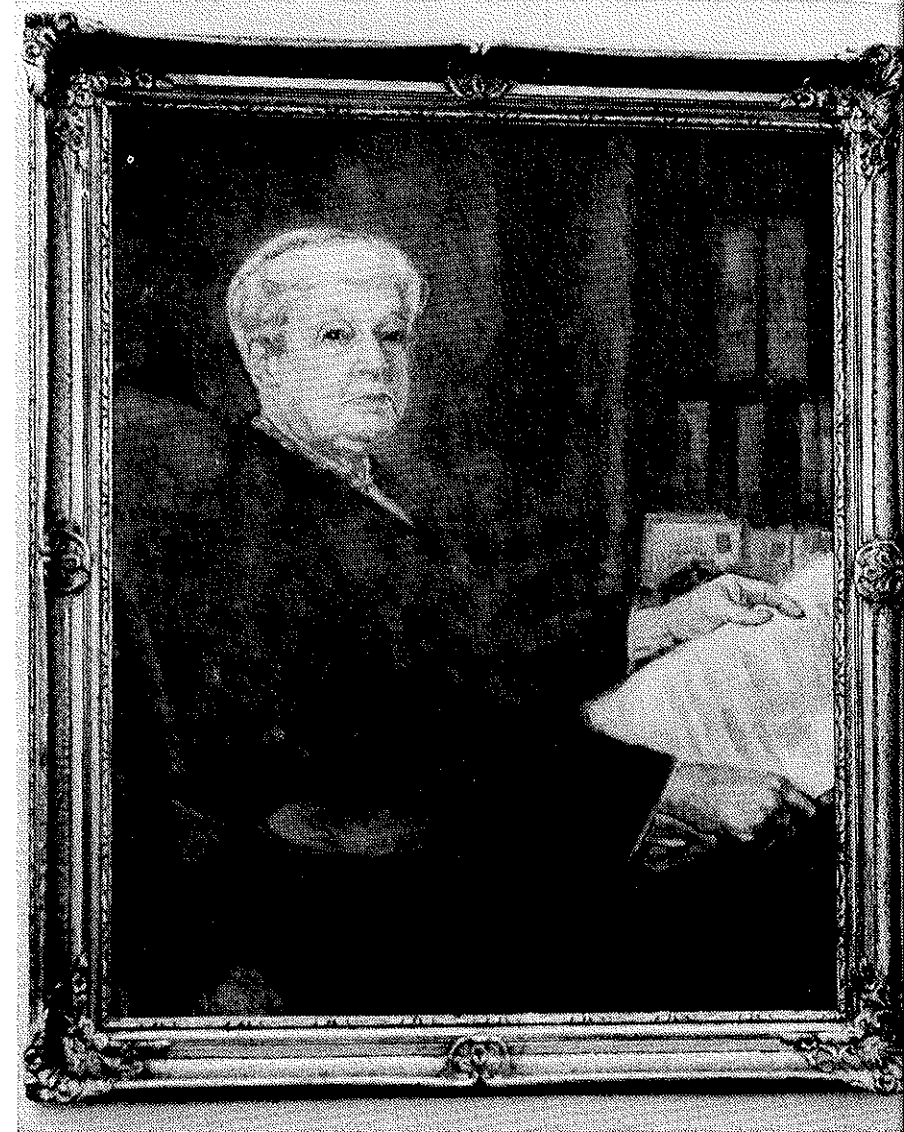
Dear Mrs. Buck:

A rumor is going the rounds that there is a plan on foot to erect a baby elevator in Le Petit Salon that will have a carrying capacity of only three passengers at a time. At this rate of speed, it would take a couple of days, more or less, to get our audiences upstairs, which makes the idea so absurd that it may be dismissed as just part of the gossip that makes the aura of any club.

More untenable, in my humble opinion, is the suggestion of running the elevator through the dressing room and pantry as this would hopelessly handicap the maids in serving the refreshments which appear to be highly relished by our guests. We have recently equipped our service department, as you know, with a frigidaire, and cabinets, and it seems to be a pity to disturb such a perfect setup and still further slow down our waitresses for lack of elbow room.

So far as I can see our only recourse is to build a shaft in the patio which may not be ornamental, but would be practical. But I set myself up as no authority on the matter, and you and Mrs. Frierson, who is the efficient chairman of the Stock and Building Committee, can talk it over when she gets home.

I hate very much to even make a suggestion to you as



Mrs. Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer (Dorothy Dix)

*from the portrait
by Ella Miriam Wood*

you are so clear-sighted and efficient and I would like very much to have your opinion on this subject which is so vital to our beloved club. With appreciation and admiration always for you, Dorothy Dix

(Mrs. Gilmer ended by donating \$5,000 toward the elevator and the rest of the amount was donated by Mrs. Cecil Guy Robinson and Mrs. Roy B. Harrison.)

Mrs. Gilmer was president of the Salon for almost twenty years. During that time she was a drawing card for all guests who clamored for an invitation to Thursday afternoons at the Salon where the great Dorothy Dix graciously presided.

In 1946, over 200 members of the Salon with their friends gave a gala luncheon at the Roosevelt Hotel to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of her column. Mrs. Nolte, on behalf of the Salon, presented her with a golden pen.

She died on December 16, 1951, at age 90 and memorial services for her were held at the Salon on that Thursday (the 27th) at 3 p.m., attended by Salon members and the Gilmer family. Services included the reading of a poem by Mrs. Stanley Arthur, her longtime friend and personal secretary, a talk by George W. Healy, editor of *The Times-Picayune*, and a spoken tribute by Herman Deutsch, the columnist, who at that time proposed that Audubon Park officials set aside as a memorial to her a triangular plot of ground, which her Exposition Boulevard home faced, with the marker: Dorothy Dix Memorial Garden — a suggestion that did not materialize.

With Mrs. Gilmer's passing, the mantle of the presidency fell becomingly on the shoulders of Miss Mary Wing Tebo whose background and experience in club leadership were in the tradition of the two outstanding women who had preceded her. "Miss Mary," as many of the present members of the Salon knew her, presided over the Salon for six years, becoming Honorary President when Mrs. William Tompkins West became president in 1958. Miss Mary Tebo was Honorary President until she died — at the age of 92.

To this date, the Salon has had only eight presidents in all, rather remarkable for an organization in its fiftieth year. Of the five presidents who followed Miss Mary Tebo, all, happily enough, are living presidents and as such are not history but very much in the present.

A few words about each will recall their administrations:

First, *Mrs. William T. West*, who became President in 1958, served a term of five years. During her term, she recalls, "with fear and trembling," she and the Board increased the dues. "Since 1924," she wrote to members, "Your Salon has maintained a home on the meagre dues of \$10 a member" The increase was to twenty-five dollars.

Gracious *Mrs. Lawrence Himel* took office in 1963 and was the first president to serve under the new ruling of the Board, limiting the presidential term to 3 years.

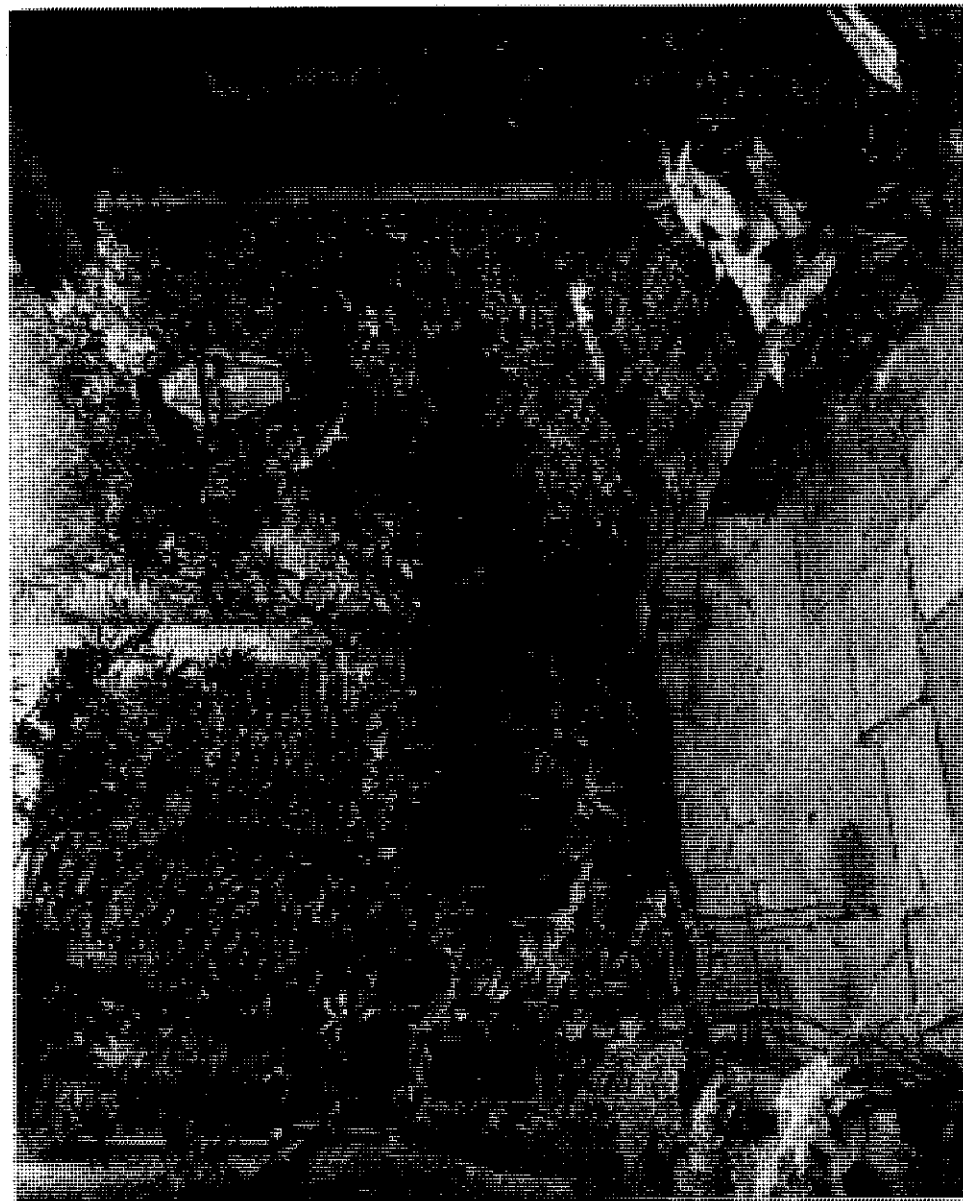
The wit and charm of *Mrs. Charles T. Henley*, a South Carolinian by birth, guided the Salon through smooth waters from 1966 to 1969.

She was succeeded by capable, energetic *Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster* (1969-1972), who will go down in Salon history as the president who, instead of raising the roof, saved the roof by raising the dues. Her administration almost doubled the dues from \$25 to \$40, the amount at which they presently stand, in order to repair the roof and preserve the historic building.

This brings us to our present leader, *Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown* (1972-75), whose fine executive ability gives her an admirable capacity for leading the Salon and makes her a worthy heir to an illustrious line of presidents. During Mrs. Brown's administration, a new policy governing life membership has been established. This provides for the Board of Governors to bestow the honor of Life Membership each year upon a limited number of members who have reached the age of 80 or over and who, in the opinion of the Board, qualify by merit of their past interest in and service to the organization.

And what of the other prominent women who have been members of Le Petit Salon during its 50 years? If, as Thomas Carlyle stated, "History is the essence of innumerable biographies," then the history of the Salon becomes in itself a recording of the history of some of the most outstanding of New Orleans women during the last half-century.

Who can forget some of these vital women who have departed but have left something of themselves in this Salon as well as in this community? Mrs. A. J. Stallings, member of the original Board



The Courtward

of Governors, known as the "Mother of the Playground System," who donated more than \$100,000 to charity to give this city its first playground, The Poydras Playground; Miss Natalie Scott, who wrote *Old Plantation Homes in Louisiana* and was also the author of six cookbooks; Miss Corinne Mayer, the grand pioneer of New Orleans music; Mrs. J. Oscar Nixon, founder of Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré; Miss Alberta Kinsey, who lived in the Myra Clark Gaines House at 823 Royal, who painted virtually every patio in the Vieux Carré and was one of the pioneers of French Quarter restoration; Miss Flo Field, another early preservationist and an honorary member, who wrote a well-known play, *A La Creole*, which was produced at Le Petit Théâtre in 1927, a newspaperwoman and blithe spirit who came to the Salon's receptions and teas up until her death at St. Anna's a short time ago; or Mrs. LeGrand J. Crumb, another vital preservationist and one of the organizers of the Spring Fiesta.

Who could leave out Mrs. Marcus Feingold, who, like her predecessor, Mrs. Arthur Nolte, year after year assumed the difficult task of arranging and presenting programs from November to May? or Mrs. Stanley Arthur, the witty, confidential secretary to Dorothy Dix and author herself of such books as *My Husband Keeps Telling Me to Go to Hell* and co-author with Harnett Kane of *Dear Dorothy Dix?* or Mrs. George Frierson, the devoted Building and Stock Chairman, keeper of the house for year upon year until she died? or Mrs. Elbert Lyman, Mrs. Furman Pearce, Mrs. St. Denis Villere, all officers and ardent workers? Or finally Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall, board member, who died in December, 1973, and whose memorial is the little Salon courtyard which she tended so diligently even when years encroached upon her?

It is part of the continuity of life that life rushes in to fill the vacancies caused by death and so today, among our present members, we find the same talent and devotion that keep coming on to revitalize Le Petit Salon. To enumerate these by name now would be to leave history and to trespass upon the present where history is being made. They must be left to be chronicled by some future Salon historian.

As for the Honorary Members who have occasionally been honored here, it is interesting to note that the lofty standards for such an honor were set long ago during the first days of the Salon by a woman, oddly enough, who refused the honor! She was Miss Annie King, sister of Grace King, whose letter was found among old papers.

It was dated April 29, 1933, and edged in black, a sign of mourning for her famous sister:

My dear Mrs. Haspel:

I received your card of April 22 some time ago but waited to consider it, before answering. During my long connection with the Salon—I was one of the original board—I have never known Honorary Membership bestowed on anyone who had not achieved local fame in Literature, Art, Music, or in the education of the girls of New Orleans. I cannot lay claim to any one of these outstanding merits. Therefore I feel compelled to do a most unprecedented thing—decline an Honour.

The only privilege I do ask is to be allowed to continue a member of the Salon, which never failed to express appreciation of its first President . . . Very Sincerely,

[Signed] Annie R. King

It must be recorded here, too, that the Salon has had one male honorary member. His name was William Henry Fulham, a playwright and poet who was active at the theatre next door and a devoted friend to many of the Salon's founders. He wrote *To My Husband*, a play that ran on Broadway, and a charming one-act play entitled, *Will You Marry Me?* which was presented here in the early days by Mrs. Allen H. Johness, Senior.

Charles L. "Pie" Dufour reported in his column that in honor of the occasion of Grace King's 100th Anniversary, William Fulham, poet and playwright, had composed a Vilanelle—a poem with five three-line stanzas ending in a quatrain:

*As fine as a gossamer lace
So modest — yet so debonair
We love, who remember her face
A lady of letters named Grace!*

A gentle footnote to Mr. Fulham appears in the minutes of the Board meeting of April 9, 1965 — an excerpt that gives insight as well into what the business and spirit of this unique organization, the Salon, are all about:

Mrs. Luther Hall, the financial secretary, had no report. However, she did read a beautiful poem entitled "Blessings on our Home," authored by our one gentleman honorary member, Mr. William H. Fulham.

He died shortly afterwards (in 1966) at age 71.

Finally, fellow members, here we are this year in celebration of the 50th year of Le Petit Salon. In the half-century since its founding, many things have changed. With regret we note that all the organizers — the charter members, the first officers, and members of the first Board of Governors — are gone. In reviewing the list of past officers and Boards of Governors through the years, we find with dismay how many have passed away.

Yet the mansion that Victor David built in 1838 still stands secure and the Salon, remarkably well-preserved for age fifty, still entertains at its famous Thursday afternoons.

By tradition, in 1974, we continue much as our founders did in 1924. After the weekly programs, we go up for tea — some by the narrow winding stairway that once our richest member would have found impossible to climb; others by the elevator over which Dorothy Dix fretted and finally built.

Upstairs, by tradition, we expect and find the candles always lighted, the flowers arranged, the silver — gifts of departed members, Mrs. Leo J. Burthe and Mrs. George Frierson, and others — always glowingly polished. By tradition, we have our cups of tea beneath the chandeliers under which Mrs. West, our former president, once danced, our images all the while reflected by the mirrors of Mrs. deMontrond and Mrs. Bassetti, under the watchful eyes of the portraits of the illustrious and adored Grace King and Dorothy Dix.

By tradition, you see!

Hear again the words of our Founders:

The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established are declared to be:

To keep alive the love of the old traditions of New Orleans — where possible to keep and preserve old historic buildings — to revive, promote, and continue the pleasant intercourse of the Salon which give grace and brilliancy to the old Society of this city

Fifty years ago, our founders wrote the above and left us a golden legacy and a great responsibility. With the stroke of a pen, they made us — for all times — *traditionalists!*

G. K. Chesterton defined it very well:

"Tradition does not mean that the living are dead but that the dead are alive!"

FOUNDERS

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr. | Mrs. George B. Penrose |
| Mrs. Roydan Douglas | Mrs. William E. Weeks |
| Mrs. Joseph Haspel | Mrs. A. Sidney White |

MEMBERS WHO SIGNED THE ORIGINAL CHARTER OF LE PETIT SALON

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Miss Grace King, President | Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr. |
| Mrs. George B. Penrose | Mrs. Abraham Goldberg |
| Mrs. Albert Sidney White | (lator, Mrs. Eberhard Deutsch) |
| Mrs. Lamar Quintero | Mrs. Mark Kaiser |
| Mrs. Walter Flower | Mrs. Joseph Simmons |
| Mrs. Frank B. Williams | Miss Annie R. King |
| Miss Emma Zacharie | Mrs. James McKee |
| Mrs. W. E. Weeks | Mrs. L. D. Kennard |
| Mrs. Roydan Douglas | Mrs. Harry T. Howard |
| Mrs. Joseph Haspel | |

FIRST OFFICERS

1924

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Miss Grace King |
| First Vice-President | Mrs. E. M. Gilmer (Dorothy Dix) |
| Second Vice-President | Mrs. Albert Sidney White |
| Third Vice-President | Mrs. George B. Penrose |
| Secretary | Mrs. Joseph Haspel |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Roydan Douglas |

FIRST BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1924

Chairman of Executive Committee:

Mrs. L. D. Kennard

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. E. V. Benjamin | Miss Nan King |
| Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr. | Mrs. James McKee |
| Mrs. Joseph Devereaux | Mrs. Paul Michinard |
| Mrs. John Dibert | Mrs. James A. Peuch |
| Mrs. Randall Dugue | Mrs. Lamar Quintero |
| Mrs. Walter Flower | Mrs. Christian Schertz |
| Mrs. Benjamin Gallant | Mrs. Joseph Simmons |
| Mrs. Abraham Goldberg | Mrs. A. J. Stallings |
| Mrs. Harry T. Howard | Mrs. James Thompson |
| Mrs. Paul Jahncke | Mrs. W. E. Weeks |
| Mrs. Mark Kaiser | Mrs. F. B. Williams |

Miss Emma Zacharie

ADVISORY BOARD

1924

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Lynn Dinkins | Mr. Charles Gostenhoffer |
| Mr. Henry Garic | |

**OTHER LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DURING THE YEARS 1925-1932**

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mrs. J. Leo Burthe | Mrs. Charles B. Maginnis |
| Mrs. Edgar H. Bright | Miss Eleonora Moss |
| Mrs. Fernand Claiborne | Mrs. Arthur Nolte |
| Mrs. William A. Dixon | Mrs. Virginia Shaw Putnam |
| Mrs. Marcus Feingold | Mrs. E. E. Richardson |
| Mrs. Joseph E. Friend | Mrs. John N. Stewart |
| Mrs. George Frierson | Mrs. St. Denis Villere |
| Mrs. Leon Gibert | Mrs. George Q. Whitney |
| Mrs. I. I. Lemann | Mrs. Frank S. Walshe |
| Mrs. Bessie Behan Lewis | Mrs. Charles N. Wogan |

OFFICERS

1932-1951

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| President | Mrs. E. M. Gilmer (Dorothy Dix) |
| First Vice-President | Mrs. Arthur Nolte |
| Second Vice-President | Mrs. L. D. Kennard Miss Mary Wing Tebo (1941-51) |
| Third Vice-President | Mrs. Harry T. Howard Mrs. J. Leo Burthe (1947-51) |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson Mrs. Furman B. Pearce (1947-51) |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Frank S. Walshe Mrs. William T. West (1943-48) Mrs. Caleb B. K. Weed (1948-49) Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson (1949-51) |

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1932-1951

Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr., Chairman

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Miss Eppie Barr | Mrs. Robert A. Laird |
| Mrs. Henry Dickson Bruns | Mrs. Herrick J. Lane |
| Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns | Mrs. I. I. Lemann |
| Mrs. Wiley Buffington | Mrs. Bessie Behan Lewis |
| Mrs. J. Leo Burthe | Mrs. Elbert Lyman |
| Mrs. Fernand Claiborne | Mrs. E. Howard McCaleb, Jr. |
| Mrs. Ferguson Colcock | Mrs. C. E. Meriwether |
| Mrs. Robert Cutting | Mrs. Charles T. Patterson |
| Mrs. J. B. Donnes | Mrs. Furman B. Pearce |
| Mrs. James P. Ewin | Mrs. Felix Puig |
| Miss Nellie Farwell | Mrs. Virginia Shaw Putnam |
| Mrs. Marcus Feingold | Mrs. J. Kemp Ridgely |
| Mrs. E. D. Fenner | Mrs. James A. Robin |
| Mrs. J. Frank Flournoy | Mrs. Harry Shaw |
| Mrs. George S. Frierson | Miss Mary Soule |
| Mrs. Mabel G. Godechaux | Mrs. John T. Stewart |
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. E. J. Swartz |
| Mrs. Roy B. Harrison | Mrs. Robert Usher |
| Mrs. John Long Jackson | Mrs. St. Denis Villere |
| Mrs. John Hall Jacobs | Mrs. William Warren |
| Mrs. Thomas Jordan | Mrs. William E. Weeks |
| Mrs. Helen L. Kilpatrick | Mrs. William T. West |
| | Mrs. Willis Wilnot |

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

1932-1951

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Edgar H. Bright | Mrs. Lamar Quintero |
| Mrs. Roydan Douglas | Mrs. J. Kemp Ridgely |
| Mrs. E. D. Fenner | Mrs. Edward Swartz |
| Mrs. Joseph E. Friend | Mrs. William Warren |
| Mrs. Harry T. Howard | Mrs. Caleb B. K. Weed |
| Mrs. Mark Kaiser | Mrs. William E. Weeks |
| Mrs. I. I. Lemann | Mrs. Albert Sidney White |
| Miss Eleonora Moss | Mrs. Charles N. Wogan |

OFFICERS

1951-1958

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | Miss Mary Wing Tebo |
| First Vice-President | Mrs. J. Leo Burthe |
| | Mrs. George S. Frierson (1953-58) |
| Second Vice-President | Mrs. George S. Frierson |
| | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson (1953-58) |
| Third Vice-President | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson |
| | Mrs. William T. West (1953-58) |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Furman B. Pearce |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Lawrence Himel |

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1951-1958

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Miss Eppie Barr | Mrs. Bessie Behan Lewis |
| Mrs. Barton Benedict | Mrs. George King Logan |
| Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown | Mrs. Elbert J. Lyman |
| Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns | Mrs. E. Howard McCaleb, Jr. |
| Mrs. William E. Creighton | Mrs. C. E. Meriwether |
| Mrs. Wiley R. Buffington | Miss Alice Miller |
| Mrs. Joseph A. Danna | Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall |
| Mrs. J. B. Donnes | Mrs. Felix Puig |
| Mrs. Marcus Feingold | Mrs. C. T. Patterson |
| Mrs. J. Frank Flournoy | Mrs. John T. Sanders |
| Mrs. A. T. Gomila | Mrs. Robert Seymour |
| Mrs. Rufus C. Harris | Miss Mary E. Soule |
| Mrs. Roy B. Harrison | Mrs. John Allen Swanson |
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. Morrell Feltus Trimble |
| Mrs. Charles T. Henley | Mrs. St. Denis Villere |
| Mrs. Herrick J. Lane | Mrs. William Tompkins West |

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

1951-1958

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Fernand Claiborne | Miss Eleonora Moss |
| Mrs. Roydan Douglas | Mrs. Felix Puig |
| Mrs. E. D. Fenner | Mrs. J. Kemp Ridgely |
| Mrs. Joseph E. Friend | Mrs. Albert Sidney White |
| Mrs. Harry T. Howard | Mrs. Edward Swartz |
| Mrs. I. I. Lemann | Mrs. Caleb B. K. Weed |
| Mrs. Bessie Behan Lewis | Mrs. William E. Weeks |

OFFICERS
1958-1963

Miss Mary Wing Tebo, Honorary President
President Mrs. William Tompkins West
First Vice-President Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Mrs. Lawrence Himel (1959-63)
Second Vice-President Mrs. Lawrence Himel
Mrs. Furman Pearce (1959-63)
Third Vice-President Mrs. Furman Pearce
Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson (1959-63)
Recording Secretary Mrs. John T. Sanders
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey (1959-63)
Treasurer Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
1958-1963

Miss Eppie Barr
Mrs. Barton Benedict
Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Mrs. Wiley R. Buffington
Mrs. Harry Minor Butler
Mrs. William H. Creighton
Mrs. Henry B. Curtis
Mrs. Robert Cutting
Mrs. John B. Donnes
Mrs. Arthur T. Eddins
Mrs. Marcus Feingold
Mrs. George S. Frierson
Mrs. Arthur Torrey Gomila
Mrs. Luther E. Hall
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. Rufus Harris
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
Mrs. Charles T. Henley
Mrs. James W. Hopkins
Mrs. John Hall Jacobs
Mrs. E. Holland Johnson
Mrs. George King Logan
Mrs. Elbert J. Lyman
Mrs. E. Howard McCaleb, Jr.
Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson
Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall
Mrs. H. Oscar Pate
Mrs. C. T. Patterson
Miss Elinor Pierson
Mrs. O. Hubert Quinius
Miss Portia Randolph
Mrs. Robert W. Seymour
Mrs. John Allen Swanson
Mrs. Morrell Feltus Trimble
Mrs. Henri F. Villere
Mrs. Samuel C. Wellborn

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1958-1963

Mrs. Barton Benedict
Mrs. Wiley Buffington
Mrs. Fernand Claiborne
Mrs. Joseph E. Friend
Mrs. I. I. Lemann
Mrs. George King Logan
Miss Eleonora Moss
Mrs. Felix Puig
Mrs. J. Kemp Ridgely
Miss Mary Soule
Mrs. Caleb B. K. Weed

OFFICERS
1963-1966

Miss Mary Wing Tebo, Honorary President
President Mrs. Lawrence Himel
First Vice-President Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Second Vice-President Mrs. Robert Cutting
Mrs. Charles T. Henley (1965-66)
Third Vice-President Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison (1965-66)
Recording Secretary Mrs. Robert W. Seymour
Treasurer Mrs. Henry B. Curtis

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
1963-1966

Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster
Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown
Mrs. Harry Minor Butler
Mrs. S. George Chequelin
Mrs. J. B. Donnes
Mrs. Arthur T. Eddins
Mrs. Richard West Freeman
Mrs. George S. Frierson
Mrs. Arthur J. Geary
Mrs. Luther E. Hall
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. Charles T. Henley
Mrs. James W. Hopkins
Mrs. E. Holland Johnson
Mrs. George J. Mayer
Mrs. Jacob H. Morrison
Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson
Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall
Mrs. H. Oscar Pate
Mrs. C. T. Patterson
Mrs. Furman Pearce
Miss Elinor Pierson
Miss Portia Randolph
Mrs. Leon Sarpy
Mrs. Gayle Schneidau
Mrs. John Allen Swanson
Mrs. Henri F. Villere
Mrs. Samuel C. Wellborn
Mrs. William Tompkins West

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1963-1966

Mrs. Wiley R. Buffington
Mrs. John B. Donnes
Mrs. I. I. Lemann
Mrs. George King Logan
Miss Elinor Pierson
Mrs. Felix Puig
Miss Mary Soule

OFFICERS

1966-1969

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Miss Mary Wing Tebo, Honorary President | |
| President | Mrs. Charles T. Henley |
| First Vice-President | Mrs. Furman Pearce |
| Second Vice-President | Mrs. Harry Minor Butler |
| Third Vice-President | Mrs. Roy B. Harrison |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Arthur J. Geary |
| Treasurer | Mrs. S. George Chequelin |

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1966-1969

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Thomas Allen | Mrs. E. Holland Johnson |
| Mrs. Benton Paul Babin | Mrs. George J. Mayer |
| Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster | Mrs. Jacob Morrison |
| Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson |
| Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns | Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall |
| Mrs. Henry B. Curtis | Mrs. H. Oscar Pate |
| Mrs. Richard West Freeman | Miss Portia Randolph |
| Mrs. George S. Frierson | Mrs. Robert W. Seymour |
| Mrs. Luther E. Hall | Mrs. Ernest C. Villere |
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. Henri F. Villere |
| Mrs. Lawrence Himel | Mrs. Samuel C. Wellborn |
| Mrs. James W. Hopkins | Mrs. William Tompkins West |

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

1966-1969

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Wiley Buffington | Mrs. I. I. Lemann |
| Mrs. John B. Donnes | Mrs. George King Logan |
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. John Allen Swanson |

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OFFICERS

1969-1972

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Miss Mary Wing Tebo, Honorary President* | |
| President | Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster |
| First Vice-President | Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown |
| Second Vice-President | Mrs. Samuel C. Wellborn |
| Third Vice-President | Mrs. Arthur J. Geary |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Henry B. Curtis |
| Treasurer | Mrs. William Renaud Adams |

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1969-1972

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs. Benton Paul Babin | Mrs. Harry W. Maxfield |
| Mrs. Robert H. Beattie | Mrs. George J. Mayer |
| Mrs. Wood Brown | Mrs. Chester A. Mehurin |
| Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns | Mrs. Jacob Morrison |
| Mrs. Harry Minor Butler | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson |
| Mrs. S. George Chequelin | Mrs. Alexander W. Norman |
| Mrs. Benjamin Wall Dart | Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall |
| Mrs. Richard West Freeman | Mrs. H. Oscar Pate |
| Mrs. George S. Frierson | Mrs. Furman Pearce |
| Mrs. Luther E. Hall | Miss Portia Randolph |
| Mrs. Roy B. Harrison | Mrs. Leo I. Reilly |
| Mrs. Charles T. Henley | Mrs. Kearny Q. Robert |
| Mrs. Lawrence Himel | Mrs. Robert W. Seymour |
| Mrs. James W. Hopkins | Mrs. Morrell Feltus Trimble |
| Mrs. E. Holland Johnson | Mrs. Henri F. Villere |
| | Mrs. William Tompkins West |

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

1969-1972

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. John B. Donnes | Mrs. E. Holland Johnson |
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. I. I. Lemann |
| Mrs. Charles T. Henley | Mrs. George King Logan |

*Miss Tebo passed away in November, 1970.

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OFFICERS

1972-1975

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown |
| First Vice-President | Mrs. Samuel G. Wellborn |
| Second Vice-President | Mrs. Henry B. Curtis |
| Third Vice-President | Mrs. Morrell Feltus Trimble |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Jacob H. Morrison |
| Treasurer | Mrs. William Renaud Adams |

**LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

1972-1975

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Benton Paul Babir | Mrs. Paul Vernon Marquez |
| Mrs. Robert H. Beattie | Mrs. George J. Mayer |
| Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster | Mrs. Harry W. Maxfield |
| Mrs. Wood Brown | Mrs. Chester A. Meburin |
| Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson |
| Mrs. John R. Chesworth | Mrs. Alexander W. Norman |
| Mrs. James M. Colomb, Jr. | *Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall |
| Mrs. Benjamin Wall Dart | Mrs. H. Oscar Pate |
| Mrs. Falvey Fox | Mrs. Alexander E. Rainold |
| Mrs. Richard W. Freeman | Miss Portia Randolph |
| Mrs. Arthur J. Geary | Mrs. Leo I. Reilly |
| Mrs. Roy B. Harrison | Mrs. Kearny Q. Robert |
| Mrs. Lawrence Himel | Mrs. Robert W. Seymour |
| Mrs. James W. Hopkins | Mrs. William N. Thompson |
| Mrs. Iddo Lampton | Mrs. Henri F. Villere |
| | Mrs. William Tompkins West |

*Deceased

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

1972-1975

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. George King Logan |
| Mrs. Charles T. Henley | Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson |
| Mrs. E. Holland Johnson | Miss Portia Randolph |
| | Mrs. William Tompkins West |

52

HONORARY MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| *Miss Edith Bayne Aiken | Mrs. Lucienne Lavedan |
| *Mrs. Gayle Aiken | Mrs. Edmond J. LeBreton |
| *Mrs. Stanley C. Arthur | Miss Anna Many |
| *Mrs. Pierce Butler | *Mrs. Edouard May |
| Mrs. Ethel Crumb Brett | *Miss Ethel Scott McGehee |
| *Mrs. D. A. Chaffraix | *Miss Corinne Mayer |
| *Mrs. John J. Coleman | *Miss Lottie Miller |
| *Miss Josephine Crawford | *Miss Mary Molony |
| *Miss Alice Dameron | Miss Vera Morel |
| Mrs. Nina Preet Davis | *Mrs. J. Oscar Nixon |
| *Mrs. A. B. Dinwiddie | *Mrs. Meyer Prince |
| Mrs. Pierre Durieux | Mrs. Robert G. Robinson |
| *Mrs. Anna B. Ellis | *Miss Mary Scott |
| *Mrs. Flo Field | *Mrs. Mary Sherer |
| *Miss Etta Finney | *Mrs. Gertrude Roberts Smith |
| *Mr. William Fulham | *Mrs. Harry Stevens |
| Miss Angela Gregory | *Miss Imogene Stone |
| *Miss Sarah Henderson | *Miss Mary Wing Tebo |
| *Mrs. C. C. Henson | *Miss Jessie Tharp |
| *Mrs. Mark Kaiser | *Miss Helen Turner |
| *Miss Alberta Kinsey | *Mrs. W. E. Weeks |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Kell | *Mrs. Virginia Westbrook |
| Mrs. Stuart O. Landry | Miss Ella Miriam Wood |
| | Mrs. Benjamin W. Yancey |

*Deceased

53

LIFE MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| *Mrs. C. C. Bass | *Mrs. Frederick M. McLean |
| Mrs. James B. Castell | *Miss Alice Miller |
| *Mrs. J. B. Donnes | Mrs. Henry Oscar Pate |
| Mrs. Ira B. Harkey | Mrs. James M. Robert |
| Mrs. Rufus Harris | Mrs. Walter H. Scales |
| Mrs. Joseph J. Irwin | Mrs. Herbert M. Shilstone |
| Mrs. Wilkes Adams Knolle | *Mrs. W. E. Simms |
| Mrs. Lillian Lewis | *Mrs. Frederick Sinclair, Sr. |
| Mrs. George King Logan | *Miss Corinne Villere |
| Mrs. Dudley Rogers West | |

*Deceased

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1974

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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 Miss Louise Church
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 Mrs. C. Hunter Coleman
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Miss Ethel Winter

Mrs. Earl Van Dorn Wood
Mrs. Francis A. Woolfley
Mrs. J. King Woolf

Y

Mrs. Arnold W. Yeargain

Z

Mrs. Samuel Zemurray

The Objects and Purposes for which this corporation is established are hereby declared to be:

First: To keep alive the love of the old traditions of New Orleans, and wherever possible to keep and preserve old historic buildings.

Second: The regulation of social intercourse and amusement among the members of said corporation by rules framed after consultation by mutual consent; to promote enjoyment, harmony, refinement of manners and intellectual improvements, and to revive, promote and continue the pleasant intercourse of the Salon, which give grace and brilliancy to the old society of this City, and to effect these objects and purposes, said corporation shall have, possess, enjoy and exercise all the powers, rights and privileges of a corporate body. (Article IV, Charter)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the following for information and use of material:

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Le Petit Salon President

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The Times-Picayune

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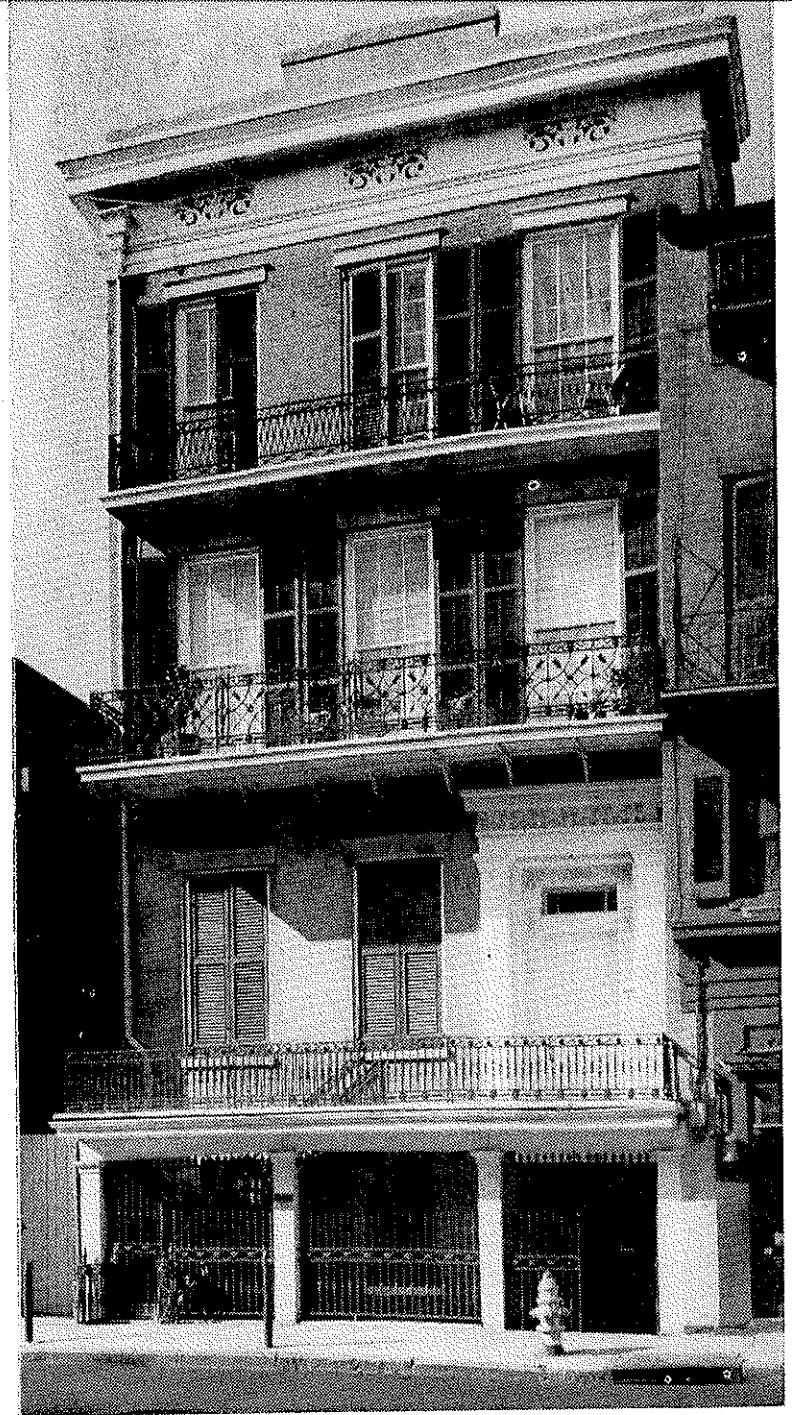
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Mr. Samuel Wilson, Junior

The illustration on the cover is a facsimile of Le Petit Salon's bookplate.



Le Petit Salon — As it is today

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