We dedicate this book

To the Ladies

of 1924
LE PETIT SALON
1924 - 1974

A History
by
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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 banquette then but the point is that those who did walk the banquette 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 literati 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 historical 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. Fenrose. 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 Las 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 re-
fines 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 Char-
ter, Article IV:

To keep alive the love of the old traditions of New Or-
leans 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 Jahneke, 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 Carie, Mr. Charles Costonhoffer.

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 Godechaux), 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 concert 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 Zichy 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 Gioannini, 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 Vauvreuil [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 Vauvreuil [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.

Gayanrre 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 Vauvreuil, 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 Vauvreuil house, according to Lyle Saxon, was destroyed by fire in 1796 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 1839 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 Babasa in a ceremony performed by the fabled pastor Peré 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 Gilbert 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 Mud 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 the most 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 Montama, 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 Montama.” 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-
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 Schertz and Mrs. Eberhard Deutsch and Mrs. Allen Johnness, 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 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 consist 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

1. The Mallard Rosewood parlor set
2. The genuine Boule desk and chair
3. Oval mirror and gilt, green marble top table carved to match mirror and bronzes on said table
4. Two matching mantel mirrors
5. 5 hand made lace and embroidered window panels* made in Belgium, and the two lace and embroidered banquet sets
6. 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, 1939 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 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. Hall 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. Bueck, 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. Bueck. 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
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 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 com-
ment, “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 me 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
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 Himei 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
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 Hurnett 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 Villanelle—a poem with five three-line stanzas ending in a quatrains:

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 gloweringly polished. 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  (late, 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 Digue 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 Costenhoffer
Mr. Henry Garie

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. GeorgeFrierson  Mrs. St. Denis Villere
Mrs. Leon Gibert  Mrs. George Q. Whitney
Mrs. I. I. Lemann  Mrs. Frank S. Walsh
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
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. Walsh
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

Miss Eppie Barr
Mrs. Charles F. Buck, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Henry Dickson Bruns
Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Mrs. Wiley Buffington
Mrs. J. Leo Barthe
Mrs. Fernand Claiborne
Mrs. Ferguson Colcock
Mrs. Robert Cutting
Mrs. J. B. Donnes
Mrs. James P. Ewin
Miss Nellie Farwell
Mrs. Marcus Feingold
Mrs. E. D. Fenner
Mrs. J. Frank Flournoy
Mrs. George S. Frierson
Mrs. Mabel G. Godeaux
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
Mrs. John Long Jackson
Mrs. John Hall Jacobs
Mrs. Thomas Jordan
Mrs. Helen L. Kilpatrick
Mrs. Willis Wilmot

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1932-1951

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

OFFICERS
1951-1958

President Miss Mary Wing Tebo
First Vice-President Mrs. J. Leo Burthe
Second Vice-President Mrs. George S. Frierson
Third Vice-President Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson
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. Barton Benedict
Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown
Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Mrs. William E. Creighton
Mrs. Wiley R. Buffington
Mrs. Joseph A. Danna
Mrs. J. B. Donnes
Mrs. Marcus Feingold
Mrs. J. Frank Flournoy
Mrs. A. T. Gomila
Mrs. Rufus C. Harris
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. Charles T. Henley
Mrs. Herrick J. Lane

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1951-1958

Mrs. Fernand Claiborne
Mrs. Roydan Douglas
Mrs. E. D. Fenner
Mrs. Joseph E. Friend
Mrs. Harry T. Howard
Mrs. I. I. Lemann
Miss Eleonora Moss
Mrs. Felix Puig
Mrs. J. Kemp Ridgely
Mrs. Albert Sidney White
Mrs. Edward Swartz
Mrs. Caleb B. K. Weed
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. Edkins
Mrs. Marcus Feingold
Mrs. George S. Friezon
Mrs. Arthur Torrey Comila
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. John T. O'Ferrall
Mrs. H. Oscar Pate
Mrs. C. T. Patterson
Mrs. Mrs. O. Hubert Quintus
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. Caleb B. K. Weed
Mrs. George King Logan
Miss Eleonora Moss
Mrs. Felix Puig
Mrs. J. Kemp Ridgely
Miss Mary Soule

OFFICERS
1963-1966
Miss Mary Wing Tebo, Honorary President
President .................................................. Mrs. Lawrence Himel
First Vice-President .................................. Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
                                  Mrs. Charles T. Henley (1965-66)
Second Vice-President ......................... Mrs. Robert Cutting
                                  Mrs. John T. O'Ferrall (1965-66)
Third Vice-President .......................... Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
                                  Mrs. Robert W. Seymour
Recording Secretary ................................ Mrs. Henry B. Curtis
Treasurer .................................. Mrs. William Tompkins West

LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
1963-1966
Mrs. W. Rogers Browster
Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown
Mrs. Harry Minor Butler
Mrs. S. George Chequelin
Mrs. J. B. Donues
Mrs. Arthur T. Edkins
Mrs. Richard West Freeman
Mrs. George S. Frierson
Mrs. Mrs. Art H. 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
Miss Mary Soule

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

LADIES WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
1969-1972
Mrs. Benton Paul Babin
Mrs. Robert H. Beattie
Mrs. Wood Brown
Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Mrs. Harry Minor Butler
Mrs. S. George Chequelin
Mrs. Benjamin Wall Dart
Mrs. Richard West Freeman
Mrs. George S. Frierson
Mrs. Luther E. Hall
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
Mrs. Charles T. Henley
Mrs. Lawrence Hime
Mrs. James W. Hopkins
Mrs. E. Holland Johnson
Mrs. William Tompkins West

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1966-1969
Mrs. Wiley Buffington
Mrs. John B. Donnes
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. I. I. Lemann
Mrs. George King Logan
Mrs. John Allen Swanson

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1969-1972
Mrs. John B. Donnes
Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. Charles T. Henley
Mrs. E. Holland Johnson
Mrs. I. I. Lemann
Mrs. George King Logan

*Miss Tebo passed away in November, 1970.
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. Robert H. Beattie
Mrs. W. Rogers Brewster
Mrs. Wood Brown
Mrs. Thomas Carter Bruns
Mrs. John R. Chesworth
Mrs. James M. Colomb, Jr.
Mrs. Benjamin Wall Durant
Mrs. Falvey Fox
Mrs. Richard W. Freeman
Mrs. Arthur J. Geary
Mrs. Roy B. Harrison
Mrs. Lawrence Hime
Mrs. James W. Hopkins
Mrs. Iddo Lampton

Mrs. Paul Vernon Marquez
Mrs. George J. Mayer
Mrs. Harry W. Maxfield
Mrs. Chester A. Meburn
Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson
Mrs. Alexander W. Norman
Mrs. John T. O’Ferral
Mrs. H. Oscar Pate
Mrs. Alexander E. Rainold
Miss Portia Randolph
Mrs. Leo I. Reilly
Mrs. Kearny Q. Robert
Mrs. Robert W. Seymour
Mrs. William N. Thompson
Mrs. Henri F. Villere

Mrs. William Tompkins West

*Deceased

HONORARY MEMBERS

*Miss Edith Bayne Aiken
*Mrs. Gayle Aiken
*Mrs. Stanley C. Arthur
*Mrs. Pierce Butler
Mrs. Ethel Crumb Brett
*Mrs. D. A. Chaffray
*Mrs. John J. Coleman
*Miss Josephine Crawford
*Miss Alice Dameron
Mrs. Nina Preot Davis
*Mrs. A. B. Dinwiddie
Mrs. Pierre Durieux
*Mrs. Anna B. Ellis
*Mrs. Flo Field
*Miss Etta Finney
*Mr. William Fullham
Miss Angela Gregory
*Miss Sarah Henderson
*Mrs. C. C. Henson
*Mrs. Mark Kaiser
*Miss Alberta Kinsey
Mrs. Elizabeth Kell
Mrs. Stuart O. Landry

Mrs. Lucienne Lavegan
Mrs. Edmond J. LeBreton
Miss Anna Many
*Mrs. Edouard May
*Miss Ethel Scott McGhee
*Miss Corinne Mayer
*Miss Lottie Miller
*Miss Mary Molony
Miss Vera Morel
*Mrs. J. Oscar Nixon
*Mrs. Meyer Prince
Mrs. Robert G. Robinson
*Miss Mary Scott
*Mrs. Mary Sherer
*Mrs. Gertrude Roberts Smith
*Mrs. Harry Stevens
*Miss Imogene Stone
*Miss Mary Wing Tebo
*Miss Jessie Tharp
*Mrs. Helen Turner
*Mrs. W. E. Weeks
*Mrs. Virginia Westbrook
Miss Ella Miriam Wood

Mrs. Benjamin W. Yancey

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
1972-1975

Mrs. Ira B. Harkey
Mrs. Charles T. Henley
Mrs. E. Holland Johnson
Mrs. William Tompkins West

Mrs. George King Logan
Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson
Miss Portia Randolph

*Mrs. William Tompkins West

*Deceased
LE PETIT SALON MEMBERSHIP

1974

A

Mrs. Gonzalo Abaunza, Jr.  
Mrs. Lionel Adams  
Mrs. William Renaud Adams  
Mrs. David W. Aiken  
Mrs. John Gayle Aiken, Jr.  
Mrs. Harold Raymon Ainsworth  
Mrs. Granison T. Alexander  
Mrs. Lucien W. Alexander  
Mrs. Mary Brooks Soulé Allen  
Mrs. Paul L. Andry, Jr.  
Mrs. Gregg Armstrong  
Mrs. Oliver L. Armstrong  
Mrs. John S. Arthur  
Mrs. Eugene Atkinson, Jr.

B

Mrs. Benton Paul Babin  
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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:

Mrs. Charles Lafayette Brown
Le Petit Salon President
Mr. Charles L. Dufour
Mrs. Francois J. Genre
Mrs. Consuelo C. Griffith
Mrs. James W. Hopkins
Miss Marie-Therese Larue, Society Editor
The Times-Picayune
Mrs. Edith Elliott Long
Louisiana Room, New Orleans Public Library
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The Historic New Orleans Collection
Miss Vera Morel
Mrs. A. Dallam O'Brien
Mr. J. Waldo Pitkin
Leon Trice, Photographer
Mrs. Ernest C. Villere
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The illustration on the cover is a facsimile of Le Petit Salon's bookplate.