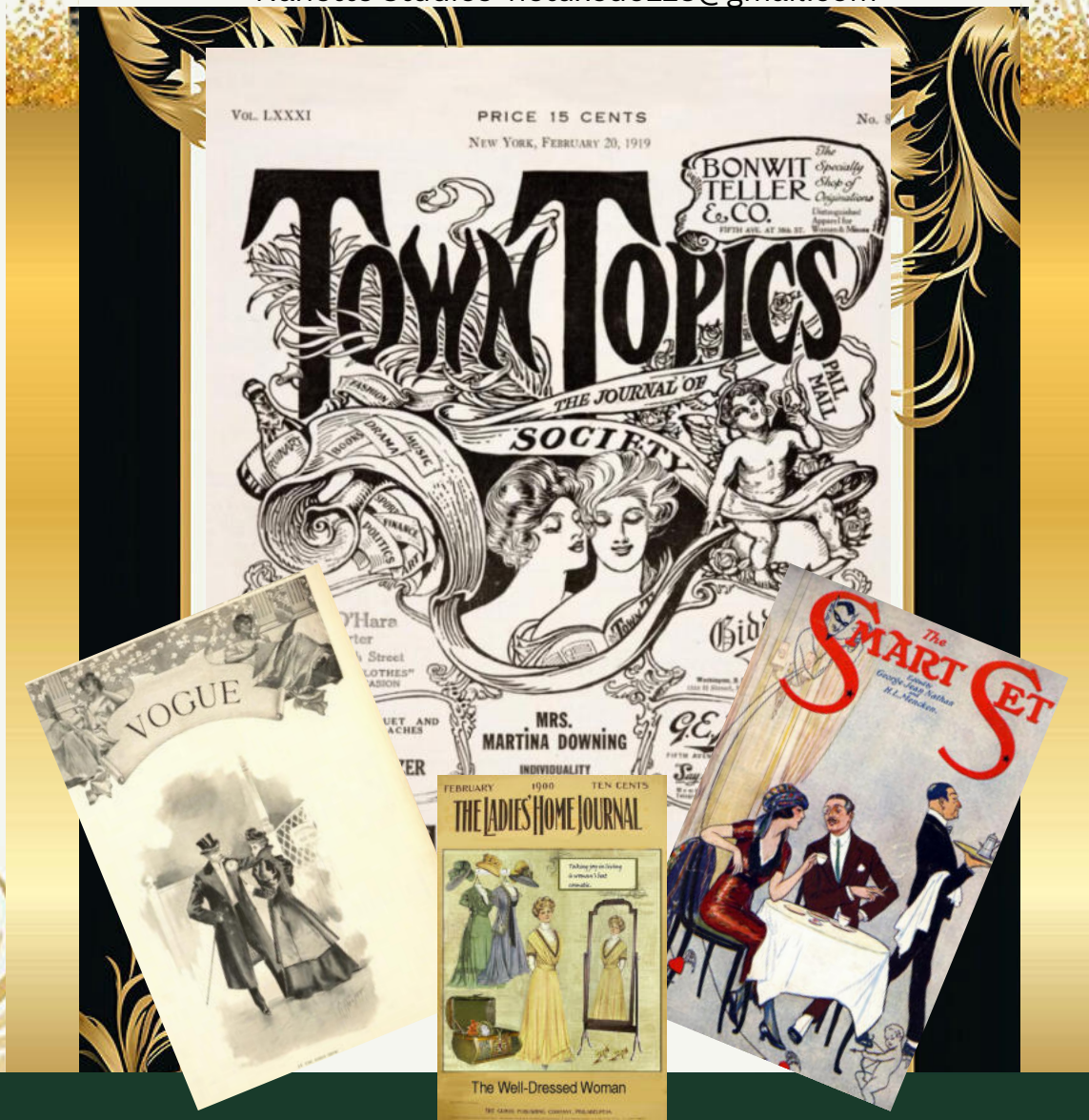


TUXEDO PARK MAGAZINE

Issue #125

Nanette Studios netuxedo123@gmail.com



The Scandalous Gilded Age
Magazine That Rocked Society

FROM TUXEDO PARK MAGAZINE

John Singer Sargent-Tuxedo Park's portraitist

Visit our website: www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com



From the white house to Tuxedo Park, John Singer Sargent painted portraits of the notorious, and the very wealthy. Many residents in Tuxedo Park commissioned him.

John Singer Sargent was a prominent portrait painter during the Gilded Age, a period of rapid economic growth and social change in the late 19th century. He was known for his elegant and insightful portraits of wealthy individuals, capturing both their likenesses and the spirit of the era. His portraits offer a glimpse into the opulent lifestyles and social structures of the Gilded Age, highlighting the aspirations and self-perception of the wealthy, showcasing the importance of portraiture in establishing social status and capturing moments of transition.

In a society obsessed with appearances, Sargent is a fitting addition, a reminder that a well-crafted image can be as powerful as any fortune, often flattering those lucky enough to possess both. Best known for the Portrait of Madame X, Sargent was a master of grandeur, capturing the privileged elite with both flattery and subtle psychological insight. While he was a fixture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, he is back in the cultural conversation at the moment, thanks to The Metropolitan Museum of Art's latest exhibition, "Sargent and Paris".





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Anchored by Wall Street, New York City has been called both, the most economically powerful city and the leading financial center, being home to the world's two largest stock exchanges by total market capitalization, the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ.

Captains of finance and industry in the gilded age were legendary icons enabling this country to become strong and independent. American industrialists and philanthropists revolutionized industry and defined the structure of monetary gain. Many were deeply involved in developing and financing railroad empires by reorganizations and consolidations, building a strong vision of an integrated transportation system.

Beginning in the 1870s, thanks to a modern corporate form of ownership, a new merger movement, and a dominant form of competitive, proprietary capitalism, industrialists like John D. Rockefeller, James Pierpont Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, and Cornelius Vanderbilt rose to unprecedented heights of prosperity and power. More and more, wealth was concentrated in the hands of a few.

Not all of the changes were positive. During the Gilded Age, America, and the world, experienced a series of periodic economic crises, including a devastating Wall Street crash that inaugurated the Panic of 1873. Recurrent cycles of boom and collapse brought dramatically different consequences for those at the top and bottom rungs of the economy.

Developing an awe of such magnitude, these men of power, these men of economic strength, possessed the stability of perseverance and vision. They grasped multitudes of oppor-

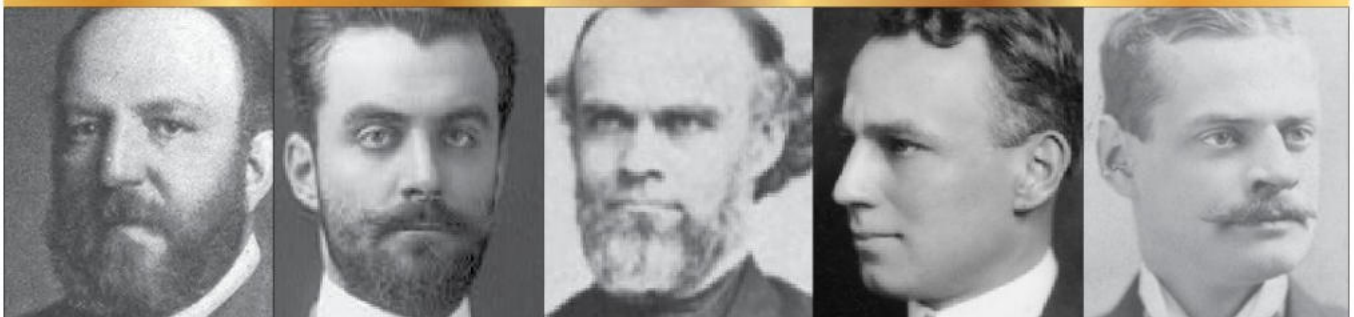
tunities to swing the pendulum of control in their direction, and through this, enabled the monetary system of America to lean in their direction, thus, obtaining methods for expansion, momentum, and achievement of an empire so vast, it moved Wall Street, and the world.

Dow Jones, Barrons, Wall Street Journal, S&P 500, J.P.Morgan financial institutions, the largest insurance companies in the world and the railroad reorganization methodology, all began with these men with tenacious business dispositions and the wherewithal to connect the dots between industry, human power, and money.

They walked through the finest clubs in New York where money was aged, and new money balanced on that noble money, became ripe. The blue bloods of iconic industry, their gilded empires appear like legendary fairytales of capital worth, sending echoes of success down the corridors of Wall Street.

The old clubs which still exist, such as the Tuxedo Club, the Union Club, and the old Knickerbocker Club, where once these men shared visions of industry and wealth with one another, still house the dark paneled rooms where they once discussed finance over fine brandy and cigars. The corridors still display an old portrait or two of the club's founding fathers whom gaze from polished frames. These portraits are a tangible glimpse into the world of the Gilded Age, and the men who moved it. ¶

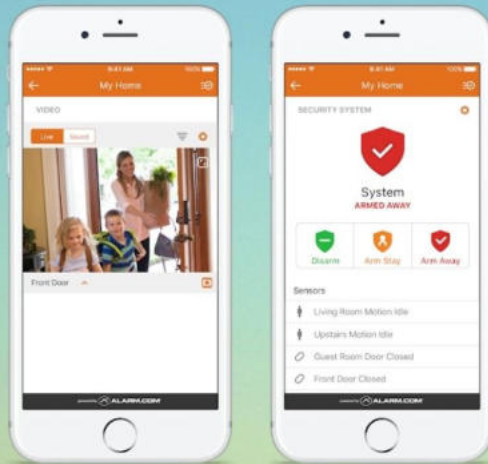
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The Gilded Age's Scandalous Society Magazine

How William d'Alton Mann blackmailed his way into creating one of New York City's most parasitic gossip rags.

He was well read, a veteran, a landowner, an entrepreneur, an inventor—and was privy to all of New York's most delicious gossip. Hailing from a working-class background and with an education in engineering, you might be wondering how Mann was able to start one of the most parasitic gossip rags of the Gilded Age.

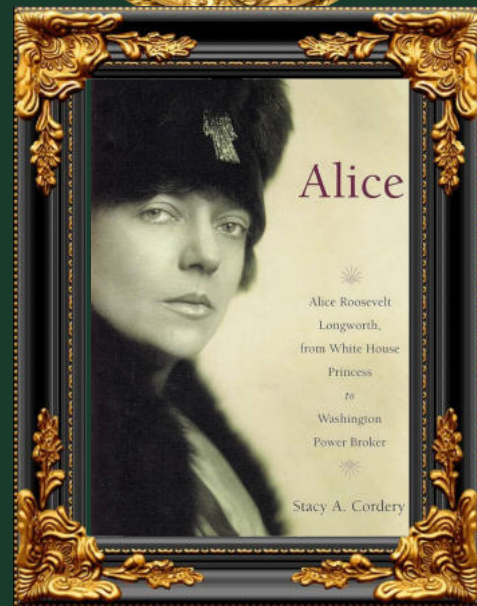
Founded in the late 19th century, the magazine which would become *Town Topics: The Journal of Society*, began circulating in New York City.

The ultimate goal was to draw in and bribe New York's wealthiest sets.

The society rag dished all of New York's dirt—alongside the occasional political commentary, literary, and cultural articles. Mann hired maids, chauffeurs and even musicians who entered the city's wealthiest households—people in the background of Manhattan's upper echelons of society—to give up information on their employers.

He developed a scheme to pick out and blackmail about 400 people of the wealthiest and most prominent robber barons of the day. Part of his plan was to mail a copy of the upcoming issue to the victims of *Town Topics* gossip before it was sent to the presses to ask if they would like to “make any edits” and offering the removal of any secrets in exchange for buying some advertising in the newspaper.

William K. Vanderbilt paid \$25,000 to *Town Topics*, while Dr. Seward Webb, Vanderbilt's brother-in-law, paid \$14,000. J. Pierpont Morgan dished out \$2,500 and William C. Whitney, \$1,000. Arabella Huntington, once known as the richest woman in the country, was out to avoid legal intervention when it was revealed that she paid Mann for a \$10,000 “subscription” to one of his other publications, *Fads and Fancies of Representative Americans*.



Town Topics began its inevitable decline following Mann's death in 1920, much to the relief of New York's elite. The publication wasn't ruthless enough to continue without him and closed its doors in 1930. The publication of *Town Topics* during the Gilded Age, bribed many, including Tuxedo Park's elite set at that time.



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The World of Louis Tiffany in **TUXEDO PARK**



Although Louis Tiffany had a 600 acre estate known as Laurelton Hall on Long Island, he was a frequent visitor and guest in Tuxedo Park. He had many friends whose mansions he furnished with his famous "Tiffany stained glass". St. Mary's-In-Tuxedo Park, was adorned with his precious works of art. At one time, almost every mansion you walked into, in Tuxedo Park, showed off Louis Tiffany's work. Grand entrance ways boasted some of his most exquisite works.

He was an American artist and designer who worked in the decorative arts and is best known for his work in stained glass. At the beginning of his career, Tiffany used cheap jelly jars and bottles because they had the mineral impurities that finer glass lacked.

Tuxedo Park families such as the Costers, the Breese's, Charles Hyde, and George Preston, had Tiffany windows dedicated to their loved ones in St. Mary's Church in Tuxedo Park. Whether his stained glass was dedicated for beauty, worship, or in memory of a loved one, Louis Tiffany gilded Tuxedo Park with his talent, and his devoted friendship.

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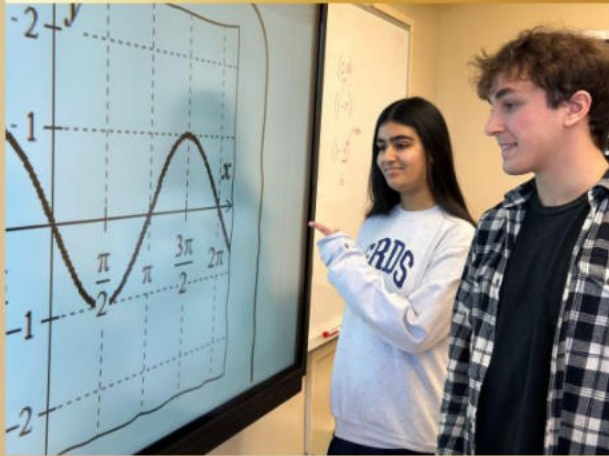
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1900...Mrs. Dana Gibson Visits Tuxedo Park

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Mrs. Dana Gibson visits Tuxedo Park for the second annual squash
tournament for the championship of America February, circa early 1900's

New courts at Tuxedo Park.

"The second annual national squash tournament for the championship of
America held under the management of the court tennis and racquet club
of Tuxedo, developed much interest, owing to the entries of nearly all of the
best squash players in the country.

The match between T. Suffern Tailer and Charles L. Hyde was an excellent
match; Tailer had a slight advantage owing to his experience at court
tennis. Among the many spectators was Mrs. Dana Gibson of the famous
Gibson Girls" ...The New York Times

Gibson Girls...Charles Dana Gibson's elegant drawings captured the spirit
of an age.

Charles Dana Gibson entranced turn-of-the-century New York with his
deft sketches of the habits of the upper class, and those trying to get
there. He made a small fortune by having a signature image, often of a
willowy, aristocratic young woman with a hint of mischief in her eyes.
Gibson was born in Massachusetts in 1867, and as a child, would cut
silhouettes of animals. His family moved to Queens, and by the age of 15 he
was training as a stockbroker on Wall Street. His passion for art prompted
him to leave Wall Street to study illustration at the Art Students League.

He launched his career in the early 1880s by knocking on all the correct
doors; Scribner's magazine, Harpers and other well know publishers. He
sold his first drawing to the old "Life" magazine for \$4 in 1886. Many more
commissions followed. He soon published the first of what became his
series of "Gibson Girls", pen and ink portraits of aristocratic young
women. Attractive, intelligent looking and apparently single. They were
usually at summer places, horse shows or fancy dress balls.

Continued next page



The demand for Gibson's distinctive sketches grew frantic and he was soon living very well at the old Life building at 19 West 31st street. The former Irene Langhorne joined him after their marriage in 1895. Mr. Gibson also began moving in social circles, which included the author Richard Harding Davis and the architect, Stanford White. It was said that in 1902 Gibson produced a famous sketch of a young woman entitled, "The Eternal Question." Taken from a portrait of Evelyn Nesbit. It was Nesbit's Husband who later shot Stanford White over a scandal involving his wife.

Gibson had become wealthy and quite restless. In December 1905 he left New York to travel through Europe to study painting. Around 1920 Gibson purchased a controlling interest in the old "Life" magazine and ran it for a decade, but the market for its arch observations of society was dwindling and he left the magazine in 1931.

Gibson was rewarded as an artist, and social commentator, with the greatest adulation ever seen up to that time for an illustrator. His great granddaughter, designer Dana Gibson, launched a line of furniture in 2014, with a couch in the foreground named, "The Tuxedo Park Sofa".

Written by Tuxedo Park Magazine.

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J.P. MORGAN'S METROPOLITAN CLUB



In the late 1800's, New York City contained many private social clubs which were largely based on British social clubs. At the end of the 19th century, many upscale residences were being developed along Fifth Avenue, particularly north of 59th Street. Many of the city's wealthiest residents began moving uptown along Fifth Avenue.

One of the city's most prominent clubs in the late 19th century was the Union Club of the City of New York, founded in 1836. The Union Club was restricted to 1,000 members, resulting in a long waiting list and several off-shoot clubs. Each prospective member's application had to be sponsored by an existing member and reviewed by the Union Club's board of governors. By the 1870s, the board of governors frequently blackballed, or rejected, several prominent figures' membership applications on questionable grounds. Local newspapers published the names of blackballed applicants, resulting in humiliation for both the applicant and their sponsor. The Union Club blackballed two high-profile applicants in 1890: Erie Railroad president John King, who was sponsored by J. P. Morgan, and physician William Seward Webb, who was sponsored by William K. Vanderbilt.

Morgan decided to form the Metropolitan Club after the Union Club failed to accept King and Webb. He was soon joined by other displeased members of the Union Club, including members of the Goelet, Iselin, Roosevelt, and Vanderbilt families. Morgan's friend William Watts Sherman drafted a constitution for a new club and invited 25 Gilded Age Moguls to serve as co-founders. Sherman and many of the invitees attended a dinner at the Knickerbocker Club on February 20, 1891, to discuss the formation of Morgan's club.



The founders next had to decide on a name, and they considered names such as "Millionaires' Club", "Park Club", and "the Spectators". The Metropolitan Club was formed on March 7, 1891. J. P. Morgan was elected as the club's first president, and the founders planned to invite 1,200 resident members and 500 non-resident members. Annual dues were set at \$100 for resident members and \$50 for non-resident members, in addition to a flat initiation fee of \$300

When the new Metropolitan was founded, there was another Metropolitan Club two blocks south at Fifth Avenue and 58th Street, which exclusively served the city's Jewish community. Sherman claimed that the new Metropolitan's organizers did not know about the older club on 58th Street. Ultimately, the older club gave up its name, though the reason for this is unclear. The new Metropolitan Club was originally nicknamed the Millionaires' Club, as most of its earliest members were millionaires. The new club's members opened a temporary office at the Madison Square Bank Building, at the intersection of Fifth Avenue, 23rd Street, and Broadway. They sent out invitations to 1,000 wealthy New Yorkers, nearly half of whom had responded by April. Membership lagged after the club had signed on 650 members. There were fears that the club would not be profitable because of its location. Although when the club decided to allow Union Club members into its bar, the club succeeded and thrived.

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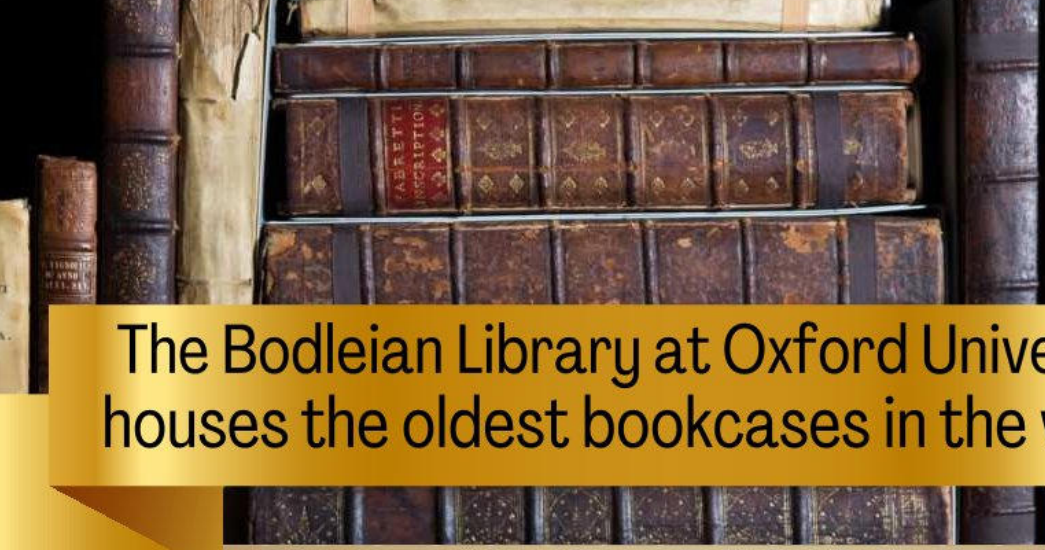
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The Bodleian Library at Oxford University houses the oldest bookcases in the world

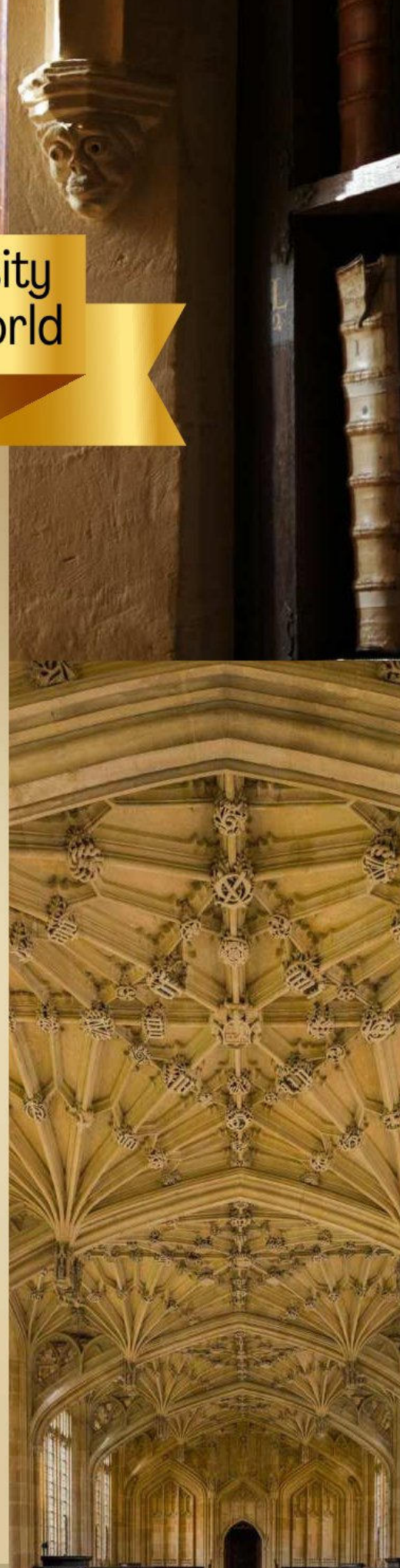
The Bodleian Library is one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and in Britain is second in size only to the British Library. Together, the Bodleian Libraries hold over 13 million printed items. First opened to scholars in 1602, it incorporates an earlier library built by the University in the 15th century to house books donated by Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester. Since 1602 it has expanded, slowly at first but with increasing momentum over the last 150 years, to keep pace with the ever-growing accumulation of books, papers and other materials, but the core of the old buildings has remained intact.

Known to many Oxford scholars simply as ‘the Bod’, these buildings are still used by students and scholars from all over the world, and they attract an ever-increasing number of visitors.

The University’s first purpose-built library was begun in approximately 1320 in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, in a room which still exists as a vestry and a meeting room for the church. The building stood at the heart of Oxford’s ‘academic quarter’, close to the schools in which lectures were given. By 1488, the room was superseded by the library known as Duke Humfrey’s, which constitutes the oldest part of the Bodleian.

Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester and younger brother of King Henry V, gave the University his priceless collection of more than 281 manuscripts, including several important classical texts. The University decided to build a new library for them over the new Divinity School; it was begun in 1478 and finally opened in 1488.

The library lasted only 60 years; in 1550, the Dean of Christ Church, hoping to purge the English church of all traces of Catholicism including ‘superstitious books and images’, removed all the library’s books – some to be burnt. The University was not a wealthy institution and did not have the resources to build up new collections. In 1556, the room was taken over by the Faculty of Medicine.



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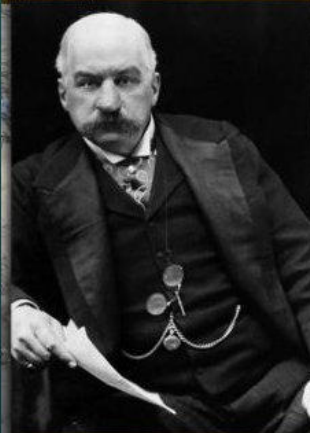
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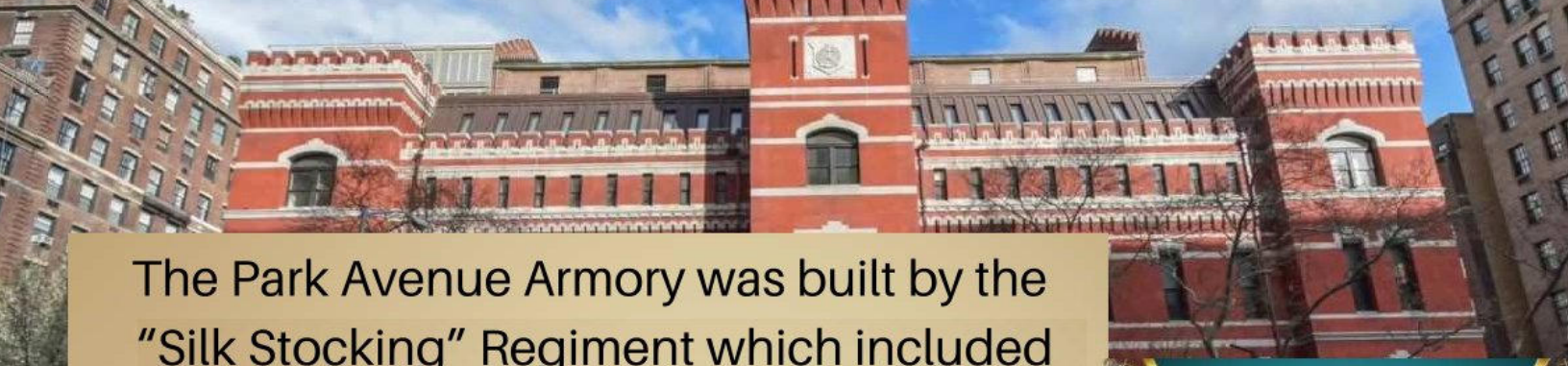
Tuxedo Park Magazine

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 Issue # 104




J.P. Morgan-realigned the U.S. railroad industry & became one of the first club members in Tuxedo Park






The Park Avenue Armory was built by the “Silk Stocking” Regiment which included New York’s most prominent Gilded Age Families, most were from Tuxedo Park




“The Seventh Regiment Armory set a standard of quality in the care taken with the building itself and especially in the lavish appointments on the interior that was never achieved elsewhere.”

- Robert A.M. Stern, Architect



The Armory was built by New York State’s prestigious Seventh Regiment of the National Guard, the first volunteer militia to respond to President Lincoln’s call for troops in 1861. Members of what was known as the “Silk Stocking” Regiment included New York’s most prominent Gilded Age Families including the Vanderbilts, Van Rensselaers, Roosevelts, Stewarts, Livingstons and Harrimans. Built as both a military facility and a social club, the reception rooms on the first floor and the Company Rooms on the second floor were designed by the most prominent designers and artists of the day including Louis Comfort Tiffany, Stanford White, Herter Brothers and Pottier & Stymus. The Armory’s 55,000 square foot drill hall, reminiscent of the original Grand Central Depot and the great train sheds of Europe, remains one of the largest unobstructed spaces of its kind in New York. A marvel of engineering in its time, it was designed by Regiment veteran and architect Charles W. Clinton, later a partner of Clinton & Russell, architects of the Apthorp Apartments and the famed, now demolished, Astor Hotel.



The regiment formally opened the armory on September 30, 1880, and held an "Inauguration Ball" that December 15th. The total cost of the armory amounted to \$589,438.91 (equivalent to \$17,874,000), the structure was one of a few armories in the United States built and furnished with private funds. From the outset, the building was owned by its board of trustees, composed of 35 officers who were majors or a higher rank. Upon the armory's opening, the 7th Regiment was reportedly the only one in New York state that owned its building. The armory initially hosted a variety of events such as balls, competitions, meetings, and festivals; it also housed the 7th Regiment Tennis Club. The armory quickly attracted members of New York City's wealthiest families.



The image is a vintage fashion advertisement. At the top, a diamond-shaped white frame contains the text 'Tuxedo Park Magazine' in a black cursive font. Below this, four mannequins are displayed. Two are wearing black, floor-length gowns with intricate white floral and leaf patterns. The other two are wearing vibrant red, off-the-shoulder gowns with ruffles and lace. In the center, a portrait of a woman with red hair and a pearl necklace is framed by a green, ornate arch. The background is a mix of orange and pink tones with floral patterns.

*Tuxedo Park
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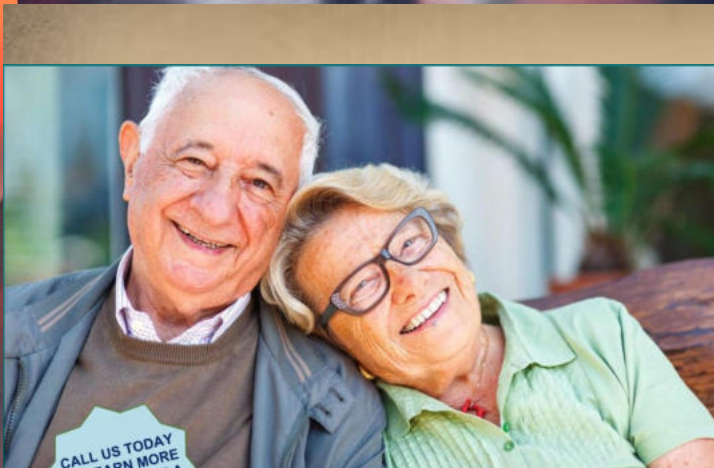
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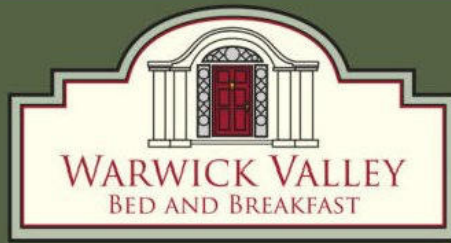
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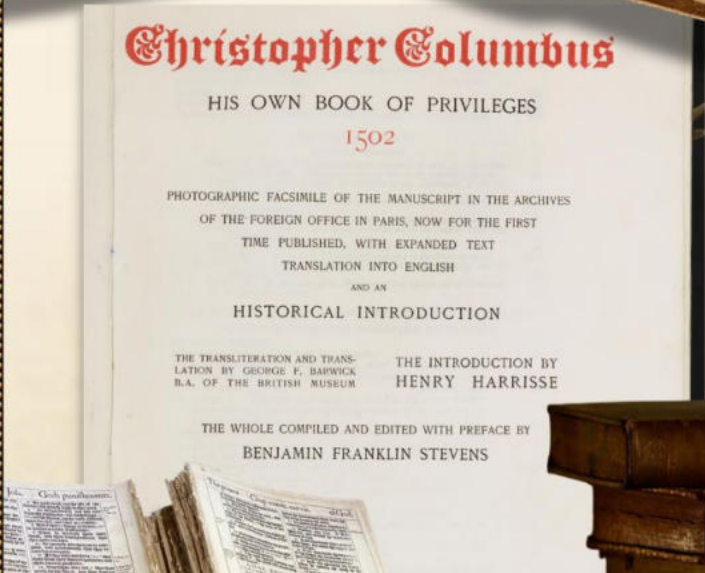
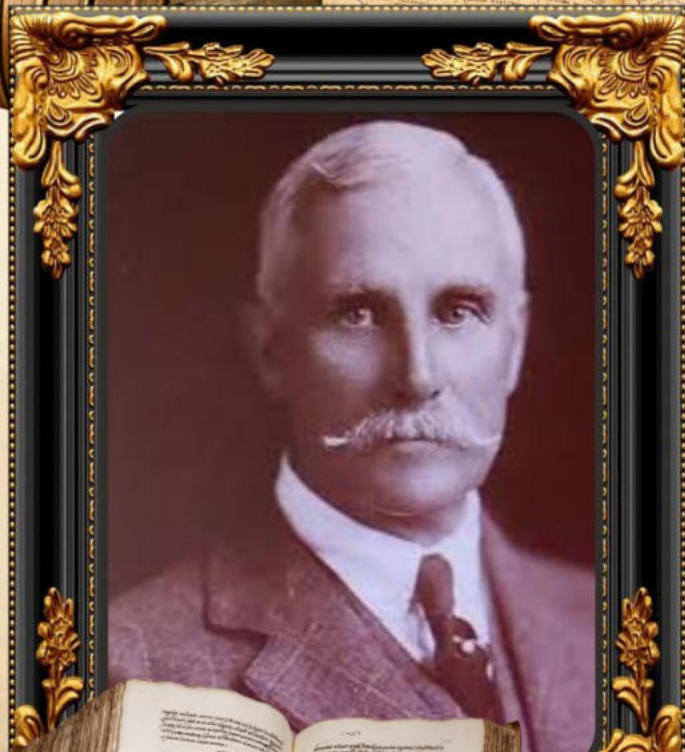
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The graveyard waltz in Ringwood

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 • Skylands has a secret
 • From Salem to West Milford NJ
 • The estate caretaker from 1912 still roams the grounds
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