

## **New York City (Levinson Sale)** **23-27 May 2007**

**Wednesday 23 May 2007.** Mary Payson and I headed off at about 9 for New York, dropping Corky at the kennel in Marlborough. Nice weather (in fact nice weather the whole trip). Travelled on I-91 to Springfield, then west on Route 57 through Southwick, Granville, West Granville (all nice), then south at New Boston on Route 8 to Winsted, then west on Route 44 to Norfolk, a lovely town. We stopped here and had lunch at the Spotted Hen, a very nice restaurant. Afterwards, continued west on Route 44 through Canaan, Salisbury and Lakeville (all nice) through Millerton and south to Amenia, on Route 22 through Dover Plains and Pawling, eventually to I-684. On to the Saw Mill River Parkway, eventually on to the Deegan and into Manhattan on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Bridge, to David and Suzanne Oliver's apartment on Third Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> Street. Parked in the garage (\$45 a night). We're staying in the apartment next door which they also own and which is now used as a playroom for the kids. Changed clothes and took a cab downtown to Swann Galleries on East 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Went in and had a look at some of the books. John and Carlie Levinson were there, also Martin Greene, Greg and Barb Glade, and later David Oliver, John and Christine Rumely. About 100 people there. John said a few words, then I spoke on Antarctic books and collecting, followed by David Stam on Arctic books. Wine and eats. Afterwards the following went to an Indian restaurant on Lexington (Pongal, 110 Lexington): Me, Mary, David and Deirdre Stam, Greg and Barb Glade, Marty Greene. I think that was it. \$21 each. Marty, Mary and I split a cab back to 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Thursday 24 May 2007.** I moved the car up to a garage on 83<sup>rd</sup> street (\$32 a night), then Mary and I went to the subway (bought a 6 ride Metro Card for \$10) and went downtown, heading first for the Morgan Library at Madison and 36<sup>th</sup> Street. The new atrium is very nice. We toured around then I asked about the letter that from Shackleton to JP Morgan that accompanied the Aurora Australis. I was successful in getting a xerox copy. We had a light lunch at the Morgan and then walked on to Swann Galleries for the 1:30 auction. I was bidding for Jonathan Shackleton, David Wilson and Charles Lagerbom. Managed only to get 2 books for Jonathan.

After the auction we went back to the apartment and not long after, David and Deirdre joined us for a drink. We then cabbed over to the Lotos Club on East 66<sup>th</sup> Street where we had a marvelous dinner hosted by John and Carlie Levinson. Included were the Stams, Mary and me, Michael and Sheila Rosove, Marty Greene and Jeremy Moskowitz from Swann. I had oysters and crab cakes which were marvelous. Walked back to the apartment afterwards.

**Friday 25 May 2007.** We decided to start off the day at the Metropolitan Museum which we walked to from the apartment. Wandered around on the first level ending up for quite a while in the new Greek and Roman section which architecturally is quite stunning. Went up to the roof for a hot and hazy look, then down to the dinning room where we had a salad and a bottle of wine.

Took the bus down and across to the westside at 46<sup>th</sup> street, I think, to the Circle Line dock and took the two-hour cruise, around to about the UN and then back again. A nice cruise. By bus back to the apartment.

For dinner David, Mary and I went a couple of blocks away and bought salmon and brought it back for us and Suzanne to enjoy.

**Saturday 26 May 2007.** Mary and I headed uptown originally to go to the Museum of the City of New York but stopped first at the Guggenheim and decided to go in. The outside is now being restored because of rotting concrete. One of the exhibits (Arcadia & Anarchy, highlighting the Italian Divisionists) was particularly good. Took the bus to 79<sup>th</sup> street and then across to Broadway. Walked to 76<sup>th</sup> street at 2162 Broadway to the Second Stage Theatre and checked out a matinee show of “The Butcher of Baraboo.” Went around the corner for lunch at Westside Brewing (340 Amsterdam) and then back for the show. This black comedy was very well acted and quite amusing in places. After the show we walked to the American Museum of Natural History where I took some photos of the Lincoln Ellsworth alcove. We then grabbed the 79<sup>th</sup> Street bus and were soon back at the apartment.

That night we walked a few blocks east and found a Thai restaurant (Sawoy) where we had dinner. Afterwards we had a nightcap at Bandol Bistro the French place across from Conrad’s apartment.

**Sunday 27 May 2007.** After breakfast I went and got the car from the garage in 83<sup>rd</sup> street and we had a drive around Manhattan. Tried to find the Pen and Pencil Restaurant on 45<sup>th</sup> (Antarctic items; it no longer is there) and then the Penguin Café on West 15<sup>th</sup> (also no longer there). Around Greenwich Village, the Wall Street area, site of the Twin Towers, over the Brooklyn Bridge to Brooklyn Heights, then out Atlantic Avenue quite a ways and up to Bushwick Avenue, then eastwards until we came to Dr. Cook’s house at 670. It’s just as derelict as it was in 1999, in fact, more derelict. From there we went back into Manhattan via the Williamsburg Bridge, up Third Avenue to 59<sup>th</sup>, across to Broadway, over to Riverside Drive, past my old apartment house (560), then up to Washington Heights to have brunch with the Rumelys. Were there for a couple of hours, then off home via I-95. In New Haven, we stopped at IKEA and bought a few things and had an ice yoghurt. Eventually back in Marlborough to pick up Corky, then on to Jaffrey, arriving about 7pm.