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Events

Caroling in Stillwater

When: Sunday December 16 2-4 pm
Where: Grand Garage
324 Main Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

Come join us as we go Caroling in Historic Stillwater. We will meet at 2 pm at the Grand Garage. Historic Music and Lyrics will be provided. Ability to carry a tune is not necessary but the ability to have fun is! As always Victorian attire is not required but will be admired. For more information please call 612-719-8339.

LHS Dance Practice

When: December 21st at 7:00 p.m.
Where: Triune Masonic Lodge
1898 Iglehart Ave.
St. Paul, MN

Cost: \$5.00 at the door

VSA members are welcome at the Living History Society of MN dance practices. Dances taught may include: the standard six step waltz, mazurka, polka, and the quadrille.

English Country Dance

Want to learn more about the country dances that we do at our balls?

Come join the fun at Tapestry Folk Dance center

When: Sunday Nights: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Tapestry Folk Dance Center
3748 Minnehaha Ave.
Minneapolis, MN

Cost: \$5.00 per session \$6.00 per person on the First Sunday of the month.*

*First Sundays feature live music and start at 6:00 pm. All dances are taught, it's lively and fun! After a few sessions when our caller at the ball says "Cast Down!" you will know what he means! For information contact Mary Brown by e-mail (mebbieb10@cs.com)

Board Meeting:

When: Saturday December 29th 12:00 pm
Where: Mr. Cusick's residence

Twelfth Night Ball:

When: January 5, 2007

Where: The Klub Haus

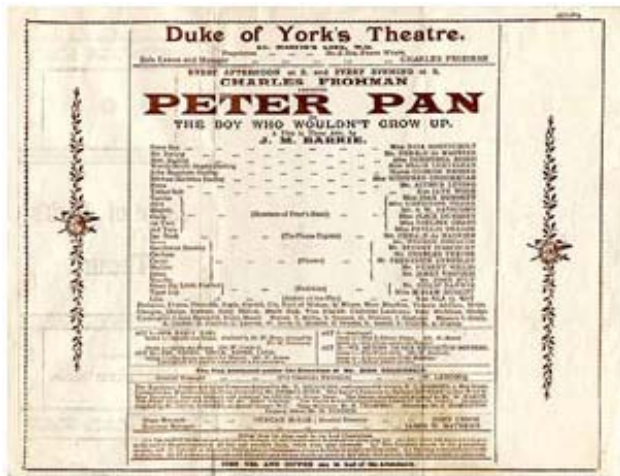
1079 Rice Street, St. Paul

Invitations will be sent out this month!

This Month in History

December 1904

On December 27th 1904 James Barrie's Play Peter Pan premiered in London. An immediate success, the play continued to be performed almost every year in London, and on tour. As a play and a musical it reached out to Broadway, and from then on it has encompassed cinema, television and theatre.



A copy of the first programme - 1904

The first person to create the part of Peter Pan was the actress Nina Boucicault, sister of Dion Boucicault the director of the play, with the actor Gerald Du Maurier as Captain Hook. Du Maurier was in fact the Uncle of the Llewellyn-Davies children- the inspiration for Peter Pan and the Darling children.



Nina Boucicault - the first Peter 1904 / Hilda Trevelyan - the first Wendy 1904

J.M. Barrie (1860-1937), an established and popular playwright, wrote his first play in 1877. The Play that he will always be remembered for "Peter Pan or the boy who would not grow up"

was presented to the public in 1904 and published as the play in book form in 1911.

However, the idea of Peter Pan and Wendy began earlier. In 1902 He published an adult novel "The Little White Bird". It was the tale of a lonely bachelor who meets a boy in Kensington Gardens. Together they invent the story of Peter Pan, a baby who lives on the Island in the Serpentine (the lake in the park).

This was later adapted and republished in 1906 as "Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens" and the book was dedicated "to Sylvia and Arthur Llewellyn Davies and their boys. My boys"

Barrie befriended the Llewellyn-Davies family and their children. He became a family friend and adopted "uncle" to the five boys. He first encountered the three children with their nanny whilst walking his dog, Porthos. Barrie and his actress wife Mary Ansell owned both Porthos a St. Bernard and Luath a Newfoundland. Obviously the creation of Nana the dog as nursemaid sprang from his own home.



The Three Llewellyn Davies Boys

The three boys he encountered were George Llewellyn Davies, aged five, his younger brother Jack, aged three, and the baby Peter. Barrie and his wife Mary had no children, and in his meetings with the boys Barrie revelled in entertaining them.

The family often spent long summers at Barrie's country house, "Black Lake Cottage" in Farnham. Here more "piratical" adventures were played out on the shores of the Black Lake. The first draft of the play began between 1903 and

early 1904. This version had no pirates and no Captain Hook. The Adventures with Hook began to be written in when Barrie discovered he needed “filler”- a front cloth scene while scenery was being changed. In his Scottish homeland, as a boy the local postman was nicknamed “Hookie”- he had a hook in place of his right hand. The story was developed by spring of 1904.

JM Barrie once said to the Davie’s boys *‘I made Peter by rubbing the five of you violently together, as savages with two sticks produce a flame. Peter Pan is the spark I got from you’*



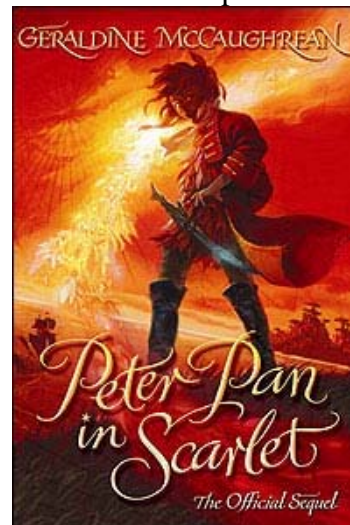
The Nursery Scene

In creating Peter, he also created Wendy. The Christian name had not existed before. Barrie’s friend, W.E. Henley, the Poet, had a four year old daughter who inspired the name. Margaret had trouble pronouncing her “r’s”, and referred to Barrie as her “Fwendy”- he noted this down, and created his heroine’s new name.

J.M. Barrie bequeathed the copyright of “Peter Pan” to the Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital in 1929. In the UK the current copyright ran out in 2007. (It runs out in the USA in 2023). In the UK, there was a brief time when the copyright expired, and it looked as if Barrie’s bequest would no longer be honoured. Questions were raised in parliament, and an agreement was made ensuring royalty payments would continue to be paid until 2007.

The hospital held a competition to choose the approved version and author for a sequel to

Peter Pan. In October 2006 the official sequel “Peter Pan in Scarlet” was published.



“Peter Pan in Scarlet”, written by British author Geraldine McCaughrean was published in 30 countries, (*in 31 languages worldwide*) and, it will continue to earn money for this children’s hospital. The royalties from this new novel will be split between the author and Great Ormond Street.

In its early stages the novel had a working title of “Captain Pan”. One of the judges was J.M. Barrie’s great-great nephew, David Barrie. He recently said Barrie would be delighted to know that *“The boy who wouldn’t grow up will go on helping children back to health for many years to come”*

<http://www.its-behind-you.com/storypeterpan.html>

Men: To Tea or Not To Tea..

Part 2

By James E. Patterson

This series started with an overview of Afternoon Tea and how best for men to maneuver through the maze of proper protocol. If not accustomed to the intricacies and customary formalities connected to a traditional and well-presented tea, the entire process can be awkward and intimidating.

Let us take a few moments to separate out some of the more essential elements of a proper

Afternoon Tea. The teacup is probably the most central instrument at tea. Some might say that tea would take that position but even bad tea needs a cup in which to be served.

The contemporary china teacup is the culmination of several millennia of R&D. Slow though it may have been, trial and error eventually came up with the right combination of china clay or kaolin, silica, alumina and bone ash. Add to this the perfection of glazes and firing techniques and you have a vessel that is delicate, beautiful and incredibly strong.

Because of the structure of teacups and materials from which they are made it is possible to set a bone china teacup on the floor upside-down and stand on it without it breaking. Although I have never tried this I have seen it done and as parlour tricks go, this one is fairly impressive. Gentlemen, if you are going to try this there are two things you must know. 1) Trying this demonstration with a teacup that has a handle protruding above the lip of the cup is not wise and 2) trying this with your wife's Wedgwood or Royal Doulton is suicidal.

Setting all structural engineering and acrobatics aside, the teacup has an obvious practical application. For several reasons, however, this application is not applied universally between men and women. First of all, gentlemen, any Afternoon Tea presented properly will be done with bone china—you do not drink tea out of a mug. Secondly, teacups are made for women's hands so the handle is your biggest obstacle. Learn to spot the teacup that has a handle large enough to get your finger through. Switch with someone in your party or, when no one is looking, replace your cup (and saucer) with one from another table. Gauche, though it may be, it is worth risking the violation of tearoom protocol. Oh, another option—just ask your host for a different cup.

While perusing the room for the proper handle you may as well look for a cup you find aesthetically pleasing. Teacups with flowers on them, unlike the real thing, are a dime a dozen. If that is what you like, your job will be fairly

simple, but remember that dainty flowered teacups can mean small handles. If, however, you desire something a little more unique consider the *je ne sais quoi* that comes with understated elegance. Solid white trimmed in gold with the crest of the Royal Family on the front would be a good place to start. Or replace the Royal Crest with a cameo of England's King Charles II...do a little research on Charles and you will be armed with some historical information about tea that I guarantee no one in the tearoom will know.

Now, with the proper cup in hand and historical enlightenment at the ready, what could possibly go wrong? What indeed. ~JEP~

James Patterson is the editor and contributing writer of *Tea-Totaling With Earlene*. *Tea-Totaling...* is the quarterly newsletter of author Earlene Grey.

For additional information visit
www.EarleneGrey.com or email
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Notable Quotes J.M. Barrie

Life is a long lesson in humility. -*The Little Minister*

The reason birds can fly and we can't is simply that they have perfect faith, for to have faith is to have wings. -*The Little White Bird*

The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it. -*The Little Minister*

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.

We are all failures - at least the best of us are.

I am not young enough to know everything.