



State of New York

Executive Chamber

EDITH WHARTON CITATION OF MERIT FOR FICTION WRITERS

Presented to:

ALISON LURIE

Whereas, the Empire State is pleased to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves through their lasting contributions to literature, art, culture, and society as a whole; and

Whereas, Alison Lurie is just such an individual – a clear-eyed observer of middle class American life, particularly in rural, upstate college communities inspired by her hometown of Ithaca; Ms. Lurie is an outstanding chronicler of contemporary manners and mores, often compared to Jane Austen for her nuanced understanding of relationships between men and women, and she has surely inherited the mantle of Edith Wharton, her New York literary ancestor, for lifelike portrayals of an entire New York community in a particular time and place; and

Whereas, in her novels and short stories, Alison Lurie has taken on the extremely valuable role of satirist and insightful, compassionate social critic, allowing us to laugh at ourselves and to better understand ourselves, stripping away defenses, she underscores our unwillingness to change on the one hand, and our reckless willingness to change too fast, on the other; and

Whereas, as a teacher of writing at Cornell University for over three decades, Alison Lurie is fondly remembered by her students for her vast experience, wisdom, and unfailing patience; her generosity with time and support; her willingness to appreciate each student's individual voice; and her eagerness to nurture the beginnings of talent and creativity; and

Whereas, a pioneering champion of children's literature, Alison Lurie shone a light on this neglected genre, demonstrating the importance of children's and adolescents' literature in shaping young minds and encouraging young voices to find expression; through her efforts, Alison Lurie has clarified the important relationship of children's literature to global literacy and, beyond that, to the future of human literature and letters; we join to celebrate an inspirational author whose achievements make her deserving of recognition and our gratitude;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this Citation upon Alison Lurie for her distinguished literary accomplishments and contributions, and am pleased to designate her as the State Author of New York for the years 2012 – 2014.




Governor

September 20, 2012