NEWS FROM THE FORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

Spring 1999

The American Century: Ford Museum Greets the Millennium with a Blockbuster Show

Charles Lindbergh's flight suit worn during his historic May, 1927 New York to Paris flight ★ A wheelchair used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt ★ The death masks of Sacco and Vanzetti ★ George Gershwin's baton ★ William Faulkner's typewriter ★ The Supreme Court robes of Justice Thurgood Marshall ★ John F. Kennedy's undelivered speech of November 22, 1963 ★ James Dean's motorcycle ★ A jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley ★ A Patriot missile from the Gulf War ★ Walt Disney's Oscar for Mickey Mouse ★ The original manuscript of Hemingway's *Snows of Kilimanjaro* ★ The world's first video game ★ Bullet riddled hats worn by Bonnie and Clyde on the last day of their lives ★ Twisted office equipment taken from the rubble of the Oklahoma City Federal Building ★ Baseballs signed by Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, and Jackie Robinson ★ Woodrow Wilson's top hat worn at the Versailles Peace Conference ★ Hugh Hefner's pajamas ★ The desk on which Margaret Mitchell wrote *Gone With The Wind* ★ The original texts of Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech and Lyndon Johnson's March 31, 1968 withdrawal from that year's Presidential contest ★ A nuclear warhead ★ A jacket worn by Jimi Hendrix ★ First class furnishings from the *Titanic* ★ A stop watch used by Orville and Wilbur Wright to time the world's first successful air flight in 1903.

These are among nearly 500 historic artifacts, documents, paintings and costumes assembled from one hundred plus institutions and individuals to form *The American Century*, the largest display in the history of the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan ("an exhibit so large," in President Ford's words, "it has taken a whole century to assemble"). The show opened to the public on April 10, following a reception and on stage conversation the previous evening featuring President Ford and Harold Evans, author of the best-selling *The American Century* from Knopf. Record numbers of visitors have flocked ever since to see the vast end-of-the-millennium exhibition, a Ford Museum exclusive, which runs through October 17.

Beginning in the museum's lobby, a 32 foot long mural of downtown Grand Rapids circa 1900 introduces visitors to what is, in effect, a walk through the twentieth century. Overhead a one-quarter scale model of the

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first Wright Brothers airplane is suspended above a Model T and early bicycle, William McKinley's White House rocking chair, a passport used by Margaret Sanger, and Harry Truman's World War I uniform. Nearby, a flagpole sitter from the Twenties ushers visitors into the decade that roared. The biology textbook that sparked the celebrated Scopes' Monkey Trial is on display, along with Scott Fitzgerald's hip flask, Louis Armstrong's trumpet, a costume from the original 1927 production of *Showboat* and the original Nineteenth Amendment, the latter loaned by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Elsewhere, visitors can stand on the bow of a ship at Pearl Harbor, encounter residents of Japanese internment camps, and enter a recreated movie palace to see a century's worth of Hollywood's greatest moments. A 1950s fallout shelter and an enormous mural of Levittown serve as backdrops for Elvis Presley, Mamie Eisenhower, Ella Fitzgerald, and—what else?—a La-Z-Boy recliner. The history of radio and television is traced in detail. So is the rise of suburban life and the origins of the modern civil rights movement. "Whites Only" signs that once limited access to water fountains and restrooms are displayed beside documents from the groundbreaking case of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education and the Rev. Martin Luther King's 1957 telegram to President Eisenhower praising his use of federal troops to integrate Little Rock's Central High School.

There is a field uniform from Vietnam, a cocktail dress worn by Jackie Kennedy, primitive computers and early packaging from McDonalds and other consumer giants. In the exhibit's Seventies section, silkscreens by Andy Warhol hang near letters to the Fords from Gloria Steinem, Mr. Rogers' sweater and sneakers, *Sesame Street's* Bert and Ernie, a hockey stick used by Wayne Gretzky, and handwritten notes from President Carter's negotiations at Camp David which led to a landmark agreement between Egypt and Israel. Our own decade unfolds beneath a forest of oversized tabloid covers. Artifacts here relate to the Gulf War and acts of terrorism including the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings, and the Unabomber. On a lighter note, Barry Sanders' football jersey, Forrest Gump's movie fatigues, and a Cal Ripkin Jr. bat are on display, as are gifts to President Clinton commemorating his peacemaking efforts and the Heisman Trophy won by University of Michigan great Tom Harmon.

None of this just happened. Working off a 60,000 word script written by Museum Director Richard Norton Smith, Curator James Kratsas, Registrar Don Holloway, and Exhibit Specialist Bettina Demetz undertook a vast scavenger hunt, locating hundreds of historically significant items before negotiating their loan, transportation, exhibition and return. Demetz assumed responsibility for designing and installing the exhibit, as well as tracking down photos, audio and video elements. Holloway was kept busy dealing with over 100 loaning institutions—securing their participation, insuring their objects, guaranteeing the safe arrival and uncrating of countless irreplaceable objects. In some instances, loaners would only consider participating if museum staff picked up their precious cargo in person. Consequently, Jim Kratsas drove as far as Colorado to personally pack Bonnie and Clyde's hats and a bulletproof vest once worn by John Dillinger. Hats off to all three for their extraordinary labors and professionalism.

THE AMERICAN CENTURY
★ 1900-1999 ★
GERALD R. FORD MUSEUM
EXHIBIT OF THE CENTURY

The Gerald R. Ford Museum and Foundation wish to thank the following individuals and organizations:

The American Century Exhibit Underwriters
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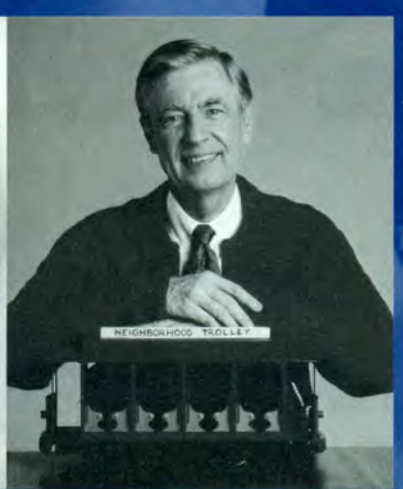


To accompany the exhibit, the Ford Museum has teamed up with Grand Valley State University to sponsor a *Millennium Lecture Series*, featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin, Justice John Paul Stephens, and the Reverend Billy Graham, among others. *The American Century* would never have happened without the generous support of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. In addition to defraying all exhibit costs, the Ford Foundation has also launched a major paid promotional campaign. President Ford himself contacted prospective donors and contributed handsomely to the exhibit budget.

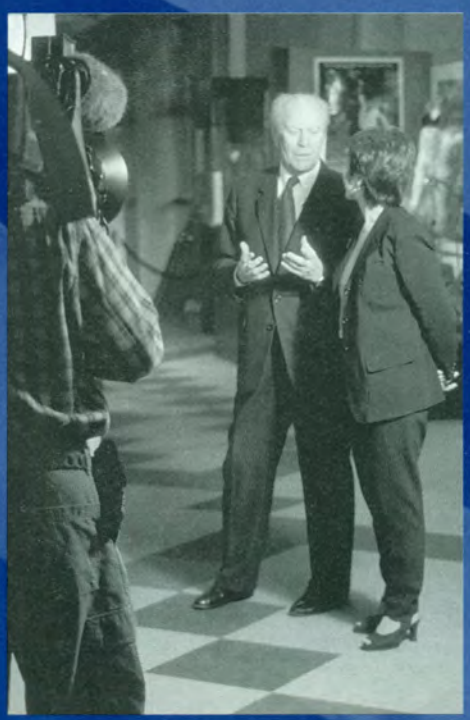
The result is a once-in-a-century event—made even more significant by the April 10 dedication of the gunmetal gray steel staircase that once led to the roof of the old U.S. Embassy in Saigon. When the building was demolished last summer, the stairway was preserved for permanent exhibition at the Ford Museum, where it will complement a large slab from the Berlin Wall as a symbol of the unquenchable human desire for freedom. Thus a new icon is created at the end of the American Century, one that recalls a painful chapter in the nation's history, even as it reminds us of over one million Vietnamese-Americans whose presence enriches the life and culture of their adopted homeland.

RICHARD NORTON SMITH
Museum and Library Director

Museum Director Richard Norton Smith opened the April 10 program dedicating the newly acquired staircase from the old U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

President Ford and his long-time friends, Frederik and Lena Meijer. It was through the Meijer family's vision and generosity that arrangements were made to preserve, transport and display the Saigon Staircase.

An onstage Millennium discussion on the evening of April 9 featured President Ford and Harold Evans, author of the best selling, The American Century. The program was taped for later broadcast on C-Span.



President Ford and Hattie Kauffman of CBS This Morning tour The American Century exhibit.

Remembrance and Renewal: Gerald R. Ford's Remarks at the Saigon Staircase Dedication, April 10, 1999

Spring comes softly to west Michigan. In this season of new life and quickening possibilities, we have gathered to dedicate this staircase, which is all that remains of the former U.S. Embassy in Saigon. It has found a new home on the banks of the Grand River, thanks to the vision and generosity of Fred Meijer and his family—whose name we give to the museum lobby in grateful recognition of their longstanding friendship and support. I would also like to acknowledge Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and her State Department colleagues, and the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and its chairman, Marty Allen, for all their help in preserving an important, if sobering, piece of 20th century history.

In recent days the civilized world has been horrified by the pictures coming out of Kosovo. We have drawn back in horror at what the diplomatic establishment calls ethnic cleansing, and we instinctively recognize as mass murder. Our hearts go out to the victims of a foreign dictator and his thuggish regime. It's a far cry from the mood prevailing in the spring of 1975. In their haste to consign an unpopular war to the history books, some Americans were all too willing to abandon those who had fought courageously at our side.

April, 1975 was indeed the cruelest month. Even as Hanoi's armies poured south, I became the first President since Woodrow Wilson to meet with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the White House. My visitors were interested in one thing only—the immediate evacuation of all Americans in South Vietnam. One senator told me that to even try evacuating South Vietnamese refugees could involve us in a whole new war. Another pledged to vote whatever funds were needed to get Americans out—so long as the issue didn't become entangled with the question of our Vietnamese allies.

To me, such an attitude was unthinkable. To deliberately shut our doors to those fleeing a brutal dictatorship would add moral shame to military humiliation. It would have mocked the service of two and a half million Americans, and the supreme sacrifice of 58,209 who gave their lives so that a small land on the other side of the globe might somehow elude the grip of Communist tyranny. It would have repudiated the values we cherish as a nation of immigrants, and our longstanding tradition of providing refuge for the victims of religious, ethnic and political persecution.

Mr. Huan Le recalls his own and others struggles in 1975 and the years since.

In the end, we were able to mobilize public opinion and

The lobby was packed for President Ford's moving remarks about April, 1975—and the contributions made by hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese resettled in America.

help resettle over 130,000 Vietnamese refugees, including Mr. Le and others in this audience. In the intervening years, you have greatly enriched our society, even as you have struggled to preserve your own traditions in a world few of us could have imagined in 1975. The passage of time has not dulled the ache of those days, the saddest of my public life. I pray that no future American president is ever faced with the grim options that confronted me as the military situation on the ground deteriorated...mediating between those who wanted an early exit and others who would go down with all flags flying...running a desperate race against the clock to rescue as many people as we could before enemy shelling destroyed airport runways...followed by the heartbreaking realization that, as refugees streamed out onto those runways, we were left with only one alternative—a final evacuation by helicopter from the roof of the U.S. Embassy.

We did the best we could. History will judge whether we could have done better. Inevitably some will question the wisdom of official policy. Yet no one can doubt the idealism of those brave helicopter pilots who flew non-stop missions for 18 hours, dodging relentless sniper fire to land on an embassy roof illuminated by nothing more than a 35mm slide projector. They are the true heroes. Thanks to them, the pain of that long ago April is salved by the pride of so many Vietnamese-Americans who have carved out new lives in a new land.

A quarter century later I still grieve over those we were unable to rescue. I still mourn for 2,500 American soldiers who to this day remain unaccounted for. Yet the passage of time brings with it a fresh perspective. No doubt each visitor will interpret this staircase and its historical significance for himself. For many, it was both a way out of a nightmare—and a doorway into something incomparably better. To some it will always be seen as an emblem of military defeat.

The children of Sherwood Elementary School and their teacher, Ms. To Huong.

For me, however, it is a monument of hope and not despair. For it symbolizes man's undying desire to be free. Ernest Hemingway once declared that human beings are not made for defeat. Man can be destroyed, he wrote, but he can never be defeated. What applies to individuals holds equally true for nations. There is more to a nation than its soil, its cities, its wealth, or even its government. There is a soul in a great people. It is steeled in their sufferings. They may be occupied by foreign armies. They may be temporarily enslaved. They may be economically impoverished. But the soul of a great people cannot be crushed.

Today the Ford Museum assumes stewardship of the Saigon staircase in the name of such a people. It is my hope that one day it may be returned to a Vietnam that is free. Until then, let us remember the millions of brave men and women—Vietnamese and Americans—who fought a common foe with uncommon valor. May God bless you and them, now and always. ■

The audience was enrapt as the children's choir sang "God Bless America" - in English and Vietnamese.

Elizabeth Dole Keynotes Conference On Women In Politics

by Richard Holzhausen

In her remarks to a capacity crowd of over 350 people Elizabeth Dole, former president of the American Red Cross, said, "For the past 30 years, women have had to be over achievers to succeed. We worked twice as hard as men to be considered as good. Unfortunately, that still hasn't changed entirely. Women still face discrimination and the remaining inequalities will never be erased without a greater participation by women at every level." Dole, a potential presidential candidate, was the keynote speaker at a Ford Foundation sponsored conference in Ann Arbor, entitled *We've Come A Long Way—Maybe.* The November gathering, hosted by President Ford, included many notable women who have been involved in politics for over thirty years.

In opening the conference, President Ford described himself as "the guy who inspired countless voters in 1976 to wear buttons with the words Betty's Husband for President." He also noted that he was greatly influenced by his mother, who had the courage to divorce an abusive husband and start a new life in Grand Rapids early in this century. Dorothy Ford went on to lead an active and useful life marked by heavy involvement in community activities until her death in 1967.

Dole, too, talked of an influential mother—who had originally wanted her to become a wife, mother, and hostess, and who became ill after learning she was going to Harvard Law School, where she was one of 24 women in a class of 550. (Now women make up more than 40 percent of the students entering Harvard Law School.) Dole added that while she had no real regrets..."I do wish that once upon a time someone had told me I had to chose, because some choices should be made consciously, with open eyes...We can't have it all. Time and energy and realities of life will not allow it. Our modern freedom to choose requires us to decide among our wants. We must decide what is important, what is lasting, what is noble." Dole praised the 12 panelists who were to follow her as "talented women who weren't afraid to challenge conventional thinking."

The first panel, "*Then,*" consisted of UPI's Helen Thomas, dean of the White House press corps; Liz Carpenter, the irrepressible former press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson; Margaret Heckler, a former Republican Congresswoman, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Ambassador to Ireland; Anne Wexler, former White House assistant to President Carter; and Martha Keys, a former Democratic Congresswoman from Kansas. Thomas and Carpenter both noted that in the 1950s women were not even allowed to belong to the National Press Club; when they were finally admitted they could only sit in the balcony during club events. Liz Carpenter, who identified herself as an aging, pro-choice feminist Democrat, encouraged women not to "hunker down in guilt" for combining a political career with motherhood. Congresswomen Heckler and Keys recalled the special challenges posed, on and off the campaign trail, to mothers who thought their place was in the House as well as the home. Rep. Heckler also took the opportunity to speak out against late-term abortions.

The second panel, "*Now,*" was just as lively. It included Betsy DeVos, who chairs the Michigan State Republican party; Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson; Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women; Ann Lewis, Director of Communications for the Clinton White House; Dee Dee Myers, former Clinton press secretary; and Sheila Burke, executive dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Lewis said the number of women in elected office now has pushed women's issues to the forefront of politics, and Ireland recounted the struggle faced by Zoe Baird and Kimba Wood, would be Attorneys General, over day-care issues.

DeVos disagreed with most of the panelists, saying that it is not as important to have women in office as it is to have people who share women's views. "There are no issues that impact women only," she insisted. Not surprisingly, there was considerable attention paid to the role of Hillary Clinton in promoting female job candidates and issues of special interest to women. Both panels were well received by the capacity crowd, whose numbers were vastly swelled thanks to repeated broadcasts on C-Span. ■

The Morning Panel (l-r: moderator Carl Anthony, Anne Wexler, Helen Thomas, Martha Keyes, Margaret Heckler, Liz Carpenter)

The Decade of Women

Unprecedented strides in gender-equity were achieved in the 1970s through increased participation of women in elected and appointed office, landmark legislation, and organized political activism. That the Ford Administration was in the vanguard of this quiet revolution came through loud and clear in a recent exhibit by Library staff at the University of Michigan North Campus Commons Gallery Wall.

Women Making History: Photographs and Documents from the Ford Library illustrated women of achievement at work in the Ford administration: among them, Betty Ford in her support of Women's Equality Day, International Women's Year and the Equal Rights Amendment, HUD Secretary Carla Hills, presidential appointees Bobbie Kilberg and Elizabeth Hanford (Dole), Ambassadors Shirley Temple Black and Anne Armstrong, Patricia Lindh, Gen. Jeanne Holm and Karen Keesling of the Women's Program Office, Rep. Lindy Boggs, and RNC Chairman Mary Louise Smith.

20,300 people—an estimated 700 per day that passed through the high traffic area—viewed the exhibit. Many thanks go to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation for making it all possible—11 poster photos and 22 documents, spanning a 60 foot wall. ■

President and Mrs. Ford look on as Associate Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell swears in Anne Armstrong, the first woman appointed United States Ambassador to England. Three years earlier, Ms. Armstrong established the first White House Office of Women's Programs and was subsequently considered a possible vice-presidential running mate by Gerald Ford. February 19, 1976.

"For the past 30 years, women have had to be over achievers to succeed. We worked twice as hard as men to be considered as good."
— Elizabeth Dole

President Ford and Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson

The Afternoon Panel (l-r: moderator Carl Anthony, Sheila Burke, Betsey DeVos, Patricia Ireland, Ann Lewis, Dee Dee Myers, Kay Bailey Hutchinson)

Caught in the Web and Liking It

by David Horrocks

Search "President Ford" on the web and you can find yourself at a Melbourne, Australia dealership for Ford Motor Company. Web usage is tricky, and so are web statistics. Still, we have been astonished at the steady, steep climb in visitors to the Ford Library and Museum website.

Over the last six months, the visitorship rate has nearly doubled. The most recent month showed 21,130 visitors requesting over 161,000 files.

Students, K-12, are a big part of our audience. E-mailed one visitor, "I am a mom who home schools her two children. We visited your website today and found much useful information about Pres. Ford. Thank you very much." Another visitor, clearly not a homeschooler, e-mailed "Remember Me?...Well, my teacher gave me an A+. You really helped me." We were pleased, but frankly not surprised, when WorldVillage named us Family-Friendly Site of the Day back in January.

Our site also attracts a very large number of casual visitors who explore our extensive on-line White House photos and sometimes purchase reproductions from us. Fully two-thirds of visitors enter our site at a point other than our homepage, sometimes drawn to us when a photo caption, or even a single folder title from an archives inventory, appeared as a "hit" during a web search.

Journalists, government officials, and academic researchers comprise a small but high-impact category of visitor. Professor Garcia y Griega, for example, recently explained in our research room how he had used the site to identify immigration policy material and even to get driving directions to the Library. E-mailed one post-doctoral fellow from Georgetown University, after using our site's search function and archival inventories to plan a successful visit, "You are definitely one of the most accessible archives I have encountered, and you have made it very easy for me to assess the value of your holdings for my research."

A few months ago, a Clinton White House staffer called us for information on the composition and operation of the Cabinet during the Ford administration. Sitting at his computer yet still on the telephone, we took him to our website and into our Cabinet module. He was amazed.

Continuous improvement to the site is one reason for the continuous growth in visitorship. In the past year, new features added to the site have included:

- President Ford's *New York Times* Op-Ed articles on the Clinton impeachment issue, plus the accurate full text of his oft-cited 1970 remarks on impeachable offenses.
- A complete set of declassified formal National Security Study and Decision Memoranda, 1974-77.
- All known Ford Cabinet meeting minutes, plus related material.
- The White House Photo Office collection of over 230 family and childhood photos of President and Mrs. Ford.
- A selection of declassified memoranda of conversations on assorted foreign relations and defense topics.
- A popular visit to the White House state dinner honoring Queen Elizabeth II.
- A more comprehensive and timely Calendar of Events section, and an overview of the exciting new *American Century* exhibit.

As our website has grown in complexity and usage, we have become more systematic in our management of the site. Each month, archivist Bill McNitt chairs a small web committee that evaluates new project ideas, reviews progress upgrading pioneer portions of the site, identifies content and system difficulties, and balances web development against many other program needs.

We invite you to visit us at our new and more user-friendly URL **<www.ford.utexas.edu>** ■

Telling and Keeping Secrets

by David Horrocks

The most sensitive files of the Ford presidency are being reviewed for declassification as they reach 25 years of age. Executive Order 12958 requires it, and an estimated 800,000 pages are involved. These include the Kissinger-Scowcroft files from the White House West Wing, the presidential and other files of the National Security Council staff, and the records of the Rockefeller Commission on CIA activities.

Declassification has its own arcane diplomacy of interagency agreements, delegated and reserved authorities, legislative requirements, and implementing programs. There are special mandates regarding the Kennedy assassination, POWs and MIAs, the Pinochet regime, Nazi gold, and Nazi war criminals. There is a FOIA-like process called "mandatory review." There is on-site review by State Department officials, off-site review by NSC, and special nuclear programs awareness training for archivists.

The CIA leads a multi agency program to digitize and review much of the presidential libraries materials. Indeed, the Ford Library's annual work plan is dominated by this Remote Archives Capture program (RAC).

But the first step in all of these programs is always the same - it is page-by-page review by Ford Library archivists. Here is a glimpse at how that first step works:

The cable is addressed to SecState from AmEmbassy Cairo, dated August 1975. It is classified "Secret" with distribution narrowed to "Cherokee" channels, and this particular copy had been routed to the White House Situation Room. In four single spaced pages, Ambassador Eilts recites and assesses the scorching anger of Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmy over a point in the Sinai disengagement negotiations with Israel.

Can the Ford Library archivist declassify and release it under State Department guidelines?

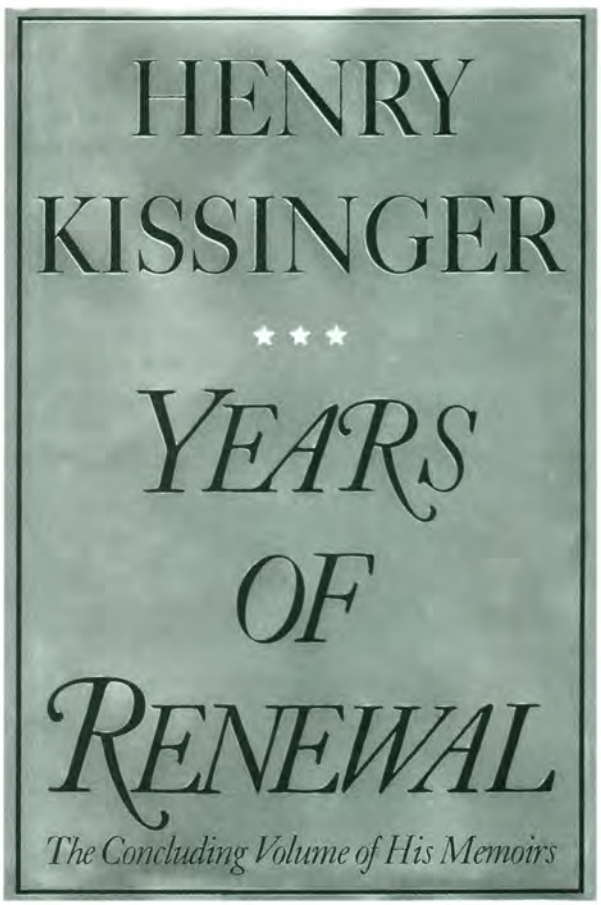
Certainly, the Sinai negotiations are long since concluded, and nothing in the document even touches upon sensitive unresolved issues like Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan, or water rights. There is clearly nothing that impugns Fahmy's loyalty to his own government, nor any Egyptian or Israeli diplomatic confidence that either country would expect kept to the present time. Further, nothing in the cable message or the means of its transmission suggests any possible intelligence community interest in the cable's release.

The archivist makes a mental review of points covered by former Ambassador Morris Draper during a valuable two-day consulting visit provided in January by the State Department. The archivist recalls past handling of Middle East documents that had been sent to State Department reviewers under the Mandatory Review program of recent years. Certain things are still restricted, she knows, but this document seems free of them. The archivist puts the document in a parallel file of material slated for declassification and moves on to the next document.

That makes it 250,004 pages down and 549,996 pages to go. ■

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By _____, NARA, Date _____

New on the Bookshelf ...



Reviewers have enthusiastically greeted the latest volume of Kissinger's magisterial treatment of foreign policy in the Nixon-Ford era. The book is particularly notable for its fresh and persuasive account of Gerald Ford's leadership and historic contributions.

Tomorrow Thanks Today: Some Recent Archival Donations

Future generations will know the 1960s and 1970s only through what survives in archives, both paper and visual. Given that these unborn historians and their readers (and viewers) are not on the scene to thank prospective donors, we will speak for them. For example...

The papers of **Paul Theis** will be immensely helpful on the successful effort to rebuild Republican power in the House during Gerald Ford's Minority Leadership. Through the generosity of Bettye Scott, the extensive papers of the late **Stanley Scott**, special assistant to Presidents Nixon and Ford, will preserve his valuable contributions to and perspective on the civil rights struggle. The cool professionalism of U.S. helicopter pilots as they evacuated our Saigon embassy in the spring of 1975 is forever preserved in the radio transmissions transcribed by the **National Security Agency**. Our special thanks to NSA historian Tom Johnson for locating these and facilitating their release.

Our list of thank-yous might also include researcher **Ron Campbell** for copies of his correspondence with inmate Squeaky Fromme, scholars **Herbert Seltz** and **Richard Yoakam** for their source materials from the Ford-Carter debates, and **Carla Hills** for copies of her speeches as HUD Secretary. In addition, we now have unpublished historical accounts from "Watergate Seven" attorney **Douglas Caddy**, Grand Rapids Republican **Ella Koeze** (courtesy of Mary Lukens), Transportation Deputy Secretary **John Barnum**, and Saigon Embassy official **Wolfgang Lehmann** (courtesy of the Association for Diplomatic Studies). Foundation Trustees **Robert Barrett**, **Susan Ford Bales**, and **George Grassmuck** have also added to their collections at the Library. Posterity thanks you; so, more immediately, do we. ■

New Student Researcher

This is Zack Storer of Lake Charles, Louisiana, who recently won the Grand Prize at the Regional Social Studies Fair. He wrote "I am really excited about going to state and wanted to thank you again for all the information that you have given me. I told the judges that the Ford Library has been very helpful and they were interested in all the information I shared with them about the Ford Family."

Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant Awards

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation semi-annually awards grants of up to $2,000 to support research in the Ford Library's collections. For grant application forms and information, please contact Geir Gundersen, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2114, call (734) 741-2218 or e-mail "geir.gundersen @fordlib.nara.gov." Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients of the fall 1998 awards and their topics were:

Thatcher C. Carter
University of California at Riverside
National Portraits: Autobiography and Breast Cancer

Amanda R. Edwards
University of Connecticut
Policy Dialogues: Gender Equity in American Sport

Nichol D. Gutgold
Penn State University, Lehigh Valley
The Rhetoric of Betty Bloomer Ford

Kathryn Dunn Tenpas
University of South Florida
Campaigning to Govern: Political Consultants as Presidential Advisors

Denton L. Watson
State University of New York - College at Old Westbury
Biography of Clarence Williams, Jr., Vol. 2

THE AMERICAN CENTURY: 1900-1999, THROUGH OCTOBER 17. Experience the epic events, unforgettable personalities and amazing accomplishments that define the 20th Century. By far the most ambitious exhibit in Ford Museum history, it features over 500 historic artifacts, documents, costumes and paintings assembled from one hundred plus institutions and individuals.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!
JULY 4. Extended hours until 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT FORD'S BIRTHDAY, JULY 14. Cake, games, balloons and more.

AMERICA'S HOUSE: THE WHITE HOUSE IN MINIATURE, NOVEMBER 5, 1999 - FEBRUARY 29, 2000. To celebrate the bicentennial of the White House, the Gerald Ford Museum will display a sixty foot scale model of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue— decorated for Christmas—with every room and every stick of furniture (down to working T.V. sets!) reproduced to scale.

AMERICA WEST, APRIL-OCTOBER, 2000. A sprawling exhibit tracing the development of the American West from 17th century fur trappers to the closing of the frontier in 1893.

There's More Ford in Your Future

"Too much of a good thing can be wonderful." When the late, lamented Mae West uttered those immortal words, she presumably did not have the Ford Museum and Library in mind. Nevertheless, both institutions are currently struggling to cope with too much of a good thing—and too little space in which to house it. Specifically, at least a quarter of the Museum's memorabilia collection, including most items related to America's Bicentennial, aren't even housed in Grand Rapids. Instead, they occupy makeshift quarters at the Library in Ann Arbor, a facility whose manuscript storage areas are themselves filled to 99 percent capacity.

You don't have to take our word for it; a program review team from Washington confirmed the dire shortage of space following an inspection of both institutions. Fortunately, plans are moving forward to address the situation. NARA is currently working with GSA to develop plans for a modest, two-story addition on the rear of the museum building. The ten thousand square feet of new space would be equally divided between memorabilia storage and a new, enlarged temporary exhibit gallery. At the same time, the museum's current temporary exhibit space would be converted into a conference center featuring an exact replica of the White House Cabinet Room as it appeared during the Ford presidency. Among other things, this multi-purpose facility could accommodate visiting school groups.

Existing parts of the museum's first floor would be reconfigured to provide exhibit preparation area, an office for the education specialist, and—another first—offices for the Ford Foundation. There would also be additional storage room created for the Gift Shop, which is currently prevented from buying items in bulk because there is no place to put them. When completed, hopefully by the fall of 2002, the Museum expansion project will free up considerable archival storage space in the Library, more than enough to accommodate post-presidential and other Ford-related holdings. ■

GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

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and Betty Ford
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Doris Kearns Goodwin

"The Moral Authority of the Presidency." That was the topic, both contemporary and timeless, addressed by Pulitzer Prize winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin before a large and enthusiastic audience at the Museum on April 24. Goodwin provided a lively historical tour of the tumultuous years that followed Pearl Harbor, and the colorful, occasionally bizarre atmosphere of the Roosevelt White House during wartime.

She also spoke movingly of Roosevelt's disciple, Lyndon B. Johnson, who determined in the wake of John F. Kennedy's assassination to secure passage of civil rights and voting rights legislation stalled during Kennedy's brief presidency. (Gerald Ford was House Minority Leader when LBJ told a joint session of Congress, "We shall overcome.") On a lighter note, Ms. Goodwin shared memories of her beloved Brooklyn Dodgers and her only slightly less long suffering Boston Red Sox. She appeared as part of the ongoing Millennium Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the Ford Museum and Grand Valley State University.

THE AMERICAN CENTURY
★ 1900-1999 ★
GERALD R. FORD MUSEUM
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