

NEWS FROM THE FORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

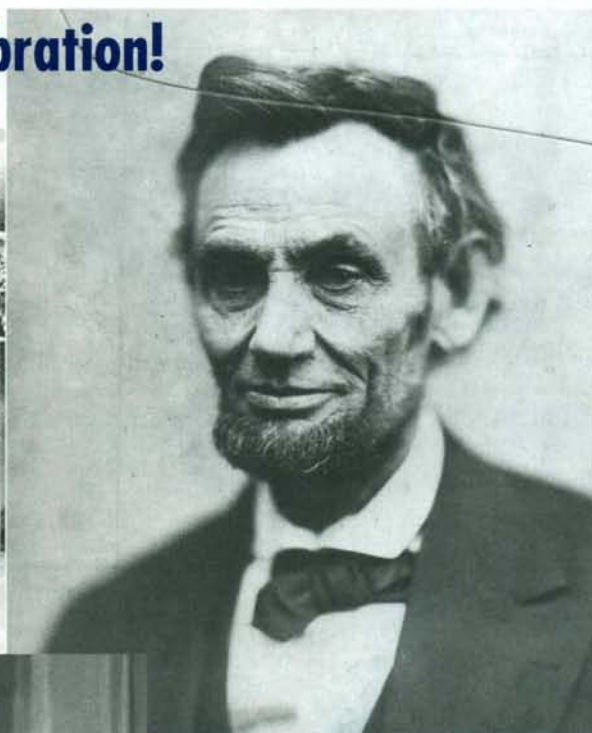
Summer 2000



Join us in our 20th Anniversary Celebration!



Over 200 artifacts from dozens of institutions across America are coming to Grand Rapids, as the Ford Museum presents *Style and Substance*, a groundbreaking exhibit on America's First Ladies — one of the highlights of the Museum's upcoming 20th anniversary programming.



A FORD AND A LINCOLN! The Museum's ambitious 20th anniversary exhibition plans include the display of more than 70 presidential likenesses from the National Portrait Gallery's popular Hall of Presidents in its first ever roadshow. Included will be Everett R. Kinstler's portrait of President Ford and Alexander Gardner's haunting 1865 photographic image of President Lincoln.

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A Yearlong Celebration in the Making

The autumn of 2001 marks 20 years since the Gerald R. Ford Library in Ann Arbor and the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids first opened their doors. To mark the anniversary, a yearlong celebration is planned, beginning this September 12 with the formal renaming of the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Dr. Henry Kissinger will deliver a keynote address as part of a program including comments from University President Lee Bollinger and Ford School Dean Rebecca Blank. Later in the day the Library will host a freewheeling discussion by Ford Administration officials and Cabinet members.

The school renaming is symbolic of an emerging relationship between the Ford Library and the University, one reflective of President Ford's own long held vision. In years to come, one can easily imagine visiting scholars utilizing Ford Library resources while sharing their own expertise with students and the broader community. We anticipate more nationally televised conferences such as last April's *After the Fall: Vietnam Plus Twenty-Five*, which made as much history as it commemorated. Above all, we look forward to the intellectual cross-pollination typified by recently opened Vietnam-era documents, nearly 25,000 in all, that shed new light on America's Indochina involvement.

In Grand Rapids nationally prominent political figures and journalists will expose the lighter side of things in *When Campaigns Were (Mostly) Fun*, a September 13th conference cosponsored by the Ford Museum and Grand Valley State University. Sam Donaldson, Hal Bruno of ABC News, Liz Carpenter, Lyn Nofziger and Newton Minow are among the scheduled participants. Throughout the year prestigious speakers like historians David McCullough and Carl Anthony will appear at the Museum. Over the holidays the popular *Christmas on the Grand* exhibit (November 17, 2000 through January 7, 2001) will become *Santa on the Grand*, highlighted by hundreds of Santas, in every conceivable size and appearance from the world famous collection of Dr. Weldon Petz of suburban Detroit.

The Ford Museum's twentieth anniversary promises three blockbuster temporary exhibits, as well as significant enhancements to the permanent display. Currently Curator Jim Kratsas and Registrar Don Holloway are combing through some 9,000 artifacts, while archivists in Ann Arbor seek out historically significant documents not previously exhibited. Already we have refurbished our Head of State gifts area. An entirely new rotation of gowns worn by Mrs. Ford has also gone on display.

Meanwhile, Exhibit Specialist Bettina Demetz is busy contacting dozens of institutions and individual collectors in preparation for *Style and Substance: America's First Ladies*, a temporary exhibit of unprecedented scope that opens December 2 and runs through May, 2001. Traditionally, First Lady exhibits revolve around clothing. With nearly twenty dresses included in the show, we won't neglect the fashion side of things.

Yet American women have always been much more than the clothes they wear. *Style and Substance* examines the evolution of what Margaret Truman called "the second hardest job in America." Special emphasis will be placed on the substantive contributions made by women who were not only wives, mothers and hostesses – but political advisors, public advocates and symbols of their age. Artifacts to be shown include the Revolutionary War bullet mould used by the patriotic Abigail Adams to help supply her country's armies; Barbara Bush's pearls; letters on spiritualism written by Mary Todd Lincoln; Jane Pierce's heartrending letters to her dead son, Benny; a .22 caliber weapon carried by Lou Hoover during the Boxer Revolution; artwork by Ellen Wilson and Caroline Harrison; correspondence between Betty Ford and Gloria Steinem; Ladybird Johnson's chilling recollections of November 22, 1963, as preserved in her taped diary – and much, much more.

June 2001, brings with it *Presidential Portraits* – as the hugely popular Hall of Presidents from the National Portrait Gallery hits the road during extensive renovations to its Washington home. Over seventy presidential likenesses will be on display. These include portraits of George and Martha Washington by Rembrandt Peale, and a compelling oil of FDR done just before his death by British painter Douglas Chander (intended to serve as the model for a never completed portrait of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin at Yalta.) Norman Rockwell's post-election likeness of Richard Nixon will share space with Leonard Volk's famous plaster castings of Lincoln's face and hands made from life. Also on display are works by such celebrated artists as George Caleb Bingham, John Trumbull, G.P.A. Healy, Peter Hurd, and Mathew Brady. *Presidential Portraits* will run from June 22 to September 23, 2000.

As Vice President, Gerald Ford famously observed that he was a Ford, not a Lincoln. In fact, Abraham Lincoln has always been a Ford hero. Thus the Ford Museum is especially honored to present perhaps the most ambitious single exhibition in its history. *Lincoln* will draw heavily upon the resources of the Illinois State Historic Library, as well as numerous other museums, historical societies and individual collectors. Opening in October 2001, the exhibit will bring to West Michigan an extraordinary collection of priceless documents and historical artifacts associated with America's 16th President. Along with original furnishings from the Lincoln home, we hope to display gowns worn by Mrs. Lincoln, the tombstone that originally marked the grave of the Lincoln's second son, Eddie, numerous letters and other documents associated with the Lincoln family. *Lincoln* will run through February 18, 2002. For further details on all three exhibitions, keep an eye on the Foundation newsletter, as well as our website <http://www.ford.utexas.edu>. Please join us for a year to remember.

Richard Norton Smith, Director
Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum



At the Library:

*Formal Renaming of the Gerald R. Ford School
Of Public Policy by the University of Michigan*

SEPTEMBER 12, 2000

At the Museum:

The World of Lewis and Clark

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 29, 2000

When Campaigns Were Mostly Fun

SEPTEMBER 13, 2000

Santa on the Grand

NOVEMBER 17, 2000 – JANUARY 7, 2001

Style and Substance: America's First Ladies

DECEMBER 2, 2000 – MAY 27, 2001

*The National Portrait Gallery's
Hall of Presidents*

JUNE 22, 2001 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2001

Lincoln

OCTOBER 12, 2001 – FEBRUARY 18, 2002

NEW FOUNDATION TRUSTEE



President Ford speaks with the newest member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, University of Michigan President Lee C. Bollinger, who was elected for a three year term at the June 5th annual meeting.



President Ford greeted the Archivist of the United States, John Carlin and his wife, Lynn, at a Foundation reception on June 5th.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

It's no wonder that visitation to the Ford Museum is up better than 20% in 2000—thanks to the overwhelming success of such temporary exhibits as *The American Century* and *The World of Lewis and Clark*. Of the latter, famed historian—and this year's William E. Simon Lecturer—Stephen Ambrose said that it was the “Best I’ve ever seen—it blows me away!”

*Historian Stephen Ambrose delivered a fascinating lecture
to open the Lewis and Clark exhibition.*



*Richard Norton Smith escorts former Independent
Counsel Ken Starr on a museum tour.*



Gerald R. Ford's Remarks at the Memorial Service for Bill Simon, June 8, 2000

Toni and Bill's family, we share your grief – but also your pride. We are a diverse congregation, we friends of Bill Simon gathered at St. Patrick's. We hail from many countries. We practice many faiths. We are Cabinet officers and Olympic athletes, captains of industry and preachers of the Gospel.

Our sorrow is exceeded only by our gratitude for having shared this earth with the original compassionate conservative. Anyone who met Bill for the first time was impressed by his brain. Anyone who *knew* Bill was moved by his heart. He was a Wall Street Wizard turned Eucharistic Minister – an economic statesman, equally at home in the gilt-edged corridors of power and comforting AIDS patients in an East Harlem hospital.

For Bill Simon, service came before self. No one better embodied the old maxim that while we make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Think of all that he gave. He gave up the security of the private sector to join the Nixon Administration in a time of national trauma. In the wake of the Arab oil embargo, he became America's energy czar.



Bill Simon and President Ford at a September, 1974 White House discussion of economic policy.

As if grappling with OPEC wasn't demanding enough, Bill became Secretary of the Treasury just as a recession loomed on the horizon, and years of governmental excess threatened American prosperity. No president ever had a more loyal or creative advisor.

The Bill Simon I knew was a man of absolutes: absolute integrity – absolute conviction – absolute candor. He never shied away from hard decisions. When the world's greatest city found itself in financial crisis Bill practiced his own brand of tough love.

The plain truth is Bill loved the *people* of New York too much to sacrifice their future to the traditional *politicians* of New York. In the years since, his vision and solution, no less than his courage, have been acknowledged by many of his harshest critics at the time. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that today's gleaming metropolis has its origins in that seemingly dismal era when New York once again became the master of its own destiny.

Bill was as compassionate as he was competitive.

If Bill could be demanding, he made the greatest demands on himself. In his books and speeches, he sounded the trumpet call for a freer, fairer, more decent America. In the great defining struggle of the twentieth century, liberty had no greater champion. And liberty, he insisted, should be seen as a gift from God, not government.

The freedom he cherished was not the freedom to starve, but the freedom to *strive* – to foster a climate of incentive, with opportunities to create, invest, and expand the frontiers of knowledge.

Each Christmas morning, Bill and the entire family rose early and headed to Covenant House, where they celebrated the birth of our Savior with runaway youths and unwed mothers. In 1992 Bill made a pilgrimage to Lourdes. In that place of miracles, he was reminded that the ultimate miracle is life itself, and that wealth is measured, not in bank accounts or stock options, but in lives rescued and families restored.

How appropriate that we should gather in this great Cathedral to honor this most gallant of pilgrims. The years ahead will be lonely without him. But we will have the consolation of our memories. We will have the inspiration of his example.

If I know Bill, he won't rest for long. May God bless his soul, as He has already blessed each of us whose lives were enhanced by knowing this family man, whose greatest cause was the family of man. ■

Gerald R. Ford's Remarks at the Memorial Service for Ed Levi, April 6, 2000

"Not often in the story of mankind does a man arrive on earth who is both steel and velvet – who holds in his heart and mind the paradox of terrible storms and peace unspeakable and perfect."

What Carl Sandburg, the prairie poet, said of Abraham Lincoln, the prairie lawyer and politician, might just as well apply to the Rabbi's son from Chicago who has been called, justifiably, the greatest lawyer of his time. The law is a paradoxical discipline, both absolute and flexible, fixed and evolving. Conservative as precedent, and liberal as compassion, it demands respect for institutions. Yet it relies upon imperfect individuals to give them life.

In the summer of 1974, those institutions were badly tarnished. Needless to say, the rule of law requires respect for the law, especially by those who enforce it. This essential truth had been forgotten by some in the Nixon Administration. From my perspective, the Justice Department had become increasingly politicized for a quarter of a century. But the problem had reached crisis proportions by the time I became President.

History had thrust me into a place to which I'd never aspired. But however long or short my tenure in the White House, I hoped to restore popular confidence even as we drew off the poisons that had infected our public life because of Vietnam and Watergate. Within months of taking office I found myself looking for a new Attorney General. No more critical decision would cross my desk. The situation demanded someone of towering intellect and spotless integrity. No campaign managers need apply, nor members of the family, official or political.

It was Don Rumsfeld who first suggested his fellow Chicagoan Ed Levi. The name wasn't altogether unfamiliar to me. Ed's antitrust record was the stuff of legend, as was his service with the House Judiciary Committee in the years after World War II. As provost and president of this university, [University of Chicago] he had proven himself a superb administrator. As a scholar and teacher he had reminded us of the essence of a liberal education – that so long as books – especially Great Books – are kept open, then minds can never be closed.

The more I read by and about this man, the more convinced I became that he was the perfect candidate. He was firm, fair, and unflappable – the last quality displayed not only when students occupied the president's office in the tumultuous Sixties, but when he and Kate were on an ocean liner that caught fire in the Caribbean. While everyone else ran around in confused panic, Ed puffed

away on his pipe, utterly convinced that the crew would extinguish the fire. As usual, his instincts were sound.

Early in 1975, hoping to put out a much larger blaze, I invited him to the Oval Office. When asked to identify the Justice Department's most pressing need, he said point blank that it required a non-political head. Nothing, he added, was more important than regaining the trust that had been abused by domestic spies and a general erosion of ethics. Then I sprang my trap: would he be willing to serve as Attorney General?

This came as a surprise, and not altogether a welcome one. I believe the exact words Ed used were to the effect that he needed this job like a hole in the head. Moreover, his beloved university had just launched a major fund drive and he was reluctant to leave before its success could be assured. I subtly reminded him that I hadn't asked for my current position, either. Facing an impending challenge from within my own party, I was in no position to offer job security. But I could and did promise Ed that no politician would encroach on the department. I wanted him to protect the rights of American citizens, not the President who appointed him.

If he was no partisan, Ed Levi was, with every breath he drew, a great patriot. After a few days, he let me know of his willingness to serve. It seems hard to believe now, but some on Capitol Hill harbored reservations about this pipe smoking, bow tie wearing academic. At one point the ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee asked whether we were getting another Ramsey Clark. This was the Committee member who once praised the Supreme Court nomination of G. Harold Carswell on the somewhat novel grounds that even mediocre people need representation on the high court.

Edward Levi takes the oath as United States Attorney General in February, 1975.



Clearly that argument wouldn't wash with Ed Levi. I quickly dispelled any doubts about the intellectual steel behind Ed's velvet courtesy. I reminded the Committee member of Levi's courageous stand against those in this very university who would trample on the rights of students and administrators alike. If anything, we had been told, the rap on Ed was that he was too tough, too demanding.

He was tough, all right. When he died, Robert Bork remembered him as "the intellectual version of a Marine boot camp drill instructor." At the other end of the political spectrum, Anthony Lewis praised his refusal to sign any wiretap authorization that he hadn't personally scrutinized. But then, Ed was always a master at bringing people together. I didn't know his politics when I appointed him. All I knew was that he shared my reverence for the Constitution – along with the view that American greatness lies, not in the power of our government, but in the freedom of our people.

Thanks to Ed Levi, American citizens protesting the policies of their government no longer had to fear illegal surveillance, improper wiretaps, or outright harassment. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that Attorney General Levi helped give us back our government. And that's not all. Together we proposed common sense gun control – including a ban on the manufacture and sale of so-called Saturday night specials – long before it became fashionable. In recommending John Paul Stevens for the Supreme Court, Ed not only promoted one of the nation's most distinguished jurists, but he anticipated the extraordinary impact of the Chicago school of jurisprudence so ably represented by Justice Scalia and others in the audience.

With each passing year, it becomes more and more self-evident – Ed Levi is the Attorney General against whom all others are measured. At the same time, his influence was felt far beyond the confines of the Justice Department. In Cabinet meetings he proved the wisest of counselors. As his intellectual rigor raised our standards, so did his visionary spirit raise our sights. In 1977 he returned to this university where he was legendary, where he became a familiar and cherished sight around campus. Now he has left us, to find Sandburg's peace, unspeakable and perfect.

Officiating at a wedding in 1931, Justice Benjamin Cardozo spoke of "three great mysteries...in the lives of mortal beings: the mystery of birth at the beginning; the mystery of death at the end; and, greater than either, the mystery of love. Everything that is most precious in life is a form of love. Art is a form of love, if it be noble; labor is

a form of love, if it be worthy; thought is a form of love, if it be inspired."

For Ed Levi, love found its highest expression in Kate, John, David and Michael – in the profession he ennobled – the university he defined – and the nation he served with such distinction. Today we return that love, multiplied by the gratitude of countless admirers. The years will be different without Ed. But his legacy lives on, and so does his example. The lamp of his luminous mind, his unassailable integrity, and his profound humanity still casts its glow. And by that light we can all find our way home. ■

Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant Recipients, Spring 2000

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 or call (734) 741-2218 x232 [Internet: geir.gundersen@fordlib.nara.gov]. Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients of the Spring 2000 awards and their topics are:

Michael J. Allen
Northwestern University
The War's Not Over Until the Last Man Comes Home: The Cultural Politics of Body Recovery in the Aftermath of Vietnam, 1969-1998

Kenton J. Clymer
University of Texas at El Paso
The United States and Cambodia: A History

Maeve A. Cowan
University of California, Santa Barbara
The Origins of the Independent Counsel

Carl Cannon and Russell Carollo Win Journalism Prizes

By RICHARD HOLZHAUSEN

If it's the first Monday in June, it must be President Ford's annual visit to the National Press Club. Once again this year, the President presented the Gerald R. Ford Prizes for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency and on National Defense to a full house. Carl Cannon, a *National Journal* White House correspondent, was the thirteenth recipient of the Presidency award; Carl's father, *Washington Post* correspondent Lou Cannon, received the first such prize back in 1987. Russell Carollo, a Pulitzer Prize winning project reporter for the *Dayton Daily News*, received the Ford Prize for national defense reporting.

In selecting Mr. Cannon, who worked for six newspapers over a 20-year span before joining the *National Journal* in May of 1998, the committee cited his in-depth reporting on President Clinton, as well as his perceptive analysis of White House decisions and actions. Cannon's hallmarks include resourcefulness in getting the facts, fine writing, and unusual insight into major domestic and foreign policy events.

Mr. Carollo's winning series, "Falling from the Sky," examined aviation safety in the military. The judges were especially impressed with Mr. Carollo's energetic investigations, including more than 150 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Carollo also interviewed over 150 people, among them pilots, mechanics, accident investigators, and relatives of accident victims. Like all good investigative journalism, "Falling from the Sky" raises troubling and provocative questions as topics for further research and discussion.

The Foundation is grateful to author, journalist and Ford biographer James M. Cannon and defense analyst Ronald O'Rourke for chairing the presidency and national defense prize judging committees respectively. Thanks also to the judges. Assessing the entries for the presidency prize were professors Candice Nelson and Mark Rozell, both of the American University, journalist and ABC reporter Hal Bruno, and Gene Roberts, University of Maryland professor and editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Serving as national defense prize judges were Col. John D. Macartney, USAF (Ret.) of Syracuse University, author and journalist L. Edgar Prina, Dr. Neil Singer of the Congressional Budget Office's National Security Division (Ret.), and Debra van Opstal of the Council on Competitiveness. ■



Lou Cannon, Carl Cannon, President Ford and Russell Carollo

Scott A. Frisch
East Carolina University
*A Fresh Look at the Congressional Committee
Assignment Process*

Dimitri Grygowski
University of Paris – Cergy Pontoise
*American Representations of the European
Monetary Unification, 1968-1992*

Jeffrey Kimball
Miami University, Ohio
*Secret Files and Crucial Documents about Nixon-Kissinger-
Ford Policies toward Vietnam, China, and the Soviet Union*

William Stueck
University of Georgia
The United States and Korea: A History

Scott W. Webster
University of Maryland
*Spiro Theodore Agnew and the American Vice-Presidency,
1969-1973*

Zhao Xuegong
University of Maryland
The Ford Administration's Policy towards East Asia

After the Fall: Vietnam Plus Twenty-Five

By RICHARD HOLZHAUSEN

"When public support eroded, Congress wasn't there. The impact was devastating." So declared President Ford in summing up America's Vietnam experience before a capacity crowd of 350 who had gathered in Ann Arbor to hear politicians, policymakers, journalists, and historians discuss the war and its lasting impact on this country and its institutions. The twenty-fifth anniversary conference, co-sponsored by the Foundation, the Library, and the newly renamed Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, coincided with the release of nearly 25,000 pages of declassified documents relating to the war.

In moderating the first of two morning panel discussions, Douglas Brinkley, director of the Eisenhower Center, singled out the presence of President Ford and former Senator Eugene McCarthy, the latter a staunch Democrat and critic of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. According to Professor Brinkley, the cordial relationship between the two men symbolized bipartisan friendships that once were more common in American political life.

In the day's first session, "America and the World," former National Security Council Advisor Brent Scowcroft set the tone. "We learned it is important to know precisely the objective," observed Scowcroft, "so when the objective is achieved, we can withdraw." Richard Haass, an assistant to President Bush for national security affairs and now a fellow at the Brookings Institution, pointed to the Gulf War as a good example of a lesson learned. "In place of a gradual escalation of the conflict, the military delivered its strongest punch on the first day of the war. In addition," said Haass, "the military was allowed to plan and execute battle operations while political leaders worked to build domestic and international support for the war against Iraq."

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger sounded unconvinced that politicians learned the correct lesson. "In Vietnam we got ourselves into a terrible mess because we hadn't thought about why we should be there. We recently made the same mistake in Somalia." For good measure, Eagleburger cited U.S. involvement in the former Yugoslavia.

Professor Brinkley also moderated a second panel on "The Presidency." Roger Porter, economic advisor to Presidents Ford, Reagan, and Bush, and now professor of business and government at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, paid tribute to Ford's style of governing. "He brought an openness, a willingness to engage the American people, a desire to heal..." Both Porter and Lou Cannon, Reagan biographer and prize-winning reporter for *The Washington Post*, lauded the tone of civility set by the Ford White House. As for the president himself, "He was extraordinarily professional," Cannon recalled. "He

treated reporters the same whether they wrote an article that was complimentary or critical."

Other panelists also addressed the role of bipartisanship and trust in government. Robert Dallek, biographer of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and John F. Kennedy, said Ford and his congressional colleagues could work across party lines because they trusted one another. Implicit in such comments was a lack of trust at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue today.

Bernard Kalb from CNN's "Reliable Sources" served as moderator of the day's third panel on "Politics and the Media." At the outset he held up a photo of White House correspondent Helen Thomas chasing Ford across a tarmac on April 29, 1975, the day the last Americans were evacuated from Saigon. A powerful symbol indeed, as Ford readily acknowledged. "It was terrible to know that we were getting a real military licking," the former President told the audience. Senator McCarthy delighted the crowd with his characteristically wry observations about Robert McNamara, and his own 1968 campaign to unseat Lyndon Johnson.

Haynes Johnson, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter from *The Washington Post* recalled how critical a role press coverage played in altering the public's original support of U.S. intervention in Vietnam. Jim Cannon, a former *Newsweek* correspondent and Ford biographer, echoed this sentiment, even as he noted the striking differences between media coverage of Vietnam and World War II. Indeed, he said that journalistic skepticism began to set in during the Korean War, when reporters were told things



[Lr] Moderator Douglas Brinkley and panelists Richard Haas, John Marsh, Brent Scowcroft, Lawrence Eagleburger commented on the war's enduring impact on foreign policy.

they knew to be false. Half a century later, "I'm not sure that American public opinion will ever support another war if they have to see it on television," said Cannon.

The conference was capped by a superb presentation from David Gergen, advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton. Gergen discussed the unifying experiences of the men of Gerald Ford's America, lead first by the "missionary generation," and the "civic generation," to which words like duty, honor, and country had special resonance. From John Kennedy to George Bush, seven presidents born between 1908 and 1924 all shared experiences that helped instill enormous pride and optimism in their country and in themselves.

Gergen contrasted those who fought the Great Depression at home, and fascist tyranny and the Cold War overseas, with the new generation of leaders that grew up during the Vietnam War. While they may work just as hard and care deeply about their country and families, they do not share the core values uniting their predecessors. Above all they may not believe in American exceptionalism, or see the United States as Gergen suggested as a beacon of hope with responsibilities to match. They also have trouble trusting one another. Trust. It was a theme running throughout the conference, as throughout the Ford presidency. It made for a Vietnam retrospective that was, simultaneously, an American introspective. ■



[l-r]: Douglas Brinkley, Robert Dallek, Lou Cannon, Roger Porter, and Stephen Hess discussed the Vietnam War's legacy for future presidents.



An Old War — and some old Warhorses. Former Senator Eugene McCarthy cracks wise, much to the delight of President Ford, James Cannon, and Haynes Johnson.

"Vietnam split this generation asunder and the breach has never been repaired. Most didn't go, staying here in safety. Others went and if they weren't physically wounded in the jungle they were emotionally wounded when they came home to an icy welcome. Had it not been for the magnanimous gesture, the courageous gesture of President Ford early in his presidency, to grant earned amnesty to those who fled or ducked, the rift in this generation would be even deeper."

— David Gergen

The Vietnam War Declassification Project, April 2000

By BILL MCNITT

Anticipating our Vietnam War conference in April, we added some of the newly released documents to our website. These can be seen on the page titled "The Vietnam War Declassification Project" at

<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/library/exhibits/vietnam/vietnam.htm>.

Not surprisingly, given media interest in the anniversary of Vietnam's fall, these new web pages quickly began attracting attention. On April 17, USATODAY.com named our exhibit as a "Hot Site" of the day. The Internet Scout Project also selected the site for inclusion in its Scout Report, a weekly current awareness publication that spotlights new Internet resources.



The documents have generated messages from Vietnam veterans, potential researchers, the general public, and even participants in a class at the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California studying the Mayaguez incident.

One former soldier from the 12th Infantry, whose unit lost well over 100 "brave young American men," wrote that he "...found reading the documents in this website both interesting and enlightening."

Documents released include intelligence reports, cables to and from American ambassadors, meeting minutes, and transcripts of helicopter pilot radio transmissions during the evacuation of Saigon. In addition to the conduct of the war and the final evacuation, the project touches on such topics as the return of American prisoners of war, the Mayaguez incident, Indochina refugees, and the "Lessons of Vietnam."

Persons interested in learning more about the documents recently released from the files of the National Security Adviser can also view the finding aids to these collections at:

<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/library/list1.htm#NSA>.

Besides the recently released documents, the Library's website contains images of some Indochina documents declassified and released in previous years. Included are such items as National Security Council meeting minutes, Cabinet Meeting minutes, and General Fred C. Weyand's report to the President assessing the situation in Vietnam (April 1, 1975). You can view these documents by following the link to "Additional Vietnam War documents and photographs" on the declassification project page. ■



Vietnam researcher Larry Berman was among the first to visit the Library to see the recently opened material.

Good Luck, Leesa!

Every Newsletter reader knows archivist Leesa Tobin's work. At various times she has administered with great skill the Foundation's Journalism Prizes and Research Grants programs and the Library's textual reference program. She has archivally processed dozens of collections and been in the forefront of our declassification effort. These alone were reason to lament her resignation in June to pursue her own research work. But her co-workers will equally miss the keen pleasure of her wit and company, enriched rather than dulled by twenty years shared experience. Good luck, Leesa! ■

Memorandum of Conversation

Re President Ford's Meeting on Foreign Aid with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the Bipartisan Congressional Leadership, September 12, 1974, page 1 of 6.

You can read the other five pages of this recently opened document on the Library's website.

MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION:

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Bipartisan Congressional Leadership
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
and Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Thursday - September 12, 1974
8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Cabinet Room

SUBJECT: Foreign Aid

President: I appreciate your coming and the cooperation you have given me. I was thinking last night of the many meetings I have been to, going back to LBJ, in this room on this problem. I want to talk on this problem for a minute and then Henry will talk. I meet with Henry every morning for over an hour. We face a number of difficult problems over the world. Whether it is Southeast Asia, the Middle East, or another part of the Mediterranean -- Greece and Turkey, where Henry is in daily contact with Greece and Turkey -- or the relationship with the Soviet Union where we are laying the groundwork for SALT and trade, or with Western Europe where we're trying to bring close cooperation, we are faced with problems and tough decisions. I wanted to get the Leadership together to lay out the problems with you.

That gets to legislation -- we must have what we need. On the defense appropriation, I appreciate what you have been able to do. In aid assistance there is a problem. We must assure that what we are trying to do in Vietnam is not destroyed through lack of funding or that our hands are not tied in using those funds. There are amendments which would limit me in emergencies. We need flexibility and an adequate amount of money.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By ld, NARA, Date 1/12/00
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

[Citation: Folder "September 12, 1974 - Ford Bipartisan Congressional Leadership,"
Box 5, National Security Advisor. Memoranda of Conversations, Gerald R. Ford Library]

Growing the Historical Record: The Library's Latest Acquisitions

By DAVID HORROCKS

The Library's collection development program has had a banner period. While it is premature to pop the cork for some promising discussions currently underway, the following completed donations give plenty of reason for celebration.

Jim Cannon donated under temporary seal the tapes and transcripts of his extensive interviews with President Ford as he researched for *Time and Chance*. Former Congressman and Defense Secretary **Mel Laird** sent us 75 feet of files created with the late Bill Baroody, his executive assistant in the House and at the Pentagon. The story of the Ford White House Congressional Relations Office can be told more completely thanks to **Max Friedersdorf's** generous gift of his papers. We are similarly grateful to Alice Rowen, widow of *Washington Post* economic affairs editor **Hobart Rowen**, who has donated background files from her husband's reportage on Arthur Burns.

Most recently, the **FBI** gave us a public release version of its background investigation of Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller and **Bradley Patterson** donated papers from his work as the President's Special Assistant for Native American Affairs. In addition, author **Len Colodny** has sent materials related to the book *Silent Coup* and subsequent litigation.

An especially timely donation was that of **Wolfgang Lehmann**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon in 1974-75. His papers, oral histories, and photos arrived in time to be part of our huge release of Vietnam War files, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. One particularly poignant memento of these tragic times is Lehmann's map of evacuation pick-up points around Saigon. Also of special interest to Vietnam-era researchers is an oral history conducted by Library staff with **Col. Tom Sherman**, who served as the Joint Chiefs' action officer for the Ford earned amnesty program.

The planning and early development of the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids is a prime topic in the papers of **David LaClaire**, Foundation Trustee and longtime friend of the Fords. Lt. Gerald Ford's *USS Monterey* shipmate **Derek Price** gave on-board newsletters and other items from their wartime service. Blueprints to the Ford home in Rancho Mirage were a surprise gift from contractor **Edward Randall**.

Past donors found new ways to enrich our collections. **Susan Ford Bales**, **Gordon Vander Till**, the family of **George Grassmuck** and the estate of **Leo Cherne** all added



Former Congressman and Defense Secretary Mel Laird donated a large collection of papers including the files of his long-time assistant Bill Baroody (both shown here with House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford in 1969).

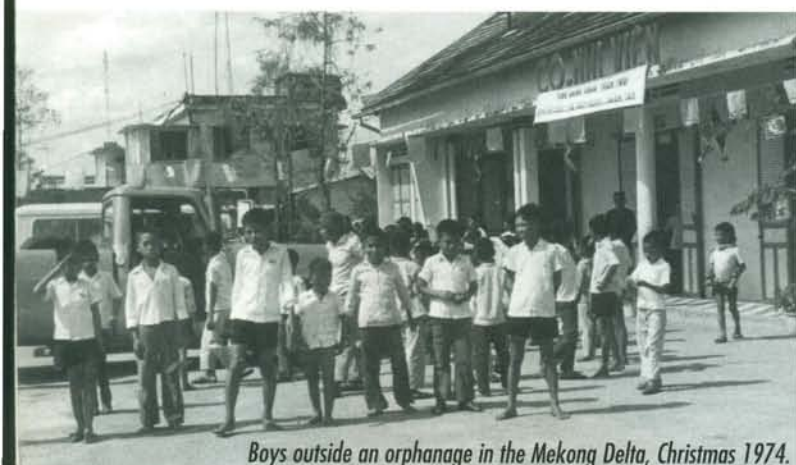
to existing collections. As they do every year, **President Ford** and **Mrs. Ford** each shipped sizable post-presidential files to the Library. Meanwhile, the President is joining forces with Library personnel to spearhead a new round of documentary solicitation. So don't be surprised if our historical scavengers contact you one of these days. In this sadly a-historical age, we think it is essential to preserve as much of the past as possible for the benefit of the future.

Vietnam Scrapbook

Shown here are some of the numerous photographs made available by Wolfgang Lehmann, former Deputy Chief of Mission to the Republic of Vietnam, as part of his recent donation of papers.



Wolfgang Lehmann visits the Province Chiefs in MR 3 (Xuan Loc, etc.) in late 1974/early 1975.



Boys outside an orphanage in the Mekong Delta, Christmas 1974.

President Thieu meets with Wolfgang Lehmann and military officials at the US Embassy.



U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin and South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu



Ambassador Martin prepares a memorial on the Embassy grounds, 1974.



Former POWs in Saigon, 1974. [John McCain on the left]

Museum Education in the 21st Century

By BARBARA PACKER

Museum education has seen dramatic changes in philosophy and approach over the past 20 years. Teaching strategies have come and gone, while technology has blossomed - making possible educational and communication opportunities few could imagine when the Ford Museum opened in 1981. Yet some things have remained the same: our belief in the importance of educating children, and in strong interpretive programs designed to introduce students to the life and career of Gerald Ford and to make them participants in our extraordinary democratic process.

Over the years students visiting the Gerald R. Ford Museum have viewed exhibits as diverse as *WWII Personal Accounts*, *Presidential Pets*, *America's House: The White House in Miniature*, and *The World of Lewis and Clark*. They have taken part in interpretive school programs based on the Constitution and Bill of Rights. They have experienced presidential elections, as well as the Museum's unique *President for a Day* program. Students and young children have also been invited to decorate the President's Christmas tree, attend a presidential press conference, and, most recently, become part of *Presidents' Day 2000*, a live television broadcast featuring area 8th graders, organized in collaboration with Kent Intermediate School District and Grand Rapids Community College. Other educational collaborations include History Day and Spelling Bee, ongoing work with the Grand Rapids Public Schools on 3rd grade social studies and government curriculum, and enriched learning opportunities for educators.

Even as we examine the past, we have been looking to, and preparing for, the future. We continue to offer students of all ages a dynamic series of changing exhibits. These can be incorporated into the classroom curriculum. So can interpretive tours in our core exhibits. Among our many new initiatives, we are striving to incorporate a significant education component on our web site - one providing useful and timely educational information to students and teachers. Down the road we look forward to utilizing the potential offered by 21st century technology in our new Education Center, part of a modest Museum expansion set for the near future. This path-breaking facility, made possible by the generosity of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, will include a full-scale reproduction of the White House Cabinet Room.

Needless to say, the Ford Museum is in a singular position to work with area students and educators on such themes as leadership, government and public service, and the importance of community involvement. With this in mind, we are aligning our educational efforts more closely with local, state, and national social studies curriculum standards, and their emphasis on core democratic values (those values we, as a society, agree are vital to an effective democracy). Our goal is simple: to provide educational programming that

will excite and motivate students.

It is an exciting time for museum education at the Ford...thanks to nationally recognized exhibits, community partnerships, and the latest in technology - all in the service of American history and a level of instruction you may not have encountered in Civics 101. ■

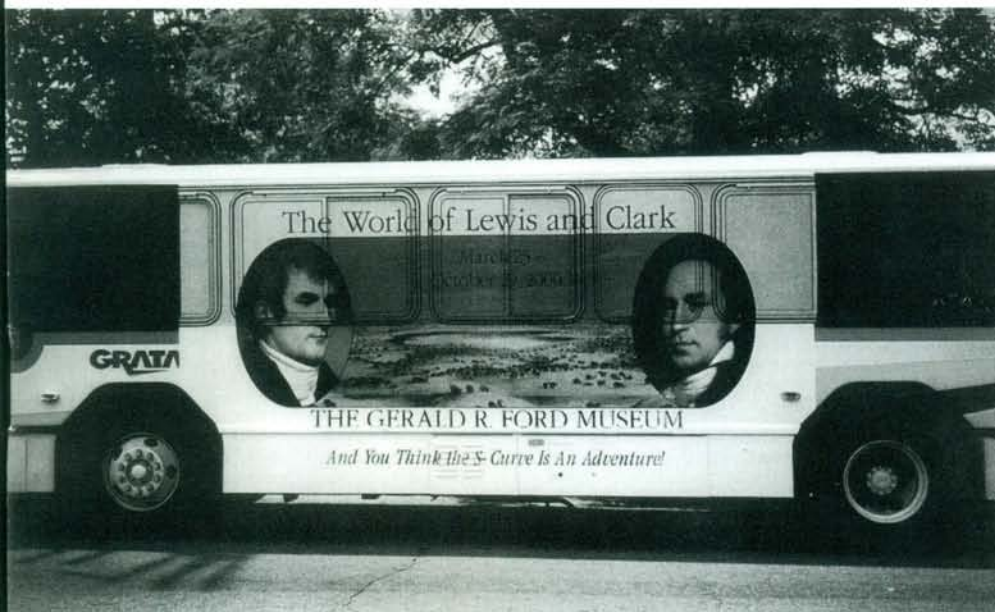


The State of the Museum Collections

By DON HOLLOWAY

Since 1997, the Gerald R. Ford Foundation has underwritten internships to aid our work at the museum. As a result, eight interns have provided almost 2,000 hours of assistance on exhibits and the museum collections. Frankly, we need all the help we can get: twenty years after its opening, museum staff can only approximate the size of the collection at 9,000 artifacts. Why can't we be more precise? Several factors are at work, including poor record keeping at the time of the transition, staffing challenges, and the more recent pace of temporary exhibits and public programs.

All this has begun to change, however. In January 2000 the National Archives undertook a



"The World of Lewis and Clark" travels through Grand Rapids!

In the spring of 1804, the President of the United States dispatched his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and a retired army officer named William Clark, to explore two-thirds of a continent. With a budget of \$2,500 - including \$696 for "Indian Presents" - the Corps of Discovery extended Jefferson's America to the Pacific.

The Gerald R. Ford Museum invites you to be part of their extraordinary journey through an unforgettable exhibit featuring original artifacts, historic documents, paintings and recreated settings. Discover America all over again, with Lewis and Clark. At the Ford Museum, 303 Pearl Street (616) 451-9263.

comprehensive collections management plan for each of the presidential libraries. From this the Ford Museum gained computers and programs developed to help get a better handle on our holdings - a significant portion of which are not even housed at the Grand Rapids museum (where adequate storage space was long ago exhausted) but in Ann Arbor. Since then, interns and the registrar have begun re-cataloging the collection, compiling information on heads-of-state gifts, Bicentennial presents, portraits, quilts, sculpture, gowns, and golf clubs. This project will continue until the current collection is completely cataloged. Equally important, all new acquisitions will be recorded under the new system.

Beyond computers and the interns to run them, the Foundation is teaming up with the museum to provide conservation and preservation funds to help save such irreplaceable objects as Mrs. Ford's gowns and dresses, badly in need of professional attention, and head-of-state gifts, some of which were damaged in the move from the White House to Grand Rapids. Meanwhile, plans are progressing for a modest, 8,000 square feet addition to the museum; simply improving storage conditions will address smaller preservation issues.

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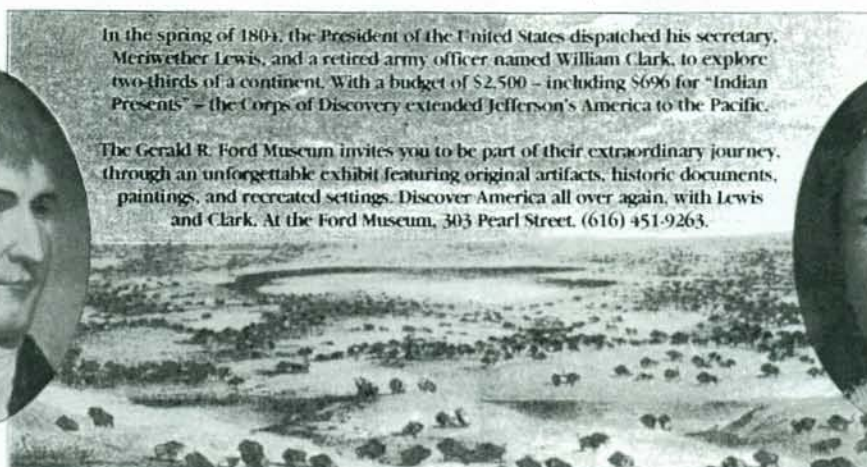
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The World of Lewis and Clark Now - October 29, 2000



In the spring of 1804, the President of the United States dispatched his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and a retired army officer named William Clark, to explore two-thirds of a continent. With a budget of \$2,500 – including \$696 for “Indian Presents” – the Corps of Discovery extended Jefferson’s America to the Pacific.

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And You Think the S-Curve Is An Adventure!



The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by contributions and bequests in an effort to honor Mr. Ford's lifelong commitment to public service. The focus of the Foundation is on community affairs and educational programs, conferences, symposia, research grants and special projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the challenges that confront government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5353.

THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER
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