

# The Friends of the Hemingway

Collection

*Newsletter*

December 1, 1999



Ernest Hemingway writing in a field near Windemere, the Hemingway summer home, summer of 1916. This photo and all subsequent photographs are in the Hemingway Collection at the John F. Kennedy Library





Above, a young Ernest Hemingway on a canoe trip, 1916

To celebrate the 1999 centenary year of Ernest Hemingway's birth, the John F. Kennedy Library and Foundation collaborated with PEN New England, the Hemingway Foundation and Society, and Houghton Mifflin to hold a literary symposium April 10-11.

Commenting on the Library's celebration, Caroline Kennedy, President of the Kennedy Library Foundation, said, "We are honored to host this important event celebrating an artist whom my parents admired. My father once observed that 'a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by those it honors.' I appreciate the overwhelming support of some of the world's greatest authors as we join in honoring one of our nation's literary giants."

Along with Nobel Prize laureates Nadine Gordimer, Kenzaburo Oe, Saul Bellow, and Derek Walcott, the conference included numerous Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winners. Panelists Deirdre Bair, A.E. Hotchner, Justin Kaplan, and Sue Quinn spoke on "Writing and the Biographical;" Frances FitzGerald, Paul Fussell, Stratis Haviaras, Robert Shacochis, and Tobias Wolff "On War;" Homero Aridjis, Frederick Busch, James Carroll, and Ilan Stavans on "The Ugly American;" Stephen Fox, Sue Hubbell, Peter Matthiessen, and Terry Tempest Williams on "Writing Nature;" Sven Birkerts, Gail Caldwell, Leslie Epstein, E. Annie Proulx and Robert Stone "On

Style;" Chinua Achebe, Nadine Gordimer, Philip Gourevitch and George Packer on "Writing Africa;" C. Michael Curtis, Robert Manning, George Plimpton, Janet Silver, and Carol Houck Smith "On Editing;" and Paul Buittenwieser, Kay Redfield Jamison, Dan Jacobs, and Samuel Shem on "Creativity and Despair;" Saul Bellow, Susan Cheever, Henry Louis Gates, Francine Prose, and Derek Walcott on "The Canon before and after Hemingway" (photo on last page).

Below, with a friend in Schruns, Austria, 1925



Original documents were also a feature of the April 1999 Centennial celebration. A new, temporary exhibit in the Museum profiled President and Mrs. Kennedy's famous April, 1962, White House dinner honoring 49 Nobel Prize winners from the Western Hemisphere—including the widow of Ernest Hemingway. Displayed in the exhibit were excerpts from the then-unpublished manuscript of *Islands in the Stream*, which had been read at the dinner by noted actor Frederic March. The 1999 Hemingway Centennial celebration dinner for speakers and distinguished guests, hosted by Caroline Kennedy at the Library, duplicated the menu and flowers of the 1962 event. After dinner, Patrick Hemingway read from the last unpublished manuscript in the collection, his father's novel *True at First Light*, published in July. Displayed in cases in the Smith Center Lobby were 14 of the collection's 34 endings of *A Farewell to Arms*, including the manuscript of the published ending. Other cases held manu-

Below, also Schruns, 1926



script pages from *A Moveable Feast* in which Hemingway describes the process of writing, along with a page of a day's word count, and a list of possible titles for *A Farewell to Arms*.





*Left, Hemingway in Paris, shortly after he accidentally pulled the casement of a skylight down on his forehead. This photograph is part of a sitting taken by Helen Breaker in March of 1928.*

Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "About posterity: I only think about writing truly. Posterity can take care of herself." The Hemingway Centennial celebration at the Kennedy Library was a fitting tribute to the writer's enduring reputation.

Hemingway aficionados gathered in other locales around the country with most of the celebrations occurring in the month of July. In Oak Park, the unveiling following the restoration of Hemingway's birthplace occurred on the author's birth date, July 21, with many other activities taking place during the July 12-25 event there. Most notably, The Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park held an international literary conference exploring Hemingway's role as a major literary figure in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and *It Just Catches*, a new play by Carol Hemingway, premiered on July 20.

Elsewhere, in Sun Valley/Ketchum, Idaho, theater productions, readings and a Hemingway film festival took place during July 21-26. Hemingway's stomping grounds in Northern Michigan marked the centennial July 19-24 with tours of Windemere, Hemingway's summer cottage. The annual Hemingway Days festival in Key West ran July 16-25. In the fall, The U.S. Air Force Academy hosted an International Hemingway and War Conference October 7-9, addressing a variety of topics including "Hemingway and Women of War" and "Hemingway's Wars in the Natural World." Capping the event was an address by novelist Robert Morgan on "Hemingway and the True Poetry of War."



*Left, Hemingway sitting on the veranda of his Cuban home, the Finca Vigia, in the Havana suburb of San Francisco de Paula.*

Back at the library, we continue to open and process documents and correspondence. After the recent opening of the manuscripts of *True at First Light* on July 21 and the Gellhorn correspondence, we are continuing to catalog remaining unopened material in the collection. Meanwhile, we are always on the lookout for new acquisitions.

*Right, Hemingway in the mid-1950s, standing outside the gates of the Finca Vigia*







*Left, At the Hemingway Centennial conference at the John F. Kennedy Library. From left to right: Caroline Kennedy, John Hemingway, Angela Hemingway, Patrick Hemingway, and Carol Hemingway*



*Right, the panel on "The Canon before and after Hemingway" at the John F. Kennedy Library's Hemingway Centennial Conference. From left to right, Henry Louis Gates (moderator), Saul Bellow, Susan Cheever, Francine Prose, and Derek Walcott*

Best wishes to you all in the new century. Scribners has designated the past 100 years as the Hemingway century; may the next 100 years bring new readers of Ernest Hemingway and a continued active dialogue about his work.

For the Friends of the Hemingway Collection,

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