The hardest thing to do in the world is to write straight honest prose on human beings. First you have to know the subject; then you have to know how to write. Both take a lifetime to learn.

Patrick and Carol Hemingway Announce $1 Million Gift

Patrick Hemingway, the sole surviving son of Ernest Hemingway, and his wife Carol have announced a $1 million gift to preserve the Ernest Hemingway Collection and make it available to new generations of students, teachers, and researchers.

In expressing her appreciation, Caroline Kennedy, President of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, stated: “No one has been more supportive of the Hemingway Collection than Carol and Patrick Hemingway. From the day Patrick opened the room with my mother 30 years ago to providing the monetary match for our recent Save America’s Treasures grant, their abiding presence is at the heart of our efforts to preserve this treasured collection.”

In a ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Hemingway Room at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Jill Ker Conway, Vice Chair of the Kennedy Library Foundation, recognized Carol and Patrick Hemingway for their generosity which, she suggested, is fueled by their belief in what President Kennedy once called “the indispensible contribution literature makes to the human spirit.”

Brigid Pasulka Wins 2010 PEN/Hemingway Award

Author Brigid Pasulka is the recipient of the 2010 PEN/Hemingway award for her first novel A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True. Patrick Hemingway presented the award at a ceremony on March 28, 2010 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Gail Tsukiyama described Pasulka’s first novel as “an illuminating and poignant portrait of Poland and her people. It is a dazzling debut, generous of heart, and deeply rewarding.”

In receiving the award Pasulka said: “Every time someone tells me that a character reminds them of their grandmother, or that they cried at a certain point, or that they’re inspired to go to Poland, or a few have even said that they’re inspired to learn Polish – it has felt like a small award.

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News from the Ernest Hemingway Collection

Hemingway Collection to be highlighted at Swiss Conference

Susan Wrynn, Curator of the Hemingway Collection, will lead a panel discussion at the Biennial Hemingway Society Conference in Lausanne in July. Panelists will include Paul Hendrickson, Michelle Fillion, and Jim Meredith, President of the Hemingway Society.

Grant Recipients

The Kennedy Library announced the recipients of the 2010 Hemingway Research Grant Awards. Lillian M. Barnes will conduct research on two artists, Franco Nanartonis and Waldo Peirce, who were contemporaries of Hemingway. Gro Froslund will examine Hemingway’s European travel writings, articles and manuscripts in order to document American conceptions of European culture in the first half of the 20th century.

Education and Outreach

Classes of students continue to benefit from the resources of the Hemingway Room. For example, UMass Boston Professor Ginny Karlis recently brought her class for a session to examine drafts of The Sun Also Rises and participated in an animated discussion of Hemingway’s creative process. Interested teachers should call 617.514.1530 for more information.
New Hemingway Council Helps Preserve Manuscripts

Sean Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway’s grandson, and his wife, art historian Colette Hemingway, have launched a new Hemingway Council bringing together literary and philanthropic leaders who cherish Hemingway’s legacy. Their mission is “to promote a greater awareness of the Hemingway Collection and encourage philanthropic support of this cultural treasure.”

The Hemingway Council’s first priority is to help complete the preservation of the most fragile items from Hemingway’s 17,000 pages of manuscripts housed at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum. The project began with a 2008 grant from an anonymous foundation; and two new gifts from Council members are continuing the work.

Council Member David Weinstein, who also serves on the Kennedy Library Foundation Board, made a gift of $30,000. Fellow Council and Board member Margaret H. Child recently joined him with a gift of $10,000. Their generous support is helping to conserve Hemingway’s work for future generations.

The death of J.D. Salinger prompted the Kennedy Library to display a letter written by the late author to Hemingway in 1946. The two literary titans met once in 1944 in Paris at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel while Salinger was a sergeant in the army. At the time, Salinger was 25, 20 years Hemingway’s junior, and had published a few short stories in the *Saturday Evening Post*.

The letter was sent two years after their initial meeting. It opens with an allusion to *A Farewell to Arms* in which the injured American soldier, Frederick Henry, falls in love with Catherine Barkley, his beautiful English nurse.

“Dear Poppa: I’m writing from a General Hospital in Nürnberg. There’s a notable absence of Catherine Barkley’s, is all I’ve got to say. I expect to get out tomorrow or the next day. Nothing was wrong with me except that I’ve been in an almost constant state of despondency and I thought it would be good to talk to somebody sane.”

The letter attracted world-wide media attention including a story in the *New York Times* and on the AP wire, and an interview of Library Director Tom Putnam by Scott Simon on NPR’s *Weekend Edition*.

Members of the Hemingway Council at the 2010 PEN/Hemingway Award ceremony. Photo by Tom Fitzsimmons

**The Hemingway Council**

Sean and Colette Hemingway, Co-Chairs
Patrick and Carol Hemingway, Honorary Members

American soldier, Frederick Henry, falls in love with Catherine Barkley, his beautiful English nurse.

Russell Banks
Margaret H. Child
Jill Ker Conway
Nader F. Darehshori
Alex Fanjul
Elizabeth and Roberto Goizueta
Diane Johnson
Tommy Lee and Dawn Jones
Stacy Keach

Caroline Kennedy
Susan Moldow
Richard Russo
John Seigenthaler
Scott Simon
Micho Spring
Rose Styron
David Weinstein
Sean Hemingway on A Moveable Feast

It is not often that the re-issue of a book of non-fiction, written some 50 years ago, garners an article on the front page of the New York Times, a sizzling op-ed on its editorial page, and reviews in many of the nation’s leading newspapers and journals – but the author, Ernest Hemingway, was no ordinary writer, and A Moveable Feast is no ordinary book. Using the manuscripts housed in the Hemingway Collection, Hemingway’s grandson, Sean, meticulously restored the memoir to its original form as Hemingway had left it. He also spoke at a special Kennedy Library forum about the project with New Yorker writer Adam Gopnik, novelist Diane Johnson, and NPR’s Scott Simon.

There is an odd likeness between John F. Kennedy and Hemingway. They are both men of complicated accomplishment about whom it’s possible to have critical or ambivalent feelings, who nonetheless continue to radiate, perhaps because of some essential gallantry in their lives, an aura of heroism which seems undiminished 50 years on.

–Adam Gopnik

Ernest Hemingway in Paris, 1924

Letter from Patrick Hemingway

Dear Friends:

I invite you to join me in pledging your support to preserve and promote the Hemingway Collection.

If you are not a member of the Friends of the Hemingway Collection, please consider joining now. If you are a member, I hope you will consider making a special donation to aid us in preserving these unique materials and to support our educational and literary programs.

Critical preservation efforts continue on Hemingway’s manuscripts and we need additional funds to complete that work.

Yet our focus is not solely Hemingway. For me, one of the primary objectives of the Friends association must be to promote literature writ large.

I deeply appreciate any financial support you can offer to aid our efforts in preserving these priceless Hemingway materials and engaging students and the general public in an examination of literature and the creative process.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hemingway

Please visit the JFK website, www.jfklibrary.org to contribute or mail your check to:
Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection,
John F. Kennedy Library Foundation,
Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125

The Friends of the Hemingway Collection was founded in 1990 by Patrick Hemingway, son of the Nobel-prize winning author, and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis to provide financial support and resources to preserve and make accessible the Ernest Hemingway Collection at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the world’s principal center for research on the life and work of Ernest Hemingway.

Tax-deductible donations and bequests may be made to:
Friends of the Hemingway Collection
John F. Kennedy Library Foundation
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125

www.jfklibrary.org