Patrick Hemingway to reminisce about his father, Ernest Hemingway, at an upcoming Kennedy Library Forum

This winter, Patrick Hemingway, son of Ernest Hemingway, will discuss his father's life and legacy with Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC's Hardball and a long-time admirer of Ernest Hemingway’s writings. The Kennedy Library Forum will take place at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on December 3 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. We hope that you will join us for this rare opportunity to hear the personal recollections of Patrick Hemingway. To learn more about this event or to make reservations visit the Kennedy Library website at www.jfklibrary.org.

Patrick Hemingway is the leading expert on Ernest Hemingway’s life and works. As his second son, Patrick lived with his father in Key West, Florida, and in Havana, Cuba. While living in Tanzania, Patrick was the only family member to be near his father at the time of the horrendous double-airplane crashes in Africa in 1954.

In 1999, Mr. Hemingway edited his father's posthumous novel, True at First Light, published by Simon and Schuster and appearing for weeks on the best seller list.

This spring, Patrick Hemingway will discuss his father's life and legacy with Pauline Pfieffer Hemingway, an event which no doubt inspired his father's description of a similar hard delivery, this time fatal, for nurse Catherine Backley in the famous World War I novel set in Italy, A Farewell to Arms.

Patrick Hemingway has written forewords to other works of his father including, Hemingway on War, Hemingway on Hunting, the Finca Vigia Complete Short Stories, and the Green Hills of Africa, Easton Press edition.

Following his graduation from Harvard, Magna Cum Laude, Patrick Hemingway left the United States for Tanzania, East Africa, where he operated his own safari company for twelve years. Later, for an equal length of time, he taught at the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, Tanzania, a United Nations sponsored school to train young Africans to be game wardens in the national parks.

Patrick Hemingway was born in Kansas City, Missouri. His birth was a difficult one for his mother, Pauline Pfeiffer Hemingway, an event which no doubt inspired his father's description of a similar hard delivery, this time fatal, for nurse Catherine Backley in the famous World War I novel set in Italy, A Farewell to Arms.

Patrick Hemingway now lives in Bozeman, Montana with his wife, Carol. He has one daughter, Edwina, who lives with her husband and her four sons in Naples, Florida.
Save America’s Treasures

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has extended the Save America’s Treasures grant to the end of June 2007. The Library has received the grant in April 2004 for the preservation of the Hemingway Collection. The extension was granted to allow additional time for the completion of preservation tasks in house as well as by outside conservators.

The largest, most time consuming, and least glamorous task of the project continues – the rehousing and reboxing of the collection. This effort removes the fragile documents from folders and boxes that have become highly acidic over time and places them in acid-free boxes that are buffered to retard the effects of migrant acidity and atmospheric pollutants. Since our last Newsletter, we have rehoused approximately half of the “Incoming Correspondence series.” Among the interesting correspondence that we have rehoused is a postcard that Hemingway received from his high school classmate, M.M. Musselman, written in purple ink, and addressed to “Dear Stein.” He wrote the postcard while Hemingway was recuperating in Italy in 1915 after sustaining injuries to his leg from shrapnel during World War I. The postcard titled “A Shot in the Arm,” is a photograph of a young soldier receiving an immobilization shot. Musselman notes that after he receives his shot the next day he may be joining Hemingway in the hospital.

Other preservation efforts include the rehousing of diaries and fishing logs that Hemingway maintained and the rehousing of diaries and fishing logs where he recorded the type, quantity, and size of fish he saw as well as the comments he made about them. We are also identifying oversized material within the correspondence. In the past, some of this material was folded and included with the correspondences. We are unfolding it, flattening it and rehousing it in flat boxes or in flat files. Paper in the form of flyers or magazine articles that is folded eventually develops a wear line and may perhaps tear along the folded line. As the paper ages it becomes brittle and may break or split along the fold. In that type of damage we are opening oversize material, refoldering it and storing the material flat.

Oversized Material

As we are rehousing the many letters that Hemingway received from family as well as contemporaries such as William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ford Maddox Ford, we are also identifying oversized material within the correspondence. In the past, some of this material was folded and included with the correspondences. We are unfolding it, flattening it and rehousing it in flat boxes or in flat files. Paper in the form of flyers or magazine articles that is folded eventually develops a wear line and may perhaps tear along the folded line. As the paper ages it becomes brittle and may break or split along the fold. In that type of damage we are opening oversize material, refoldering it and storing the material flat.

Recent Researchers in the Hemingway Room

Researchers continue to pursue new avenues of study and publication utilizing Ernest Hemingway’s extensive manuscript and correspondence collection held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

The two award recipients of the 2006 Hemingway Research Grants have recently visited the room to use the collection. Mark Crino, also a recipient of a grant from the Hemingway Society and currently writing his dissertation at The Graduate Center-City University of New York, is pursuing research into the function of consciousness in Hemingway’s fiction. Mayuri Deka, awarded a 2006 Hemingway Research Grant, is currently pursuing her graduate work at Kent State University. Her work, tentatively titled “At the Interstices—Rethinking the Self in Ernest Hemingway,” focuses on the effects of cross-cultural experiences and Hemingway’s creation of a Self.

The Hemingway Collection also hosted international researchers over the summer from Japan and France. Mr. Miyamoto and Ms. Watanabe, from Japan, are currently working on an exhibit about Ernest Hemingway at the Hiroshima Museum of Art. Florence Ferriol, from France, has just completed her first graduate degree and was at the library for the month of July researching the Nick Adams stories for her doctorate. Also conducting research in July was Ms. Hitomi Tsuj of Japan. She is studying Hemingway’s Garden of Eden and is one of the leading young scholars of Hemingway in Japan as well as a member of the Hemingway Society of Japan.

Carlene Brennen is a frequent researcher in the audiovisual portion of the Hemingway Room. The amount of time spent there has resulted in her publishing Hemingway’s Cats: An Illustrated Biography. As a result of her research she identified the names of many of the cats in various photographs that are part of the Kennedy Library’s extensive audiovisual collection.

Hemingway Room

The Hemingway Collection contains a variety of objects including books, paintings, medals and compasses identified as Ernest Hemingway’s. An objects conservator, Alexandra Allardi from ARTcare Resources recently visited the library to examine a sampling of the objects in the Collection. She identified individual items at risk of further deterioration, and suggested some basic changes to our storage methods. She is scheduled to return to the Kennedy Library later this Fall to conserve a number of items including a briefcase that Hemingway used to carry his manuscripts.

Shades and Shutters

This summer the Hemingway Room at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum received a wonderful update through the generosity of Carol and Patrick Hemingway. The dark wood blinds which were part of the initial decorating were showing the effects of being raised and lowered many times. With Carol’s able assistance we now have wonderful new bone mesh vinyl coated shades and complimentary wooden shutters. They brighten the appearance of the room and create an ambiance similar to the living room at the Finca Vigia. The shades will reduce heat and diffuse the sunlight in the room further protecting the paintings and objects. Researchers will be able to adjust the shades and shutters so that they may enjoy the water view or block out the sunlight.

Theatrical films:

The Old Man and the Sea, Warner Brothers

Perspective Films

A Farewell to Arms, 20th Century Fox

The Sun Also Rises, Buick Electra Playhouse

Omnibus:

The Snows of Kilimanjaro, 20th Century Fox

The Killers, United Artists

The Capital of the World, 20th Century Fox

For Whom the Bell Tolls, Paramount

A Farewell to Arms, United Artists

Seven Lively Arts:

Omnibus: The Capital of the World

Buick Electra Playhouse: The Killers

Buick Electra Playhouse: The Fifth Column

Buick Electra Playhouse: The Snows of Kilimanjaro

Buick Electra Playhouse: The Gambler, the Nun and the Radio

Buick Electra Playhouse: Fifty Foot

Buick Electra Playhouse: The Playwright Heart

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