



Fall 2011

All my life I've looked at words as though I was seeing them for the first time

# Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

## Preservation Efforts Continue and Expand

The final shipment of Ernest Hemingway's manuscript materials has returned to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library after undergoing conservation work by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. This will complete the first systematic conservation effort ever undertaken of Hemingway's manuscripts. The project was overseen by Hemingway Curator Susan Wrynn and follows other essential preservation efforts funded through the recently completed *Save America's Treasures* grant. The manuscript initiative was funded with support from Kennedy Library Foundation board members Jill Ker Conway, David Weinstein, and Mars Child. The Hemingway Collection is home to 90% of Hemingway's known manuscripts.

In addition the Northeast Document Conservation Center is conducting a survey of Hemingway's incoming correspondence. The series is comprised of over 7,500 letters from family, friends and luminaries such as John dos Passos, Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald and J.D. Salinger. The survey will inform future preservation efforts for this important series.

### Brando Skyhorse Wins 2011 PEN/Hemingway Award

When Brando Skyhorse visited the Ernest Hemingway collection back in 2000 as an editorial assistant for a modest publishing house specializing in hunting and fly-fishing books, even his fertile imagination could not conjure a return trip as the winner of a prominent literary prize.

But on March 27, Skyhorse made that return trip to receive the 2011 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for his first book of fiction, *The Madonnas of Echo Park*, a portrait of the Latino neighborhood in Los Angeles where Skyhorse lived as a child.

Years ago, explained Skyhorse, "my publisher insisted that I come here because he knew I wanted to be a writer, even though back then



Tom Fitzsimmons

Carol and Patrick Hemingway thank Jill Ker Conway for her on-going support.

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# News from the Ernest Hemingway Collection



## New Website Offerings

The Hemingway Media Gallery on the Kennedy Library website is a great source of images from the Collection – visit the new web page and see the latest pictures at <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/The-Ernest-Hemingway-Collection.aspx>



## Klee Print on Display

A special print of a Paul Klee painting, *Monument Under Construction*, that was once owned by Ernest Hemingway is now on display outside of the Hemingway Room with three other prints that were once part of Hemingway's personal collection. As noted recently in *The New York Times*: "Hemingway had a small personal collection of art, including etchings by Goya and paintings by Gris, Miró and Klee — artists who in some ways mirrored his own modernist aesthetic."

## PEN/Hemingway Award

> Continued from page one



Brando Skyhorse, winner of the 2011 PEN/Hemingway Award.

I was more dreamer than writer. 'Maybe the place will inspire you,' he said.

"I never thought I'd have the opportunity to make a return trip here, and never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I'd come back as a published writer to receive such an extraordinary honor."

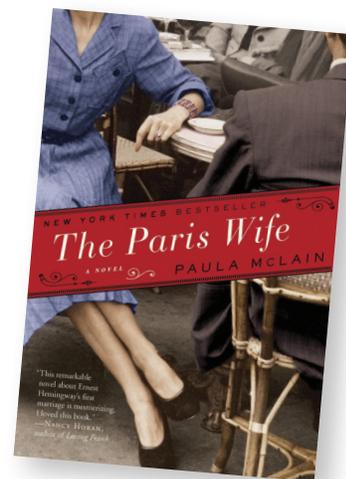
Finalists for the award were Patricia Engel for *Vida* and Suzanne Rivecca for *Death Is Not an Option*. An Honorable Mention award went to Danielle Evans for *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*.

The March ceremony also honored writers with the 2011 LL Winship/PEN New England Awards. Kermit Moyer was given the fiction award for *The Chester Chronicles*, Charles Douthat was given the poetry award for *Blue for Oceans* and Jerald Walker was given the non-fiction award for *Street Shadows*.

All PEN/Hemingway Award winners receive fellowships at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, a retreat for artists and writers. The PEN/Hemingway Award also includes a one-week residency in The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series at the University of Idaho's MFA Program in Creative Writing.

## The Paris Wife

Paula McLain came to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in March to discuss her newest novel, *The Paris Wife*, a fictionalized account of Hemingway's first marriage to Hadley Richardson. McLain, in re-reading *A Moveable Feast*, discovered Hemingway's portrayal of his first marriage as "so tender and moving" that it inspired her to undertake writing this story using the historical record as "scaffolding." In her conversation with Jennifer Haigh, McLain described how the process of imagining the details of Ernest and Hadley's private lives was informed by her study of Hemingway's papers and letters.



# Former PEN/Hemingway Winners Reconvene



Former PEN/Hemingway Award winners Ha Jin (*Oceans of Words* in 1997), Joshua Ferris (*Then We Came to the End* in 2008) and Marilynne Robinson (*Housekeeping* in 1982) engaged in a lively conversation on the eve of the 2011 award ceremony.

As a lover of American literature, Marilynne Robinson found it challenging to describe how important winning the PEN/Hemingway Award was to her sense of herself as a writer. To be adopted into the family of literature under the name of Hemingway, was, as she described, a “lovely” honor that provided her significant recognition as an American writer.

Ha Jin, a native of China but who now lives in the U.S. and writes in English, said that to be honored with an award under the aegis of Hemingway’s name was as if to be associated with the “wide grandeur of the ocean,” such is the esteem in which Hemingway is held in China.

Characterizing the day he learned he won the PEN/Hemingway Award as the “best day

of my life,” Joshua Ferris described learning about the distinction, via email, while caught in traffic on his way to a reading for another literary prize. Having just retrieved his car from the tow yard for unpaid traffic tickets, he quipped that the news more than compensated for his trying day.

*“Every bitter truth that we don’t want to know we can probably find out from a novel.”*

— Marilynne Robinson

The following day in her keynote address at the PEN/Hemingway ceremony, Marilynne Robinson discussed the role of the writer in our society, “We’ve done a great deal to make literature a living part of our national life with all that it carries in terms of criticism, skepticism, alienation. Every bitter truth that we don’t want to know we can probably find out from a novel. And we need that, and it’s wonderful. And people seek it out and people reflect on it.”

Top to bottom: Marilynne Robinson, Ha Jin and Joshua Ferris.

All photos by Tom Fitzsimmons

## Hemingway Council

Preceding the forum with former PEN/Hemingway winners, a lunch was held with members of the Hemingway Council hosted by the Council’s co-chair, Sean Hemingway, Ernest’s grandson. The mission of the Council is to promote a greater awareness of the Hemingway Collection and encourage philanthropic support of this cultural treasure.



Sean Hemingway addresses the Council.



Helene Atwan of PEN New England.



Rose Styron and Patrick Hemingway.



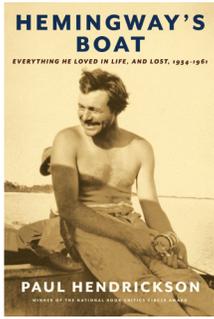
Richard Russo, 2002 Pulitzer Prize winner.



Paul Harding, 2011 winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

# New Publications

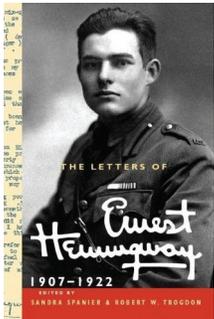
Two recently published books make great use of the Hemingway Collection and are the subjects of Kennedy Library Forums this fall. Visit our website, [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org), to register for forums. All of the library's forums are taped and archived so that they can be viewed live via webcast or watched at a later time.



## Hemingway's Boat

Author Paul Hendrickson discussed his new book *Hemingway's Boat: Everything He Loved in Life, and Lost, 1934 – 1961* at the Kennedy Library on Wednesday, October 12. Hendrickson's work follows Hemingway from Key West to Paris to New York to Cuba, always returning to his beloved boat the *Pilar* and his love for the sea.

To learn more about the book, visit [www.knopfdoubleday.com](http://www.knopfdoubleday.com).



## Letters Project

*The Letters of Ernest Hemingway 1907 – 1922* will be showcased at an upcoming Forum program on December 11 from 2 to 3:30 pm. The work, edited by Sandra Spanier and Robert W. Trogdon, is the first publication of Hemingway's letters that spans his youth, experiences of World War I and his life in Paris.

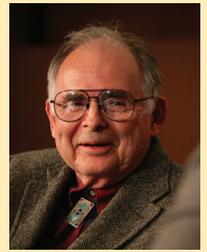
To learn more about the book, visit [www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org).

To hear Patrick Hemingway and Sandra Spanier speak about this project go to the Cambridge University Press NY channel on YouTube.

## Letter from Patrick Hemingway

Dear Friends,

When we read a really fine work of fiction, we are always interested in the author because we wonder how this person gained the insights and knowledge to write so well.



The mission of the Hemingway Collection is to provide access to Hemingway's manuscripts, letters, and ephemera and to more fully allow students and researchers to understand my father's life and his unique creative process.

It is my personal hope that the Collection itself and the related programming we sponsor also spur interest in literature writ large and serve as an inspiration for aspiring writers.

If you are not a member of the Friends of the Hemingway Collection, please consider joining now. If you are a member, I encourage you to make a special donation to aid us in this important work.

Thank you.

*Patrick Hemingway*

Please visit the JFK website, [www.jfklibrary.org](http://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

## Travels by Hemingway Curator

Over the course of this past year, Susan Wrynn has represented the Hemingway Collection at the International Hemingway Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland and at the Hemingway Colloquium in Havana, Cuba, providing scholars and enthusiasts with information about the Hemingway Collection.



Tom Fitzsimmons

Susan Wrynn, Curator of the Hemingway Collection at the Kennedy Library.

*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

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