Kennedy Library Launches New Website Featuring ~ Hemingway Archives

On March 21, 2006, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum went “live” with a newly designed website. Highlighted in this new design is the Ernest Hemingway Archives.

The Hemingway site is easily located under the Historical Resources section on the main page of the Library’s webpage www.jfklibrary.org. When you arrive at the main page of the Hemingway Archives, you can read a brief overview of how the collection came to the Kennedy Library and its importance to Hemingway scholarship and research. There is also a section that highlights recent news about the collection. The side bar to the left outlines the major areas of the site: Hemingway Research Grants, Holdings Related to Ernest Hemingway, Membership in the Friends of the Hemingway Collection, News about the Hemingway Archives, Online Resources available through the website, Statement about Publishing and Copyright Permissions, and information about the Hemingway Research Room.

Preserving Hemingway’s Scrapbooks

Funding from the Save America’s Treasures Grant has allowed the Library to preserve extraordinary and rare Hemingway scrapbooks, posters and works of art. Ernest Hemingway’s mother, Grace Hall Hemingway documented her son’s childhood with five scrapbooks filled with photographs, letters, ephemera, and her own handwritten notes. These books have long been withdrawn from research use due to fragility, but photographs of the books’ pages will once again make this material available to all.

The scrapbooks arrived at the Library in 1975 in one of the first groups of collection material from Mary Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway’s fourth wife. When the Library started work on the books soon after they arrived, these one-hundred-year-old plus volumes are inherently vulnerable to damage. As part of the Save America’s Treasures grant, the books have been re-housed in custom boxes, and each page of each book is being photographed with 4” x 5” color negative stock for preservation and reproduction purposes.

Once the photographic portion of the project has been completed, our goal is to make the photographs available digitally via the new Kennedy Library web site, fulfilling the objective of providing access to the holdings of the Library via the Internet to anyone, anywhere, at any time.

Letter from Patrick Hemingway

We hope you will be pleased to learn that the preservation work funded by the Save America’s Treasures preservation program is proceeding on course, as the Kennedy Library’s Hemingway Curator, Susan Wynn reports in this Newsletter. The preservation project with the Museo Hemingway is also proceeding smoothly, and we hope to see its completion this year.

Interest in the Hemingway Collection continues to grow. Many educational groups have visited the Hemingway Research Room to learn about the Collection and Ernest Hemingway since the last Newsletter. The Curator also assists a constant flow of researcher visits and requests in addition to critically needed preservation. The Salon Series is continuing; last fall featured A.E. Hotchner reminiscing about his relationship with Hemingway. And the 2006 PEN/Hemingway Award ceremony drew a huge crowd on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Your support makes all of the above activities possible, and for that we are deeply grateful. Much remains to be done, of course, and we will continue to work to earn your support.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hemingway
Save America’s Treasures Grant Protects Hemingway Collection

Preservation. The Library has completed its second year of a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the preservation of the Hemingway Collection. In recent months, the Hemingway staff has concentrated its efforts on a critical preservation function: refolding and reboxing the Hemingway Collection. The task involves removing Hemingway’s papers from acidic folders and boxes in which they were stored and rehousing them in appropriate non-acidic folders and boxes. To date all of the Manuscript series including A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls and In Our Time and all of the Outgoing Correspondence series including letters to his mother and father and to other writers such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sherwood Anderson, and Gertrude Stein have been reboxed in 57 Hollinger boxes. The staff has started to rehouse the Incoming Correspondence series that includes letters from Carlos Baker, John Dos Passos as well as family members.

Book and Movie Posters. A group of posters advertising either the publication of a Hemingway book or a movie based on a Hemingway novel have been selected for preservation. During their lifetime the posters have been stored in a variety of locations and in a variety of ways, all of which affects their condition and conservation needs. The most significant damage to the posters occurred as a result of being folded multiple times. The posters have a variety of conservation issues including darkening due to age, tears, surface soiling, tape residue, cockling, and small losses of color and paper. They have been sent to the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) to establish the cost to conserve. The movie poster of For Whom the Bell Tolls starring Ingrid Bergman and Gary Cooper was conserved and displayed at the PEN/Hemingway awards ceremony. NEDCC created an 11 x 17” print of the poster before conservation so that attendees could compare it to the recently conserved document. People appeared to be fascinated not only by the poster but by the wonderful restoration of the poster. The encapsulated poster will now be stored in a secure area in a flat file. It will no longer be folded when stored.

Other posters to be conserved include the performance poster for To Have and Have Not, publicity posters for Islands in the Stream and For Whom the Bell Tolls, Sturman’s poster for A Farewell to Arms, 20th Century Fox’s poster for The Sun Also Rises, the poster for the play The Fifth Column, and Universal Pictures poster for The Killers starring Lee Marvin and Angie Dickinson.

Watercolor Drawing. A recent researcher in the Ernest Hemingway Collection was Colette C. Hemingway — the wife of Gregory and grandson of Ernest. Colette is an art historian and is currently writing a book on the art collection of Ernest Hemingway. As a result of her research the Library has gained a far better understanding of the significance of a watercolor portrait stored as Oversized Material within the Other Material series. It is in fact a wonderful watercolor portrait of Ernest Hemingway in a beret. The title on the verso in violet half point pen is “Ernest Hemingway by Antonio Gattorno / 1954.”

The watercolor portrait is adhered into an old mat with “Scotch” tape, masking tape and strips from an gummed address label. The portrait is slightly cockled and has surface grime. The portrait is slightly cockled and has surface grime.

Antonio Gattorno (Cuban, 1904-1989) was one of the pioneers of the modern art movement in Cuba. Ernest Hemingway and John Dos Passos sponsored Gattorno’s first U.S. exhibit. From the 1930s through the 1970s, reviews of his solo exhibitions in the New York Times and other important newspapers consider him a major talent and compare him to artists as diverse as Edouard Manet and Salvador Dali.

A.E. Hotchner spoke about his old friend, Ernest Hemingway, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on November 28, 2005. Hotchner is the recent editor of the book, A Farewell to Arms, in which he explores their relationship. The moderator for this Kennedy forum was Justin Kaplan, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for his biography, Mark Twain: A Portrait, in which he considers Hemingway’s relationship with Mark Twain.

On Sunday, April 2, a record 600 people came to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum for the presentation of the 2006 Hemingway Foundation/PEN and L.L. Winship/PEN New England Awards and to hear distinguished keynote speakers address their topics. Thanks to the generosity of the Hemingway family, the Kennedy Library is the major repository of Ernest Hemingway’s manuscripts, photographs, correspondence and other literary materials.

The Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, America’s best known and largest award for first works of fiction, was presented to Yiyun Li for A Thousand Years of Good Provisions. Ms. Li read a poignant passage from her novel describing a conversation between a young woman and her father in which the woman says that in her native language, Chinese, she never spoke of her emotions, but when she learned this new language, English, she was able to speak of her emotions. A former immunologist, Ms. Li said the same thing was true for her and that it wasn’t until she began writing in English that she found a whole other side to her life. Finalists for the award were Daniel Alarcon for War by Candlelight and Douglas Trevor for The Thin Teen in the Fabric of Space. Coincidently, Douglas Trevor was a former student of Joyce Carol Oates. Ms. Oates is the author of many works of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. Her latest novel is the highly praised The Falls. A recipient of the National Book Award and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, Ms. Oates is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University. Ms. Oates did not disappoint her admirers as she presented an impassioned essay. She introduced it as an essay because “if I say lecture, everyone’s eyes glaze over.” Patrick Hemingway presented the award honoring his father to Ms. Li and the finalists. Patrick and his wife Carol had a Hemingway family reunion with daughter Mina, grandson Patrick Hemingway Adams, cousin John Sanford and his wife Judy, and nephew Sean Hemingway and his wife Colette present.

The L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award honoree is located in the New England section of a New England author. Awarded long-time Boston Globe editor Laurence L. winship, it was presented by John Ford, winner of an L.L. Winship Award in 2005 to rehoused by the Library Foundation/PEN. The L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award is in recognition of Lee Nordness for Four Books: Portrait of the Writer as a Young Man, the Sun Also Rises, The Killers, and The Wild Braid.

Joyce Carol Oates Keynotes PEN/Hemingway Award

The 2007 Hemingway Foundation/PEN and L.L. Winship/PEN New England Awards will be held on Sunday, April 1, 2007.

Patricia Hemingway presented the award honoring her father to Ms. Li and the finalists. Patrick and his wife Carol had a Hemingway family reunion with daughter Mina, grandson Patrick Hemingway Adams, cousin John Sanford and his wife Judy, and nephew Sean Hemingway and his wife Colette present.

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Two Hemingway grants were awarded for 2006

They were awarded to:

Mayuri Deka from Kent State University for the topic “At the Intersections – Rethinking the Self in Ernest Hemingway”

Mark Giroux of New York University for his topic “Hemingway and Consciousness.”

The grants are awarded to scholars requiring the use of the Hemingway Collection. They range from $200 to $1,000. Preference is given to dissertation research by Ph.D. candidates and research in recently acquired Manuscript series. Application deadline: November 1, 2006. Awards announced: December 15. Applications received after the deadline will be held for consideration in the next cycle. Please visit our website for additional information http://www.fikn.org/ffks-library~ffks-MuseumKennedy

Or contact:

Grant and Fellowship Coordinator:
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Joyce Carol Oates, Yiyun Li, Patrick Hemingway, Deborah Jeff, John Crawford

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