

Roosevelt Library Displays FDR's Naval Collection in New York City Exhibition Treasures of a President: FDR and the Sea

South Street Seaport Museum \star Open through December 31, 2009

Franklin Roosevelt's love of sailing and his irrepressible passion for collecting are celebrated in Treasures of a President: FDR and the Sea, an exhibition now on view at the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City. Treasures of a President presents over 75 objects from the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

A prodigious collector from a young age, Roosevelt's was one of the nation's great maritime and naval collections of the 20th century. It included naval prints, drawings, letters, memorabilia, and more than 200 fully rigged ship models. In Treasures of a President a selection of those that were part of Roosevelt's own 1941 installation at the Library and Museum are on display for the first time in New York City. While president, Roosevelt displayed a number of them-including a model of the USS Constitution that he personally re-riggedin the White House.

Roosevelt loved the sea and was an accomplished sailor throughout his life. His maternal ancestors-the Delanos-were ship owners and merchants who made a fortune in the 19th century China Trade. During Woodrow Wilson's presidency FDR served as assistant secretary of the navy, and during his own, founded the U.S. Merchant Marine and oversaw the largest expansion of the U.S. Navy in its history.

Roosevelt's naval and maritime collecting was most intense during 1913-20 when he was assistant secretary of the navy and then



A highlight of the Treasures of a President exhibition is a gallery of nearly 30 ship models resembling the "Naval Room" of the Roosevelt Library-one of the original galleries when it opened its doors in 1941. Today the FDR Presidential Library has over 400 ship models from FDR's personal collection.



© Josh Sailor Photography 2009 An opening reception for the exhibition was held on October 22, 2008. (From left) Fredrica Goodman, Marian Breeze, Amb. William J. vanden Heuvel, Cynthia Koch, and Erin Orborn.



during his extended period of rehabilitation from polio in the 1920s. In his collecting FDR especially prized items that reflected the glory of the American Navy and represented turning points in American history.

A number of the objects in the exhibition are personal, including a childhood drawing of a sailboat and the ship's log from his mother's 1862 clipper ship journey to China with her family when she was seven years old. As governor of New York and as president, FDR received many gifts from people who knew of his interests in the sea. Among them was a handcrafted ship model made by an inmate at Sing Sing, which the prisoner named, hopefully, Pardon Me. There is no record this gift accomplished its intended purpose.

South Street Seaport Museum preserves and interprets the history of New York City as a world port, a place where goods, labor and cultures are exchanged through work, commerce, and the interaction of diverse communities. It houses exhibition galleries, a working 19th century print shop, an archaeology center, a maritime library, a craft center, a marine life conservation lab, and the largest privately owned fleet of historic ships in the country. The Museum is located on the site of the original port of New York City in lower Manhattan.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Roosevelt Collections: Visible Storage at the Library

Franklin Roosevelt was a great collector. From an early age he collected stamps, ship models, and rare books. By the time he was President he had amassed one of the nation's finest collections of naval art and impressive collections of Hudson valley art and historical prints. During the New Deal he gathered hundreds of examples of art and crafts work produced by the W.P.A. and other agencies.



Untitled (View of the Hudson River Highlands). Artist unknown, watercolor, c. 1850

He placed all of his collections, along with archival materials documenting a lifetime in public service, in a new facility he built on the grounds of his estate. The Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum-the nation's first-opened as World War II raged in Europe. Dedicated in June 1941, in the shadow of Nazi book burnings and the destruction of so-called "degenerate" art, the Library in its archive and museum collections promised freedom of thought and expression to future generations.



© Josh Sailor Photography 2009

A centerpiece of the exhibition is a large model of the USS Constitution, the early American Navy's most famous ship. Known as "Old Ironsides," the Constitution saw action in the Barbary Wars and other conflicts. Treasures of a President is open though December 31, 2009. For more information visit www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org.

FDR Presidential Library

Walnut folding tuck-away table. Val-Kill Industries, c. 1930.

After FDR's death Mrs. Roosevelt took great pride in adding to the museum collections and never failed to bring her guests to view its exhibits.

The products of Mrs. Roosevelt's craftwork studio for unemployed youth, Val-Kill Industries, eventually made their way into the Roosevelt Library, as did remarkable

(continued on page 2)

Joint Exhibit with New-York Historical Society in New York City

The FDR Library's special exhibition, A New President Takes Command is "Action and Action Now": FDR's First Hundred Days is the basis for A New President Takes Command, a collaborative exhibition between the Library and the New-York Historical Society in New York City.

The exhibit opened in December and will run through May 3, 2009 at the New-York Historical Society.

what the Historical Society calls a "focus exhibit." It is a small and quickly assembled display designed to remind visitors of the remarkable parallels between the nation's challenges as FDR assumed the presidency in 1933 and those facing President Barack Obama today. "We are delighted to be able to work with the New-York Historical Society using the Roosevelt presidential archive to help Americans today understand

contemporary issues with the benefit of the lessons learned in the 1930s. That is exactly why FDR founded his presidential library," said Cynthia Koch, FDR Library Director.

The exhibition displays rarely seen documents, photographs, artifacts, and newsreels drawn from the archives of the Roosevelt Library and Museum. Visit www.nyhistory.org for more info.

(continued from page 1)

examples of folk art and treasures from around the world that came to the Roosevelts as gifts. Descended from old families, the Roosevelts' collections also contain noteworthy early American silver, jewelry, and antique furniture.



FDR Presidential Library Saucer, Haviland Porcelain, France, 1938. Part of a five-piece set of luncheon place settings used at Hvde Park and the White House.

As changes were made to the museum beginning in the 1950s, ever so slowly the art and artifacts that were so important to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were put behind closed doors.

In due course the Roosevelt collections became largely unknown to the public.

Less than 10 percent of the Roosevelt Library collection has ever been exhibited. Today less than 3 percent is on view.

But that is about to change.

The Roosevelt Library will soon begin a multi-year renovation project that includes a rare and wonderful opportunityinstallation of a "visible storage" facility that allows visitors to walk through museum storage areas and view up close thousands of items that have rarely, or never, been on display.



© Josh Sailor Photography 2009 Paintings and prints from FDR's naval history collection can be seen in the Treasures of a President exhibition at the South Street Seaport Museum.

For a sampling of some of the remarkable items in FDR's naval history collection, don't miss our joint exhibit with the South Street Seaport Museum, Treasures of a President: FDR and the Sea. A few of the millions of documents in our archive are also on view in New York City at the New-York Historical Society in our collaborative exhibit on FDR's First Hundred Days.

Reviving the Library's Naval Room - FDR's Ship Models Restored

The Library has begun a multi-year evoke the original Naval Exhibition preservation project aimed at restoring President Roosevelt's enormous collection of ship models. The collection includes over 200 large models, encompassing elaborate fully-rigged sailing ships and modern steam powered vessels. Roosevelt purchased some of these models. Others were gifts from friends, admirers, and foreign leaders.

The collection also features more than 200 smaller replicas ranging from diecut models of U.S. Navy ships used to train sailors in ship recognition during World War II to simple vessels made by hand by Roosevelt and his friends.

The ship model preservation project has been undertaken as part of the preparations for the Library's new Visible Storage facility for its Museum collection. This new facility is a major component in the upcoming Library renovation project. It will offer future visitors the opportunity to enter Museum collection rooms and view thousands of rarely seen items.

A highlight of the new facility will be

a room devoted entirely to the display

Room, which showcased Roosevelt's ship model and naval print and painting collections when the Library opened in June 1941.



Historic photo of the Naval Room at the FDR Library as it looked in 1941.

FDR took a personal interest in the Naval Room, helping to choose and arrange the models on display. It remained a popular display until it was dismantled during the late 1970s. Since that time,

of FDR's ship models. This display will Set of FDR's Leg Braces to Warm Springs, GA

In August the FDR Presidential Library and the National Archives approved the de-accession of a significant artifact in the Museum collection-a set of FDR's steel leg braces.

The braces were presented to Roosevelt's Little White House Historic Site in Warm Springs, Georgia, where they had been on long-term loan since 1950. They are one of six sets of FDR's braces that were given to the FDR Library by the Roosevelt Estate after the President's death. This set was made for Roosevelt at Warm Springs in 1940.

The history of FDR's special association with Warm Springs is well known. He first visited there in 1924, hoping to find a cure for the infantile paralysis (polio) that struck him in 1921. Impressed with the area's buoyant spring waters, he eventually purchased property and founded the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation to operate a polio treatment center. Roosevelt's modest private residence, which he visited often during his presidency, became known as the Little White House. He died there on April 12, 1945.

Little White House Historic Site Manager Kim Cushman expressed her agency's gratitude for the FDR Library's gift, noting that the braces occupy an important place in the historic site's Museum, which attracts nearly 100,000 visitors a year.

Since 1948 FDR's Little White House at Warm Springs has been open to the public under the management of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The National Park Service has declared the house a national landmark. For more information about the museum and special events at the Little White House Historic Site visit www.fdr-littlewhitehouse.org.

Quadricentennial Banner Exhibition Opens

President Roosevelt's Hudson River Valley art collection takes center stage in a new traveling banner exhibition created to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's entry into the Hudson River Valley in 2009. Working



the public has rarely been able to view more than a few of FDR's treasured ship models.

The ship model preservation project began in 2008 and will ultimately prepare the entire collection for permanent display in the new visible storage facility. A major portion of the preservation work undertaken during the past year was done in conjunction with an exhibition of FDR's naval and maritime collections that the Library jointly planned and mounted with the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City, Treasures of a President: FDR and the Sea (see story on page 1).

Twenty-seven models from the Library's collection are included in the exhibit and were conserved by the Seaport Museum's conservator at no cost to the Roosevelt Library. Many of these were among the models that FDR originally displayed in his Naval Room. Another group of eight ship models from FDR's collection underwent conservation during 2008 at the American Marine Model Gallery in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Work on those models was funded with special preservation money provided by the National Archives.

RECENT BOOKS BASED ON RESEARCH AT THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and **Radical Presidency of** Franklin Delano Roosevelt (Doubleday, 2008) by H. W. Brands

Nothing to Fear: FDR's Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America (The Penguin Press, 2009) by Adam Cohen

The Wit and Wisdom of FDR (Harper, 2008) by James C. Humes

Fighting For Hope: African American Troops of the 93rd Infantry Division In World War II and Postwar America (Johns Hopkins U. Press, 2008) by Robert F. Jefferson

The Anti-Intellectual Presidency: The Decline of Presidential **Rhetoric from George Washington** to George W. Bush (Oxford University Press, 2008) by Elvin T. Lim

Because government funds cannot be used for the installation of special casework and lighting necessary to make the Roosevelt collections accessible to the public, we will be looking to private donors to assist with this important project. If you would like to help, please contact me at (845) 486-7747 or cynthia.koch@nara.gov and I will be happy to tell you more about this exciting project.

Cynthia M. Koch February 2009

in partnership with the Home of FDR National Historic Site, FDR Presidential Library staff. selected 33 images from the more than 350 in the President's collection of prints, drawings, and paintings (now in the Library) that depict the landscape and rich history of the Hudson River valley.

The exhibition, titled Banners Along the Hudson: FDR's Hudson River Valley Collection, consists of a series of giant freestanding banners that display reproductions of artwork depicting Hudson River locations ranging from Battery Park to Glens Falls. The prints date to the 18th and 19th centuries. while some of the paintings are by two of FDR's favorite contemporary artists Olin Dows and Mitchell Jamieson. Works Progress Administration artist Charles E. Pont and Public Works Administration artist James Scott are also shown.

FDR Presidential Librar

Banners Along the Hudson debuted in January at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center in Hyde Park and the Federal Hall National Historic Site in New York City. It will then travel to a series of sites along the Hudson River in 2009. For a listing of all Quadricentennial events in the area visit www.dutchess400.com.

Sumner Welles, Postwar Planning, and the Quest for a New World Order, 1937-1943 (Columbia U. Press, 2008) by Christopher D. O'Sullivan

Too Close to the Sun: Growing Up in the Shadow of my Grandparents, Franklin and Eleanor (Public Affairs, 2008) by Curtis Roosevelt

> FDR's World: War, Peace and Legacies (Macmillan, 2008) David B. Woolner, ed. Warren F. Kimball, ed. David Reynolds ed.

FDR v. the Constitution (Walker & Co., 2009) by Burt Solomon

In the Media: Action and Action Now: FDR's First 100 Days Exhibit

"Since Mr. Obama's election, references to Roosevelt have become even more plentiful. . . And he has made clear (conceptually echoing Roosevelt) that his attention to the welfare of the citizenry would be inseparable from his attention to the health of the economy.

So it is fortunate that the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum here, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the start of the New Deal, mounted an exhibition, "Action and Action Now: FDR's First 100 Days," referring to the brief period that Roosevelt treated as a self-imposed challenge to begin having an effect. During that time he oversaw the passage of 15 major pieces of legislation that transformed the country's view of itself and redefined the character of American government."

> Review by Edward Rothstein New York Times December 19, 2008

Gillibrand Nomination Overshadows Local "Green Jobs" Summit



National Park Service, W. D. Urbir

On January 26, 2009 a conference on "green" economic development held at the Wallace Center drew media attention from the tri-state area just three days after the selection of Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand to fill Hillary Clinton's seat as U.S. Senator from New York. Gillibrand, Governor David Paterson, Rep. John Hall and Rep. Maurice Hinchey held a press conference during the event.

FDR Presidential Library Reproductions of letters to FDR fill the walls of a gallery in the Action, and Action Now exhibit.

"Thousands of letters of support were sent to the president after this first fireside chat. One letter said that until that night, the president of the United States 'was merely a legend, but you are real.' And there are pictures showing thousands of people lining up outside banks to return their money."

Excerpt from review by Margot Adler, All Things Considered (NPR), January 19, 2009. "... Parts of the exhibit are full of images of the Depression, often heartbreaking. And yet, there is also hope, and that lends vigor to the exhibit."

> Review by Chris Farlekas *Times Herald-Record* February 1, 2009

"The exhibit creatively and elegantly presents to students, teachers, and general audiences the outline of FDR's initial days in office, contextualizing his vigorous legislative agenda within the social, cultural, and economic environment of the early years of the Great Depression. . . . The extensive use of metaphorical design helps transform what might have been a flat, policy-focused exhibit into a dynamic, compelling physical and multimedia experience."

> Review by Gerald Zahavi Journal of American History Volume 95, No. 3, pp. 783–85

Andy Rich Tapped to Lead Roosevelt Institute

On January 1, 2009, Andrew Rich became President and CEO of the Roosevelt Institute upon the retirement of Christopher Breiseth. Rich served as associate professor of political science at City College of New York (CCNY) and the CUNY Graduate Center. He was also assistant director of the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies at CCNY.

The author of Think Tanks, Public Policy, and the Politics of Expertise, Rich has also written about telecommunications, health care, tax policy, and the cross-national aspects of policy research production and dissemination. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University.



Roosevelt Insti

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing through Thursday, December 31 **Museum Exhibition:** "Action, and Action Now" FDR's First 100 Days FDR Presidential Library William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery

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Friday, March 13 Saturday, March 14 U. N. Association Film Festival: Eleanor Roosevelt and the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Wallace Center Call (845) 486-1978 for Agenda

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Saturday, March 28 Great Estates Symposium: 400 Years: Life on the Hudson Wallace Center 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Friday, May 22 USO Show Wallace Center 7:00 p.m.

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Saturday, May 23 Sunday, May 24 **Bivouac - Living History** FDR Library Lawn 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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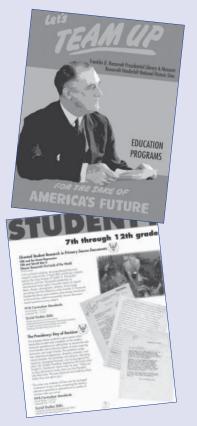
Saturday, June 20 Roosevelt Reading Festival Wallace Center 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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EMAIL BULLETIN SIGN-UP Visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu and click the JOIN EMAIL LIST button

New Catalogue Highlights Curriculum Based Programs

The FDR Presidential Library and the National Park Service produced a new joint programming catalogue titled, "Let's Team Up for the Sake of America's Future."



Roosevelt Library's Educational Collaborations and Partnerships Grow

Last year a record 18,300 students came to the Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum to participate in one of the many document-based programs provided by the Library's education department, followed by tours of the Library and Home of FDR. This represents a full 25 percent increase over the 2007 attendance of nearly 15,000, which was itself a record-breaking number.

How do we account for this outstanding growth? The strength of partnerships and collaborations, through which word of the Roosevelt Library education programs is spread far and wide. In exchange, we at the Library learn and grow from our new contacts with individuals and organizations drawn from our local, regional and national community. The Roosevelt Library and Pare Lorentz Film Center's "Test of our Progress" diversity workshop series offered its first workshop, "Racism in America: Tuskegee, Today and Tomorrow" in the fall of 2008 with high school students from the Newburgh Free Academy. Using the Pare Lorentz Film Center production, *Red-Tailed Angels: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen* as a basis



Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Cathy Collins; and retired teacher and Youth Leadership Coach Gwendolyn Higgins. Future seminars will be developed using other films from the holdings of the Library's Pare Lorentz Center.

The Library's education department partnered with the "Big Read" projects of the Dutchess and Orange county library systems, providing historical context and background for The Great Gatsby and The Grapes of Wrath, the two books selected for community book discussions. In October the Library hosted a DebateWatch program for the final presidential debate. The event drew more than fifty participants who engaged in a lively post-debate discussion moderated by Dr. Nancy Kassop, head of the political science department at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Later in the month the Library hosted a National Issues Forum for students on the energy crisis in cooperation with Hofstra University and sponsored by the Kettering Foundation. Two additional Forums were held to promote civic discussion for public audiences. All three National Issues Forums were part of a nation-wide series of public discussions funded by the Kettering Foundation and held at Presidential Libraries

The catalogue highlights the wide array of curriculum-based programs and educational materials available to teachers and their students from both the FDR Library and the National Park Service in Hyde Park. To receive a copy, call the education department at (845) 486-7761 or email jeffrey.urbin@nara.gov.

We are grateful to the Roosevelt Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities for our most far-reaching collaboration. Last summer, for the second year, one hundred teachers from across the country-and from Algeria, China and Fiji-took part in FDR and the World Crisis, 1933-1945: Roosevelt and Hyde Park, two week-long teacher institutes held at the Wallace Center, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through a grant secured by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. The seminar was presented by the Library and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, in collaboration with Marist College and the National Park Service. These teachers visited the various Roosevelt-related historic sites, attended lectures by noted academic historians and political scientists, and worked with the Library's education specialist to develop document-based lessons for use back in their classrooms.

The FDR Presidential Library partnered with the Roosevelt Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities to offer weeklong teacher institutes on the Roosevelt era.

for discussion, the seminar involved a day-long workshop at the FDR Library, followed by a series of classroom activities. Inner-city school districts Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties are encouraged to enroll with costs assumed by a grant from the New York Community Trust, which funds the Pare Lorentz Center. Each session was led by a team of three educators: the Library's Education Specialist, Jeffrey Urbin; the former Executive Director of the Eleanor Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were intimately involved in the communities in which they lived, always contributing as civic leaders on the local level, even as they worked on national and international problems. It is natural for the Library's education department to continue their tradition of partnership and collaboration. The sharing of ideas opens avenues of communication and forges relationships that unite communities in ways that benefit everyone.



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- ★ Unlimited free admission for one adult to the Roosevelt Library and Museum for one year. *Children 15 and under admitted free*;
- \star 10% discount at the New Deal Museum Store;
- ★ Subscriptions to *The View from Hyde Park*, the FERI newsletter, and *Rendezvous*, the Roosevelt Library newsletter;
- ★ Discounts for conferences, lectures, and seminars sponsored by FERI and the Roosevelt Library;
- ★ Free admission to all Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. www.archives.gov

Membership Form

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Individual	\$35	Cuff Links Club	\$250
□ Family	\$60	🗆 Brain Trust	\$500

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\$60

\$35

Includes all of the benefits of Individual membership *plus* unlimited free admission for two adults.

New Dealer

\$100

Includes the benefits of Family membership *plus* unlimited free admission for four adults.

Cuff Links Club

\$250

Includes the benefits of New Dealer membership *plus* free admission to all Roosevelt Library and FERI seminars, conferences or lectures, where a fee is required.

Brain Trust

\$500

Includes the benefits of Cuff Links Club membership *plus* a behind-the-scenes tour for up to four people of the Roosevelt Library archives.

Student (age 17-22)

\$15

Free admission for one to the Roosevelt Library; free admission to all seminars, conferences and lectures; free admission to all presidential libraries of the National Archives; and subscriptions to the FERI and the Roosevelt Library newsletters. *Current student ID required.*