



Winter 2008

Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

I learned never to empty the well of my writing, but always to stop when there was still something there in the deep part of the well, and let it refill at night from the springs that fed it.

Patrick Hemingway Presents 2007 PEN/Hemingway Award

Author Ben Fountain was the recipient of the 2007 PEN/Hemingway Award for his distinguished first book of fiction, *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara*. Patrick Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's son, presented the award at a ceremony on April 2, 2007 at the Kennedy Library.

The PEN/Hemingway Award is given annually to a novel or book of short stories by an American author who has not previously published a book of fiction.

In accepting the award, Ben Fountain confessed that *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara* was not his first book. "Back in my garage in Dallas," he quipped, "there's a 600-page novel sitting in a cabinet. And it's there for a reason."

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Hemingway Letters to Actress Marlene Dietrich Opened

"My dearest Marlene: I write this early in the morning, the hour that poor people and soldiers and sailors wake from habit, to send you small letter for if you are lonely or anything."

The words are Ernest Hemingway's written on July 1, 1950 to Marlene Dietrich, world renowned actress of film and stage.

Last spring, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, home to the Ernest Hemingway Collection, opened thirty letters that had been donated in 2003 by Marlene Dietrich's daughter, Maria Riva, under the condition that they remain closed until 2007.

"These extraordinary letters reveal Hemingway as a loyal and caring friend," said Tom Putnam, Kennedy Library Director. "When combined with the Library's collection of correspondence from Dietrich to Hemingway, these new letters help to complete the story of a remarkable friendship between two exceptional individuals which has never been made available to the public in such depth."

Spanning the years 1949 until 1959, the thirty correspondences include seven hand written letters, eighteen typed letters, four telegrams, and a Christmas card. Hemingway wrote to the German-born actress from Cuba, Idaho, Paris, Italy, Spain, and Kenya.

The new letters add to the Hemingway Collection which already includes thirty-one letters and telegrams from Dietrich to Hemingway written between 1950 and 1961 and an article on Hemingway written by Dietrich titled *The Most Fascinating Man I Know*.

In addition to the letters, Mrs. Riva also donated drafts of three Hemingway manuscripts – *Across the River and Into the Trees*, *The Good Lion*, and *The Story of the Faithful Bull* – as well as two Hemingway poems, *First Poem to Mary in London* and *Poem to Mary*.

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On April 2, 2007, reporters received a first hand glimpse of Ernest Hemingway's letters to Marlene Dietrich in the Ernest Hemingway Collection's Research Room.

News

From the Ernest Hemingway Collection

A Note on New Masthead

This edition of the Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection newsletter unveils a new front-cover design which includes a unique Hemingway signature. Suggested to us by Patrick Hemingway, the signature first appeared on the cover of the 1932 edition of *Death in the Afternoon*.



“Literary Lion” Saved

A fixture in the Hemingway Research Room for many years, the lion shot by Ernest Hemingway’s friend Clara Spiegel is looking better than ever. The lion, which was donated by Patrick and Carol Hemingway, has been preserved thanks to the Hemingway family’s generous support.

According to conservator, Alex Allardt, the lion’s hide was very weak, brittle and suffered from numerous tears throughout the body. The lion is now in much better condition having undergone a surface cleaning, repair of the surface tears, restitching, and attachment of a new backing to support the lion’s skin.



Thanks to the generous support of Patrick and Carol Hemingway, conservators work to repair the lion rug in the Hemingway Research Room at the Kennedy Presidential Library.



Tom Putnam, Director of the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, speaking with Patrick and Carol Hemingway and keynote speaker, Edward P. Jones prior to the awards ceremony. Photo: Tom Fitzsimmons

PEN/Hemingway Award > Continued from page one

It’s not very good, but it was the work – I realize now – I had to do in order to get to the point where I might be able to write something decent.”

Judges for the award were acclaimed fiction writers Elizabeth Berg, Chang-rae Lee and Sue Miller. They also selected finalists, Rebecca Johns and Yvette Christianse, for their books, *Icebergs* and *Unconfessed*, and honorable mentions went to Jann Levin and Marisha Pessl for *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines* and *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*.

At the award ceremony, Sue Miller described *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara* as “utterly original...This is powerful debut, funny and sad and provocative.”

The award presentation is sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, PEN New England, Friends of the Hemingway Collection, the Ernest Hemingway Foundation/Society, The Boston Globe Foundation, Cerulli Associates, and the Ucross Foundation.

Patrick Hemingway presents the 2007 PEN/Hemingway Award to author Ben Fountain. Photo: Tom Fitzsimmons



FINCA VIGIA, SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, CUBA

19/6/50
0400

Dear Daughter :

Thank you for the lovely long letter on the long picture .
You are getting so beautiful they will have to make passport pictures
of you nine feet tall . What do you really want to do for a
life work ? Break everybody's heart for a dime ? You could always
break mine for a nickel and I'd bring the nickel .

Hemingway Letters > Continued from page one

*This is from the house of a writer.
No ink. Typewriter ribbon. Bad
writer's fingers broken or cut. So
I say I love you with pencil.*

– August 24, 1952

The draft of *Across the River and Into the Trees* is a carbon typescript, 234 pages in length, in ink with pencil corrections. It includes deleted passages that do not appear in the published version, making this early draft significantly different from the published version.

While the letters are mostly personal in nature, it is also clear that Hemingway respected Dietrich as a critic.

In an unpublished essay about Dietrich written for *Life* magazine Hemingway wrote: "She loves writing and is an intelligent and scrupulous critic...Since she knows about love, and knows that it is a thing which exists or does not exist, I value her opinion there more than that of the professors. For I think she knows more about love than anyone."

To learn more about the Ernest Hemingway Collection visit www.jfklibrary.org or to make an appointment to conduct research, contact Susan Wrynn, the Ernest Hemingway Curator, at 617-514-1530 or susan.wrynn@nara.gov.



I love you very much ,

Papa.

Marlene Dietrich performs in a top hat and tails. This photo was enclosed with a letter from Dietrich to Ernest Hemingway dated 21 May 1959.

Wrote 4523 words last week. I hope not all shit. 4007 the week before. Hope the same.

– January 31, 1955

My health is about as well as can be expected; that of a re-built jeep.

– September 26, 1949

Now after this book I feel hollow and empty. Like you are hungry and can't eat after a battle. Do you think anybody but you and me knows how much terrible discipline goes into such business?

– August 24, 1952

Screening of *The True Gen* Highlights 20-Year Friendship

In many ways it was the perfect match: Ernest Hemingway whose heroes personified his definition of courage – “grace under pressure” – and Gary Cooper, the man who most often portrayed those characters on screen.

Yet in other ways – politically, intellectually, and personally – Hemingway and Cooper were a study in contrasts.

The story of this extraordinary 20-year friendship is the focus of a new documentary, *The True Gen*, which was screened last spring at the Kennedy Library as part of the Library's forum series.

Following the screening, Peter Keough, film critic for *The Phoenix*, moderated a lively discussion with Patrick Hemingway and the film's director John Mulholland.

The documentary, narrated by Sam Waterston, features interviews with such Hollywood luminaries as Kirk Douglas, Charlton Heston, George Plimpton, and Patricia Neal.

For transcripts of past forums and more information about the Kennedy Library Forum series, visit www.jfklibrary.org.



Ernest Hemingway and Gary Cooper seen here at La Floridita, Havana, Cuba circa early 1950's.

Letter from Patrick Hemingway

Dear Hemingway
Friends:

This fall marks the end of a three-year \$300,000 Save America's Treasures grant dedicated to preserving the Ernest Hemingway Collection.



The grant funded a number of essential preservation projects, such as the conservation of all the letters in the collection that were written by my father.

Much crucial work, however, remains to be done. In addition to my father's letters, the collection also includes 27 boxes of letters from his contemporaries, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, and James Joyce. Preserving a box of these letters typically costs \$5,000.

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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

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