



Summer 2008

*For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment.*

## Patrick Hemingway Presents 2008 PEN/Hemingway Award

Author Joshua Ferris is the recipient of the 2008 PEN/Hemingway Award for his novel *Then We Came to the End*. Patrick Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's son, presented the award at a ceremony on March 30, 2008 at the Kennedy Library.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Jennifer Haigh described *Then We Came to the End* as a "rare phenomenon in contemporary fiction, a novel that conjures astutely and vividly the world of work."

"Joshua Ferris recreates the daily life of a Chicago ad agency on the skids," said Ms. Haigh. "As the staff succumbs one by one to layoffs and the office hums with anxiety, this sharp, witty novel reveals its compassionate heart."

*Continued on page two >*

# Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

## Preservation Work Begins on Hemingway Manuscripts

With support from the Hemingway Family, critical work has begun to conserve the manuscripts of Ernest Hemingway.

The Manuscript Series housed at the Kennedy Library contains over 17,000 pages of manuscripts of the Nobel Prize-winning author's published novels and short stories.

"These manuscripts are the most significant material in the Hemingway Collection," stated Susan Wrynn, Hemingway Curator. "They demonstrate, as no other document can, the creative genius of Ernest Hemingway."

With oversight from the Hemingway curator, the conservation work will be done by the paper conservators at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC).

An initial review has been conducted by NEDCC of each folder in the Manuscript series and priorities have been set based on which manuscripts most urgently need treatment. The first manuscripts to be preserved will be *In Our Time* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

In the 1970's some of the manuscripts were encapsulated in mylar with double sided tape.

The glue from the tape is now migrating toward the document. As an example of the type of work that will be undertaken, the encapsulation will be removed to prevent any damage to the manuscript.

In addition to conserving the manuscripts, annotated galleys of several published novels including *The Sun Also Rises* will also be treated.

The Friends of the Hemingway Collection welcome additional support from any potential donors to expedite this crucial work.



Curator Susan Wrynn examines a manuscript copy with the PEN/Hemingway Award winning author Joshua Ferris in the Hemingway Room.

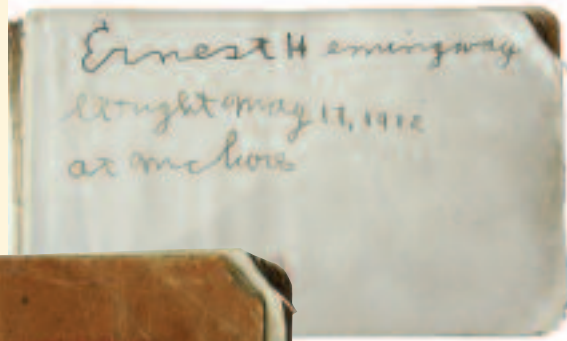
*Photo: Tom Fitzsimmons*

# News

## From the Ernest Hemingway Collection

### Preservation Activities

Approximately 75 books that were part of Hemingway's personal collection have been housed in individual custom boxes to provide additional support on the shelves as well as to limit dust and pollutants.



Among the more interesting titles is Hemingway's personal copy of *Bird Guide for Land Birds, East of the Rockies* with the annotation in his handwriting "Ernest Hemingway bought May 17, 1910."

WWII dog tags worn by Hemingway as a war correspondent for *Collier's* magazine



Piece of WWI shrapnel and ring made from the metal of a melted down bullet which Hemingway kept as charms.

### On-Line Finding Aid Continues to Grow

Researchers are encouraged to use the Hemingway Finding Aid located on the Kennedy Library website at [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org). The Finding Aid now lists all of the newspaper clippings in chronological order and by published novel. The Objects Series also details, among other things, Hemingway's accessories, medals, and weapons as well as Hemingway's dog tags from World War II and a piece of shrapnel from World War I when he was injured as an ambulance driver.

### PEN/Hemingway Award > Continued from page one

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. Past recipients include Jennifer Haigh, Ha Jin, Edward P. Jones, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Marilynne Robinson.

The 2008 finalists are Ravi Howard for *Like Trees Walking* and Rebecca Curtis for *Twenty Grand*. Honorable mentions went to Margot Singer for *The Pale of Settlement* and Gary Schanbacher for *Migration Patterns*.

Highlights of the ceremony included a reading by Patrick Hemingway of the opening passage from *A Farewell to Arms* and the keynote address by Alice Hoffman who paid tribute to her literary idols: Grace Paley and Tilley Olsen.

The Award presentation is sponsored by the Kennedy Library, Kennedy Library Foundation, PEN/New England, Friends of the Hemingway Collection, the Ernest Hemingway Foundation/Society, *Boston Globe*, and the Ucross Foundation.



Patrick Hemingway, son of author Ernest Hemingway, speaking at the 2008 PEN/Hemingway Awards at the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

Photo: Tom Fitzsimmons





Joshua Ferris, recipient of the 2008 PEN/Hemingway Award speaking at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library on March 30, 2008.  
Photo: Tom Fitzsimmons



Kristen Laine, Winship non-fiction winner for *American Band: Music, Dreams and Coming of Age in the Heartland*; Ann Killough, Winship poetry winner for *Beloved Idea*; Rishi Reddi, Winship fiction winner for *Karma and Other Stories*; and Alice Hoffman, a *New York Times* best-selling author and the ceremony's keynote speaker.  
Photo: Tom Fitzsimmons

## Excerpt from Remarks Made by PEN/Award Winner Joshua Ferris

“We are suddenly fascinated by the field of cognitive science. As exciting as mapping the genome was in the last decade, now we are all abuzz about mapping the brain.... I have a hard time, however, believing that when all is said and done... that we will have an exhaustive and satisfying explanation for the remarkable experience we call being conscious.

I’m going to go out on a limb and wager that there will always persist a gap between what science can tell us about consciousness and what the experience of consciousness actually is....And so if science will always come up short, as I believe it will, in providing a meaningful description of consciousness, what do we have to fill that gap?

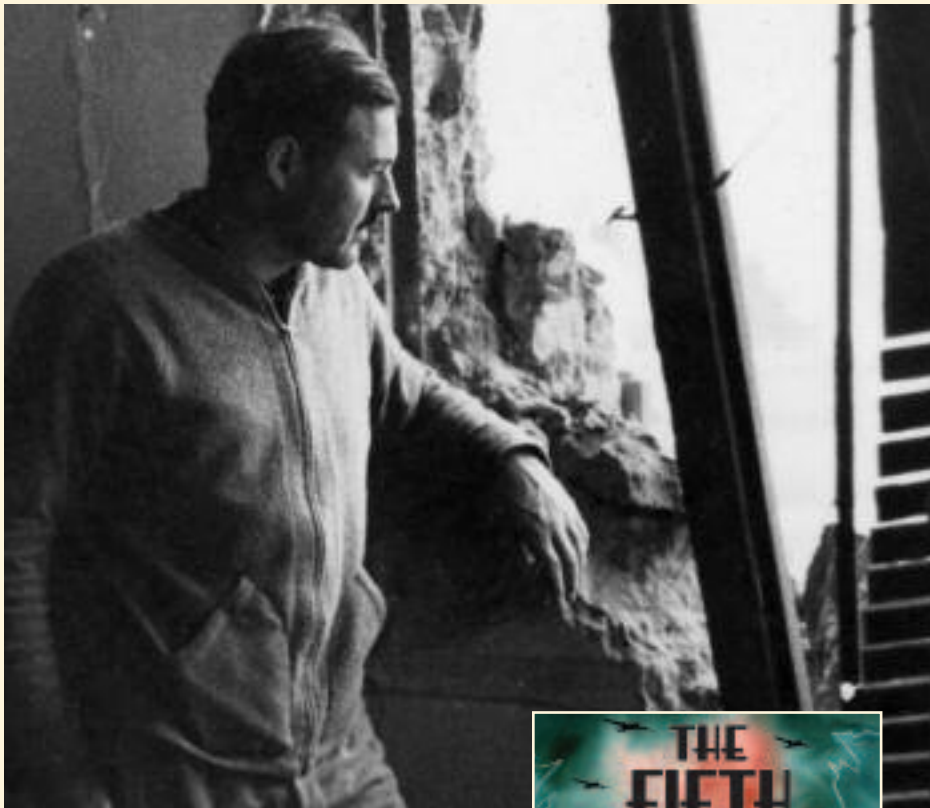
*“Where science must end,  
literature begins.”*

I suppose we have religion...We have other fields of study: psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy. But these are all pieces of a single pie, the whole pie of consciousness and they can provide us only with partial explanations, half-measures of our full human scope. Only one endeavor, as I understand things, has the capacity to corral all of these disparate factions into a wide valley of variegated terrain and breath-taking views, and that is the art of fiction. All the literary arts.

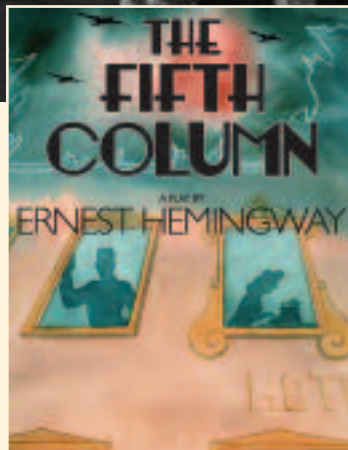
Where science must necessarily end, literature begins. It does the work to narrow, or rather to fill, richly, the gap between our academic understanding of what it means to be human and our unique experience of it. It captures, as only the lived moment can, the complexities of love and the torment of loss, the primary desire for something divine, the big heart’s thump-thump in beauty’s light. This is the reason we turn time and again to the poems of Dickinson and Whitman, the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the novels of Melville and of Hemingway.

And so I would like to dedicate this award to those of you in the audience...who live a life of reading and of great writing. And who have, wittingly or not, taken up the mantle of human understanding and pushed it forward inside your quiet rooms and inside your roaring imaginations.”

# The Fifth Column Produced by New York's Mint Theater



Ernest Hemingway looks out through a hole in a destroyed building during the Spanish Civil War, c. 1937-1938. Ernest Hemingway Collection of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.



The playbill from *The Fifth Column* at the Mint Theater in New York. Courtesy: Mint Theater  
Playbill design by: Stefano Imbert

This spring, the Mint Theater Company presented the long-delayed premiere production of Hemingway's *The Fifth Column* as it was originally written.

Hemingway wrote *The Fifth Column* in 1937 when he was in Madrid working as a correspondent during the Spanish Civil War. "While I was writing the play the Hotel Florida, where we lived and worked, was struck by more than thirty high explosive shells," Hemingway recounted in his introduction to the play. "If it is a good play, perhaps those thirty shells helped write it."

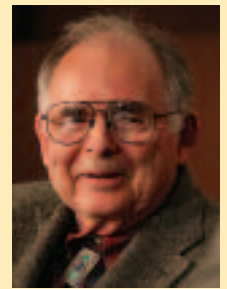
*The Fifth Column* revolves around the personal and political passions of Philip Rawlings, a counter-espionage agent living in the Hotel Florida and working for the Loyalist cause.

On March 27, 2008 Hemingway Curator Susan Wrynn and Kennedy Library Director Tom Putnam joined Patrick and Carol Hemingway and other Hemingway family members at the opening.

The Hemingway Collection contains an early transcript of the play with major changes in Hemingway's handwriting, a version of Scene 6 that is totally in Hemingway's hand and a carbon typescript that had been bound.

## Letter from Patrick Hemingway

Dear Hemingway  
Friends:



The Hemingway Collection, housed at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, is an outstanding national resource that contains ninety percent of the known Hemingway manuscripts.

As reported in this newsletter, work is underway to preserve these precious manuscript documents. But we need your help.

We ask you to join the Friends of the Hemingway Collection to support our work to preserve this extraordinary collection and to make it available to new generations of students, teachers, and researchers.

If you are not a member, please consider joining now. If you are a member, I hope you will make a special donation to aid in preserving the manuscript collection and to support programming that examines American literature and the creative process as personified by Hemingway's legendary career.

In return you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped to preserve a great American treasure.

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  
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[www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org)

