

JOHN F. KENNEDY

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

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The Friends of the Hemingway Collection

Newsletter

Winter 2005

Dear Hemingway Friend:

As you probably know, last Spring the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation received a federal Save America's Treasures grant for the preservation of the Hemingway Collection at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. I am pleased to report that the work provided by the grant is moving swiftly ahead. First and foremost, Susan Wrynn was hired as the Curator of the Collection. Susan is working with the Library's Chief Archivist to determine which of the many wonderful documents will be the first conserved. Ernest Hemingway's extensive correspondence with his family, friends, and fellow writers, some of whom include Gertrude Stein and F. Scott Fitzgerald, will be sent for conservation during the first year of the project.

The Hemingway Salon Series, small literary forums that examine writing and the creative process, is off to a great start. This year, the Library hosted two such events in addition to the annual Hemingway/PEN awards. The first Salon was *Writers on War*. Among the participants was Ernest Hemingway's grandson, Sean Hemingway, editor of *Hemingway on War*. The second Salon featured Valerie Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's personal secretary and future wife of Ernest's son, Gregory. She recently published *Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways*. Valerie shared enlightening stories of her years living and traveling with Ernest and Mary during the early 1960s.

I am thrilled at how productive our year has been. On behalf of the staff at the Kennedy Library and Foundation, I thank you for your continued support of the Ernest Hemingway Collection.

Sincerely,

Director, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

2004 Hemingway Foundation/PEN and L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award Ceremony



Sean Hemingway presenting the PEN award to Ms. Haigh

On April 4, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and PEN/New England honored Jennifer Haigh as the 2004 recipient of the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for a distinguished first book of fiction. Ms. Haigh's debut novel, *Mrs. Kimble*, is the story of the three women who each became the wife of Ken Kimble, an illusive man who at first appears to be each woman's ideal, only later to reveal his true identity. A 2002 James A. Michener Fellow, Ms. Haigh earned an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Joining Ms. Haigh as finalists in the competition were Murad Kalim for *Night Journey* and Z.Z. Packer for *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*. The runners-up were Suki Kim for *The Interpreters* and Ellen Ullman for *The Bug*. Ms. Haigh, the competition finalists and runners-up received UCross Residency Fellowships at the UCross Foundation in Wyoming, a retreat for artists and writers.



Jennifer Haigh

Founded by the late PEN member, Mary Hemingway, to honor the memory of her husband Ernest, the \$7,500 prize is funded by the Hemingway Foundation/Society, headed by Linda Wagner-Martin. Judges for the award were Chris Bohjalian, Margot Livesey, and Dagoberto Gilb. Sean Hemingway, grandson of the Nobel Prize-winning writer, presented the award during the ceremony.

The ceremony also honored writers Carlo Rotella and Joan Leegant as co-winners of the 2004 L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award, given annually to an author from New England or to an author whose writing includes a New England setting. Mr. Rotella was recognized for *Cut Time: An Education at the Fights*, and Ms. Leegant for *An Hour in Paradise*. The award honors long-time *Boston Globe* editor Laurence L. Winship and is sponsored by the *Boston Globe* and PEN/New England.



Deborah Leff, Director of the Library, with Russell Banks

Award-winning novelist Russell Banks, whose works *Continental Drift* and *Cloudsplitter* have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, served as the ceremony's keynote speaker. During his address, Banks acknowledged that "H's" letters and journals helped to craft his understanding of the writing process and his perception of himself as a writer. When he was given the opportunity to view some of the original correspondence housed within the Collection, he felt "his hands tremble and his legs wobble" – the effect of seeing the slant of Hemingway's penmanship, his jokes in the margins, and his playful drawings around his signature.

Prior to the awards ceremony a private reception was held where the Friends of the Hemingway Collection met the keynote speaker, the award winners and runners-up, PEN judges, members of the Hemingway family, the Winship family, and the Board members of the Hemingway Foundation, PEN New England, *The Boston Globe*, and the UCross Foundation.



Russell Banks speaking with Sean and Colette Hemingway

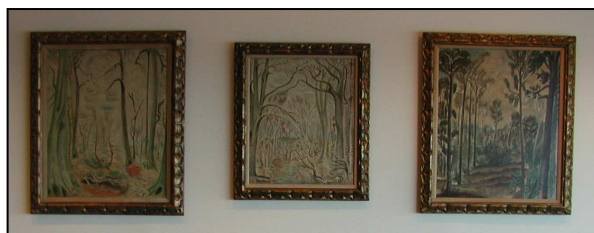
JFK Library Foundation Hires Curator to Administer SAT Grant

In April 2004, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation hired Susan Wrynn to be the Curator of the Ernest Hemingway Collection and to administer the Save America's Treasures grant (SAT), awarded to the Library Foundation to preserve the extensive and valuable Hemingway materials. Ms. Wrynn comes to the Library with an expertise in the management and preservation of rare manuscripts and books. She is well versed in museum educational outreach and her tenure at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, Massachusetts prepared her to coordinate the SAT grant process and oversee the preservation of the Collection. Although Ms. Wrynn spent the first several months of the grant familiarizing herself with the basic structure and condition of the Collection, she is no stranger to the vast materials that comprise Hemingway's legacy in both America and Cuba.



Susan Wrynn meets with a conservator from the Finca Vigia

The Collection includes more than 2,500 letters written by Hemingway throughout his life, from the postcards he sent as a 10 year old to his grandparents recounting his fishing trips while vacationing at his family's summer home in Michigan to his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize. Hemingway's letters also include his correspondence with F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, John Dos Passos, and Charles Scribner among many others. Included in these papers are the priceless love letters and notes written to Mary Hemingway, signed "Big Kitten." These letters are the first group of materials that will be conserved under the SAT grant. The conservation involves deacidifying the paper, flattening the material, and repairing rips and tears that have occurred over time. Two boxes of these letters have been sent to NEDCC for conservation. Ms. Wrynn anticipates the conservation on this material will be completed in January 2005, at which time an additional two or three boxes will be sent for conservation.



This series by Andre Masson, titled "Landscape Trees," is being conserved by the Williamstown Conservation Center

In addition, the five paintings that are displayed in the Collection have been sent to the Williamstown Conservation Center in Williamstown, Massachusetts. They will receive basic cleaning to remove accumulated grime and old varnish that has yellowed the surfaces.

Please refer any questions related to the Hemingway Collection at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum to Ms. Wrynn at (617) 514-1530 or at susan.wrynn@nara.gov.

Hemingway Grants

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Ernest Hemingway Collection are pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2004 Hemingway Research Grants in support of dissertation research. The grants were awarded to Mary Nolan of Florida State University for "Hemingway's Poetics," and Daniel Worden of Brandeis University for "Urban Cowboys and Rural Reds: The Production of Masculinity in Modern American Fiction." Grant applications for 2005 are available at <http://www.jfklibrary.net/ehgrants.htm>.

Hemingway Salon Series

The Hemingway Salon Series is a new addition to the popular Kennedy Library's Forum Series. These small literary forums examine writing and the creative process through various subjects. Below is a description of our two recent very successful Salons.

Writers on War

On March 21, Sean Hemingway, author of *Hemingway on War*; Paul Fussell, renowned academician on war and author of *The Great War and Modern Memory* and *The Boys' Crusade: The American Infantry in Northwestern Europe, 1944-1945*; and James Webb, a decorated Vietnam veteran, Secretary of Navy under President Reagan, and author of *Fields of Fire*, a best-selling Vietnam novel, discussed how writers experience war. The forum was moderated by Susan Suleiman, Chair of Harvard University's Department of Comparative Literature and the C. Douglas Dillon Professor of the Civilization of France, whose current work is on history and memory, with a particular focus on the Holocaust.

Framed by Hemingway's influence as a writer of war, Professor Suleiman led the conversation through a series of questions that provoked the panelists to discuss whether in order to write well about war, one has to have experienced it. The panelists discussed what, in their opinion, was the greatest war novel written and whether the best war novels celebrate heroism or express an anti-war sentiment. The authors also discussed why so few women write about war and the impact of war on society.

Sean Hemingway tied this thought-provoking discussion together with a quote from Hemingway's *Treasury for the Free World*, written after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, summing up his grandfather's view on war:

We have waged war in the most ferocious and ruthless way that has ever been waged. We waged it against fierce and ruthless enemies that it was necessary to destroy. Now we have destroyed one of our enemies and forced the capitulation of the other. For the moment, we are the strongest power in the world. It is very important that we do not become the most hated....We need to study and understand certain basic problems....and remember that no weapon has ever settled a moral problem. It can impose a solution, but it cannot guarantee it to be a just one. An aggressive war is the great crime against everything good in the world. A defensive war, which must necessarily turn aggressive at the earliest moment is the great counter crime....We never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified is not a crime. Ask the infantry and the dead.

To read the transcript on line, visit the library's website at:

http://www.jfklibrary.org/forum_writers_on_war.html. Or, see the video of a salon at WGBH's website <http://forum.wgbh.org/wgbh>.

Valerie Hemingway on Ernest and Mary Hemingway

On November 8, Valerie Hemingway, Ernest's personal secretary and future wife of his son Gregory, shared stories of her years living and traveling with Ernest and Mary Hemingway. She mesmerized the audience with stories of her early childhood in Ireland as well as the story of her first encounter with Hemingway, as an interviewer for the *Irish Times*. That interview was the beginning of her long association with the Hemingway family. The forum was moderated by Askold Melnyczuk, a poet and founder of *Agni* magazine.

Valerie is the author of the recently published, critically acclaimed book, *Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways*. To learn about upcoming salons please visit our website www.jfklibrary.org. To make reservations, please call 617-514-1643.



Valerie Hemingway

