

The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “First Ladies Gown Collection (Smithsonian)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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'Never in My Wildest Dreams'

Georgian's Gown Becomes Part of U.S. History



By Frances Cawthron

Journal Fashion Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—

A big grin spread across the still pretty face of Martha Quarles of Smyrna as she stretched to see around cameramen and reporters who were recording the moment when her second grade pupil of years ago, Frankie Welch, became a part of United States history.

Mrs. Welch, smiling herself, was posing with Mrs. Gerald Ford and Smithsonian Institution director S. Dillon Ripley after the First Lady officially had donated a



(and orange juice for teetotlers) and Mrs. Ford and the designer chatted about the former's son Mike, who went to school with Mrs. Welch's son-in-law. The First Lady and Mrs. Welch have been friends for more than a decade, beginning when Gerald Ford was a congressman and Mrs. Ford modeled clothes from the former Georgian's Alexandria boutique for a news story. Mrs. Ford had been a model and fashion coordinator as a young woman, and in 1968, coordinated a show in which Mrs. Welch's red, white and

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

Received from Margaret B. Klaphor, Curator of Political History
thru Betty Monkman, Office of the Curator of the White House, one
green chiffon scarf matching the gown which represents Mrs. Gerald
Ford in the Collection of Dresses of the First Ladies of the White
House.

Nancy C Chirdon

Nancy Chirdon
Secretary to Mrs. Ford

11/4/77
Date



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

September 16, 1976

Ms. Nancy Chirton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Nancy,

I am enclosing the Deed of Gift for the dress which Mrs. Ford has given to the First Ladies Collection. You will notice I included the scarf in the things to be accessioned. If you decide to take it back to the White House we can just cross it off, but if it is to stay, this will save the necessity of a second Deed of Gift.

Please call me when you are ready to come over to the Museum. We would be happy to have any of you at any time. It has been a great pleasure working with you and the other members of Mrs. Ford's staff.

Mrs. Ford might like to know that the Grand Rapids Chapter of the League of Women Voters has sent us the letter in which Mrs. Ford acknowledges her membership in the League. We think this will be an interesting addition to the cases in the hall in which we exhibit material relating to the First Ladies.

The photograph is sent with our compliments.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Klapthor

Margaret B. Klapthor
Curator
Division of Political History

Enclosures: 3

381-5244



Deed of Gift to
The National Museum of History and Technology
of the
Smithsonian Institution

By these presents I (we) hereby irrevocably and unconditionally transfer to the National Museum of History and Technology of the Smithsonian Institution by way of gift effective immediately, all my (our) right, title, and interest in and to the following object(s) which I (we) own:

Green nylon chiffon evening dress and-scarf

Muslin pattern for dress

Bra

Pair of white cotton gloves

String of cultured pearls necklace

TOTAL NUMBER OF OBJECTS = ~~FOUR (4)~~ FIVE (5)

Witness my (our) hand and seal

this 29th day of September, 1976.

Elizabeth B Ford Seal

Seal

Received by Margaret B. Klapthor
Margaret B. Klapthor, Curator

DATE: 6/24/76



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

ITEM TRANSFER FORM

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

- Audiovisual Unit
 Oversized Container
 Book Collection
 Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item: 1 black-and-white photograph of First Lady Betty Ford viewing the most recent additions to the collection of First Ladies gowns at the National Museum of History and Technology. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution.

The item was transferred from: Betty Ford White House Papers
Box 9
Folder: First Ladies Gown Collection (Smithsonian)

ACCESSION NUMBER (A/V & Museum Transfers only): 1979-NLF-010

Initials/Date SD/3-15-2017



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Return to: Office of the Director
National Museum of History and Technology
Washington, D.C. 20560

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560
EXHIBIT #

Subject: Mrs. Gerald R. Ford views the most recent additions to the collection of First Ladies gowns; gowns shown were worn by, from center to right: Mamie Doud Eisenhower, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, Claudia (Lady Bird) Taylor Johnson, Patricia Ryan Nixon, and Elizabeth Bloomer Ford.

Exhibit: Hall of First Ladies, National Museum of History and Technology.

Credit: Photograph courtesy of the National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution.

For further information contact: 202-381-6586.

