

The original documents are located in Box 34, folder “Curator's Office - Memos (1)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Discuss with President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM:

Clem
CLEM CONGER

The firm of Edward Fields has now finished the specially designed oval rug for the President's Oval Office on which we have been working for many months. The rug originally was to have been delivered in early October but there were problems at the factory and Mr. Jones had to go there several times to straighten out the design problems that were followed by labor problems. The rug is now ready and can be brought to Washington by special truck whenever President Ford would like to have it. In the event that the President does not wish to use the new rug so near the end of the administration, an alternative would be to put down the rug on January 20, 1977.

I would appreciate receiving your advice on this matter at your convenience.

Rug to be laid during Vail trip.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM

Clem
CLEM CONGER, CURATOR

A very important Chippendale arm chair appraised at \$40,000 is being contributed to the White House by Mrs. Bertram Lippincott of Penllyn, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One of the "friends of the White House" has persuaded Mrs. Lippincott to present this chair. It was felt that a prompt letter of appreciation from you to Mrs. Lippincott would have a very beneficial effect as there may be other objects in the future.

We had the chair picked up from the Lippincott's residence some days ago. It is presently at Sack Conservation Company in New York for minor repairs, polishing, etc. before being brought to the White House for use in the Map Room.

Letters dispatched 12/21/76

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM *Clem* CLEM CONGER, CURATOR

J. Willard Marriott, on behalf of the 1973 Inaugural Committee, has made a contribution of \$40,000 to the White House. \$15,000 is to be used for the purchase of a breakfront in which to show Boehm birds in the West Wing as Mrs. Boehm has made tremendous financial contributions to the Inaugural Committee as well as to the White House. \$25,000 is to be used to buy something for the permanent collection of the White House to commemorate your tenure as First Lady.

Mr. Marriott requests that this gift of funds be listed as an anonymous gift and the the source of the fund is not to be discussed. Enclosed is a draft letter of appreciation from you to Mr. Marriott.

Letters dispatched 12/21/76

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM: CLEM CONGER *Clem*

The White House has recently received portraits of your and Mrs. George Washington painted by Ralph William Williams. Mr. Williams is known for his portraits of women in the Breck shampoo advertisements. (These portraits were personally presented to the President for the White House in Birmingham, Alabama, recently by Julie Forshee, America's Jr. Miss 1976.)

Would you like to accept these portraits as personal gifts to yourself? I think the portrait of you is very good! We would not accept the portrait of Mrs. Washington for the permanent collection of the White House as it is not a life portrait and it is painted by a contemporary artist.

Will you let me know if you wish to keep either or both of these portraits. If you do not wish to accept them as gifts, we will have to return them to the artist.

NOTE: These portraits are leaning against the wall in your study.

Mrs. Ford will accept as a gift,
Clem was contacted.

cf



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 26, 1976

Nancy,

I have consulted with the Map Division at the Library of Congress about the map of North America given to Mrs. Ford.

A map such as this was made for an atlas in the 18th century (thus the crease mark in the center). The geographer of this particular map, Robert de Vaugondy, was the son of a geographer of the King of France. They were given permission to make these maps and it was published in an atlas in 1757-58.

The map was engraved on copper and then colored by hand. This edition appears to be a very fine one. The crease should not be removed, but it should be flattened in the frame. Mickelson's could easily do this.

According to the latest price listing at the Library of Congress, a map such as this one last sold for \$200. They were not so rare when first printed but are becoming more scarce today. The Library of Congress has only one copy with the date 1750, and another in an atlas of 1757.


Betty C. Monkman



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM

WILMA SANDS

Wilma S.S.

Mrs. Thurmond Clarke (Athalie), a member of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, will be very much involved in the luncheon for you in Los Angeles on March 11. In speaking with her you might want to be aware that she "adopted" the Vermeil Room and has paid for the expenses incurred in this room. She had an operation in November which included stopping her heart and re-setting the rhythm so her doctor prefers she doesn't travel by plane for a while. Therefore, she will have to miss the meeting here at the White House on March 22 which you are having for the Committee.

Have a good trip!



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Office of the Curator
January 2, 1975

THE OVAL OFFICE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION
OF GERALD R. FORD

The Oval Office in the West Wing of the White House has been refurbished with new upholstery fabric. The predominant colors selected for the upholstery are golds, salmon and greens. The walls of the office have been repainted an off-white color for the first time since 1969.

The objects in the Oval Office will be described in a counter-clockwise direction beginning to the right of the door as one enters the Oval Office from the corridor.

* Portrait of Benjamin Franklin by Charles Willson Peale

Charles Willson Peale's first view of Franklin came in 1767 when he was studying in London under Benjamin West. Peale had come to call on Franklin and through the doorway saw Franklin engaged in one of his favorite pastimes, engaging in an amorous conversation with a young lady on his knee. That started a cordial relationship and correspondence. Franklin wrote to Peale from London on July 4, 1771: (continued on page 2)

* Placed in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration



Sir,

I have received your obliging letter of April 21, and it gave me great pleasure to hear that you had met with such Encouragement at Philadelphia, and that you succeeded so well in your business in your native country. If I were to advise you, it would be, by great Industry and Frugality to secure a Competency as early in your life as may be: For as your Profession requires good Eyes, cannot so well be followed with Spectacles and therefore will not probably afford Subsistence so long as some other Employments, you have a Right to claim proportionally larger Rewards while you continue to exercise it to general satisfaction. The Arts have always travelled westward, and there is no doubt of their flourishing hereafter on our side of the Atlantic, as the Number of wealthy Inhabitants shall increase, who may be able and willing suitably to reward them, since from several instances it appears that our People are not deficeint in Genius.

When Franklin returned to Philadelphia in 1785, after a ten year residency in France, Peale finally succeeded in getting a life portrait of Franklin for his gallery of portraits of the Nation's founders started in 1782. This portrait stayed at the Peale Museum until its auction in 1854 when it was purchased by Joseph Harrison whose collection went to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia in 1913. The painting is on loan to the White House from the Academy.

** Pair of Card Tables - This very beautiful pair of card tables was made in the Hepplewhite style in Philadelphia in the late 18th century. The tables are gracefully shaped with a serpentine front and delicately inlaid in the shell form. The tables are unusual in that they are richly inlaid with stringing that is used not only for outlining but also to create an intricate design. They are on loan from the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, The Department of State.

** Placed in the Oval Office, December 31, 1974



* Bronze Statuette - The bronze statuette by an unknown artist which has been placed on the card table depicts a young man with his dog. It is on loan to the White House from the National Collection of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian Institution.

* Bust of Harry S. Truman - This bust of President Truman sculpted by an unknown artist was cast in 1947 by the Roman Bronze Works. It was acquired for the White House during the Eisenhower Administration.

Argand Lamps - This pair of Sheffield silver argand lamps with telescopic columns was made in England about 1800. This type of lamp was designed by a Dr. Argand originally to burn whale oil with a wick. The lamps are now electrified.

* Bust of Abraham Lincoln - The small bust of President Lincoln was executed by Leonard Volk about 1880. His son, Douglas Volk painted a portrait of Mr. Lincoln which is in the Lincoln Bedroom in the White House.

** Chest of Drawers - The handsome chest of drawers was made in Massachusetts in the Hepplewhite style in the early 19th century. The chest is mahogany and features a serpentine front with string inlay along the front, fan inlay quadrants on the drawers and a molded skirt continuing to scroll-cut bracket feet. On loan from the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, Department of State.

* Placed in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration

** Placed in the Oval Office on December 31, 1974



- * Painting, " Passing the Outpost " - By A. Wordsworth Thompson (1840-1896). This historical scene depicts British soldiers stopping at a farmhouse along the New York - Boston Road. They are being delayed here by loyal American wives so that American soldiers may escape. The farm pictured here is believed to be the Nagel Farm which was built in 1736 near the Harlem River. The painting is on loan from The Union League Club, New York, New York.

- Painting, "The President's House," - Artist Unknown. This painting is based on a William Bartlett engraving of the White House about 1839 showing Tiber Creek where Constitution Avenue is now located. The painting is believed to have been painted in the mid - 19th century. Gift to the White House in 1967.

- * Sculpture " Broncho Buster " - By Frederick Remington (1861-1909) This important bronze sculpture on a cowboy riding a spirited horse was cast by the Roman Bronze Works about 1901. The original design was copyrighted by Remington in 1895. It was a gift to the White House in 1973 from Miss Virginia Hatfield and Mrs. Louise Hatfield Stickney, Covington, Kentucky.

- * Federal Card Table made in Salem, Massachusetts, about 1810. It is unusual in that the table top is supported by a large and carved gilded spread wing eagle. This table is the only extant eagle table in this form in America today.

- * Chinese Porcelain Fish Bowl. This rare porcelain fish bowl in front of the window was made in China in the late 18th century (Chien Lung period). In China, these bowls were formerly used to hold goldfish. Today, they are used as planters.

- * Pedestals - The pedestal along the east wall is one of a pair of mahogany fluted commode pedestals made in America about 1805 in the Sheraton style. It was a gift to the White House in 1969.

*Placed in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration



- ** Clock - The very handsome tall case clock was made by John and Thomas Seymour, prominent Boston cabinetmakers in the early 19th century. The works of the clock were made by John Douell who often worked with the Seymours. This clock was made in the classical style with straight simple lines and fluted columnar support structures. The case is a richly grained mahogany and features beautiful satinwood inlays. This clock along with many other pieces of Seymour furniture was acquired for the White House Collection in 1972.
- * Statuette of Abraham Lincoln - This statuette of President Lincoln on the pedestal is a study for the statue of Lincoln done for the city of Frankfort, Kentucky. The artist was A.A. Weinman. It is on loan to the White House from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
- * Painting "Eastport and Passamaquoddy Bay" - This landscape has been attributed to the French artist, Victor de Grailly, who was working in the United States between 1840-1870. This scene in the state of Maine was based on a drawing of the same subject by William H. Bartlett and engraved by Charles Cousen. Both the painting and the engraving were acquired by the White House in 1973.
- * Pair of Delft Tobacco Jars - The handsome tobacco jars were made in Holland at the end of the 18th century. The jars are decorated in blue and white Delft tradition and depict the American Indian smoking seated near a barrel filled with tobacco. These jars were used in the New World and Europe to store tobacco.

Portrait of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale. The portrait of General George Washington in dress uniform is believed to be the only replica of a portrait of Washington painted by Peale in 1776. It is on loan to the White House from the Estate of Lansdell K. Christie.

Peale (1741-1827) was the only painter known to have painted Washington from life seven times. The portrait over the mantel is believed to be from the second sitting in May, 1776, before Washington received his country's recognition through his efforts at Valley Forge, Trenton and Princeton. The background shows the part of Boston, commemorating the siege of Boston, Washington's greatest victory at that time. The original portrait hangs in the Brooklyn Museum. There is only one full-sized replica (this one) and one miniature replica.

- * Placed in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration
** Placed in the Oval Office on December 31, 1974



This full-sized replica was ordered from Peale for a "French gentleman" soon after the 1776 sitting. Its location remained a mystery from that time until Mr. and Mrs. Lansdell Christie, with the assistance of Peale scholar, Dr. Charles Colman Sellers, discovered it in Ireland in 1965.

- * Painting "City of Washington, 1833, From Beyond the Navy Yard"
This painting was done by George Cooke in 1833. It depicts the city of Washington at that time as seen from the area across the Anacostia River. The White House can be seen at the left of the canvas and the unfinished United States Capitol with the Bulfinch dome can be seen high on the hill in the background. This painting was acquired for the White House Collection in 1972. An engraving based on this painting became a popular view of the city.

Desk - The desk which the President uses in the West Wing Oval Office was built by the United States Senate in 1858 for the Vice Presidential ceremonial room in the Capitol Building. It was used in this room from 1858-1965. President Grant's Vice President, Henry Wilson, fell ill in this room November 22, 1875 and died on the couch next to the desk. In 1965, the room was refurbished for Vice President Humphrey and the desk was taken out of service and placed in storage. It remained in storage until January 20, 1969 when President Nixon requested the desk for use in the Presidential office in the White House. He had used the desk while serving as Vice President. The desk has remained in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration.

- * Pair of andirons - In the fireplace are a pair of American Chippendale style brass andirons made about 1780. The tops of the columns are urn-shaped.
- * Fire Screen - In front of the fireplace is a brass and wire serpentine fire screen with brass finials made about 1800-1810. Acquired for the White House 1973.

- * Placed in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration.



Sofas - The two sofas in front of the fireplace are contemporary pieces which were previously in the Oval Office but they have been reupholstered in a striped fabric in shades of gold, green and salmon.

* Chairs - The two wing chairs in front of the fireplace and the two arm chairs at the south end of the sofas are contemporary reproduction chairs which have been upholstered in a salmon-colored damask fabric.

Chairs - The cane-back chairs which have been placed around the room have been in the Oval Office since the Truman Administration. These chairs have been upholstered in the same fabric as the sofas.

* Rug - This rug was specially woven for the White House in 1972. It was designed, with its pale yellow ground, for the Yellow Oval Room in the White House. The rug was used in the Yellow Oval Room until July 1974. It was placed in the Oval Office in November 1974 and has since been refurbished and reconditioned.

* Placed in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Office of the Curator
November 23, 1974

IMPORTANT OBJECTS IN THE OVAL OFFICE DURING
THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

The objects in the Oval Office will be described in a counter-clockwise direction beginning to the right of the door as one enters the Oval Office from the corridor.

Portrait of Benjamin Franklin by Charles Willson Peale.

Charles Willson Peale's first view of Franklin came in 1767 when he was studying in London under Benjamin West. Peale had come to call on Franklin and through the doorway saw Franklin engaged in one of his favorite pastimes, engaging in an amorous conversation with a young lady on his knee. That started a cordial relationship and correspondence. Franklin wrote to Peale from London on July 4, 1771.

Sir,

I have received your obliging letter of April 21, and it gave me great pleasure to hear that you had met with such Encouragement at Philadelphia, and that you succeed so well in your business in your native country. If I were to advise you, it would be, by great Industry and Frugality to secure a Competency as early in your life as may be: For as your Profession requires good Eyes, cannot so well be followed with Spectacles and therefore will not probably afford Subsistence so long as some other Employments, you have a Right to claim proportionally larger Rewards while you continue able exercise it to general satisfaction. The Arts have always travelled westward, and there is no doubt of their flourishing hereafter on our side of the Atlantic, as the Number of wealthy Inhabitants shall increase, who may be able and willing suitably to reward them, since from several instances it appears that our People are not deficeint in Genius.



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Bronze Statuette - The bronze statuette on the table depicts a young man with his dog. It is on loan to the White House from the National Collection of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian Institution.

Painting, "Passing the Outpost" by A. Wordsworth Thompson (1840-1896) This historical scene depicts British soldiers stopping at a farmhouse along the New York-Boston Road. They are being delayed here by loyal American wives so that American soldiers may escape. The farm pictured here is believed to be the Nagel Farm which was built in 1736 near the Harlem River. The painting is on loan from The Union League Club, New York, New York.

Bust of Harry S. Truman This bust of President Truman was cast in 1947 by the Roman Bronze Works. It was acquired for the White House in the Eisenhower Administration.

Argand Lamps - This pair of Sheffield silver argand lamps with telescopic columns were made in England about 1800.

Bust of Abraham Lincoln - The small bust of President Lincoln was executed by Leonard Volk about 1880. His son, Douglas Volk painted a portrait of Mr. Lincoln which is in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House.



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Federal Card Table made in Salem, Massachusetts about 1810. It is unusual in that the table top is supported by a large and carved gilded spread wing eagle. This table is the only extant eagle table in this form in America today.

Chinese export porcelain fish bowl. This rare porcelain fish bowl in front of the window was made in China in the late 18th century. In China, these bowls were formerly used to hold goldfish. Today they are used as planters.

** Pedestals - The pedestal along the east wall is one of a pair of mahogany fluted commode pedestals made in America about 1805 in the Sheraton style. It was a gift to the White House in 1969.

Clock - The grandfather clock was a gift to the President. It has formerly been used in his office as Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and in the Office of the Vice President in the Executive Office Building.

Statuette of Abraham Lincoln - This statuette of President Lincoln on the pedestal is a study for the statue of Lincoln done for the city of Frankfort, Kentucky. The artist was A. A. Weinman. It is on loan to the White House from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

** Installed in the Oval Office prior to August 1974



Painting "View of the Hudson River from West Point", artist unknown. This charming landscape was painted about 1850. It is part of the permanent White House Collection.

Painting "Eastport and Passamaquoddy Bay" - This landscape has been attributed to the French artist, Victor de Grailly who was working in the United States between 1840-1870. This scene in the state of Maine was based on a drawing of the same subject by William H. Bartlett and engraved by Charles Cousen. Both the painting and the engraving were acquired by the White House in 1973.

Pair of Delft Tobacco Jars - The handsome tobacco jars were made in Holland at the end of the 18th century. The jars are decorated in blue and white Delft tradition and depict the American Indian smoking a pipe. These jars were used in the New World to store tobacco.

**

Portrait of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale. The portrait of General George Washington in dress uniform is believed to be the only replica of a portrait of Washington painted by Peale in 1776. It is on loan to the White House from the Estate of Lansdell K. Christie.

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**

Installed in the Oval Office prior to August 1974



Painting "City of Washington, 1833, From Beyond the Navy Yard
This painting was done by George Cooke in 1833. It depicts the city of Washington at that time as seen from the area , across the Anacostia River. The White House can be seen at the left and the United States Capitol with the Bulfinch dome can be seen high on the hill in the background. This painting was acquired for the White House Collection in 1972. An engraving based on this painting became a popular view of the city.

** Desk - The desk which the President uses in the West Wing Oval Office was built by the United States Senate in 1858 for the Vice Presidential ceremonial room in the Capitol Building. It was used in this room from 1858-1965. President Grant's Vice President , Henry Wilson, fell ill in this room November 22, 1875 and died on the couch next to the desk. In 1965, the room was refurbished for Vice President Humphrey and the desk was taken out of service and placed in storage. It remained in storage until January 20, 1969 when President Nixon requested the desk for use in the Presidential office in the White House. He had used the desk while serving as Vice President. The desk has remained in the Oval Office during the Ford Administration.

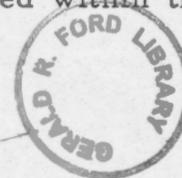
Card Table - To the left of the door is a Classical style card table with a half moon top. Made in Baltimore about 1800, this table has bell flower and shell inlay on the legs, typical motifs of cabinetmakers in Baltimore at this time. The table was a gift to the White House in 1961.

Pair of andirons - In the fireplace are a pair of American Chippendale style brass andirons made about 1780. The tops of the columns are urn-shaped.

Fire screen - In front of the fireplace is a brass and wire serpentine shaped fire screen with brass finials made about 1800-1810. Acquired for the White House in 1973.

Chairs - The two wing chairs in front of the mantel and the two arm chairs at the south end of the sofas are reproduction chairs. The upholsteries are temporary and will be changed within the next month.

** Installed in the Oval Office prior to August 1974



Rug - This rug was specially woven for the White House in 1972. It was designed, with its pale yellow ground, for the Yellow Oval Room in the White House. It was used in this room until July, 1974. The rug has been temporarily placed in the Oval Office until a determination is made on a permanent rug. Due to several months storage, the rubber backing of this rug has been warped and damaged. At the earliest opportunity, the rug will be reconditioned.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL RENALLI

FROM

CC
CLEM CONGER, CURATOR

SUBJ: "Fabric Selections for the President's Oval Office
in the West Wing"

The final selections made by Mrs. Ford for the President's Oval Office in the West Wing are as follows:

(1) Clarence House, No. 10313/16, a striped material (sample returned herewith) to go on the two settees. When these are upholstered, these settees are to have solid backs and seats - not divided as they are now. It is suggested that there be three removable skirts, probably zippered, so shoe marks can be cleaned. More stuffing is to be placed in the seats of the Wing chairs and a little bit more in the seat pads so as to elevate the seats about two inches. Also, all side chairs around the Room are to have this same fabric.

(2) Scalamandre, Viennese Velvet, No. 99000-24, Saffron, a solid gold fabric to go on the two straight back Queen Anne chairs by the settees nearest the President's desk.

(3) Scalamandre, Viennese Velvet, Hazel Nut No. 99000-19, to go on the two Queen Anne wing chairs by the fireplace.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM

CLEM CONGER

The attached lists of objects in the President's Oval Office in the Wing have been revised and are being sent to you to replace the ones you now have.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Office of Curator
November 25, 1974

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE OVAL OFFICE DURING
THE ADMINISTRATION OF GERALD R. FORD

Collection of twelve porcelain bird sculptures by Edward Marshall Boehm.

Pair of Chinese Export Porcelain vases dating from the 18th century.

One of a pair of mahogany fluted pedestals made in America circa 1805.

Four contemporary cover-stuffed chairs upholstered in a gold fabric.

Set of four gilt wood eagle wall sconces made in the early 19th century.

Cartel (hanging) clock with a gilt pine case made in England circa 1775.

Blue wool rug with Presidential Seal made specially for the Oval Office.

Painting depicting Yellowstone National Park by Albert Bierstadt. On
loan from the Anschutz Collection , Denver, Colorado.

Set of battle flags with commemorative campaign ribbons. Flags
represent each branch of the Armed Services.



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

THE PRESIDENCY/HUGH SIDNEY

Subtle Changes in the Oval Office

A White House aide the other day was surveying the Oval Office, and he looked in where the sliding rear door had been, the secret route for the choicest of presidential aides. It had vanished. In place of the door was a plastered wall, and not a mark to indicate that there once had been a back gateway to power.

Immediately the young man began to calculate. That meant there would be

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 4, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford:

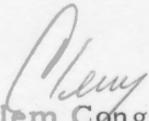
We have to change one of the small paintings in the President's Dining Room on the second floor. The small still life "Strawberries and Cherries" by Margaretta Peale has been recalled by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for exhibition. Consequently, we must return it to the Academy.

In its place, we are hanging a painting on loan from the National Gallery of Art. It is entitled "Landing at Sabbath Day Point-Lake George" by John Kensett with which you are already familiar.

After the first of the year, several paintings in your quarters will have to be returned to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for its bicentennial exhibition. They are:

Contestoga Creek and Lancaster by Eichholtz-East Sitting Hall
Hill Valley Sunrise by Kensett-Queen's Room
New Hope by Redfield-Second floor center corridor
Crimson Rambler by Hale-West Sitting Hall

We will have substitute paintings to hang in their places and will send the paintings to you for your selection before they are hung.


Clem Conger

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM

CLEM CONGER *Clem*

Back a long time ago when we had the rug made by Mr. Frank M. Michaelian, Spinning Wheel, in New York that is presently in the State Dining Room, Mr. Scouten suggested that we have an alternate rug made inasmuch as that one was such a bargain at \$12,000. It would be worth in the general market somewhere in excess of \$30,000. Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Scouten, Mr. Jones and I all worked on this subject of a second rug and the idea was to make it virtually identical in many ways, but a little bit warmer in feeling. These rugs are made in India, the only place in the world we are told, where there is a loom that can make a rug so wide. The State Dining Room rug measures 43' 5" x 28' x 9". Normally rugs cannot be made wider than 21 feet.

This alternate rug took about a year to make and has been at the warehouse for several months. We have been wanting to get it in for you to see. Unfortunately because of the large size, we would have to rent a truck at some expense to bring it in here. Mr. Scouten and I wonder if when you come back from China if you would mind going with me to the warehouse for just a few minutes to see it there. If this is not convenient, we will of course go ahead and have it brought in to the White House.

Because of the constant usage and constant spillage on the rug in the State Dining Room, it more than any other room needs an alternate rug. As you know, we try to have alternate rugs for all the principal rooms.

*file under
Clem Conger*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. BETTY FORD

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *Phil*

Attached is a memorandum prepared by Clem Conger after several consultations with me and after he had obtained the letters which are attached.

I am sending a copy at the same time to Rex Scouten, and I would be glad to meet with you and him whenever it is convenient for you late this afternoon.

Attachment

cc: Rex Scouten



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

SUBJ: "Materials for the Queens' Bedroom"

The original discussions with Mrs. Nixon on refurbishing the Queens' Bedroom began back in the Spring of 1973. We do not have notes on all the meetings with Mrs. Nixon, but we do have a note dated June 6, 1973, in which she approved the architectural improvements to the room and upgrading the collection of furniture by using the best pieces of the Seymour collection of furniture for the Queens' Bedroom, the Queens' Sitting Room, and the East Sitting Hall.

The wonderful collection of very beautiful and rather feminine American furniture by John and Thomas Seymour of Salem, Massachusetts was acquired from Mr. Vernon Stoneman of Boston during 1972. Mr. Stoneman gave the tambour pedimented secretary by the Seymours, now in the East Sitting Hall, valued in excess of \$50,000.

The basic fabrics for the Queens' Bedroom (draperies, bed hangings, upholsteries) were approved by Mrs. Nixon in the Spring of 1974 after a series of discussions on the improvements in the Room, dating back into 1973. This basic order was placed with Scalamandre in April 1974 and delivered to Browne Decorating

Company, Atlanta, Georgia, in June 1974. The first bill for fabrics amounting to \$3,907 was received in July 1974 but was not paid until December 1974. Supplemental orders for guimpe, fringe, jabots, and other materials were placed thereafter, after extensive consultations on colors and examination of samples by Mr. David Byers, Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta, and Mr. Edward Jones but not all items were delivered until early 1975. (See attached letter of October 28, 1975 from Mr. Byers).

These consultations, which happen on most fabrics for every room, are carried on between Mr. Jones and Mr. Byers in Georgia.

I am not concerned with most details once the basic fabric orders are placed. The bills for these fabrics to date amount to \$13,068 and have been paid for in 1975. Guimpe, fringe and jabots, etc. are often more expensive than the basic fabrics but are very correct and very necessary.

After the basic decisions are made, Mr. Jones or I place the basic orders for fabrics with Scalamandre or such other firms as may be necessary. Materials are delivered to Mr. Byers at Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Byers is one of many interior designers whose work is done in an independent shop in the very large firm of Browne Decorating Company, Atlanta.

This is the finest firm in the United States for restoration type draperies, bed hangings, etc. As the Metropolitan Museum and other major collections and collectors place their orders with Browne Decorating Company and because of the large volume of work done by this firm, deliveries are often quite slow. They try when possible to give preference to the White House. The person in charge of the shop has been absent for some time. Normally, we do not pay final bills until all the work in a room is finished. Because of the passage of so much time, we have paid part of the Scalamandre bills but not all. We do not pay Browne Decorating until an installation is completed. Per Mr. Byers' letter of October 21, attached, total cost of the new draperies in the new materials will be \$6206 which is not bad as costs go now. Cost of dressing the bed in the new materials amounts to \$3945.

The Queens' Bedroom is treated as a restoration room, and in our opinion the fabrics and designs should be the best and most authentic possible of the first quarter of the 19th century.

We now realize you like the rose taffeta material which is presently in the draperies and bed hangings in the room. As we have said in the past, however, we wish to have you at least see the proposed new draperies before you make a final decision. I think that when you see the new draperies and bed hangings, you will most likely



agree that they are much more beautiful than the present rose taffeta draperies. The new draperies and bed hangings are properly designed whereas the present draperies and bed hangings most definitely are not. The new draperies and bed hangings do relate to the other new upholsteries on chairs and sofa already in the Room. If you do not like the new draperies and bed hanging materials, they can of course be stored. Then we could make correctly designed draperies in place of the present ones with present rose taffeta material. Perhaps most of the present rose taffeta material could be re-used, we are not sure. Boudin of Paris in the Kennedy Administration selected these materials. Boudin designed the draperies and bed hangings. Mr. DuPont, then Head of the Fine Arts Committee, did not approve Mrs. Kennedy's using Boudin's designs as they were not correct to an American period house.

If after seeing the new materials in place, you want to go back to the existing rose taffeta material, replacement material of the same design can be ordered from Jensen of Paris at \$150 if necessary. Cost of making the draperies in the rose taffeta material would be \$3699. Redoing the present bed correctly in the Jensen rose taffeta material would be \$4887 (See Mr. Byer's letter attached, dated November 7, 1975).

We have contributed funds on hand to complete all work done to date and any foreseeable work in the future.



While you and the President are in China, we propose to install the mantel and chair railing whch you have already approved. We will hang the new draperies in the new materials for you to see. We will install the new bed temporarily and take the present bed to Atlanta for redressing, hopefully in the new materials.



Alternative Possibilities

Recommended: No. 1: Redress present bed in new materials - \$3945

Not Recommended:

No. 2: Rework and redress present bed in our own rose taffeta material -----\$4887
(same price if new rose taffeta materials used)

Not Recommended:

No. 3: Redo in correctly designed draperies using present rose material -----\$3699

New trimmings - jabots, guimpe, etc. for draperies and bed to match rose taffeta would cost an undetermined amount, but approximately -----\$9000

Not Recommended:

Cost of new rose taffeta material for draperies and bed hangings only if needed-----\$20,000

B

W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.
443 Peachtree Street, N.E.
ATLANTA 8

October 21, 1975

Mr. Clement E. Conger, Curator,
White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Conger:

Listed herewith are the itemized decorations to complete the Queen's Bedroom; the room is to be installed at your convenience after the completion of alterations around mid November:

- A. Two pairs of curtains of special imported pink and green stripe, fabricated with a draped valance on pole, as per engraving by Mesangeres Marbles et Objets de Gout 1796-1830 and interpreted by us for the Metropolitan Museum show in 1970 and approved by the Fine Arts Commission. We have used own special trimmings and braid, faced back with own special green taffeta using antique pole ends.

Labor for all above: \$ 3,699.00 Pr.

63 yds. special stripe @ \$24.00 yd.

(Approx. forty (40) yds. will be retained for future use.

17 yds. billed 1/31/75, work order 7861, sent to Le Volsie for covering own sofa by him)

1,512.00

2 Pr. Antique pole ends in gilt wood deacquired for the above Metropolitan show:

995.00

86,206

- B. The antique teaster bed (from the White House Collection) for use in the Queen's Bedroom will have side and back curtains and outside valance draped to conform to the photograph shown from Mr. Montgomery's book of Winthur, approved by The Fine Arts Committee using own braid and fringe; the ceiling and inside curtains have been fabricated from own especially made silk strawberry pattern brocade. The bedspread and bolster made from the same, and special green taffeta is used for the flounce. The outside curtains and valance made from the special imported stripe as the curtains.



Price for installation of the bed will include the posts extended, polishing, restoring the antique bowknot for the canopy, special fitted box springs and mattress:
 40 yds. of special imported striped taffeta from France:
 (Approximately twenty (20) yds. will be retained for future use.)

\$ 3,995.00

980.00

Total 4,975.00
to be paid

We have had four antique New England side chairs restored in paint and gilt for this room, these chairs purchased from Arpad by The Fine Arts Committee:

895.00

Trusting the above is the information desired, I am

Sincerely,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

David Richmond Byers III

David Richmond Byers III
Vice President

DRB:dt



A

W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.
443 Peachtree Street, N.E.
ATLANTA 30308

*Received in Curator's
Office - Nov. 3, 1975*

OCTOBER 28, 1975

MR. CLEMENT E. CONGER
CURATOR
WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

DEAR MR. CONGER:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR RECENT REQUEST TO SEND YOU INFORMATION FROM OUR RECORDS AS TO SCHEDULED ORDERS OF MATERIALS AND PROGRESS OF WORK ON THE QUEEN'S BEDROOM, I HAVE THE FOLLOWING TO REPORT.

AS I RECALL, A RUG WAS OBTAINED FOR THIS ROOM BY YOU TO REPLACE THE MODERN AUBUSSON IN THE ROOM IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1973. I WAS INFORMED BY MR. JONES THAT FABRICS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BY YOU AND THE COMMITTEE AND WHAT DESIGNS WERE SUGGESTED. I MADE STUDIES AND QUANTITY ESTIMATES AND PLACED THE ORDER FOR ALL MAJOR QUANTITIES OF MATERIALS JUST AFTER THE FIRST OF APRIL 1974. THIS INCLUDED FABRICS FOR DRAPERIES, BED AND ALL UPHOLSTERING. OF COURSE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BRAID, TRIMMINGS AND SPECIAL FRINGES ARE ALWAYS ORDERED LATER AS THE SCHEME IS DEVELOPED AND SPECIAL SAMPLES ARE APPROVED. AS SAMPLES ARE APPROVED, SOMETIMES AFTER FOUR OR FIVE SUBMISSIONS, THEY ARE PUT INTO WORK. AS A CONSEQUENCE, DELIVERIES OF THESE SPECIAL ITEMS EXTENDED INTO LATE 1974 AND EARLY 1975.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, UPON THIRTY DAYS NOTICE WE COULD HAVE INSTALLED THIS ROOM AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 1974.

SINCERELY,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

David Richmond Byers III

DAVID RICHMOND BYERS III
VICE PRESIDENT

DRB:RM



C
W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.
443 Peachtree Street, N.E.
ATLANTA 30308

NOVEMBER 7, 1975

Reeb in Curator's office
November 17, 1975

MR. CLEMENT E. CONGER
CURATOR
WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

DEAR MR. CONGER:

I AM SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY IN GETTING THIS QUOTATION TO YOU BUT I WAS ANXIOUS TO BE SURE OF ITS ACCURACY AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET THE YARDAGE PRICES THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR EACH ITEM REQUIRED.

THE BED THAT IS AT PRESENT IN THE QUEEN'S BEDROOM IS OF COURSE LARGER THAN THE BED WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED, BUT AFTER CAREFUL PRICE ESTIMATES WE HAVE COME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING FIGURES. ~~THE BED THAT IS AT PRESENT IN THE QUEEN'S BEDROOM WOULD COST \$4,887.50 TO RE-DRAPE EXACTLY AS IT IS NOW DONE.~~ *new fabrics*
~~THE SAME BED DONE WITH THE FABRICS WHICH ARE USED ON THE UPHOLSTERY OF THE CHAIRS AND ON THE DRAPERIES WOULD COST \$3,945.00.~~ *new material*
THE PRINCIPAL REASON IS THAT THE MATERIAL USED IS LESS COST PER YARD THAN THE MATERIAL NOW ON THE BED, AND WE WERE ALSO USING A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DESIGN WHICH WE THOUGHT MIGHT BE PRETTIER IN THE ROOM WITH THE NEW FABRICS.

IT WOULD TAKE US APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS TO RE-DO THE BED AND GET IT BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE. IN THE MEANTIME, IF IT IS SATISFACTORY WITH YOU, THE BED WE HAVE ALREADY DONE COULD STAY IN THE ROOM UNTIL THE OTHER IS COMPLETED.

SINCERELY,

W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

David Richmond Byers III

DAVID RICHMOND BYERS III
VICE PRESIDENT



DRB:RM

D

W.E.BROWNE DECORATING CO.
443 Peachtree Street, N.E.
ATLANTA 30308

October 3, 1975



Mr. Clement E. Conger,
Curator,
White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Conger:

Pursuant to your request of several weeks ago we will give you some idea of the transaction discussed involving potential delivery of work for the Queen's Bedroom on the second floor.

Mr. Conger, you may recall that the initial discussion was made in the spring of 1973 after the furniture and an Aubusson rug was acquired. When we made an installation in Washington in the fall of 1973 we discussed the potentiality of using and working a scheme around the Stoneman Collection of New England ^(Seymour) furniture ^{most was purchased} donated to the White House for this room. At that time we discussed the idea of reworking the plaster work, cornice and the treatment in the room, i. e., the dado and moldings to conform with the New England scale and character of the mantelpiece selected. Also, at that time, the First Lady was very interested and understood our reasoning, as well as the architect, Mr. Jones', behind the rescaling of the design and the period precedent for the detail and treatment of this room.

We got together a scheme for you of an antique wallpaper of the period of the room which we were suggesting as a softening effect for the pictures and the scale of the furniture to be used. We discussed the potentiality of obtaining a rug that would conform more in period and character, scale and coloring to the proposed arrangement. At that time we got together a scheme of fabrics to blend with the antique wallpaper that we were suggesting to be reproduced for the room and using the existing antique mirror from the dressing room above the mantel to conform with the scale of the room. We proposed a scheme of special stripe to be woven in colors as sample submitted, to be used for curtains and the antique bed treatment, with a brocaded lining for the bed, inside curtains and bedspread of strawberry patterned silk on a special blue green background as submitted. After the presentation of our scheme and proposed suggestions of fabrics to be especially woven were approved the first of the year, we confirmed the orders with Scalamandre in April. Sufficient striped fabric to be fabricated in special colors, as approved, for the curtains and bed

hangings was then ordered from Paris to go with the Scalamandre brocade. The manner of treatment was approved from the suggestion made, as photostat enclosed from Mr. Montgomery's book.

It was discussed that we would do a curtain treatment on the window with curtains draped with tassel mold fringe and a valance on rod similar to that treatment at the 19th Century show at the Metropolitan Museum exhibition, this seemed to delight the First Lady.

During the season following we were able to find examples of an antique braid, fringe trimming, etc. to be fabricated for this room by Scalamandre. It took some months to get the silk dyed, wood molds made for the fringe and samples approved. During this time Miss Olsen had retired from Scalamandre. There was some delay in the approval of the samples woven after the trimming department was taken over by Mr. Stagmier. After all of the trimmings, brocade, etc. were approved from samples prepared, the orders went into work with Scalamandre with the exception of the stripe for the curtains which we were to supply from our sources in France. After fabrication of the fabrics and trimmings, it took some months to receive the order given in total and these were billed to the White House by Scalamandre at cost upon receipt of same by us, as ordered April 1974.

When the above fabrics were received, they were put into work by our workrooms to be installed at your convenience. It was understood that the fireplace in the room is to be changed and that the room would be painted and wallpaper eliminated; the architectural changes are not to be made as originally discussed, but the mantel and special facings are to be completed in the fall, meaning approximately mid November, as you recently confirmed. We are planning to make installation upon completion of these alterations. It is not unusual to take eighteen months to assemble orders for a decorating job when special fabrications and dying are necessary for execution of the scheme.

It will be necessary to bring the present bed to Atlanta to develop the design and execute the patterns properly.

Trusting that the above explanations will clarify the time sequence of the execution of the order.

Sincerely,



W. E. BROWNE DECORATING COMPANY

David R. Richmond Byers III

David Richmond Byers III
Vice President

DRB:dt

M. H. VAN - BEE.

1





W.H. AIV - REC. .

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM

Clem
CLEM CONGER

Mrs. David Finley, wife of the long-time Chairman of the Board of Directors of the White House Historical Association is a patient in Georgetown University Hospital. She has had a very serious operation and has intravenous feeding at this time. The distinguished Mr. Finley was, as you may know, Director of the National Gallery of Art appointed by Andrew Mellon, Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission for many years and Chairman of the Board of the White House Historical Association since it was organized in 1961. He is in his 80's and attended the excellent tree ceremony this morning.

I suggest that if it meets with your approval that flowers be sent to Mrs. Finley from you and the President.

Approve X I told Clem to order flowers now

Disapprove _____

0

October 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR CLEM CONGER

FROM: Betty Ford

As you may know, I have requested your office to submit background information on the "Queen's Room" project as well as its progress to date. Naturally facts must be the basis of my decisions concerning these White House projects, and I do not feel I have been able to satisfactorily obtain all this necessary information during the course of our meetings. At this time, what I specifically need to know in writing is when this project was initiated, when it was approved, by whom, as well as when it was begun. I also need to know what was paid for prior to our administration and what will be charged to our administration on your Report of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. Both the President and I are concerned with all aspects of these projects since we must approve them and are held responsible.

I would also like to request that in the future all pertinent information be submitted to me in writing prior to our meetings so that I can spend more time reviewing these projects.

cp



September 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO CLEM CONGER, CURATOR'S OFFICE

FROM: Mrs. Ford

After careful consideration, I have come to the following conclusions regarding the items which have been placed for my approval both in the East Sitting Hall and the Queen's Bedroom:

East Sitting Hall

The oriental rug that was selected does not appeal to me, and I feel that it is unsuitable. In view of the fact that we often use this area for entertaining, I would much prefer either something more cheerful and warmer or the return of the original carpet. I also want to confirm that the new drapes will be an exact duplication of those which we now have.

Queen's Bedroom

At this time, I must reiterate my strong feelings that the bed is such an historic piece of furniture and, therefore, request that it not be removed from this room. I am sure there will be no problem in having someone come into the room to drape it. I also must express my great disappointment at the selection of the sofa by Samuel McIntire. I have found that it is most uncomfortable -- your feet do not even touch the floor while sitting in it. Although I have agreed that the mantle should be replaced, at this time I wish to confirm that this does not include the above mirror.

After again reviewing the Queen's Bedroom and reflecting your suggested changes, I must admit that I am particularly partial to the effectiveness of the present fabric. Therefore, I feel I must be absolutely positive that all the changes create an equally attractive atmosphere. I believe this will require more of my personal attention.

Thank you.



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Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Autopened
& sent
7-14*

July 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM CLEM CONGER *Clem*

Attached is the final version of a forward to the catalogue for the Smithsonian Institution exhibition of Presidential China to which you are lending two plates. The forward was composed in our office and subsequently approved by Mrs. Weidenfeld. If you approve, please sign the forward and return to me.



File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

Clem
FROM CLEM CONGER

Miss Katherine Cartmell of Montclair, New Jersey inherited silver flatware in a modification of the "King" pattern (similar to our new Gorham King Charles) that belonged to Zachary Taylor. Before her death, she instructed that her flatware be given to the White House. There are seven forks and eight spoons with "T" on the back of the handles. Several of these pieces were made by Samuel Kirk of Baltimore, the oldest surviving American silver manufacturer. Her friend, Mrs. Fred A. Muschenheim, was designated by Miss Cartmell to effect the gift to the White House.

If the attached letter of appreciation meets with your approval, would you please sign it.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM CLEM CONGER, THE CURATOR

In addition to the wonderful changes in the President's Dining Room , we have made other changes in paintings in different locations on the 2nd Floor.

In your bedroom we have placed Mr. Ulbricht's portrait of Susan in its new frame to the left of the mantel. Over the mantel , we have returned the painting "The White Parasol" by Robert Reid (American Artist 1862-1929) which is on loan to the White House from the National Collection of Fine Arts. To the right of the mantel is the attractive seascape watercolor by Winslow Homer (American Artist 1836-1910) from the White House Collection.

In Rooms 213 and 214 we have also placed two "new" paintings which have recently been placed on loan from the Hirshhorn Museum. In the room on the right above the mantel is a charming painting entitled "Good Friends" by William Merritt Chase (American Artist 1849-1916). In the room to the left above the mantel is a still life entitled "Flowers" by Jack Levine , a contemporary American artist.

In the East Sitting Hall, we have replaced the Havell landscape of the Hudson River which is now in the President's Dining Room with "Sunday in the Park" by Louis Eilshemius (19th century American Artist) which is also on loan from the Hirshhorn Museum.



June 3, 1975
Office of the Curator

CHANGES IN THE PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM, SECOND FLOOR

The mid-nineteenth century French wallpaper entitled "The War of American Independence" has been removed from the walls of the President's Dining Room on the second floor of the residence. The Committee for the Preservation of the White House approved of the change at its meeting held March 11, 1975.

The paper was installed in 1961. It will now be temporarily placed in White House storage and will be offered on loan to the Smithsonian Institution.

As the room is located on the north side of the house, it has now been painted a bright sunny yellow to lighten the room.

The late 18th century cut glass chandelier which previously hung in the Green Room has been placed in the dining room, replacing a chandelier which was a combination of parts of two chandeliers of different periods.

Among the paintings from the permanent White House Collection which have been hung in the dining room are the following:

YOUNG MOTHER AND TWO CHILDREN by Mary Cassatt, 1908. Over the mantel on the east wall.

WEST POINT, NEAR GARRISONS by Robert Havell, circa 1850. Over the sideboard, west wall.

NIAGARA FALLS by Albert Bierstadt, 19th century. South wall.

THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, artist unknown, circa 1835. South wall.

All the furniture remains unchanged in the room. The new draperies were installed in the room in January, 1975.



File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM CLEM CONGER *cc*

As I mentioned to you some time ago, we have to remove a painting from the west end of the Second Floor Corridor which has been on loan to the White House from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Five paintings lent by the Academy to the White House are to be exhibited in Great Britain.

The painting we have to return is the Childe Hassam work "Cat Boats: Newport" which hangs to the right of the door to the President's Study.

From desperation, I am having hung in its place a charming garden scene by E. Folsom entitled "Wild Flowers" a gift from Mr. Malcolm Vallance in 1974 which you have seen in my office. When we get something better, I'll replace it.

We are all so hopeful that you will be much better soon.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1975

Mrs. Ford:

We have had to hang a different portrait of Abigail Adams in the Red Room as the National Portrait Gallery had asked to have the portrait which had been there for its new Bi-centennial show opening in April.

I am enclosing a sheet of information about the new portrait on loan from the National Gallery. Also attached is a photograph of the painting which will be here through November and then again in 1976.


Clem Conger



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

FROM

Clem
CLEM CONGER

I am so glad that we have now cleared up the matter of what was meant by the "silver service." I can readily understand that you thought it was silver trays, or a tea service or something of that nature. In fact it was the 130 place settings of the "King Charles" pattern. I couldn't have been more unhappy about the Maxine Cheshire story; the misstatements of facts and strange innuendoes, but that's Maxine!

Just for the files, I have prepared a memorandum ~~xxx~~ giving my impressions of the Maxine Cheshire story and straightening out the facts. Attached is a copy of it which I am also sending to Nancy Ruwe.

I do think it is important that we use the service as soon as possible. Certainly it should be used for the place settings to be illustrated in House Beautiful. Rex Scouten and I are very enthusiastic about this service and feel it is a tremendous long-term investment for the United States government and at a true bargain price.

With reference to the Vermeil service, I feel very strongly that portions of this service should not be dipped unless absolutely necessary. I will examine it carefully in the near future and see what if any preservation efforts should be made.

Attached at the end of the memorandum for the files is an inventory of everything in the "King Charles" flatware service. This will give you a better idea of its magnitude and usefulness.

Attached is a photograph of the new silver service which we would like to have returned as it is the only copy we have.



MEMORANDUM FOR FILE:

With reference to the article in the Washington POST, on Tuesday, February 25, by Maxine Cheshire, I have the following comments:

The 130 place-settings of the "King Charles" pattern totaling 3,434 pieces were ordered last May, 1974, after many consultations between Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Scouten, the Chief Usher, and me. The Gorham Company offered to make a gift of one-fifth of the service. The White House was to pay only the actual manufacturer's cost of four-fifths of the service at approximately \$21,600. At the time the order was placed the retail value of the service was \$106,700. Current retail value is \$119,000. Wholesale price at the time of the purchase of the gift was \$58,700.

It can be readily seen that a huge silver service for only \$21,600 does indeed constitute a great investment and a bargain price for the White House.

The "King Charles" pattern was chosen after extensive consultation as a prestigious historical silver service appropriate to the early period of the White House. The other silver pattern used in the White House, the "Minuet" pattern originally ordered in Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration serves 90 persons. It is used in the two family dining rooms for day to day operations. It



is not large enough to serve state luncheons and dinners.

The Vermeil service that has been in use in the White House since Monroe days (and has been added to through the years) has had to be used constantly because there was no other service large enough. The Vermeil service will not stand long time wear but should be used only on special occasions. The "King Charles" silver service can take constant usage.

When asked, I informed Mrs. Cheshire that a portion of the silver service had been made a gift to the White House. At no time did I say that Gorham was planning to take \$100,000 off their income tax. As always with a gift, it is up to the donor and appropriate appraisers to determine the amount of the tax deduction. I said they were deducting one-fifth of manufacturer's cost.

At the time I was originally queried by Mrs. Cheshire on the matter, I was not aware of exactly how much would be paid by the White House because the silver had arrived in several installments and some small pieces were not delivered until February, 1975.

Certainly, Mrs. Ford and I have no disagreements on any matter of economics as is implied in the story. The normal practice is for the Curator and the Chief Usher to bring to the attention of the First Lady any matters of financial magnitude. We do not disturb the First Lady on normal day to day routines. It is customary when considering fabrics for any room with which the First Lady is



concerned to bring several fabrics to her attention for her choice. The matter of cost is always considered. I do not recall considering any Scalamandre silk at \$170 a yard which was rejected by the First Lady.

In summary, the silver is something that was very badly needed by the White House. The whole agreement with the Gorham Company was clearly understood by all those concerned. It is most unfortunate that a date has not been set for the presentation of the silver when the whole subject would have been announced.

Clement E. Conger
Curator of the White House

February 25, 1975

Attachment: An inventory of all the pieces in the "King George" silver service with values.



SHEET A

KING GEORGE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY DESIRED</u>	<u>MFG. COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>RETAIL</u>
<u>KNIVES</u>				
Dinner	130	4.72	613.60	2827.50
Luncheon	GORHAM GIFT			2470.00
Butter Kn.HH	130	2.98	387.40	2080.00
Fish	130	4.64	603.20	3640.00
Steak	130	11.39	1480.70	3510.00
Fruit	130	3.34	434.20	2567.50
<u>FORKS</u>				
Dinner	260	11.78	3062.80	13,780.00
Luncheon	GORHAM GIFT			11,765.00
Salad	GORHAM GIFT			4,387.50
Cocktail	130	4.16	540.80	2,600.00
Fish	130	7.47	971.10	4,387.50
Fruit	130	7.47	971.10	4,387.50
<u>SPOONS</u>				
Tea	GORHAM GIFT			3,510.00
Iced Beverage	130	6.08	790.40	5,070.00
Cream Soup	130	7.47	971.10	5,070.00
Demitasse	130	2.64	343.20	1,657.50
Salt	54	1.42	76.68	405.00
Boullion	130	7.44	967.20	4,680.00
Soup	130	12.56	1632.80	7,962.50
Sugar	18	7.44	133.92	648.00
Dessert	130	8.75	1137.50	5,525.00
Table	130	16.37	2128.10	10,400.00
Grapefruit	130	6.63	861.90	4,225.00
Jelly	18	6.85	123.30	585.00
Sugar Tongs	12	5.68	68.16	330.00
Pie Server	18	6.18	111.24	630.00
#329 Ash Tray	54	3.75	202.50	452.52 rtd.
#4780 Almond Dish	54	4.63	250.02	
#141 Bon Bon	54	13.50	729.00	- rtd
#1110 Open Salt	54	8.79	474.66	

GRAND TOTAL \$20,066.58 \$104,030.50

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR NANCY RUWE

FROM CLEM CONGER, CURATOR

Mrs. Ford has approved the date of March 11, 1975, as the day for the meeting of the members of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. She wishes to have the members with spouses invited to a luncheon at 1:00 p.m. on March 11. The meeting will take place after lunch at which time the non-members will withdraw.

Enclosed is the current list of members of the Committee with husbands and/or wives to be invited. For your information, you should know that the following are not expected to attend for a variety of reasons but they should be invited anyway:

Mr. and Mrs. Aristotle Onassis
Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Payson
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip K. Wrigley

In addition, there may be a new member to be invited as soon as confirmed. When this happens, we will let you know.

cc: Mrs. Ford ✓



COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE

March 1975

- Mrs. / Mr. Gary E. Everhardt
Director
National Park Service
U. S. Department of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20242
Tel: 202-343-4621 (Office)
- Mr. J. Carter Brown
Director
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C. 20565
Tel: 202-RE-74215 (Office)
- Mrs. / Honorable Wiley T. Buchanan
4220 Nebraska Avenue, NW.
Washington, D. C. 20016
Tel: 202-Em-2-1982 (Office)
202-337-7020
- Mrs. Thurmond Clarke (Athalie)
Brynley Farm
P. O. Box 447
Middleburg, Virginia 22117
Tel: 703-253-5168
714-673-5788
- Mrs. / Mr. Clement E. Conger
Curator
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500
Tel: 202-456-2550 (Office)
- Mr. / Mrs. Lammot duPont Copeland
Mt. Cuba (Pam)
Greenville, Delaware 19807
Tel: 302-CE-9-5236
- Mrs. Charles W. Engelhard, Jr. (Jane)
"Cragwood"
Far Hills, New Jersey 07931
Tel: 201-753-5100 (Office)
- Honorable Clarke Booth Luce
4559 Kahala Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Tel: 202-333-0903
Now at:
Watergate South
Apt. 1106
- Mr. / Mrs. Brooks McCormick
1530 North State Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60610
- Mrs. / Mr. Robert McNeil
601 East Evergreen Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tel: 215-247-1010
215-836-1044 (Home)
- Mr. / Mrs. Richard P. Mellon (Trudy)
"Woodlea"
Ligonier, Pennsylvania 15658
Tel: 412-238-5656
- Mr. / Mrs. John Murchison (Lupe)
Post Office Box 55
Addison, Texas 75001
Tel: 214-741-6031 (Husband's office)
- Mr. / Mrs. Stewart Hooker
One Sutton Place South
New York, New York 10021
Tel: 212-PL-3-3549
- Mr. / Mrs. Aristotle Onassis
1040 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10028
Tel: 212-421-9100 (Nancy Tuckerman)
- Mr. / Mrs. Charles S. Payson (Joan)
Shelter Rock Road
Manhasset, New York 11030
Tel: 212-TR-9-0300
- Mr. / Mrs. Ogden Phipps (Lillian)
635 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021
Tel: 212-BU-8-3865



Mrs. / Dr. S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution 20560
Tel: 202-232-3131

Mrs. / Mr. Rex Scouten
Chief Usher
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Mrs. / Mr. W. Clement Stone
445 Sheridan Road
Winnetka, Illinois 60093
Tel: 312-375-8000 (Office)

Mr. / Mrs. Frederick K. Weyerhaeuser
294 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
Tel: 612-222-1248
612-224-5452

Mr. / Mrs. Phillip K. Wrigley
P. O. Box 427
Avalon, California 90704
Tel: 312-644-2121
312-943-4774
414-248-4447

Mrs. / Mr. Edward V. Jones (Architectural Advisor to the Committee)
405 North Monroe Street
Albany, Georgia 31701
Tel: 912-435-5897
912-435-3525

Mrs. / Mr. Elmer Atkins (Secretary to the Committee)
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW.
Washington, D. C. 20242
Tel: 202-426-6725



Wednesday

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

(5)

19 Paintings 19 century
20 Highborn Handicrafts

February 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE FARRELL
FROM CLEM CONGER, CURATOR

Pan Hooker -

- 50,000 - Period Rug

A very beautiful new rug has been placed in the Blue Room today. This oval rug was made in Peking circa 1850 to be placed in a French palace. This rug is most unusual and especially suited to the Blue Room because of its oval shape and very large size. Although a Chinese rug, it has a strong French influence in the border design and the central medallion. The French feeling of this rug is appropriate for the Blue Room which is furnished in the French Empire style. This rug is to be considered by the Committee for the Preservation of the White House for permanent acquisition at their next meeting on March 11, 1975.

cc: Mrs. Ford ✓
Mrs. Wiedenfeld
Mr. Scouten

No presentation of ribbon

Jamie Wyeth
Painting
Pres. Private office

When approved why wasn't I consulted who will pay what was wrong with

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO MICHAEL J. FARRELL
FROM CLEM CONGER *Clem*

A painting which has hung previously in the Yellow Oval Room has been placed above the secretary on the south wall of the Green Room. It is entitled "The Mosquito Net" and the artist is John Singer Sargent (the same artist who painted the portrait of Theodore Roosevelt in the East Room). It dates from about 1908 and was in the personal collection of the artist and sold shortly after his death in 1925.

The subject is Marion Alice (Polly) Barnard, a close friend of Sargent and the subject of many of his watercolors.

The painting was a gift to the White House in 1964 from Mr. Whitney Warren, San Francisco, California. Previous to its donation to the White House, it was widely exhibited in this country and in Europe.

In the West Wing Reception Room has been hung the painting "Cannonading on the Potomac" by Wordworth Thompson which replaced "Merced River, Yosemite Valley" which was returned to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was painted in 1861 and depicts a Civil War battle near Edward's Ferry and Ball's Bluff, Virginia, October, 1861. The painting was a gift to the White House in 1962 from Mr. and Mrs. Edward Warburg, New York, New York.

cc: Mrs. Ford



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 2, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford,

As you requested, we have taken out of the Yellow Oval Room the painting "Mosquito Net" by John Singer Sargent.

In its place has been hung an oil painting entitled "Shipping at Philadelphia" by David Johnson Kennedy. It was painted about 1858. The painting has been on loan to the Department of State from the Dietrich Corporation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.


Clem Conger

The White House has placed in the Red Room a life portrait of Mrs. John (Abigail) Adams by Gilbert Stuart on loan from the National Gallery of Art.

The portrait will replace a portrait of Mrs. Adams attributed to Mather Brown which has been on loan to the White House from the New York State Historical Association. The Mather Brown portrait is being lent to the National Portrait Gallery for its Bi-Centennial exhibition "The Dye is Cast" which opens in April and runs through November, 1975.

The National Gallery portrait by Stuart will also hang in the White House from May through September, 1976 when the Mather Brown portrait is lent to the National Gallery for its Bi-Centennial show "The Eye of Thomas Jefferson."

Abigail Adams sat for Gilbert Stuart in 1800, before she moved into the White House. It was not until 1815, however, that the portrait was received by Mrs. Adams from the artist. In a letter written by Mrs. Adams before she had seen her portrait, she said, "The likeness is said to be so good, both of your Father and me, that I shall regret very much if he cannot beprevaild upon to finish them as our Children may like to look upon our Likeness when the originals are no more to be seen." (John Adams had sat for Stuart in 1798).

The two paintings by Stuart came into the possession of the Adamses' son, John Quincy Adams in 1816 and descended in the Adams family until presented as a gift to the National Gallery of Art in 1954 by Mrs. Robert Homans, an Adams descendent.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD AND SUSAN

FROM: CLEM CONGER *Clem*

Regarding the photograph of the brass bed which we sent to you, we learned about the bed from Mr. Berry Tracy, Curator of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He says it is the most beautiful antique brass bed in the country. He is a great authority on 19th century furnishings. The bed is being lent to us by Mr. Tracy's friends, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Stein, IV, Muscatine, Iowa. We will have more information later. The bed is being shipped now and should be here early next week.

