



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
PRESENTS FOURTH ANNUAL *ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL* WITH
JEAN EDWARD SMITH
AUTHOR OF NEWLY PUBLISHED BIOGRAPHY, *FDR*
AND KEYNOTE BY RENOWNED ROOSEVELT BIOGRAPHER
GEOFFREY C. WARD**

HYDE PARK, NY—On Saturday, June 23, 2007, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host its fourth annual Roosevelt Reading Festival. This year's featured authors include Jean Edward Smith, author of the new widely acclaimed biography, *FDR*, and ground-breaking Roosevelt biographer, Geoffrey C. Ward, author of *Before the Trumpet* and *A First Class Temperament*. This event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. All Roosevelt Reading Festival activities are open to the public free of charge.

In six concurrent sessions taking place throughout the day, twelve authors of recently published works that draw upon the Roosevelt Library archives, or focus on the Roosevelt era, will present author talks followed by book signings and question-and-answer sessions. Copies of all of the authors' books will be available for sale in the New Deal Store located in the Wallace Center. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. with

welcoming remarks, coffee and doughnuts in the lobby of the Wallace Center, and the first group of author talks will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The Roosevelt Library proudly presents Jean Edward Smith, author of the latest Franklin D. Roosevelt biography, *FDR*, at this year's Roosevelt Reading Festival, in two sessions on the June 23 event. Jonathan Yardly of *The Washington Post* recently reviewed *FDR* and said of Smith, "His *FDR* is at once a careful, intelligent synopsis of the existing Roosevelt scholarship (the sheer bulk of which is huge) and a meticulous re-interpretation of the man and his record. Smith pays more attention to Roosevelt's personal life than have most previous biographers. He is openly sympathetic yet ready to criticize when that is warranted, and to do so in sharp terms; he conveys the full flavor and import of Roosevelt's career without ever bogging down in detail."

An afternoon keynote address by Geoffrey C. Ward, author of *Before the Trumpet: Young Franklin Roosevelt, 1882-1905* and *A First Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt* will be the final presentation of this year's Reading Festival. Mr. Ward's *A First Class Temperament* was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1990. In a review for *The New York Times*, Stephen R. Graubard wrote of *A First Class Temperament*, "...It disdains the kind of hagiography so common among those who, for one reason or another, have chosen to write about Roosevelt; Mr. Ward reveals his flaws, disclosing his prevarications and pretensions, taking account of his guile and ambition, but with no denigration of the man....*A First-Class Temperament* avoids the cheap psychologizing, so appealing to contemporary prurient curiosity, that makes facile judgments on sensitive subjects—sexuality and marriage, for example—rarely considering how much they reflect the mores and habits of a particular time and place."

This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Keynote:
Ward, Geoffrey C.

Before the Trumpet: Young Franklin Roosevelt, 1882-1905 and
A First Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt

Asahina, Robert

Just Americans: How Japanese Americans Won A War At Home And Abroad
Gotham Books, 2006

Borgwardt, Elizabeth

A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights
Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005

Breitman, Richard

Advocate for the Doomed: James G. McDonald
Indiana University Press, 2007

Carew, Michael G.

The Power to Persuade: FDR, the Newsmagazines, and Going to War, 1939-1941
University Press of America, 2005

Greenberg, David

Presidential Doodles
Basic Books, 2006

Keating, Anjelina Michelle

Women who Dare: Eleanor Roosevelt
Pomegranate/LOC, 2006

Sawyer, Kem Knapp

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Photographic Story of a Life
DK Publishing, 2006

Scroop, Daniel

Mr. Democrat: Jim Farley, the New Deal & the Making of Modern American Politics
University of Michigan Press, 2006

Smith, Gary Scott

Faith and the Presidency
Oxford University Press, 2006

Smith, Jean Edward

FDR
Random House, 2007

Vaughan, Hal

FDR's 12 Apostles: The Spies who Paved the Way for the Invasion of North Africa
Lyons Press, 2006

The event is free and open to the public. Author book signings will be conducted throughout the day and books will be available for purchase in the New Deal Store. The full schedule for the day is posted online at www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/events.html. Regular admission will be charged for the Presidential Library and National Park Service sites. If you need additional information about this event please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

FDR AND HIS BOOK COLLECTION

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was an avid collector of books. His love of reading was reflected in the enormity of his collection which numbered over 15,000 books at the time of his death in April 1945.

Roosevelt always enjoyed reading. However, it was during his years at Harvard that he became a serious book collector, during his service as the librarian for the Hasty Pudding and Fly Clubs. After college, FDR continued his collecting, stopping at bookshops on his honeymoon in Europe, and later forming relationships with several dealers around the Eastern United States. Nearly all of his books were for the purpose of entertainment, his favorite topics included naval history, nature, sea exploration, and of course, the beautiful area of Dutchess County and the Hudson River which he called home.

FDR read books almost purely for entertainment and therefore collected many that related to his other hobbies such as ornithology, local history, naval history, and marine architecture. He also collected children's books. While reading was one of his pastimes, it was often the physical appeal of a book that attracted FDR. He admired attractive bindings, cover designs, typeface, and paper. Not surprisingly, then, each new addition to his personal library was given its own specially designed book plate, and the more valuable books were kept in protective slipcovers.

While Roosevelt valued his books greatly, in addition to his name, he often jotted small notes in them, either describing something about the nature of the book, or its relevance in his personal life. In the flyleaf of an 1869 edition of Sir Samuel White's *Cast Up by the Sea*, Roosevelt wrote, "one of my favorite boyhood books—read it three times." More often, he would write simpler indications such as "interesting" or "rare." FDR wrote more significant comments in a smaller number of his books, such as in William Trufant Foster's, *The Road to Plenty*, Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, Raymond Leslie Bull's *Isolated America*, Alexander Kiralfry's *Victory in the Pacific*, and Charles A. Beard's *A Foreign Policy for America*, which criticized Roosevelt.

By the 1930's, Roosevelt had run out of space for his collection and began holding auctions to get rid of duplicate copies and less desirable volumes. At this time he also began planning a permanent library on his Hyde Park estate. The Franklin D. Roosevelt

Presidential Library and Museum, which opened to the public in 1941, is the repository for FDR's beloved personal library of more than 15,000 volumes.