

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY *and* MUSEUM

4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu 1 (800) FDR-VISIT

June 7, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Clifford Laube at (845) 486-7745

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
presents the 9th Annual ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL
with twelve authors of recently published books including
JEAN EDWARD SMITH author of "Eisenhower in War and Peace"
and a special afternoon presentation by Roosevelt historian
JOSEPH E. PERSICO author of "Roosevelt's Centurions"
June 23, 2012**

HYDE PARK, NY -- On Saturday, June 23, 2012, from 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host the ninth annual Roosevelt Reading Festival. The day-long program will highlight the recently published work of twelve authors -- including Jean Edward Smith author of Eisenhower in War and Peace -- and a special afternoon presentation by Franklin D. Roosevelt historian Joseph E. Persico, author of Roosevelt's Centurions: FDR and the Commanders He Led to Victory in World War II. The Reading Festival will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. This is a free public event.

In six concurrent sessions taking place throughout the day, twelve authors of works that draw upon the Roosevelt Library archives -- or focus on the Roosevelt era -- will present author talks followed by question-and-answer sessions and book signings. 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 9:45 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts.

This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Special Afternoon Presentation:

Persico, Joseph E.

Roosevelt's Centurions: FDR and the Commanders He Led to Victory in World War II
Random House, 2012

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Bodnar, John

The "Good War" in American Memory
The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010

Conant, Jennet

The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington
and A Covert Affair: Julia Child and Paul Child in the OSS
Simon & Schuster, 2011

Davis, Ren and Helen

Our Mark on This Land:
A Guide to the Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in America's Parks
McDonald & Woodward, 2011

de Kay, James Tertius

Roosevelt's Navy: The Education of a Warrior President, 1882-1920
Pegasus, 2012

Hiltzik, Michael

The New Deal: A Modern History
Free Press, 2011

Huddle, Mark A., ed.

Roi Ottley's World War II: The Lost Diary of an African American Journalist
University Press of Kansas, 2011

Knepper, Cathy

Jersey Justice: The Story of the Trenton Six
Rivergate Books, 2011

McLaughlin, John J.

General Albert C. Wedemeyer: America's Unsung Strategist in World War II
(Casemate, 2012)

Robinson, Greg

After Camp: Portraits in Midcentury Japanese American Life and Politics
University of California Press, 2012

Shirley, Craig

December 1941: 31 Days that Changed America and Saved the World
Thomas Nelson, 2011

Smith, Jean Edward

Eisenhower in War and Peace

Random House, 2012

Stuckey, Mary E.

Defining Americans: The Presidency and National Identity

University Press of Kansas, 2004

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. Regular admission will be charged for the Roosevelt Library and National Park Service sites. For additional information about this event please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

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 21,000 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, Dutchess County history and the Hudson River.

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 Kiralfy'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 21,000 volumes.

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 thirteen 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.

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