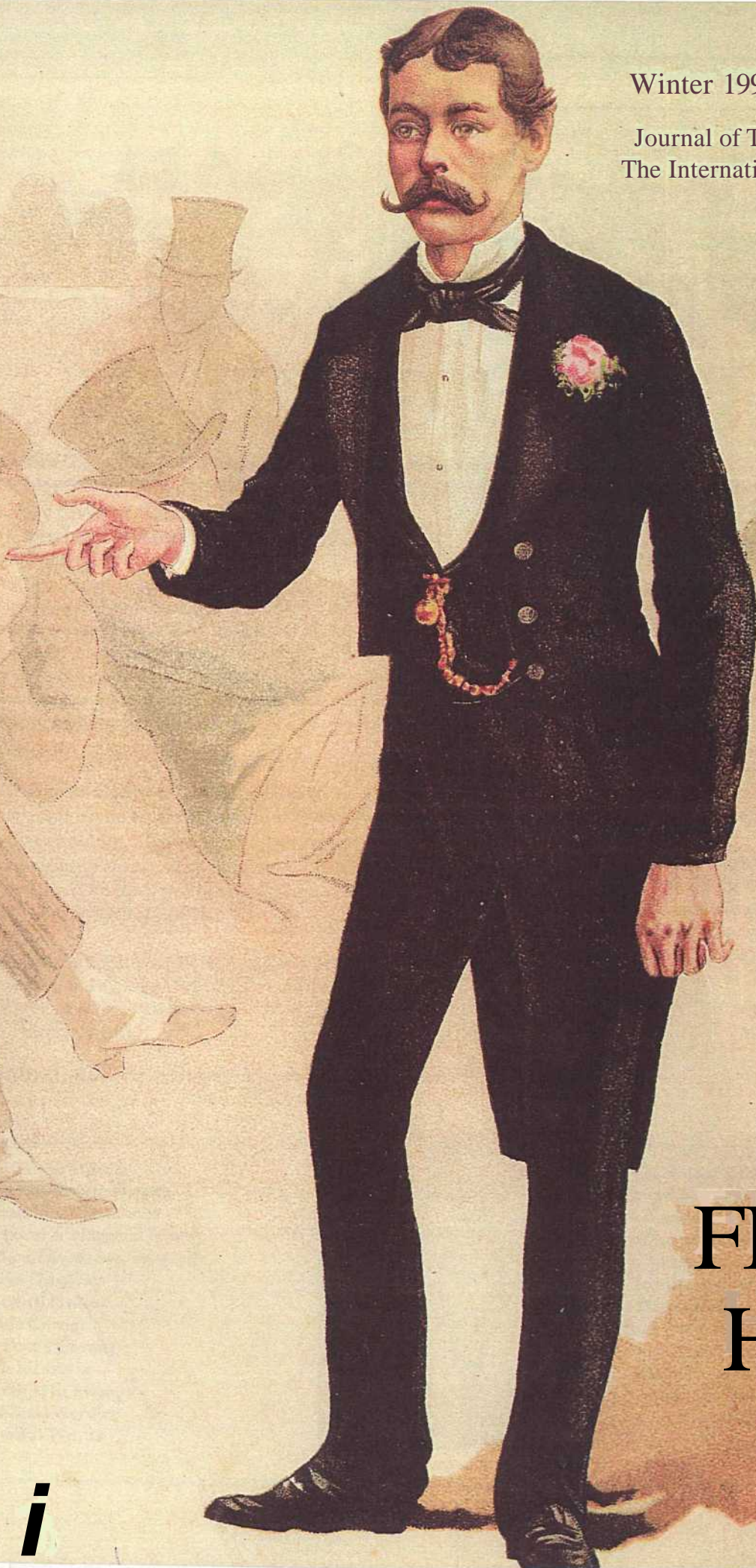


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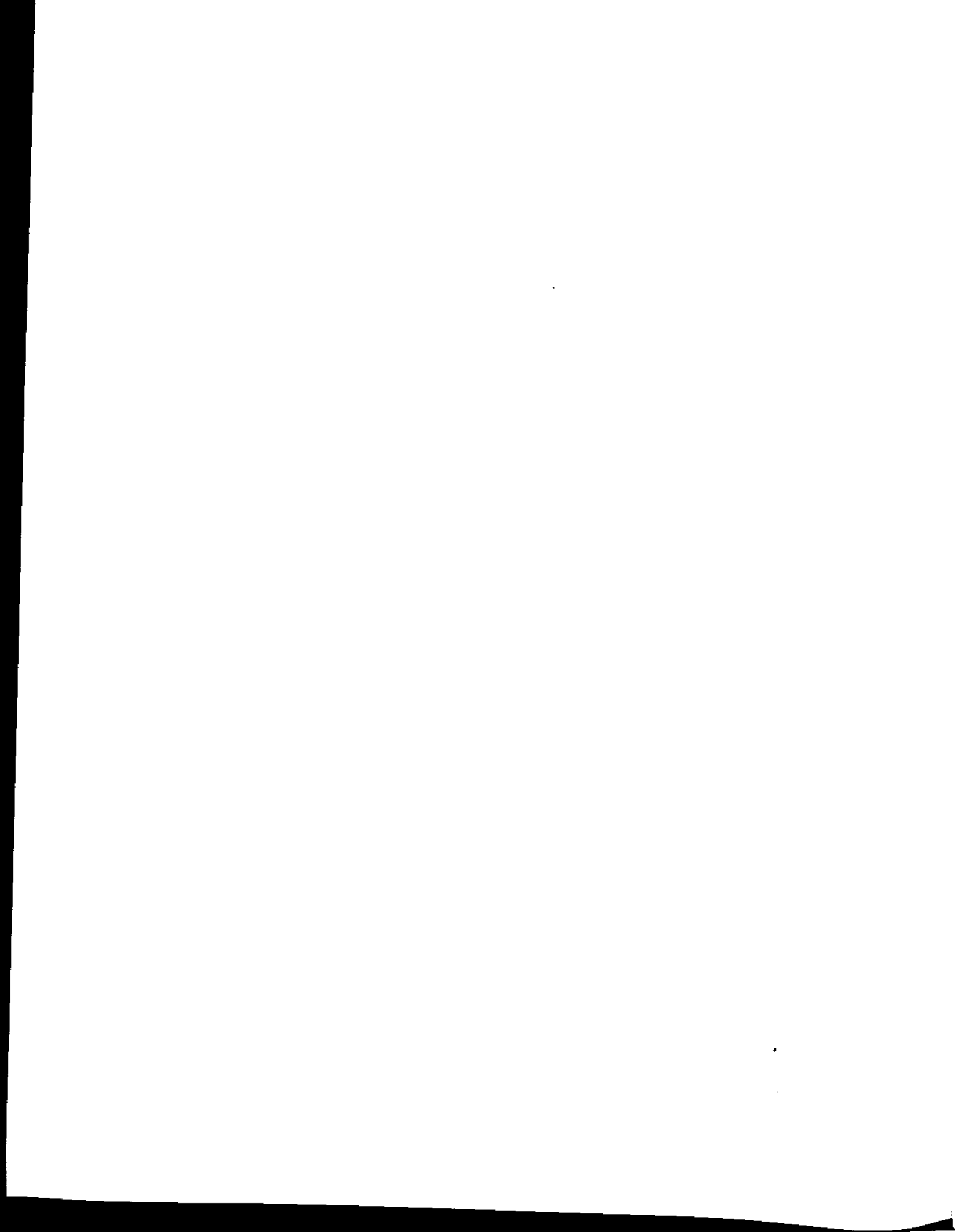
Journal of The Churchill Center &  
The International Churchill Societies



**FINEST  
HOUR**



**i**





# FINEST HOUR

Winter 1996-97

Journal of the International Churchill Societies

Number 93

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*Cover: Lord Randolph Churchill, a brilliant political light of the late Victorian Era, is celebrated today only as the father of Sir Winston, often excoriated by certain modern biographers as a political mountbank and, to boot, a syphilitic, who died a horrible death. The revisers are going to have to find something else to hang onto, at least regarding the true cause of Lord Randolph's demise. Whatever it was, it was almost certainly not syphilis. Dr. John Mather's definitive article begins on page 23. Portrait from Society, 24 March 1883, courtesy Mark Weber, London.*



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THE record British turnout at the 1996 Churchill Conference (page 13) was due in part to the menu-style price structure. Registration, including all the displays, panels and seminars, cost £35; considering how much concentrated wisdom that bought, from six visiting professors to Lord Deedes, it was a bargain. Many Friends of ICS, UK, who did not require black tie dinners, were pleased to absorb all of what was on offer during the day. Another good value was the day at Chartwell at £17.50. This included lunch, the immeasurable advantage of a private booking on a "closed" day, expert gardeners who showed us the grounds more thoroughly than ever before, and the company of Lady Soames, Celia Sandys and administrator Carole Kenwright. The veritable grand-daddy of bargains was the £10 it took to book a walking tour of "Churchill's London" with the official biographer himself, Sir Martin Gilbert, which included a private tour of the archives exhibit at the Public Record Office. To enjoy all three of these events cost only £115 per couple.

It is this kind of pick-and-choose registration that encourages high turnout, and it was no surprise to us to learn a week or so before that all events were sold out. Well done.

#• Hardbound volumes of the official biography, *Winston S. Churchill*, by Randolph Churchill and Sir Martin Gilbert, are slipping out of print in the English edition (the American ones are long gone). Heinemann, which has kept them in print until now, has stopped reprinting Volumes 5 and 8. Others are sure to disappear soon. The price of the full work, already from \$1500 to 3000 for all twenty-three biographic and companion volumes, will inevitably begin to rise. Just the eight biographic volumes in first edition will soon approach \$1000. There is an alternative, which costs \$610 and provides a set of twelve handsome leatherbound volumes (the original Volumes 5-8 are divided into two parts): the Easton Press limited edition.

Easton Press has done ICS a lot of favors over the years. They reprinted *The World Crisis* at only \$260—a tremendous service—along with *The Second World War* and *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* at similar attractive prices; and they've dropped ICS brochures into their shipments. So I'd like to do them a good turn by recommending their leatherbound 12-volume official biography, an excellent buy while it lasts—and limited editions don't last forever. Anyone interested may telephone Easton at (800) 367-4534, extension 241-FH, between 8AM and 6PM Eastern Standard Time. Have credit card information ready; overseas orders will cost extra to ship. (We have no commercial interest in these sales.)

#• We are in a season of death. No sooner did we learn of the loss of Sir Winston's last bodyguard, Edmund Murray, than the Churchill Center for lost another Founding Member, my mother Harriet, who died suddenly December 21st. We thank the many people who knew Harriet who thoughtfully sent Barbara and me kind words. On top of all that, we have just learned of the passing of senior editor H. Ashley Redburn, OBE, author of the as-yet-unpublished *Bibliography of Works about Churchill*, a 1996 Blenheim Award winner, and the finest book reviewer we have ever had. A tribute to Eddie Murray appears herein. I shall try to write what I think about Ashley Redburn in the next number. Of Harriet I have written privately.

But there is really nothing to say when a friend dies. There is just a great big hole where there was once someone you loved. All the talk in the world won't change that. Everyone who knew Eddie, Harriet and Ashley misses them. And that's one crowd I'm proud to be a member of.

RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

# The Churchill Center Report: Winter 1996-97

*The mission of the Churchill Center, in Washington, D.C., is to encourage international study of the life and thought of Sir Winston Churchill; to foster research about his speeches, writings and deeds; to advance knowledge of his example as a statesman; and, by programmes of teaching and publishing, to impart that learning to men, women and young people around the world. Programmes include course development, symposia, standard and electronic libraries, CD-ram research, an annual Churchill Lecture, visiting professorships, seminars, publishing subventions, fellowships, and publications.*

## THE MANARD E. PONT SEMINAR APRIL 18TH

The Center is grateful to Founding Member Ethel M. Pont, major benefactor of our first student seminar, named in honor



Ethel Pont, grandson Michael James

of her late husband, the distinguished physician Manard E. Pont. This seminar brings fifteen students and professors of history or political science together at Stanford for a discussion of Churchill's most readable books, *My Early Life* and *Thoughts and Adventures*. Local Friends will receive invitations; if you wish to attend from outside the area, please contact Mr. Lee (address on page 2).

## CONOVER CORRESPONDENCE IN PRINT

Young Winston's letters to Christine Lewis Conover, dating from 1899 to 1943 (page 23), gathered in a 40-page booklet, is being sent to Founding Members of the Churchill Center, and contributors to the 1995 Heritage Fund. If you are not among these, copies are available for \$15 payable to the Churchill Center. Order from the editor.

## 1997 BUDGET SET

The Board of Governors, meeting in Boston in early November, approved a budget of \$174,760 for calendar year 1997. This excludes a \$50,000 contribution, matched by an equal contribution from ICS United States, to establish the Churchill Center's Endowment Fund at \$100,000. The funds available include about \$45,000 in 1996 carryover funds and \$70,000 in pledges to date. Executive Director Parker Lee has reported to the Governors that the Center is only about \$27,000 shy of completely funding its working budget for 1997.

## GREGORY PECK TAPES CC VIDEO

On 20 November, Parker Lee met Academy Award winner Gregory Peck at a studio in Hollywood Hills to tape Mr. Peck's narration of



Gregory Peck, Parker Lee, Nov. 20th

the Churchill Center video, which will be ready soon. In process are the printed materials which will accompany the video.

Being "easily satisfied with the best" in WSC's phrase, Mr. Peck listened carefully to each "take," never hesitating to tape it over until he was satisfied. After such a generous donation of time we were proud to present Gregory Peck with a Founding Member certificate. He joins over 600 people who answered Lady Soames's call by providing the seed money for the Churchill Center.

## MAKE YOUR GIFT COUNT TWICE

On January 1st the Center began receiving consultant services from Founding Member Anthony Gilles, JD, who directs the Office of Planned Giving, University of Tennessee Agriculture Dept. Mr. Gilles gave an impressive presentation to our Development Committee in Washington last year, illustrating how American taxpayers can present a gift of cash or real property to the Churchill Center while protecting its value for their heirs, in effect doubling the value of their legacy free of tax. Mr. Gilles is now at the disposal of Churchill Center supporters for estate and tax planning involving any gift of any kind.

We are also grateful to several founding members including one of our Governors, Jacqueline Dean Witter, who with her husband Malcolm have twice made gifts of securities to aid the endowment campaign. Gifts of securities may be made directly from the donor's brokerage account to The Churchill Center's brokerage account by using the following delivery instructions: deliver to DTC #740, for the account of Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc., for the account of The Churchill Center, account number 690-4957. Or telephone our Executive Director for assistance: Parker H. Lee III, (908) 758-1933. ft

## QUOTE OF THE SEASON

"T A, Je live in an age in which science has perfected the telescope. V V and, looking up, has discovered the universe of the infinitely large; which has invented the microscope and, looking down, has examined the universe of the infinitely small. We live in an age which in the arts have seen the most exquisite expression of music through the improvements in orchestration, and the most execrable monstrosities in painting and sculpture in the decorations of St. Paul's Cathedral. This century has witnessed the spreading of a generous sentiment of humanitarian sympathy—arid has also seen the creation of engines and machinery of destruction of monstrous and devilish perfection."

WSC, SPEECH TO THE MIDLAND CONSERVATIVE CLUB, BIRMINGHAM, 1 JUNE 1899



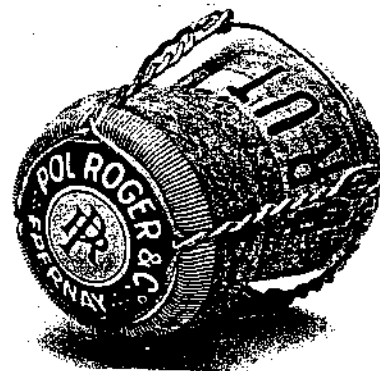
Pol Roger has recently produced a limited edition: 1000 Jeroboams of the fabulous Sir Winston Churchill Cuvée 1988. Président Directeur Général Christian de Billy presents the owner's certificate for Jeroboam no. 0001/1000 to ICS/CC Patron The Lady Soames, DBE.

## EFFERVESCENT NEWS

EPERNAY, FRANCE, OCT. 31ST—The International Wine Challenge 1996 proved a triumph for Churchill's favorite Champagne house. Not only were each of Pol Roger's cuvées awarded a medal or commendation, but PR has been selected as the overall "Sparkling Wine Producer of the Year": L'élite de l'élite!

Pol Roger owns around 85 hectares of vineyard land in the Vallée de la Marne near Epernay and on

the Côte des Blancs, representing about 40% of the small company's annual crush. Its current stock of around 6.5 million bottles constitutes one of the more modest holdings among the grandes marques. The 1988 vintage was supreme this year, its haunting, toasty concentration just starting to hint at the glorious maturity to come. The "PR" vintage 1988, a cuvée sourced from grand cru sites, garnered a Silver Medal, as did the hazelnutty Cuvée Blanc de Chardon-



nay 1988. A bronze medal for the White Foil and a Commendation for the still-youthful Rosé 1988 completed the impressive tally. From \$25 up in the USA, but rather more in England, any "PR" is a Churchillian libation. We salute our friends Christian de Billy and Christian Pol-Roger.

## ANOTHER REASON TO REJOICE: 1996 HERITAGE FUND

The just-concluded year-end Heritage Fund campaign by ICS United States was the most successful in history. ICS/USA treasurer George Lewis reported over \$30,000 in contributions at the close of business December 31st—a record for the Heritage Fund and 50% more than in 1995. At a meeting of the ICS/USA Executive Committee, it was determined that the Society in 1997 will support all publications and other operating expenses through subscriptions; therefore, ICS/USA will be able to apply all of the Heritage Fund proceeds to educational activities conducted by the Churchill Center. This is the first time we have been able to do this. We are sincerely grateful to all who have made it possible, whose names will appear in our next issue.

## HOLD THE DATE: TORONTO, OCT. 16-19TH, 1997 IN 'THE TRUE NORTH STRONG AND FREE'

All Churchillians are invited to join us in singing these words from the Canadian national anthem plus the British, American and Australian anthems, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada next October 16th-19th. Our Conference includes a visit to Niagara Falls for dinner and the spectacular views

which Churchill first observed in 1900 and revisited in 1929 and 1943.

In Banff you had a taste of the "Hits from the Blitz." In Toronto you will get the full show in the Imperial Room of the Royal York Hotel. When Churchill spoke in the Royal York in 1929 the crowds were so large that loudspeakers had to be placed in the streets—over 3,000 people heard him. We can't accommodate quite that number but we *can* accommodate you. So reserve October 16-19th, for the 14th International Churchill Conference. For information, contact Randy Barber, Conference Chairman, at (904) 881-8550 or John Plumpton, Program chairman, at (416) 497-5349. (P.S. You might even be able to get tickets to watch the Blue Jays win the World Series, again!)

#### NEW BUDGETS, NEW PRIORITIES

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 9TH—The Executive Committee of the International Churchill Society (USA) and the Board of Governors of the Churchill Center approved 1997 calendar year budgets totaling \$329,000, and jointly established a \$100,000 permanent endowment for the Churchill Center, the academic institution designed to promote and perpetuate Churchill studies worldwide. Equal contributions of \$50,000 from 1996 funds of both organizations created the endowment, whose goal is a minimum of \$5 million to fund permanently all major Churchill Center programs: symposia, seminars, student support, publication subventions, visiting professorships and *ajji* annual Churchill Lecture. The ICS budget is \$130,000, while the Churchill Center budget of \$200,000 (higher than ICS's for the first time) must come almost entirely from new contributions.

Notable among Churchill Center activities in 1997 are the first student seminar, next April at the Hoover Institute at Stanford; the first annual Churchill Lecture; commissioning papers for the third Churchill Symposium, "Churchill's Life of Marlborough," at Blenheim Palace in May 1998; and two \$1500 scholarships for

American and Canadian students traveling to Edinburgh University for the new postgraduate course, "Winston Churchill: The Making of a War Leader," under Profs. Paul Addison and David Stafford. (FH 92, page 7).

Initiated by Dr. Cyril Mazansky last May, both bodies have now held extensive strategic discussions for the future role and relationship of each organization, and have developed the following strategic posture:

*ICS (USA) and the Churchill Center are two organizations which loosely defined represent a unified bundle of "Churchill activities." We will promote the continuation of an administrative consolidation that will better utilize the financial and manpower resources of ICS and the Center, eliminating confusion, duplicate offices and functions, and facilitating fundraising efforts.*

Commencing 1997, all fundraising will be undertaken by the Churchill Center while ICS will be responsible for *Finest Hour*, the biannual *Proceedings*, other publications and support for the international conferences.

#### MANCHESTER UPDATE: "PUIS LA VICTOIRE!"

WINTER 1996-97—Honorary member William Manchester has published an excerpt from the third and final volume of his Churchill biography, *The Last Lion: Defender of the Realm in Military History Quarterly*. Entitled (from a Churchill remark in 1940) "Another Bloody Country Gone West," it describes Churchill's actions and reactions during the Fall of France between 10 May and 16 June 1940. As we read the familiar story, it took on a new, starker and yet more terrifying image in Manchester's brilliant prose:

"Suddenly all England was told that the Nazis were 140 miles *behind* the Allied lines in Belgium—and heading for the Channel ports. The crisis brought the war effort some unlikely converts. Bertrand Russell wrote a friend that he had renounced pacifism, declaring that if he were young enough to fight, he would enlist."

Churchill's famous but unrecorded speech at Tours, at his last meeting with the French, is magnificently summarized: "His mouth was working; he sought the words, found them, and spoke warmly and deeply, French and English phrases tumbling over each other...England would fight 'on and on and on, *toujours*, all the time, everywhere, *partout, pas de grâce*, no mercy. *Puis la victoire!*"

We have no date of publication to announce, but when excerpts start appearing it is a good sign. We will continue to keep readers informed.

#### DELETERIOUS DUKETALK

LONDON, DECEMBER 3RD (Reuter) — The Duke of Windsor, who gave up the English throne sixty years ago this month to wed American divorcee Wallis Simpson, was reprimanded by Churchill for "defeatist and pro-Nazi" views, it was revealed today. "Germans expect assistance from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the latter desiring at any price to become queen," said a terse note in one file. The Germans had asked Charles Bedaux, a naturalised American, to ask the Duke if he would be King of England in the event of a German victory, but Bedaux had declined because he was no longer friendly with the Windsors.

Thousands of pages of secret documents throw new light on official attitudes to the Duke's often embarrassing views and the whiff of pro-German intrigue that surrounded him. An interview he gave while he was Governor of the Bahamas in 1941 drew a frosty telegram from Churchill, who feared the Duke's remarks would contribute to keeping the United States out of the war. "I could wish indeed that Your Royal Highness would seek advice before



Churchill and the then Prince of Wales, 1919

CONTINUED OVERLEAF >>

## ERRATA, FH #92:

Page 2: Stalin-like, we liquidated ICS Canada President Randy Barber, replacing him with Mr. Shields, who is actually the new President of the WSC Society of Vancouver. This has been fixed on page 2 of this issue.

Page 20, footnote 8: for "Gary Grayson" read "Cary Grayson."

Page 23: With embarrassment Robert Rhodes James and the editor admit we misdated Churchill's first speech as Premier. Though quoted correctly, it was on 13 May 1940, not 4 June. Thanks to Robert Wallis for being first to catch the gaffe.

making public statements of this kind," wrote the Prime Minister. In another paper, Churchill said the Duke had become an embarrassment to the Government, and although his loyalties were "unimpeachable," he was dogged by "a backwash of Nazi intrigue which seeks to make trouble for him."

While in Lisbon before moving to the Bahamas in 1940, the Duke fuelled speculation about his loyalties by staying in the house of a Portuguese bank manager said by the Secret Service to be in close touch with the German Embassy. The papers released by the Public Record Office range from secret service memos to letters between members of the public "intercepted" by the security forces. One such letter made clear just how enraged some sections of British opinion had been by the Duke's decision to give up the throne in order to marry the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson.

The Windsors also got into trouble soon after arriving in the Bahamas in 1940, when the Duke asked for large sums of money to refurbish his official residence. It was pointed out to him by London that such requests were open to criticism during wartime, when "the money could have been used to buy a fighter." The British government also struggled unsuccessfully to prevent the luxury-loving Windsors from leaving the Bahamas and visiting the United States, where it was feared they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

*Vivre à jamais dans V esprit des gens...*

EDMUND MURRAY, 1917-1996



**E**DDIE Murray, Sir Winston Churchill's bodyguard from 1950 to 1965, was as born the same year as John F. Kennedy, and underwent similar hair-raising adventures in the same war. The news of his passing is no less shocking to me than would be

JFK's, had the latter lived a normal span. Eddie was a few months short of his 80th birthday, and the golden anniversary of his marriage to Beryl, the charming Swiss lady who shared his life since 1947.

Born in County Durham, Murray joined the French Foreign Legion soon after leaving school. After a rather exciting war, he joined the Metropolitan Police and in 1950 was seconded to Chartwell to take up protection duties with the Leader of the Opposition. He recorded the story in his book, *I Was Churchill's Bodyguard*, later expanded in a series of 1995 tapings for the Imperial War Museum. He stuck out a trying job to the end. I will never forget the words he uttered at the Churchill funeral: "Who is there to talk of now?"

I met Edmund Murray on the first Churchill Tour in 1983, when he heard we were stopping at Bath and joined us for lunch. At first he struck me as Lawrence had struck Churchill, "a very remarkable character, and very careful of that fact." Eddie was not inclined to hide his light under a bushel, and what he most loved to talk about was Winston Churchill. Over the years, I observed a certain mellowing in his manner. He certainly grew more pixieish. Quoting Sir Harold Wilson's reference ten years before to "Sir Winston's detective, now dead," Eddie remarked: "By my presence here I offer you undeniable proof that no one can trust the pronouncements of politicians."

Over the next few years his talks became more polished, more rounded. Perhaps all his appearances, so many at ICS events, and before youngsters, whose company he particularly loved, allowed him to sit back and take a longer look at the experiences fate had so uniquely placed in his way.

I do know this, and I know it as a certitude: that Eddie's speech at the 1992 Churchill Conference in England was one of the finest ever made about Sir Winston Churchill, ranking with the words, at other Churchill gatherings, of Lord Mountbatten and Alistair Cooke, Martin Gilbert and Robert Hardy:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Churchill I knew was the epitome of all that was ever good and fine in our island race and he was always proud of his American heritage. Yes, he made mistakes, but then only those who do nothing do not. Always his aim was to make Britain great, and to join all European countries together as one in peace and freedom...We all have a job to do and indeed the tools to do it are in your hands. *Vivre à jamais dans l'esprit des gens, n'est-ce pas l'immortalité?* There is the heritage he left us: *la raison d'être* of the International Churchill Societies. May we all be worthy of his trust"

-Richard M. Langworth

Edmund Murray's final contribution to *Finest Hour* runs in our next number- we invite any reader who would like to add a few words of remembrance to write the editor immediately. The text of his 1992 speech is available in the *Proceedings of the International Churchill Societies 1992-1993*, available from Churchill Stores (address on pT



would attract unwelcome publicity.

At one point, in the face of hostile news reports, the Duke was forced to defend himself against claims that he was behaving frivolously while men were dying in the war. "The Duchess and I have not darkened the door of any night club in New York," he said. -Giles Elgood

### HOOVER VOL. III IN PRINT

S. HADLEY, MASS., OCT. 15TH—*Finest Hour* congratulates longtime Friend of the Society George H. Nash upon publication of the third volume of his seminal biography, *The Life of Herbert Hoover*. The 672-page tome, subtitled "Master of Emergencies 1917-1918," is published by Norton at \$45. The New Book Service will be happy to order copies of "Master of Emergencies" for anyone who writes to the editor within three weeks of receiving this issue. The ICS price is \$36 + \$4 to ship; order from the editor.

### BRONZE STATUE OFFERED



TAUNTON, SOMERSET, DEC. 1ST—Tony Ellard of ICS, UK sends us details of a limited edition (50) solid bronze Churchillian figure, 80cm high, on 4 marble plinth, sculpted by his son. On

orders received from Friends of ICS, Tony will donate £20 to the Churchill Society of the buyer. The price is £495 in the UK, £510/\$860 elsewhere, including postage, packing and insurance. Despatch will be eight to twelve weeks from receipt of full payment. Please be sure to mention the International Churchill Society if you order. Contact Kinetica Models, Canon House, Canon Street, Taunton, Somerset TA11SW, England.

## Local and National Events

### DETROIT

DEARBORN, MICH., JULY 17TH—Thirty-two Friends of ICS, some from 150 miles away, gathered at the Dearborn Inn for the first Detroit-area meeting in several years. After a Churchill film and review of Churchilliana on display, Fred Farrow recalled his meeting Churchill during the General Strike, a repeat performance of his fascinating talk at the 1995 Boston Conference. Four times during the meeting, we stopped and gave away a total of fifteen pieces of collectible Churchilliana.

*Detroit Friends plan regular meetings in the future. To pitch in, please contact Gary or Beverly Bonine, 9000 E. Jefferson Avenue #28-6, Detroit MI 48214, telephone (313) 823-2951.*

### WASHINGTON, D.C.



Hon. Member Caspar Weinberger and British Ambassador Sir John Kerr with Churchill-edited manuscript at the Washington Club.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 14TH—Former Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger argued that America's declining military readiness exposes the nation to potential dangers it may not be able to face at the annual meeting of the Washington Society for Churchill, held at the Washington Club tonight. Mr Weinberger, an honorary member of ICS, cited Winston Churchill's

frequent warnings during the 1930s as evidence of the folly of failing to maintain a nation's strength of arms. Ivtr. Weinberger recently co-authored a book, *The Next War*, on this subject, and was kind enough to autograph copies for many present. British Ambassador Sir John Kerr introduced Mr. Weinberger to the thirty Friends of ICS and sixty members of the English Speaking Union, which cosponsored the black-tie dinner.

*The Washington Society for Churchill meets regularly. Contact Ron Helgemo, 2037 Wethersfield Ct., Reston VA 22091 or telephone in the evenings (703) 476-4693*

### NORTH TEXAS

DALLAS, NOVEMBER 22ND—Twenty-five Friends and guests celebrated the anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's birthday at a Champagne Soirée at the home of Richard and Anne Hazlett. The toast was proposed by Earl Nicholson. The speaker was Lt. Col. James R. Brown, whose topic was, "The Iron Curtain Speech—A Review Fifty Years Later."

Col. Brown's presentation included videos showing^jews clippings from the events at Fulton in 1946 and the 50th Anniversary "The Sinews of Peace" Churchill Conference held at Westminster College in 1996. The speaker also gave an interesting comparison of points raised in the original Iron Curtain Speech and the speech given by Lady Thatcher at Fulton.

The Colonel's talk was preceded by a lively description by Paula Restrepo of the Churchill Conference and Tour in the U.K. in October which several from Texas attended.

*For latest information on meetings in the Dallas area contact Nathan Hughes, 1117 Shadyglen Circle, Richardson TX 75081, tel. (214) 235-3208.*

## TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE, NOV. 26TH— Friends gathered in Nashville at the home of Dick Knight, who reviewed Sir Martin Gilbert's book, *In Search of Churchill*. Calvin Pastors, a former CIA officer, discussed the sharing of information between the USA and UK during Churchill's second premiership. He also described seeing Churchill in the 1950s.

*Area Friends will meet in May to mark the first premiership. This will be a dinner meeting and guests are invited.* -Richard H. Knight, 167 Charleston Park, Nashville TN 37205.

## ALASKA

ANCHORAGE, NOV. 30TH—Alaska Churchillians held their annual black tie birthday dinner for Sir Winston S. Churchill on a snowy Saturday evening at the Hotel Captain Cook, with forty in attendance. The focus was Churchill's reflections on modern science, democracy, and the future in his 1931 essay "Fifty Years Hence." Chairman James W. Muller introduced the subject after dinner, and the featured speech was by Mead Treadwell, who essayed a Churchillian glimpse into the future by imagining the world of 2046. In an interesting presentation entitled "Enemies of the Future," he exhorted us not to turn our backs on the spirit of adventure that Winston Churchill exemplified.

The traditional toast to the memory of Sir Winston was delivered by Peter Gamache, and diners were grateful to Brooke Marston for generously ensuring they did not have to limit themselves to the single glass of champagne recommended by Churchill in his youth.

Once again guests joined in singing Harrow School songs, including one—"The Twentieth Centur-ee"—written in the same year as Churchill's essay. They were led by the Canaries—Craig Carlson, James Muller, Michael Padden, and Mark Wohlgemuth—to the piano accompaniment of Peter Strandjord. We also bade

farewell at the dinner to John and Nesta Morgan, who are returning to England after John's eventful three years at the helm of BP Exploration (Alaska), presenting them with the book *Adventure in Oil*, which, with a foreword by Churchill, describes the founding of BP.

*For Alaska event information please contact James Muller, 1518 Airport Heights Dr., Anchorage AK 99508.*

## NEW ENGLAND

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. NOV. 30TH—Despite conflicts with the Thanksgiving weekend, over thirty Friends of the Churchill Center dined at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to mark Sir Winston's 122nd birthday. After a social hour and a delectable dinner, we had the pleasure of listening to Professor Paul Rahe, chairman of the History Department at the University of Tulsa, an ICS academic advisor, discuss Churchill's second book, *The River War*. Not only was the content educational and the presentation erudite, but the audience was held spellbound. Prof. Rahe quoted extensively from the book and his delivery was most eloquent. As I listened to Churchill's picturesque description of an African sunset, having marveled at this very special sight many thousands of times myself, his written and spoken words accurately brought back to me this magical experience.

We also had the opportunity to handle and examine some beautiful copies of *The River War* brought along by Richard Langworth, who then updated us on the accomplishments and future plans of the Churchill Center. -Cyril Mazansky

*Next meeting: Saturday May 3rd, a luncheon at the Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Mass, with Marianne Almquist of Arizona, who will present her slide lecture, "Clementine Churchill." New England friends will receive invitations by mail as usual. Meanwhile, hold the date. To help with this and future events please contact Cyril Mazansky, 50 Dolphin Road, Newton Center MA 02159, tel. (617) 527-0522 evenings.*

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO, DECEMBER 1ST—Illinois Churchillians held their tribute to the 122nd birthday of Sir Winston Churchill with thirty-two in attendance at the Ballroom West. A warm atmosphere of holiday cheer and goodwill prevailed and carols could be heard in the background. The program presentation was hailed by all as outstanding.

Douglas Russell, a Governor of the Churchill Center and author of the ICS book, *The Orders, Decorations and Medals of Sir Winston Churchill*, discussed Churchill's medals, followed by Nick Carter, who read in Churchillian style the stirring essay by Virginia Carter: "How Churchill Used the English Language." Truly grand!

Commander Joseph Troiani, USN, reported on the U.S. Guided Missile Cruiser Sir Winston Churchill, to be launched in 1998. The group agreed unanimously that all should attend the christening, which will be at the Bath, Maine Ironworks—stay tuned to *Finest Hour* for the details. An international flavor prevailed, with J. Willis Johnson from San Angelo (Republic of Texas) and Bill and Marjorie Williams, from St. Catharine's, Ontario, all of whom were with Joe and Judith Just on the 1996 Churchill Tour. Bill reported on ICS Canada's plans for the Toronto conference in 1997. We played the "WSC Quote Game," arguing over the origin of various Churchill quotes, or non-quotes—Doug Russell won, and his prize was the toll money back to Iowa!

The Churchill birthday cake was cut, loyal toasts were sung, and we adjourned feeling good about Sir Winston and each other. Those who could not attend sent regrets over missing a great experience. Per custom, we adjourned with a Churchill quote from Joe Just: "History is what the winners say it is."

*Future events information: contact Joe Just, 16 W. 251 S. Frontage Rd, Suite 25, Burr Ridge, IL 60521, tel. (630) 654-3500.* \$

Send your questions (and answers) to the Editor

## Riddles, Mysteries, Enigmas



**Q** "The Strand" of April 1949 mentions that Churchill saved his cigar bands so they could be sent to those who wrote asking for them. I have some cigar boxes with his figure, but no bands. Are any available? James Blewitt, Colchester, Essex, UK

**A** I have often seen cigar bands, well chewed butts and whole cigars claimed to have been the property of Sir Winston. In many cases they were accompanied by a "letter of authenticity," whatever validity that may have. It is a matter which the collector must consider carefully before parting with his or her money.

"Churchill" has long been a standard cigar size, and many cigar manufacturers have adopted Churchill's name and/or picture as a brand or trademark. In virtually every case the connection is completely spurious, but some bands from these cigars are quite colourful and collectable. I enclose a few examples from a Dutch manufacturer whose range illustrated Churchill wearing twenty-four different hats! (See FH #79, p22.) Collecting these requires an outlay measured in pence rather than pounds. If you remain determined to track down one of the cigar bands mentioned in the "Strand" article I wish you luck! DJH

Coincidentally, it happens that a reader is offering an authenticated cigar band; see letters column on next page, lower right.



**Q** President Kennedy, in presenting Churchill with honorary American citizenship, said, "He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle. Who actually originated this line?"

**A** Edward R. Murrow, in his Columbia LP recording entitled "I Can Hear It Now" (and possibly elsewhere) actually coined the phrase. JFK borrowed it without attribution, but then again, Churchill often did the same with lines that appealed to him. The full quote: "Now the hour had come for him to mobilize the English language, and send it into battle, a spearhead of hope for Britain and the world. We have joined together some of that Churchillian prose. It sustained. It lifted the hearts of an island of people when they stood alone."

**Q** I attended a seminar yesterday featuring hiring former presidential Chief of Staff Howard Baker, former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, and former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, held at the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs. During the discussion, Gen. Scowcroft quoted Winston Churchill's memoirs — something to the effect of "And so the ended, and men were free to return to the follies that had nearly cost them their lives." I was hoping you could help me track down the quote and from whence it came. —Dan Heuchert, Inside UVA

**A** The "theme of the book" for *Triumph and Tragedy* (1953), the sixth and last volume of *The Second World War*, is: "How the Great Democracies Triumphed, and so were able to resume the follies that had almost cost them their life." It certainly seems highly relevant today.

**Q** I was wondering if you could give me a bit of genealogical information. I am curious to discover the relationship

between Winston Churchill and Henrietta Mary Spencer-Churchill. She is the daughter of the current (11th) Duke of Marlborough. Abo, what is her relationship to Diana (Spencer), Princess of Wales? -Ronalda Baldwin <dagobertii@infohouse.com>

**A** I know nothing about genealogy. Churchill was a first cousin of the 9th Duke, the present Duke's grandfather, so perhaps you can piece together the relation. Diana Spencer is of the Spencer family, a branch of which married into the Churchills. Will a reader please elaborate? (Perhaps Mr. Steward—see next page.)

**Q** I have recently finished reading Winston Churchill: The Struggle for Survival 1940 to 1965 by Lord Moran and thoroughly enjoyed it. A friend has since advised me that Clementine Churchill found aspects of the book disagreeable and that it has also been criticized by various Churchill scholars. I was surprised by this information because the book appeared to be very pro-Churchill. Why was Lady Churchill angered by this book and why were aspects of it challenged by others?

**A** The family objected because they believed Moran violated his doctor's oath of patient confidentiality and gave a skewed portrait, since he only saw Churchill when WSC was unwell. (*Action This Day*, edited by John Wheeler-Bennett, NY and London 1968 was a direct response to Moran's conclusions, with a pointed foreword by Lady Churchill.)

Moran claimed, offering no proof, that he obtained WSC's sanction to write as he did. Churchill was notoriously nervous about colleagues and staff "writing," as he put it, especially after Alanbrooke's *Memoirs* appeared in 1959. Moran's veracity is questionable. For instance, he told friends that Clementine Churchill "edited out" vast portions of certain parts of his text. In fact, Lady Churchill was shown no part of the book before publication, and would cheerfully have deep-sixed the entire manuscript. RML

## GB IS NOT UK

I enjoyed issue 92. A minor point the map on the cover suggests that Great Britain includes Northern Ireland. Great Britain is an island comprising England, Scotland and Wales. The United Kingdom comprises Great Britain and Northern Ireland.  
STEVEN R. WOLF, WASHINGTON, PA.

*Editor's Response: You are quite right and we apologize. This is what comes of collecting stamps, which invariably equate GB with UK.*

## WSC-FDR RELATIONSHIP AND ORIGINS OF THE "MANHATTAN"

With regard to "Riddles" in issue 91 (page 11), Churchill was related to Roosevelt, but Conklin Mann's article to which you refer appears incorrect on Churchill's descent from John and Sarah (Cooke) Warren.

In 1933, George A. Moriarty suggested that Daniel Willcox (Jr.) was the son of Daniel Willcox (Sr.) by an unknown first wife, rather than by Daniel Sr.'s second wife, Elizabeth Cooke, daughter of John and Sarah (*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 87: 73-74; further expanded in *The American Genealogist* [1942-43]: 27.) The 3rd and current edition of *Mayflower Families in Progress: Francis Cooke of the Mayflower and His Descendants for Four Generations* (1994), pp. 11, 3, accepts Moriarty's reasoning. (FDR has two descents from the Cookes, through Elizabeth's sisters Esther [Cooke] Taber and Sarah [Cooke] Hathaway.)

Sir Winston and FDR were related in other ways. They were 8th cousins twice removed through the brothers John Howland (of the *Mayflower*) and Arthur Howland, and seventh cousins once removed through the sisters Mercy (Glover) Mansfield and Hannah (Glover) Ashley (*Record Th* charts on 161,162).

On the origins of the "Manhattan" cocktail, the Leonard Jerome House at 32 East 26th Street, New York City, was leased to the Manhattan Club some time after Mrs. Jerome and her daughters moved to Paris in 1867. (In 1886, the University Club

was located at this address.) The rental income of \$10,000 (£2000) was assigned to Jennie Jerome as her jointure when she married Lord Randolph Churchill in April 1874. Ladies, in 1874, did not frequent gentlemen's clubs, and it would have been inconceivable, as Mrs. Ruoff surmises, for Miss Jerome (or Lady Randolph) to go to the bar of the Manhattan Club to order a drink. The Jerome connection to the Manhattan Club is clear enough that no further explanation seems necessary.

SCOTT C. STEWARD  
CO-EDITOR, NEXUS  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, BOSTON

## HALCYON DAYS

What a delight to receive *Finest Hour* #92 with Cyril Mazansky's excellent article about Halcyon Days enamels. I am extremely flattered that you hold our designs in such high esteem and it is marvellous to learn of the goodwill engendered by such approval. Thank you very much indeed for your kindness.

SUSAN BENJAMIN, MG. DIR.,  
HALCYON DAYS LTD., LONDON

## 1996 CONFERENCE

Congratulations for a superb Conference. Taking a child to an adult event like that is not usually a good idea, so we were hesitant to bring Owen with us, and limited our participation to certain events. Not surprisingly, though, he picked up quite a bit of new information. From the banquet at Blenheim on, the Conference was great fun. The day at Chartwell was a treat, but the presentations Saturday were my favorite. I have learned so much about Churchill when listening to others share their knowledge. And we enjoyed Whitehall with Sir Martin Gilbert.

Following the conference, we visited the Guildhall with its magnificent statue of Churchill, and found another statue of FDR and Churchill on Bond Street. We took the Underground out to Woodford to see that

area and the statue on the green there. We also returned to Blenheim with a stop at Bladon, and saw a terrific display of pictures, clippings, etc. at the Marlborough Arms in Woodstock. It was an exciting time and we plan to return in early 1998.

FRED HARDMAN, SPENCER, WV, USA

## '51 CAMPAIGN PINS FOR SALE



John Mather and Robert Hardy (during the 1996 Churchill Tour) are sporting the new "Send for Churchill" red, white and blue lapel pin replicated from the 1951 Election. These pretty pins cost \$10/£6 postpaid from the Washington Society for Churchill, c/o Ron Helgemo, 2037 Wethersfield Ct, Reston VA 22091 USA.



## PRINTS &amp; CIGAR BAND FOR SALE

A member of Sir Winston's staff gave me three gifts: a cigar band (see page 11 -Ed.), intact and about 1" wide; and two Churchill painting prints in colour: "Bottlescape" (above; 16x20" not including border, shiny finish) and "The Blue Sitting Room, Trent Park" (7x5" including white border, actually the top of a card). Should these pieces be of interest, I would be receptive to bids.

LARRY BOWMAN, 340 E. 4TH AVE.,  
PRINCE RUPERT, BC, CANADA V8J1N6  
TEL. (604) 627-8866 \$

# THE MANY LIVES OF WINSTON CHURCHILL

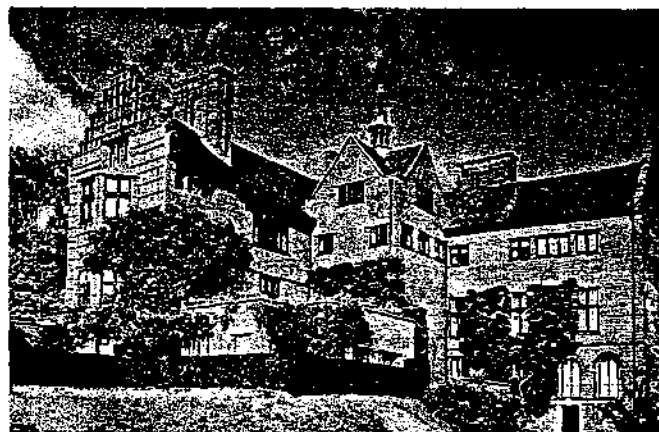
## 13th International Churchill Conference

### 8th Churchill Tour

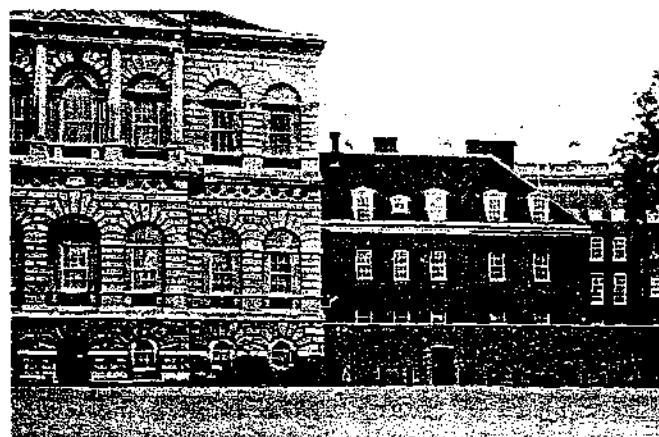
#### England, 26 September - 6th October 1996

BY RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

PHOTOS BY DICK BANKS, BILL BEATTY, BARBARA LANGWORTH, PARKER H. LEE III & BILL WILLIAMS



ABOVE: BLENHEIM, LIT FOR CHURCHILUAN VISITORS, 2 OCTOBER • CHARTWELL, WITH THE HEAVENS SMILING, 4 OCTOBER  
 BELOW: ASHDOWN PARK, HQ ON 5 OCTOBER • THE BACK OF 10 DOWNING STREET, LONDON, WITH THE DOOR WSC OFTEN USED.



**I**N 1996 the International Churchill Societies came full circle to convene again in England which—not widely known—was the site of the very first international meeting twenty-four years ago. The turnout was expected when UK chairman Jack Symonds announced the conference in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Society on 6 May 1972—it was Cup Final Day. But Jack soon learned that the Board Room would not be large enough, and moved the meeting to the Charing Cross Hotel, where all but one UK member attended. Later we learned from Sir Martin Gilbert the historic nature of our venue: Lord Fisher hid here after resigning from the Admiralty

and causing Churchill's ouster in 1915! ICS has been no stranger to Britain since, having convened in England in 1983, 1989 and 1992, and toured "Churchill's Britain" seven times since 1983. But the impressive '96 effort by ICS United Kingdom, under the leadership of chairman David Boler, made this year's events the largest, most ambitious held in Great Britain.

The programme attested to the diversity of interest which coalesces around Churchill's saga. He lived what would be at any time an extraordinary life. Fortune decreed that he live it during the greatest upheavals in a millennium, from the charge of the Twenty-first Lancers

at Omdurman to the charge of Mankind into space; from the palmy days of Queen Victoria and the Pax Britannica to the carnage of two World Wars and the long, ultimately successful struggle with the last surviving international tyranny. Those ninety years, and the vigor with which he lived them, gave rise to a diversity of thought and study which surrounds no other figure in 20th century history.

He was born at Blenheim, so the Palace was an ideal beginning of four days of Conference activities on October 2nd. We dined in splendor in the Great Hall, presenting the Duke of Marlborough with a Blenheim Award for his life's work in preserving and maintaining Blenheim for the nation and the world. Our debt to Wylma Wayne, vice-chairman of ICS/UK, can never be repaid; through her effort and diligence this event proved to be the "great climacteric" we hoped it would be.

**A**T Chartwell, Winston Churchill taught us how to live and work, converting a vast and derelict property to a literary factory and a gathering place for the movers and shakers of his time, from home-grown giants like Lloyd George and F. E. Smith to distinguished foreigners like Bernard Baruch and Harry Truman; from lighthearted entertainers like Charlie Chaplin to sombre, sequestered, secret visitors bearing the latest news from Nazi Germany, and exiled Europeans with fear in their eyes, having just experienced Blitzkrieg. And yet, as his daughter Lady Soames will tell us, he made Chartwell a home anyone would envy. There, as he wrote, "with much to amuse me, [and] with my happy family around me, I dwelt at peace within my habitation." Thus Chartwell's administrator, Carole Kenwright, and her staff guided us through the house and its gardens, planning our schedule on a Friday so as to have the property to ourselves for a prolonged visit. Grace Hamblin, Chartwell's first Administrator, received another Blenheim Award, for her years of service to the Churchills and Chartwell.

Churchill's youth, exemplified by his granddaughter Celia Sandys's book, *From Winston with Hove and Kisses*, reads like a Henty novel. Our traditional conference book discussion focused on this period, as distinguished academics—James Muller, Paul Addison, Piers Brendon, Kirk Emmert and (from the audience) John Ramsden—considered his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*. Then there is his long political career, to which we brought special insight through Jonathan Aitken, MP, who provided a firsthand account of his experiences with Sir Winston, and his great uncle, Lord Beaverbrook.

Churchill's achievement as Prime Minister was well documented, with Sir Martin Gilbert to show us the famous and obscure sights of "Churchill's London," Professor David Stafford to discuss the crucial part played by Churchill's wartime intelligence, and Lord Deedes to dis-

cuss his peacetime Premiership of 1951-55. After an active career that had seen him the only statesman in high office during both World Wars, Churchill spent his declining years in writing, painting and contemplation; Wendy Reves, so many times his hostess, testified to that portion of his life from firsthand experience in a wonderful tape. We were sad that illness prevented her from joining us.

Churchill's relations form another fascinating adjunct to the saga; John Mather focused on his father, exploding the myths surrounding Lord Randolph's final illness (see also this issue). We even examined the notable films and actors who attempted to capture Churchill's essence, through an analysis of their work by Glynne and Bev Jenkins. And, as testimony to the invaluable archive Churchill left to occupy scholars for another century, the Public Record Office held over an exhibit of Churchill Papers especially for us to see while in London.

**T**HAT was the Conference. There was also the Eighth Churchill Tour, which included all of the Conference, plus more: four days of exploring genealogical sites in Dorset and Devon, capped by a Garden Party at the Wiltshire home of Celia Sandys and Ken Perkins, with guests including Lady Soames, Peregrine and Yvonne Churchill, and our favorite Churchillian actor, Robert Hardy. The latter had come all the way from Scotland to deliver a stump speech urging ICS to keep on doing what it is doing, following a scrumptious lunch punctuated by bubbly courtesy of Bill Gunn, Pol Roger UK and Christian Pol-Roger, who also provided Champagne at two other Conference events.

Seventy passengers, the largest group ever, required group dinners most nights, and this in turn gave us numerous guest speakers. Among these were *Finest Hour* features editor Douglas Hall, down from Derby to display and discuss Churchilliana; our third Blenheim Award recipient, Ashley Redburn, honored—just in time, as we have sadly learned (see page 4)—as Senior Editor of *Finest Hour* and for his *Bibliography of Works About Churchill* (first edition \$10 from Churchill Stores; a much larger, completely revised edition is seeking a publisher). Our own tour party produced Jill Kendall, aged 17, who had researched the role of music in Winston Churchill's life; Donald Webb, who offered a lively and amusing review of the Churchill wit; and this writer, who gave an update on his own forthcoming *Guide to the Books of Sir Winston Churchill*.

The West Country tour, carefully arranged for us by Elizabeth Snell (author of *The Churchills: Pioneers and Politicians*), was a fast-paced, four-day round robin of private homes associated with the Marlborough and Churchill families for five or six centuries, including Minterne, the Digby family estate; Round Chimneys, birthplace of the first Sir Winston; Muston Manor, home

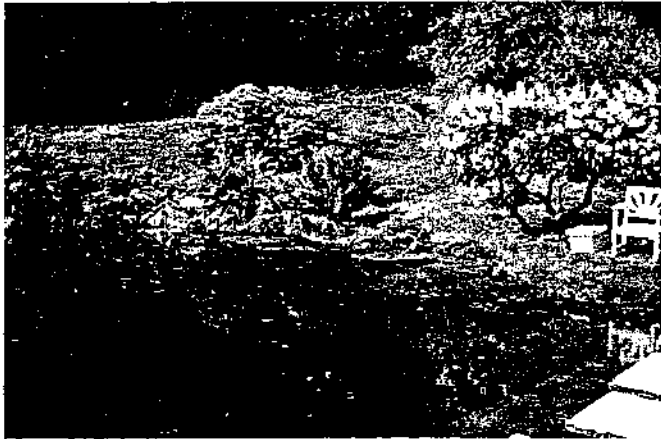
# The Conference:

## LEFTHAND COLUMN:

- (1) THE FISH POND AT CHARTWELL SPARKLED IN THE SUN.
- (2) THE GREAT HALL AT ASHDOWN PARK, CONFERENCE HQ.
- (3) TOURGUIDE SIR MARTIN GILBERT AT HORSE GUARDS PARADE.

## RIGHTHAND COLUMN:

- (1) THE DOORS THAT HAVE SEEN SO MANY FAMOUS GUESTS WERE THROWN OPEN FOR US AT CHARTWELL.
- (2) CHARTWELL ADMINISTRATOR CAROLE KENWRIGHT AND CELIA SANDYS AT THE NEMON STATUE, CHARTWELL.
- (3) CHAIRMAN BOLER HOLDS FORTH, OCTOBER 5TH.
- (4) PROFESSORIAL PUB LUNCH ON THE LONDON TOUR: DAVID STAFFORD, MARTIN GILBERT, JAMES MULLER.



of the Dorchester Churchills; Little Churchill Farm, where the family traces its earliest beginnings; Great Trill, a possible birthplace of the First Duke; and four other private homes and churches in Devon and Dorset. At each, we were welcomed like visiting royalty, often with superb high teas.

We also had two days in Oxford, from which we paid calls to beautiful Ditchley Park (where Churchill stayed during moonlit wartime weekends); and Bladon, where we left a wreath on his grave. Thanks to Jack and Rita Darrah and Gerald Lovell, we were gloriously welcomed at Bletchley Park, where Jack has created a shrine in the Churchill Rooms (see *FH* 91) and the Bletchley Park Trust has begun to preserve the now-famous code-breaking center of Britain's war effort. And, thanks to Mr. James Massey, the tour party had a look at "Lullenden," the Churchills' first country home, near Ashdown Park in East Grinstead.

**I**T is hardly surprising that Churchill continues to inspire more books, articles and arguments than any other world figure this century. Such a life, lived with such exemplary zest, replete not only with controversy but with boundless achievement as a statesman, orator, writer and historian, could hardly do otherwise. ICS United Kingdom, as host of the 1996 International Conference, refracted the enormity of that achievement in those few days, amplifying our knowledge, and serving further to pursue the goal laid down by our Patron: to exalt his memory, and to honor his deeds.

PATRON OF THE SOCIETIES THE LADY SOAMES, DBE,  
JOINED US AT THE SANDYS HOME AND CHARTWELL



CHURCHILL CENTER AND ICS TRUSTEE CELIA SANDYS HOSTED THE TOUR AT HER HOME AND ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE.

**T**he Churchill Societies are deeply grateful to all who helped make the 13th Churchill Conference and Eighth Churchill Tour such successes: The UK Conference Committee of David Boler (chmn.), Ian Maxwell-Scott, John Cook, Joan Harris; the Blenheim Dinner Committee (Wylma Wayne, Garry Clark, Richard Langworth); Elizabeth and James Snell and Jaimie Snell Mendoza; Wendy Reves; Lord and Lady Digby; B.E.J. Rich and family; Mr & Mrs. O.B.N. Paine; Jill Kendall; Don Webb; Poole Pottery; Stephen & Fiona Wilkinson (Little Churchill Farm); Kffleton House; Pamela Thompson (Great Trill); Celia Sandys; Ken Perkins; Robert Hardy; Lady Soames; Peregrine & Yvonne Churchill; Robert Hardy; Parker & Barbara Lee; Bill Gunn of Pol Roger UK; Christian Pol-Roger; Paul Duffie and the Blenheim Staff; Town & Country Caterers; Douglas Hall; Rita & Jack Darrah, Gerald Lovell and the Bletchley Park Trust; Carole Kenwright and the staff of Chartwell; James Massey of "Lullenden"; Professors David Stafford, James Muller, Paul Addison, Kirk Emmert and John Ramsden; The Rt. Hon. Jonathan Aitken MP; Piers Brendon and Alan Packwood of the Churchill Archives; Glynne Jenkins; John Mather; Sir Martin Gilbert; Willie Rushden; Simon Fowler of the Public Records Office; Ditchley Park; Graham Robson; Gail Greenly.

**S**pecial thanks to the Gold Card registrants, without whose generosity this conference could not have provided all that it did. They received an oil-on-canvas replica of Churchill's "A Distant View of Venice," produced by Wylma Wayne, as a small token of thank;; Stephen and Anne Black, David and Diane Boler, Robert and Bonnie Castrey, James and Billie Henry, J. Willis Johnson, Joseph and Judith Just, Gerald and Judith Kambestad, Parker and Barbara Lee, Charles and Linda Platt, Christy and Andrew Ness, Jack and Jerre Shineman, John and Kathleen Utz, Donald and Renee Webb, The Hon. William and Mrs. Lind Marshall Wright. \$\$\$

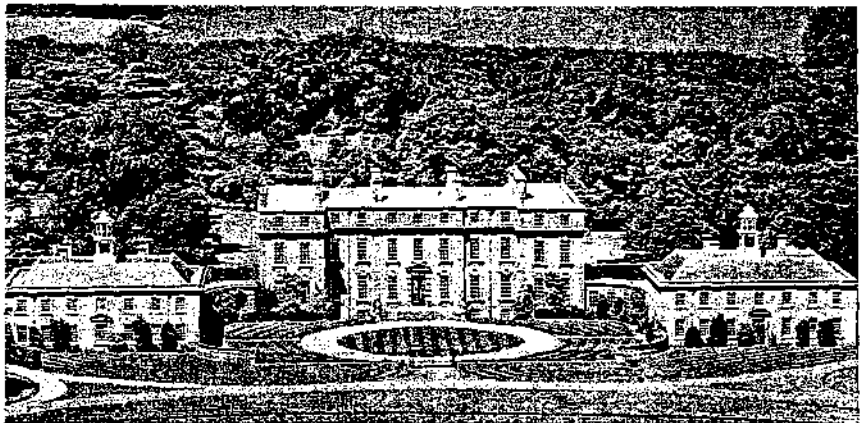




L: PEREGRINE (SIR WINSTON'S NEPHEW) AND YVONNE CHURCHILL AND WYLMA WAYNE, OCTOBER 1ST. CENTER: WENDY REVES PRESENTED THE EMERY REVES AWARD TO JONATHAN AITKEN FOR NIXON. R: CEUA AT THE GRAVE OF THE BALI DOVE, CHARTWELJL

# The Tour:

RIGHT: DITCHLEY PARK, OXFORD. BELOW LEFT: MINTERNE, OUR FIRST GENEALOGICAL STOP, LADY DIGBY AT RIGHT WITH ARMS FOLDED. RIGHT: ROBERT HARDY WITH CHURCHILL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PARKER LEE AT THE SANDYS'S, OCTOBER 1ST.



BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: JACK DARRAH WELCOMES US TO BLETCHLEY; THE SANDYS GARDEN PARTY; BARBARA LANGWORTH PLACES FLOWERS AT BLADON; LORRAINE BEATTY WITH MR & MRS PAINE AND WEST COUNTRY TOUR HOSTESS ELIZABETH SNELL (3RD FROM RIGHT), MUSTON MANOR DORSET, SEPTEMBER 27TH.



# Why Are We Ashamed of our Glorious Past?

Great Britain is like an amnesia patient, with no understanding of who she is and what she is for. Unless she swiftly finds a cure, she shall be adrift in a world only too ready to take advantage of her weakness—and this doesn't apply only to Britain.

BY PETER HITCHENS • ILLUSTRATION FROM *THE DAILY MAIL*, 30 MARCH 1953

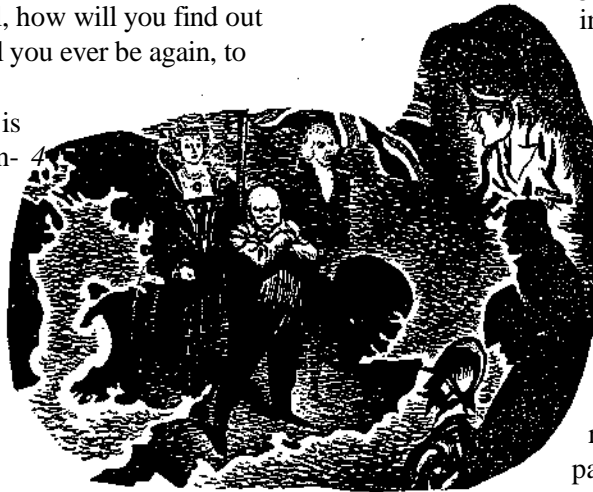
**I**MAGINE yourself coming round in a hospital casualty department, your memory a blank and your pockets empty or your handbag gone. Perhaps you can still read and count, perhaps not. In this world of scattered families and long-distance travel, how will you find out who you are? And what use will you ever be again, to yourself or anyone else?

More and more, Britain is like just such a patient, a country lost in amnesia, a people who have suffered a collective blow on the head which has wiped out our understanding of who we are and what we are for. Unless we swiftly find a cure, then we will be adrift in a world only too ready to take advantage of our weakness. The strange thing about this is that we have submitted so willingly to this mental castration that some of our own people have keenly sought to blot out the real past, and reshape our history into a grey mush of social reform and gender studies.

When communism tried to steal the history of Poland in the Sixties and Seventies, furious parents risked their liberty to set up "flying universities" where the nation's real history was taught in secret. Yet our great free universities, our publishing houses and above all, • our schools, participate with fierce joy in the extirpation of the true history of this country.

The latest episode in this chapter of national shame is the dropping of the British Political History syllabus by examination boards because it does not make enough profit for them. Before that, many of the most momentous episodes in the history of this country were

quietly squeezed from the curriculum by the clever trick of making them optional. How many teachers, schools and pupils are going to opt for the longer course, the tougher exam, the more detailed reading? Those who do seek the truth will find literature which offers a carefully doctored version of the past. *The Oxford Children's Encyclopaedia*, for example, constantly soft-pedals the giant civilising achievements of Britain and its Empire, while offering sympathetic and apologetic biographies of communist leaders. A mainstream history textbook offered to British secondary schools reprints a communist anti-war propaganda painting about the horrors of the Blitz, representing the opinion of a microscopic, defeatist minority at the time.



**A**SCHOOL video produced last year on the Forties barely gives a walk-on part to Winston Churchill, a man who is being steadily written out of modern history because he does not fit the fashionable myth that the Tories sympathised with the Nazis and the Socialists were the only people who opposed Hitler. This fairytale, very different from the truth, has been one of the great engines behind the bombardment of ill-advised "reform" imposed on everything from our currency to our penal system.

Labour's role during the rise of Hitler was consistently to vote against the rearmament measures which narrowly saved Great Britain from slavery in 1940. Stalin's orders to the German Communist Party, to refuse to cooperate with the Social Democrats, ensured the Nazis would come to power in 1933. This would be mirrored, six years later, in the joint victory parade staged by Nazi and Red Army troops in the then-Polish city of Brest, and the efficient supply of Soviet oil to Germany which fuelled the Nazi blitzkrieg and the bombers which tore >

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Mr. Hitchens is a columnist for the *International Express*, from whose issue of 26 June 1996 this article is reprinted with permission. "English-Speaking Peoples" is a periodic opinion series on themes of interest to the English-Speaking Community Churchill loved; comment pro and con is always welcomed.

the heart out of London. But millions of supposedly educated people know nothing of this, and are unaware that the one country which behaved with honour and courage when the fate of the world was being decided was Britain. The reason for this lies in a long history of independence and defiance, in which we repeatedly overcame the most astonishing odds to survive and triumph.

If the British people of 1940 had known nothing of Drake and Marlborough and Nelson, of Elizabeth I and William Pitt, of Waterloo and Trafalgar, they would not have imagined for a moment that they could stand alone against the Third Reich. And Churchill's great speeches, decisive in crushing all suggestions of a peace treaty during the pivotal summer of 1940, were founded on his deep knowledge of that past. Just as important, they were couched in a high-octane language which would have been beyond anyone who had not been schooled in Shakespeare, the King James Bible, Milton, Wordsworth and Tennyson—now almost as unfashionable as proper history.

Could another Churchill, worth thirty squadrons

of Spitfires, grow up in the Britain of today? Would such a person know the facts, let alone the mighty rhythms of the English language, necessary to keep us off our knees? Those who have made a modern Churchill impossible knew what they were doing. Their continental ideas—state control, regimentation, bureaucracy, government interference in the smallest parts of life—were blocked in the past by what they called "prejudice": the determined opposition of the voters.

This is one of their favourite words, designed to suggest that people who hold commonsense opinions are boneheaded oafs, mental cavemen who resist change out of tribal instinct or plain stupidity. But what they deride as "prejudice" is often nothing of the kind. On the contrary, it is the accumulated wisdom of the ages, the fruit of that rich store of experience we call history. It is our owners manual, our map, our index and our dictionary. Without it we can barely lace our shoes.

Amnesiacs, of course, have no prejudices. Indeed they have nothing else, save the ideal qualifications to serve as slaves.

IS

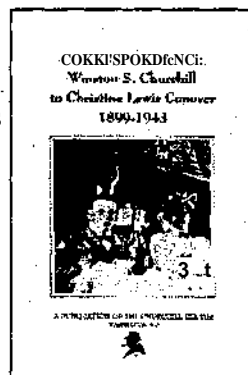
JUST PUBLISHED:

## The Churchill-Conover Correspondence

"All that is good in the world is born in labour and torment; all that ennobles, all that is generous, springs from the rivalries of man and of Nations." Sir Martin Gilbert offers an early statement of Sir Winston's political philosophy in a new Churchill Center publication.

THE Churchill Center has published a unique 40-page booklet of correspondence from Winston Churchill to Christine Lewis Conover, a lady he met on the ship returning from India in 1899, which spans the incredible period 1899 to 1943. This work captures the contents of a unique archive, wided to the Churchill Society by the late David Conover, Christine's son, and conveyed to ICS by the kind offices of Michael McMenam in Cleveland.

Included are Mrs. Conover's reminiscences of her relationship with Churchill; seven holograph letters by Churchill, an eighth letter in another hand, and a ninth, typed letter, all signed; five photographs, of which Churchill inscribed three; and three books, two of them inscribed, including an 1899 Silver Library Edition of the *Malakand Field Force* signed "Winston Spencer Churchill": a rare item indeed. The collection will be housed in the Churchill Center and displayed from time to time at Churchill Conferences.



Entitled *Correspondence: Winston S. Churchill to Christine Lewis Conover*, this booklet has been sent to all Founding Members of the Churchill Center and respondents to the 1995 Heritage Fund appeal who qualified to receive it—in other words, about half our mailing list. If you have not received a copy by mid-March, it is available from the editor for \$15/£10 payable to the Churchill Center. We strongly recommend this charming piece of Churchilliana, a look into the private life of young Winston.

In the process of compiling his Foreword to this work, official biographer Sir Martin Gilbert found Churchill advising the then-Miss Lewis to check the *Morning Post* "for plenty of my performances." He alludes to a speech, delivered 1 June 1899, to the Midland Conservative Club in Birmingham, which had just made Churchill its President. Sir Martin characteristically provided the full text of this speech, which appears in the *Correspondence* for the first time in its entirety. Only a brief

excerpt may be found in the *Complete Speeches* which, however admirable, are not complete.

THE speech offers a political philosophy from which Churchill never deviated: lack of faith in the collective "peace process" through large deliberative bodies. He preferred his own brand of personal diplomacy. Here he refers to the First Hague Conference, convened by the Czar of Russia in 1899, to set rules governing the conduct of war, thus hopefully preventing it.

I have not myself much belief in the Peace Conference now assembled at The Hague. It is only the greatest instance of the growing reaction against the spirit of competition. The Internationalism which has hitherto been preached only by Socialists and Communists is now proclaimed by the most autocratic Sovereigns. The idea is that we shall all pull up and agree to take a rest; that Nations shall cease to strive against each other for supremacy, that the desire to prevail over others—the wish to win—should be deemed in itself a crime. That is the philosophy of the Peace Conference. And what dreams lie beyond it. Fair and beautiful visions of tranquillity and relaxation rise before the weary eyes of toiling millions.

You have cheered the sentiment. It is a fine prospect—at a distance. But I, for my part, fear that road. We are not meant to find peace in this world; the spirit of life cannot exist without effort. Destroy the rivalries of man and of Nations and you will have destroyed all that makes for betterment and progress on earth. I see the high temple of universal concord, the lofty towers taller than St Peter's of the Parliament of Man. Within those walls dwell peace and quietness. Yet, I say, avoid them, for the peace is the peace of the tomb, and the silence is the silence of degeneration and decay. (Cheers.)

Recall the lines I quoted to you just now. What was the conclusion to which they led? The Nations quietly slumber, lapped in universal law. Quietly slumber! Is that a philosophy for Englishmen? Is that an ideal that appeals here tonight to you, the citizens of this busy, thriving, pushing Birmingham? Surely not. Certainly it does not attract me. All that is good in the world is born in labour and torment; all that ennobles, all that is generous, all that is manly, springs from the rivalries of man and of Nations. The wheels of the great machine of competition revolve, grinding and crunching many wretched people as they do, but through their movement progress and prosperity are evolved. We human atoms are stirred together and impressed one on another as pebbles are churned by the waves of the sea until they become smooth and round and polished; and I ask you, is it not far better to be stirred and swayed by the clear blue ocean of natural human feelings than to lie forever motionless and inert at the bottom of a stagnant pool of International agreement? (Cheers.)

I do not wish for war. There is still in my mind the hideous memory of the battlefield of Omdurman, with more than ten thousand corpses strewn, twisted and distorted on the

ground. If the Hague Conference should result in making wars less frequent or less terrible, no one can deny that the world will have reason to rejoice. But I do not hesitate to say that if the idea of brute force as an ultimate possibility were removed from the minds of men, much that is essential to human improvement would be removed as well. (Cheers.)

Duelling, it is said—the war of individuals—has passed entirely out of our English life, and it may be argued that the wars of Nations will one day be missed as little. I do not advocate duelling, but we have lost as well as gained by the abolition. What do you prefer, fifty duels or five hundred divorces? That is just a matter to think over. Physical force is a great corrective, and there is this difference between war and duelling, that whereas in duelling the man who was in the right often got killed, in war the better Nation nearly always wins.

Was it not for the good of the world that the Greeks should triumph over the Persians, or that Rome should crush Carthage? Did not the victories of the Germans over the French Empire in 1870 mean the triumph of a healthier school of thought? Take the most recent instance: was not the destruction of the Dervish rule on the whole a benefit to mankind? But I do not want to preach a gospel of war. I am only trying to put before you a side of the question which has been very much ignored in all the discussions that have taken place. (Cheers.) I only contend that all the virile virtues spring from competition, and from fierce competition. Without these virtues you cannot evolve, or even preserve, a fine race of men, and I see no use or sense in trying to make angels in this world. Depend on it that, though we may, perhaps, develop into first-class men, we shall only succeed in making very second-class angels. (Laughter.) In fact I know a good many people who would only qualify for third-class, and only for third-class provided that there was not a fourth. (Renewed laughter.)

CHURCHILL then delivers our Quote of the Season: "We live in an age which in the arts have seen the most exquisite expression of music through the improvements in orchestration...the spreading of a generous sentiment of humanitarian sympathy, and...the creation of engines and machinery of destruction of monstrous and devilish perfection."

When we posted this speech on the Internet, Professor Paul Addison, author of *Churchill on the Home Front*, remarked that it certainly proved that Churchill had read Darwin. One recalls also his fatalistic view about war in his 1946 short story, *The Dream*: "We have had nothing else but wars since democracy took charge." Certainly nothing has occurred in the last hundred years—late examples: Bosnia, Zaire and the Middle East—to disprove young Winston's musings. Yet is hard to believe he spoke those words ninety-seven years ago...and easy to understand why, some twenty years later, he would tell a colleague that mankind is "unteachable from the cradle to the grave." \$

One hundred years ago:  
Winter 1896-97 • Age 22  
"The University of my Life"

Churchill always regretted that he did not have a university education but he covered this disappointment with his famous wit. He once noted that he had received many more degrees than he had passed examinations. Also, he was extremely well-read. That process began while he was in India, a period which he called "the university of my life."

His reading was prodigious. In the intense Indian heat he devoured Gibbon's eight-volume *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* and twelve volumes of Macaulay. He thought that Macaulay "is easier reading than Gibbon and in quite a different style. Macaulay crisp and forcible, Gibbon stately and impressive. Both are fascinating and show what a fine language English is since it can be pleasing in styles so different."

He was, however, shaken by Macaulay's indictment of his famous forebear, the First Duke of Marlborough. In *My Early Life*, Churchill recalled how he had been misled by Macaulay: "There was no one at hand to tell me that this historian with his captivating style...was the prince of literary rogues, who always preferred the tale to the truth, and smirched or glorified great men and garbled documents as they affected his drama."

Reading "three or four books at a time to avoid tedium," young Winston read Schopenhauer, Malthus, Darwin, Aristotle (on politics), Henry Fawcett's *Political Economy*, William Lecky's *European Morals and Rise and Influence of Rationalism*, Pascal's *Provincial Letters*, Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*, Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, Liang's *Modern Science and Modern Thought*, Rochefort's *Memoirs* and Hallam's *Constitutional History*. He read no novels.

To supplement this list he asked his mother to send him all one hundred volumes of the *Annual Register*, the record of British public events, founded by Edmund Burke. He wanted to know "the detailed Parliamentary (debates, divisions, parties, cliques and caves) of the last one hundred years."

Because of the cost, Jennie sent him only the volumes covering the years since his birth. In them he made detailed notations of his views on the various issues. He was building up "a scaffolding of logical and consistent views which will perhaps tend to the creation of a logical and consistent mind. Of course the *Annual Register* is valuable only for its facts. A good knowledge of these will arm me with a sharp sword. Macaulay, Gibbon, Plato etc. must train the muscles to wield that sword to the greatest effect."

Seventy-five years ago:  
Winter 1921-22 • Age 47  
*Toward the Irish Treaty*

CLARE P. SCOTT reported in his diary that Harold Laski had found Churchill, who had begun negotiating the Irish Treaty, full of threats against Irish extremists, arguing that Britain had utterly broken rebellion in the 16th century, so "why not now with our vastly greater power?" "Yes," replied Laski, "but the condition of Ireland today is the fruit of our policy then."

Clementine pressed moderation upon her husband: "Do my darling use your influence now for some sort of moderation or at any rate justice in Ireland. Put yourself in the place of the Irish. If you were ever leader you would not be cowed by severity and certainly not by reprisals which fall like the rain from Heaven upon the Just and upon the Unjust....It always



makes me unhappy and disappointed when I see you inclined to take for granted that the rough, iron-fisted 'Hunnish' way will prevail"

Churchill played a key role in negotiating an acceptable treaty with the Sinn Fein delegates, Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins. Griffith warned the English that although he would sign the treaty there would be great difficulty getting it approved in Ireland. As for Griffith's colleague, Churchill later wrote, "Michael Collins rose looking as if he was going to shoot someone, preferably himself. In all my life, I have never seen so much passion and suffering in restraint."

Basically, the treaty gave Ireland Dominion status similar to that of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The more radical, led by De Valera, opposed it, demanding complete separation from Britain. The treaty

## ACTION THIS DAY...

also left the destiny of the six Ulster counties for future resolution. Churchill believed that eventually Ulster would join Southern Ireland but that the decision would have to be Ulster's.

Given the responsibility for guiding Irish legislation through the House of Commons, Churchill with his rhetoric was an important factor in winning its acceptance. Speaking of the role of the Irish in British politics and the role of the Irish nation abroad, he told the House: "It is a curious reflection to inquire why Ireland should bulk so largely in our lives. How is it that the great English parties are shaken to their foundations, and even shattered, almost every generation, by contact with Irish affairs? When did Ireland derive its power to drive Mr. Pitt from office, to drag down Mr. Gladstone in the summit of his career and to draw us who sit here almost to the verge of civil war, from which we were only rescued by the outbreak of the Great War?"

Churchill also became Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Ireland which met regularly throughout December. His activities give credence to the suggestion that he is the founder of the modern Irish State. Churchill left for southern France the day after Christmas, hoping to rest, play and work on his Great War memoirs. Clementine was to join him but she was held at home by the illness of all of her children, a situation which brought about her own collapse. From her bed she wrote, "I wandered in the miserable valley too tired to read much and all the sad events of last year culminating in Marigold passing and re-passing like a stage Army through my sad heart...."

Winston replied, "What changes in a year! What gaps! What a sense of fleeting shadows! But your sweet love and comradeship is a light that burns. The stronger as our brief years pass."

## Fifty years ago: Winter 1946-47 • Age 72 "A Year of Recovery"

On his seventy-second birthday, Churchill declared, "we are the past, and that is done with. Mary is the future."

But he wasn't quite the past yet. From the Opposition benches he hammered the government on its policies toward Palestine and India. In the former, he thought they were moving too slowly; in the latter, too quickly. He spent most of a bitterly cold winter at Hyde Park Gate and Chartwell, working on his Second World War memoirs with Bill Deakin and a battery of secretaries. Lord Ismay also provided considerable assistance. Lord Moran recorded that Churchill's "spirits have risen and his vigour has come back. He has put vain regrets away; once more there is a purpose in life. He is very happy at Chartwell, farming and painting and dictating his book. In short, it has been a year of recovery."

February was a peak and a valley emotionally for the Churchills. The peak was Mary's marriage, at St. Margaret's Church in Westminster, to Christopher Soames, assistant military attaché at the British Embassy in Paris. He had been a Captain in the Coldstream Guards and served from Cairo through the Western Desert to Tunis, before joining an Intelligence unit in Italy and France. Churchill took to his new son instantly and "their friendship grew into a most warm and moving relationship." Clementine was slower in her acceptance, but she also began to appreciate her new son-in-law, whom they affectionately called "The Chimp." Years later Christopher joked with Clementine about her original lack of confidence and liking: "Yes, darling, but I've made up for it since," she responded, patting his hand.

The valley was the death of Churchill's brother Jack. "There couldn't have been a more perfect

relation between two brothers," wrote Eddie Marsh. Churchill said that "the only thing Jack worried about was England. I told him it would be all right."

Observing the Nuremberg trials, Churchill commented to Lord Ismay, "It shows that if you get into a war it is supremely important to win it. You and I would be in a pretty pickle if we had lost."

## Twenty-five years ago: Winter 1971-72

A quarter century ago, ICS was gearing for the Centenary of Churchill's birth. "We are building our file of postal departments to which we can suggest a 1974 WSC issue," wrote editor Dal Newfield, suggesting Great Britain, Guernsey, Israel and the Netherlands. Only the first of those places that owed him so much came through. We recorded the death of the 10th Duke of Marlborough, and a comeback by Sarah Churchill, 57, "now forming a company to put together an hour-long TV special: *Puggy Wug*, the only song Churchill ever wrote (he sang it to his children) will be publicly heard for the first time." The Society also planned to produce a unique commemorative cover, congratulating Lady Churchill on her 87th birthday.

Newfield admitted to "a feeling of satisfaction" at the Society's progress over the past year. "Our last roster indicated 55 members, while this one lists 134, and we have been honored by the addition of Lord Mountbatten to our list of Honorary Members...But we cannot rest on our laurels. While we have never aspired to immense membership, in fact wish it were possible to remain quite small, we must somehow achieve about 500...."



# Lord Randolph Churchill: Maladies et Mort

It is impossible to say at this late date  
what killed Sir Winston Churchill's father.

But it is no longer possible to say that he died of syphilis.

BY JOHN H. MATHER, M.D.



Lord Randolph Churchill working on a State paper, c.1885. Portrait by Edward Ward, reprinted by permission of Chartwell.

**T**HE decade of the 1880s "saw the meteoric rise and catastrophic fall of the brilliant Lord Randolph Churchill."<sup>1</sup> An intense personality of shining wit and piercing sarcasm propelled him to great political heights, but before he reached the pinnacle, his career was instantaneously extinguished when he resigned as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Then the spark of life itself was snuffed out. His death at age 45, reportedly from syphilis, cast a pall over his early fame. Now that pall

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Dr. Mather directs inspection and assessment of United States veterans health services, is a director of ICS/USA and a governor of the Churchill Center. The medical paper on this topic is projected to be published in the *journal of Medical Biography* during 1997.

may be lifted. Lord Randolph Churchill's main symptoms are much more consistent with a less titillating but far more logical diagnosis.

Randolph Henry Spencer-Churchill, younger son of the 7th Duke of Marlborough, was born 13 February 1849. Like other young men of his time, he joined in the merry life of the Marlborough House set, where the tone was set by his friend the Prince of Wales.<sup>2</sup> In 1874 at age 25, he married Jennie, the beautiful second daughter of Leonard and Clara Jerome of New York. He was elected a Member of Parliament for Woodstock and embarked upon a tumultuous political career.

Not all of Randolph's time was spent in the House

of Commons. He took to the turf and traveled widely: as far afield as South Africa, from whence he returned in January 1892, sporting a beard. The next year he visited Russia and Germany to relax at spas with Jennie. Against their doctors' advice, Lord and Lady Randolph made a world tour in 1894 which was cut short by his rapidly deteriorating health. He returned to England in late 1894, "as weak and helpless in mind and body as a little child," according to his son and biographer.

**E**VEN as a young man, Randolph's health had been precarious. He was a heavy smoker, sufficiently so as to "burn his tongue"; friends and physicians advised him to quit smoking and moderate his drinking. He was a very hard worker, with a frenetic energy that Winston described as "of a temper that gallops till it falls."<sup>6</sup> Periods of intense activity led to exhaustion, followed by bouts of profound fatigue and melancholia.

Lord Randolph was seriously ill in 1890, with palpitations associated with exhaustion. His family physician, Dr. Robson Roose, prescribed belladonna, laudanum and digitalis. The following year, he experienced an episode of severe confusion, which suggests acute high blood pressure. Earlier, in 1882, he had had an extended illness which Lady Randolph's diary refers to as tiredness and fevers. Later, in mid-1893, Dr. Roose told Jennie, who was distraught over her husband's illness, that Randolph's heart condition had, nonetheless, been cured. But around this time, Randolph began to have speaking difficulties which were associated with hearing and balance problems.

Over the next two years until his death in 1895, Lord Randolph complained of dizziness, palpitations, and intermittent numbness in his hands and feet. His speech became more slurred, and during one of his last parliamentary speeches, he hesitated on the text. His friend Lord Rosebery later recorded that "he was the chief mourner at his own protracted funeral, a public pageant of gloomy years."<sup>5</sup> He eventually became quick-tempered and combative. Finally, he died in a coma, with pneumonia and, probably, kidney failure.

His biographers, including his son Winston, were divided on the nature of Lord Randolph's medical problems and the cause of his death. They have generally attributed his deterioration and death to syphilis (Winston in conversation though not in print) and its late effects. Some have suggested other neurological conditions, such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease), chronic alcoholism or a brain tumor.\*<sup>6</sup>

The dramatic deterioration in his health and the various descriptions of his behavior in his last three years might support a diagnosis of dementia paralytica in late or tertiary syphilis, which affects the brain and appears



ten to twenty years after the primary infection. This would likely have affected Jennie and their two sons, Winston and Jack. But if a diagnosis of advanced syphilis is to be accepted, there must have been an initial infection.

There has been considerable speculation about when Randolph might have become "infected." The most notorious account is by journalist Frank Harris in his 1924 autobiography, *My Life and heroes*, who recounts a story told by Louis Jennings, Randolph's friend and political colleague, who had published Randolph's 1880-1888 speeches. After a drunken party, Jennings said, fellow students put Randolph with an "old hag." The next morning he woke, discovered his situation, threw money at the woman and fled. He was immediately treated by a local doctor with disinfectant. Eventually, "a little, round, very red pimple appeared...on his peccant member." (This is not the description of a primary syphilis chancre, but of herpes.) A doctor supposedly treated him with mercury and warned him off alcohol.<sup>7</sup>

Jennings's story is questionable for several reasons. First, the chance of contracting syphilis in one sexual encounter is less than one percent. Also, Jennings, who



PAGE OPPOSITE: Jennie and Randolph at the time of their marriage in 1874. BELOW: Winston aged ten (right) with his younger brother Jack. The close resemblance between the brothers is obvious. Photographs courtesy Peregrine S. Churchill from his book, *Jennie, Lady Randolph Churchill: A Portrait with Letters*, with Julian Mitchell, written for the television documentary starring Lee Remick, published by Thames Television & St. Martin's Press, 1974.



was dead when Harris recounted the story, had an axe to grind: he had angrily deserted his friend when Randolph attacked the Tory party and several of its members in 1893. Jennings's account as reported by Harris has never been corroborated. By 1924, Harris himself had fallen out with Winston Churchill, for whom he had been a literary agent. Harris seems to have had a preoccupation with syphilis, having made the same assertions concerning Oscar Wilde, which were incorrect, and Guy de Maupassant.

Dr. Claude Quétel sheds further light on Harris: "He with whom [de Maupassant] became friendly in 1880, and who also had a one-track mind, tells of Maupassant's sexual vigor and boasting; the strange thing is that he was prouder of his amorous exploits than of the stories he had written."<sup>8</sup>

Lord Randolph's nephew, Shane Leslie, and Shane's daughter Anita, both concluded that Harris's "old hag" story was incredible, and offered their own scenarios. Shane Leslie alleged that Randolph was infected by a chamber maid at Blenheim Palace around the time of Winston's birth.<sup>^</sup> He also asserts that Winston's brother Jack was not fathered by Randolph, but by John Strange,

later Lord Roden, who at that time was the same age as Jennie's father-in-law, the Duke. There is no substantiation for this and pictures of Winston and Jack together belie the suggestion.<sup>1^</sup>

Anita Leslie theorizes that Randolph had a French mistress who had syphilis.<sup>11</sup> She infers this from complaints by Jennie to the Duchess of Marlborough about Randolph's coldness toward her in 1886. But correspondence between Jennie and Randolph at that time begins "Dearest," possibly indicative of a sudden reconciliation. Was this the year Randolph first became aware of a deterioration in his health? While it would be another five years before the appearance of severe symptoms, did his physician Dr. Roose now suspect that late syphilis was a real possibility, and suggest he abstain from physical intimacy with Jennie?

The spirochete responsible for syphilis was not to be discovered until 1905 and the definitive blood test was not available until a couple of years later. Since the initial and secondary manifestations of syphilis are highly contagious, Dr. Roose would have been mindful of the current medical practice, requiring him to determine if Jennie and the two boys were infected. A contemporary medical text states: "When the patient is a married man the health of his wife and children will form a guide in enabling us to arrive at a correct diagnosis."<sup>12</sup> Roose would also have inquired into any history of secondary syphilitic features such as a rash over much of the body. There is no record of any such problems.

There is no indication that Lady Randolph or her sons were infected with syphilis. If it is accepted, as reported, that both boys were born prematurely, this was more likely to have been due to a weak opening to the womb than to the disease. If the boys were *not* born prematurely, that would cast even greater doubt on a diagnosis of syphilis. Neither son was born with the infections that resemble secondary syphilis, nor did they have late hereditary syphilis, commonest between the ages of 7 and 15, manifested by deafness, partial blindness and/or notched teeth.<sup>13</sup>

There is likewise no evidence that Jennie's subsequent husbands, or the many lovers she is alleged to have had, ever contracted syphilis. Although unlikely, this might have included the Prince of Wales, who wrote her after Lord Randolph's death: "My dear Lady Randolph, the sad news reached me this morning that all is over...& I felt that for his and your sakes it was best so...There was a cloud in our friendship but I am glad to think that it is long been forgotten by both of us."<sup>14</sup>

**I**N the late 19th century, there was a dear predisposition toward syphilis in clinical diagnosis. In 1889, Dr. William Gowers, a well-respected neurologist, emphasized this overdiagnosis of neurologic syphilis

when he delivered the Lettsomian Lecture to the Medical Society of London. He chose as his topic "Syphilis and the Nervous System."<sup>15</sup>

In mid-1893, Dr. Roose conferred with Dr. Gowers's colleague, Dr. Thomas Buzzard. By then, Lord Randolph was experiencing intermittent problems with speech, concentration, depression and more frequent outbursts of violent temper. Dr. Buzzard was an expert in managing neurosyphilis, or late syphilis of the brain. It was his opinion that 95 percent of his patients had the disease.<sup>16</sup>

Dr. Roose's and Dr. Buzzard's preoccupation with dementia paralytica, sometimes referred to as "general paralysis" of the insane as an explanation for Lord Randolph's illness is understandable. There was then no definitive blood test, no effective treatment, no sophisticated neurological testing, and no imaging techniques, such as CAT scans and MRIs. Untreated syphilis, particularly dementia paralytica, manifests itself in many ways, and may be confused with other diseases without careful diagnosis.

The 19th century preoccupation with syphilis was noted again later by Dr. F. M. R. Walshe, a mid-20th century neurologist, who said: "The belief that syphilis is the commonest single cause of organic nervous disease dies hard. It is a legacy from the text books of the end of the last century, in virtue of which syphilis of the nervous system occupies the place of honor, as though 'by merit raised to that bad eminence,' in most accounts of disease of the nervous system."<sup>17</sup>

It seems likely that Lord Randolph had been convinced by his doctors that he had a severe degenerative neurological condition, possibly syphilis, as early as 1886. But this is not clear because Dr. Roose uses the term "general paralysis" to refer to a condition caused by the disease, and to a condition caused by "exhaustion." He once commented, "Chronic inflammation of the brain attacks persons of exhausted habits, brought on by excesses and irregular living. The patient has frequent headaches and gradual loss of health, and then gets a perversion of most of the senses, as of sight, taste, smell, etc., and in fact, all the symptoms of the incipient mania. The only treatment is to try and combat the various morbid symptoms as they arise and improve the general health in every way; but, in two or three years, general paralysis is almost sure to occur."<sup>18</sup> Here the term "general paralysis" is clearly associated with exhaustion—not syphilis.

Lady Randolph Churchill may have been apprised of her husband's condition during a secret visit to his doctors in 1892, which provoked a fearful row. Winston may have learned from the doctors about the seriousness of his father's illness in 1894. He wrote a distraught letter to his mother while his parents were on their world tour. But it

is not certain whether he understood Randolph's illness to be syphilis. ^

At the end, it was evident that Drs. Roose and Buzzard were convinced that Randolph had "general paralysis," which many people have taken to be a code word for syphilis of the brain. Dr. Buzzard, in response to an inquiry from the Prince of Wales's physician, explained in December 1894 that "Lord Randolph is affected with General Paralysis, the early symptoms of which in the form of tremor of the tongue and slurring articulation of words were evident to me at an interview two years ago. In Lord R's case the physical signs—tremor, faulty articulation, successive loss of power in various parts of the frame, have been much more marked than the mental ones which have hitherto been of comparatively slight character, grandiose ideas, however, not being absent at time & on some occasions violent of manner."<sup>20</sup>

**A**RE there diagnoses other than syphilis that explain the reported changes in Randolph's personality, the problems with speech, and the evidence of neurological and other deterioration? Could the changes simply have been the evidence of "exhaustion," as may have been Dr. Roose's notion? "At the present day 'want of tone' is the characteristic feature of disorders in general and in none is it more obvious than in those which peculiarly affect official and professional men working at high pressure. Excessive smoking, too much alcohol, tea, and coffee, often resorted to by overworked persons, are frequent causes of sleeplessness," wrote Dr. Roose two years after his famous patient's death.<sup>21</sup> Lord Randolph's personality appears to have been intense, and one psychiatrist has concluded that he was a manic depressive. Brilliant in many ways, Lord Randolph was also brisk and impatient. Much of his behavior during his last five years seems to be no more than an accentuation of his prior personality.<sup>22</sup>

Lord Rosebery described Lord Randolph in comparable terms: "His wit, his sarcasm, his piercing personalities, his elaborate irony, and his effective delivery, gave astonishing popularity to his speeches. His slim, boyish figure, his mustache which had an emotion of its own, his round protruding eyes, gave a compound interest to his speeches and his conversation."<sup>23</sup>

Another friend, George Smalley, commented, "Lord Randolph had...an imperious temper, an intellectual disdain of natures from which intellects had been omitted, moods of black despair late in life, but all through life acted to win his battles without much thought of the cost—all these he had, and no one of them nor all of them broke or impaired the spell laid upon those about him."<sup>24</sup> And A.L. Rowse, the Churchill historian and biographer, asserted, "Though a very quick and piercing judge of a situation, Lord Randolph Churchill's judg-



Randolph in 1893

Jennie in  
San Francisco in 1894



ment was not really reliable. He was self-willed and impulsive, above all impatient. If he had only had patience all the rest would have come into line. But he had the defect of an artistic temperament, what we in our day of psychological jargon diagnose as the manic depressive alternation—tremendous high spirits and racing energy on the upward bound, depression and discouragement on the down. "35

It is necessary to say, however, that Lord Randolph's uncontrollable rages were an embarrassment to him. In 1892, Winston inadvertently annoyed his father by firing a shotgun under his window; his father lost his temper, then quickly made amends. "Understanding that I was distressed," Winston wrote, "he took occasion to reassure me."<sup>26</sup> There were other similar incidents, for which Lord Randolph was immediately apologetic.

Lord Randolph had always had a slight speech impediment, and as a youngster he had had hearing problems, so it is difficult to single out problems with his speech, once thought to be a clear and common symptom of syphilis in its late stage affecting the brain. In the same sense, the muddled thoughts, memory lapses and

profound confusion, all features of syphilis's dementia paralytica, were absent from Randolph's writings almost until his death. He wrote more lengthily, and his script became shaky, but it was never unintelligible. Until the last, when he was in a coma, his thoughts expressed in writing were rational; they include a cogent letter to Winston while on the world tour in August 1894.<sup>27</sup>

In a letter to his mother on 8 October 1894, Lord Randolph describes how he cured the numbness in his hands and feet by putting them in hot water.<sup>28</sup> If he had been suffering from dementia, he would not have been able to write such a cohesive letter. A likely explanation for the longstanding problem with his circulation is his chain-smoking. Spasms in the arteries reduce circulation which causes numbness and pain due to lack of oxygen in the tissues.

His speech problems caused Randolph great frustration. "I know what I want to say but damn it, I can't say it," he told his friend Wilfrid Blunt in May 1894.<sup>29</sup> At several times he expressed similar anxiety over the difficulty of articulating his words. These fugue states, or "psychic seizures" are strongly suggestive of a variety of epilepsy found in the deep parts of the brain, close to the speech area. The progressive march of the disease process strongly suggests an expanding lesion or mass.

Consistent with his right handedness is the possibility that Lord Randolph developed a left side brain tumor, for which no surgery was available. This would also be consistent with the circulation problems in his hands, which in turn would be related to his intermittent heart failure and arterial spasms from nicotine in cigarettes. Even Dr. Buzzard might have agreed when he said "...intense pain in the head, when it is coupled with amaurosis (or prostration) is very suggestive of the presence of an intra-cranial tumor...If instead of atrophy of the discs we had found optic neuritis, this condition, when taken in connection with the intense severity of the pain in the head, would have gone far towards enabling us to pronounce a somewhat confident diagnosis of intra-cranial tumor."<sup>30</sup>

If Dr. Buzzard had been convinced that Lord Randolph Churchill had advanced syphilis, he would certainly have treated him with mercury and with potassium iodide, which he strongly espoused for all neurosyphilitic patients.<sup>31</sup> But Buzzard makes no mention of such treatments in any of his papers during Randolph's illness—and, had Randolph taken these two, their toxic effects would have been evident.

Indeed, the only medications Lord Randolph received that can be documented were for pain (laudanum) and heart failure (belladonna and digitalis). Dr. Buzzard's reference to "general paralysis" in Randolph's case is not diagnostic of syphilis, although it suggests this was his eventual conclusion. While syphilis may have

been a reasonable diagnosis in the absence of modern techniques, the patient's temperament, combined with his main symptom of speech and articulation problems and absence of dementia, is more consistent with a tumor deep in the left side of his brain. It is not possible to be certain; but it is more likely to be the proper diagnosis.

**H**IS father's illness impressed Winston Churchill with a strong sense of impending mortality. He frequently remarked that he needed to accomplish his goals before his forties, and his resultant activity caused observers to refer to him as a "young man in a hurry." Presumably he was happily surprised at his longevity. But he long accepted the common rumors about his father's death. Late in life he told his private secretary, "you know my father died of locomotion ataxia, the child of syphilis."<sup>32</sup>

When did Churchill pick up this story? The likely time seems to be 1924, when Frank Harris's book was published, precisely when Winston had left the Liberal Party and reverted to the Conservatives. The Tories were incensed and attempted to blacken his name, calling him a drunkard and saying that he was infected with syphilis. This same year, his 11-year-old nephew was confronted by a classmate at Summer Field Prep School, Oxford, who charged, "My daddy says all you Churchills have revolting diseases and are quite mad."<sup>33</sup>

Winston survived the Tory attacks and became Chancellor of the Exchequer, the greatest cabinet position his father had held. Now, his father's reputation can also be vindicated. \$

#### Acknowledgements

It is three years since Wylma Wayne and Celia Sandys challenged my original belief that Lord Randolph Churchill ever had syphilis. I was encouraged in my research by Peregrine Churchill and Sir Robert Rhodes James. Mark Weber secured several essential books to support my research and Linda Woodbury provided editorial aid. -JM

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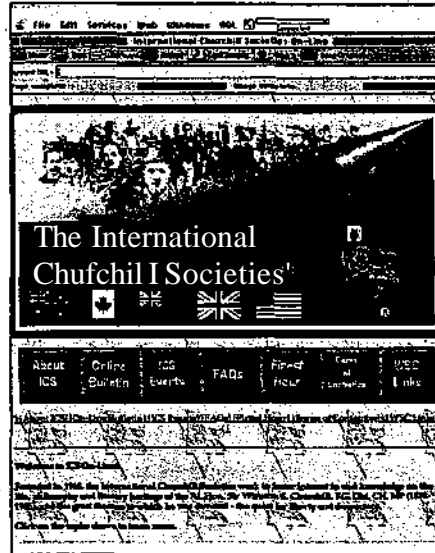
# CHURCHILL ONLINE

## INTERNET EXCHANGES ON SIR WINSTON

The Churchill Homepage: <http://www.winstonchurchill.org>

### THE CHURCHILL WEBSITE:

Aim your web browser at the above Internet address and the Churchill Page should appear. Press any of the red buttons to be led to the latest Churchill Center - Churchill Society information. The "Finest Hour" button produces the earliest publication of the next issue. If you experience any difficulty please email John Plumpton: <Savrola99@aol.com>



### GRABBING THE YOUTH VOTE

From: Merrill37@aol.com  
(Merrill Philip Malkerson):

The problem of intriguing the young with history in general and Churchill in particular is a daunting one and a person should not be too easily discouraged. My vantage point is as a high school teacher of English—not Social Studies—and perhaps thereby hangs a tale. I could never understand my grandfather's fascination with history when I was young. I wrote off the past as a vague, emotionless something that had nothing to do with a passionate present. Now I find myself reading about the past as a series of energy-charged events which have propelled us like cannonballs into a present in which we are dramatically engaged.

Yet, even when I rejected history as dull, I loved historical films with their pomp and drama. I show my students "Young Winston" starring Simon Ward, and they enjoy it. I think the fact that it portrays a young man helps. Youth identifies with youth and it is often hard for students to identify too much with an older adult, although many young people at the time seemed to find Reagan an inspiration, so perhaps public enthusiasm and optimism also count for something. In this context, Sir Winston's ability to be "jazzed" by the darkest, most overwhelming challenges might be presented to the young.

Another stumbling block in this day and age is the "back seat" reading so often takes as a leisure pastime to more vivid sources of information and forms of

### LISTSERV "WINSTON":

To subscribe free to the worldwide Churchill Internet community, send an email message saying "subscribe" to:

<Listserv@VM.Marist.edu>

You will receive email confirmation and may then send and receive all messages to the Churchill Online by emailing to:

<Winston@VM.Marist.edu>

If you experience any difficulty email:

<Jonah.Triebwasser@marist.edu>

entertainment. While I was watching motion pictures as a kid I was also reading books, and having them read to me. That doesn't happen so often as it should in our own time.

Nonetheless, the school library where

I work is usually well populated by the student body and one current, in-print book every such library should contain is Severance's *Winston Churchill: Soldier, Statesman, Artist*, available from the New Book Service (see page 47).

A final thought—students enjoy simple, dramatic poems on historical events. I've taken to reading and explaining the significance of older works on days which relate to their creation, such as "The Star Spangled Banner"—some know the third verse; do you know the second, and the *fourth*?—and "Paul Revere's Ride." I don't want to argue their relative merit as literature, but as a way to engage students in both history and literature, they're successful. The style of the past is a kind of hook *into* the past. It was a style Sir Winston himself found engaging, and, I'm sure, it helped to shape his own later inspirational speeches.

### MAN OF THE CENTURY

Disney and other entities are running polls on the "Person of the Century." While Churchill is certainly-nominated, and receives his share of votes, the Disney slate at least contains some alternatives that don't strike us as exactly in his league: Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, and a spate of politicians and "activists" from across the political spectrum. >>

## CHURCHILL ONLINE *continued*

When the subject came up among the Churchill Online community, we pointed out the difficulty of achieving such a proclamation (who would make it, besides *Time* magazine?) and the array of sordid, embarrassing or otherwise unsuitable "rivals" with whom Sir Winston must compete in the public sweepstakes. It made no difference to our freewheeling onliners: Email messages flew thick and fast, to the degree that we decided this subject is of interest to all *Finest Hour* readers, and we are reprinting all the email herewith. Thanks to Jonah Triebwasser for the digital compilations.

Send your comments to the editor either by mail, fax or email. The specific questions before the house are: (1) Should ICS and the Churchill Center make an effort to have Sir Winston Churchill proclaimed "Person of the Century"? (2) If so, by whom? (3) Don't just say yes—how should we go about it? *Finest Hour* reserves the right to edit for length; be brief.

*From: Steve\_Walker@mmacmail.jccbi.gov*

I like the suggestion about the "Greatest Person" poll. Of course, we wouldn't want the results to turn out to be Michael Jackson, as a similar poll in the '80's did. -Steve Walker

*From: jahvah@empirenet.com*

This may be an opportunity to begin some lobbying efforts. Of course, the only organization that everyone recognizes which does this sort of "Person of the Year" pronouncement is *Time* magazine. [*Time* named Churchill "Man of the Half Century" in 1950 -Ed.] So during the next four years, what about a concerted effort lobbying Congresses and Parliaments for a declaration in the autumn of 1999, and some high-level suggestions to *Time/Life* that they make a similar declaration? ICS and the Churchill Center have enough renowned members with good contacts in London and Washington that this might not be an unreasonable goal. It's not enough that we declare Sir Winston the Man of the Century. But if the kudos are external to the organization—with a little prodding from within—then the accolade will be taken seriously. -Alexander Justice

*From: TRonnei@aol.com*

A lobbying effort to have Congress or Parliament name Winston Churchill as Person of the Century seems to me like a waste of our time and resources. First, I believe the "honor" would be no more important than other pronouncements from our esteemed

legislators such as "National Poultry Week." Who would pay any attention? Who would care, besides us? Someone is bound to reply that it would remind the public of Churchill's greatness. My response is: isn't that what the Churchill Center is supposed to do? I'm sure the Churchill Center will be a much more forceful advocate of our man's legacy and I believe it should be the focus of our efforts to make sure the general public remembers him and what he stood for. Second, what is the likelihood that the US Congress would pass such a resolution for an Englishman? This isn't 1963. Some ignoramus is sure to step in front of the C-Span cameras and denounce it as "a misguided effort to honor a foreigner while plenty of Americans like [fill in the blank] are surely more worthy of the accolade." Sorry to be such a wet blanket. Rebuttals welcome. -Todd Ronnei

*From: jahvah@empirenet.com*

From what I understand, the Speaker of the House is a student of history and an admirer of the Parliamentary system, so I should think the chances pretty good. Although that would then open the question, do we want Churchill's name pronounced by one of the least popular politicians in the USA? I share Todd's enthusiasm and hopes for the Churchill Center. -Alexander Justice

*From: Blenheim74@aol.com*

I would have to agree with Todd. It would be "casting pearls before swine." Does anyone have influence with the committee which selects speakers to address The Commonwealth Club in California? Their broadcasts always command a wide and diverse audience. Perhaps those who have never given our man much thought would be inspired and enlightened. -Bob Martin

*From: 72124.3656@compuserve.com*

I hope the word "person" (of the century) was meant as a joke. Because that is just what anyone not locked in by the ideological straight jacket of deep feminism would think of such a contest. But then, I'm not much in favor of such a "contest" anyway. To be meaningful it would have to be international in scope. (Who cares or would be surprised if Britain's Parliament nominates Churchill?). That would be a problem precisely because the stakes would then be so high: those in favor of Churchill would be making a statement about the positive worth of Western Civilization. And can you imagine the howls and whines *that* would set off in something like the United Nations?-Jeff Wallin >>

From: SteveJNalker@mmacmail.jcabi.gov

Professor Wallin makes a good point about internationalizing the "Greatest Man." Thus China could nominate Mao Tse-tung (or, to truly take the long view, Sun Yat-sen); Russia could name Lenin (especially if the communists are back in power by then); the USA might nominate Roosevelt, Wilson, or even Kennedy (although many good historians would have trouble in coming up with a sufficient list of what JFK actually did to earn such an exalted rank). France would probably nominate de Gaulle. It's hard to tell whom the Germans would nominate. However, since Lady Thatcher is a Churchillian, and, with the number of prominent politicians in the USA who are Churchill aficionados, I think there's a chance that the US Congress might consider that, given his whole career, Churchill qualifies more than any homegrown candidates. -Steve Walker

From: jahvah@empirenet.com

The *clear* choice for Germans should be Konrad Adenauer. And I think Sir Winston would, today, replace the outmoded "man" with the more appealing "person." He was always able to identify an idea whose time had come. On the "poll," there is no need to go to Congress, or Parliament, but to *educate* people on great ideas and great people. Churchill provides a vehicle to do so. -Alexander Justice

From: Malakand@aol.com

Before PC, *Time* would simply identify its Human of the Year as "Man" or "Woman." Why not nominate one of each, avoiding the need for dreadful trendspeak like "person"? -Richard Langworth

From: Merrill37@aol.com

I agree in general with the feelings Todd Ronnei expressed last Saturday. Individuals like Churchill are unique, and whether from happenstance or the existence of some grand design!, emerge upon the stage of history like a Shakespearean character when the actor is given his cue. It's not the reviews which count; it's the performance. Winston Churchill did receive meaningful accolades during his lifetime, unlike some starving artist whose contributions are recognized only after his demise. And encouraging the continuation of Churchillian statesmanship will no doubt go far in preserving his distinguished place in the history of this century. -Merrill P. Malkerson

From: d-myers@genie.com

I must suggest that your apparent view that the Speaker of the House as the least popular politician

in America is, to say the least, a personal view. I would suggest that if there were a poll taken, it would show that there are many others far less popular than he. 29% still beats 10%. -Dan Myers

From: jahvah@empirenet.com

Who at *Time* does this nominating? Perhaps ICS can appoint its lobbying committee. I presume the only real competition is the most unworthy Bill Gates. In the meantime, ICS members and academic advisors can begin a support campaign for the ICS lobbying committee by writing to the *Time* committee (editors, presumably). -Alexander Justice

From: Andy Guilford

For the record, here is my list (There is some jest involved, and the obscure reference to Mrs. Everest betrays prejudice—I think William Manchester noted that she may have saved Europe by providing a mother's love to a boy in serious need of it.) 1. Winston Churchill; 2. Albert Einstein; 3. Martin Luther King, Jr.; 4. Dwight Eisenhower; 5. Mikhail Gorbachev; 6. Margaret Thatcher; 7. Mahatma Gandhi; 8. The Roosevelts (Franklin, Eleanor, Theodore); 9. Boris Yeltsin; 10. Henry Ford; 11. Thomas Edison; 12. Jonas Salk; 13. G. Bernard Shaw; 14. Konrad Adenauer; 15. Pope John XXIII; 16. C.S. Lewis; 17. Billy Graham; 18. Louis Armstrong; 19. Mother Teresa; 20. Mrs. Everest, and my parents.

From: roncohen@magi.com

To the extent that the question is what *Time* magazine's choice should be (rather than that of an independent entity) it should be remembered that, when *Time* made its choice in 1950, the two Roosevelt Presidents, at least, had completed their contributions; yet neither was seen to measure up to Churchill as "Man of the Half Century." Nor had Churchill's influence on Britain and the world ended at that moment.

It is hardly necessary to reiterate here his post-1950 achievements, including publication of the major part *The Second World War*, of which well over one million individual copies were sold; publication of *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*; winning the Nobel Prize for Literature; a second term in office, and so on.

For me, the question is whether any person in the second half of the century has measured up to *Time*'s choice for the first half, since I believe *Time* ought not to reopen the debate on 1900-1949. Our perspective on those same world players fifty years later

## CHURCHILL ONLINE *continued*

would be judged with different eyes and minds. I for one believe that the second half of the century has not produced an individual who merits the designation more than *Time's* choice for the first half of the century. -Ronald I. Cohen

*From: Pradera@aol.com*

Wouldn't Roosevelt be a worthy person to be on the list (both Roosevelts)? -Raymond Lavine

*From: Sheperw@CUA.edu*

Please, no Roosevelts or Kennedys. Working at an academic institution in DC, I am overburdened with the hero-worship of these people. In any event, does the "man of the century" have to have been a positive force or simply significant? In the latter sense, Lenin or Hitler would have to rank up there. Of course, I much prefer Churchill, and leave it at that. -William John Shepherd

*From: Angluclan@aol.com*

Both Roosevelts? Try all three! As a team, the three (Theodore, Franklin, Eleanor) place about eighth on my list. I am intrigued wondering which of the three you left out—only one 20th Century American is on Mount Rushmore... Ron Cohen is so correct in reminding us that *Time* magazine has already decided the issue for 1900-1949. I prefer to use the standard that limits candidates to those that are not evil (unlike *Time*), but Churchill wins for the century by any standard. -Andrew Guilford

*From: Rshephrd@aol.com*

I don't see anything wrong either with John Kennedy or for that matter Winston Churchill, in terms of greatness. Were they human? Mortal? Flawed? There's a danger in all hero-worship. Were they as great as Lincoln? Isn't there a danger in all this comparison?

As to the term "Person of the Century," what is that? A term now meaning maybe next to sainthood? It's acknowledged that America after FDR was utterly transformed from what it was before. However, most of the so-called unprecedented innovations he introduced were not at all that new. The British antedated the American New Deal by nearly thirty years. Any student of Winston Churchill (and Lloyd George, and Asquith, etc.) will know that. So these two good friends, each "former naval persons" in his respective country, could lay claim to ground-breaking social legislation.

Kennedy was indeed a true hero, but in terms of concrete accomplishments, there were not many. But Kennedy had something that was to inspire those who survived him—vision, hope and a dream of a better future. Kennedy had another foible. He was an unabashed admirer of Winston Churchill. I recall a discussion which compared the rhetorical style of Kennedy with that of Churchill. The author claimed to be able to trace a stylistic resemblance between them. -Bob Shepherd

## CHURCHILL & MOUNTBATTEN

*From: normanc@pacific.net.sg*

I found the Churchill webpage most interesting. I am currently working on my master's thesis on Mountbatten and the South East Asia Command. As you know, Mountbatten was Churchill's protégé and he would not have risen to such heights during World War II without Churchill's patronage.

My query is related to Mountbatten's appointment as Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia. Though Leo Amery had suggested Mountbatten, he was not Churchill's first choice. Others, like Sholto Douglas and Oliver Leese, were considered instead. In fact, not until the Quadrant Conference, while Churchill was on the *Queen Mary* enroute to Canada, did Churchill decide on Mountbatten. I think I have exhausted all available literature on the matter but I have yet to find a satisfactory answer on how Churchill arrived to this decision. Did he hesitate because of Mountbatten's involvement in the Dieppe disaster? Was it, as Brooke believed, an attempt to remove Mountbatten from the Chief of Staff Committee? Even Mountbatten, in a conversation with Ismay, thought he was being poleaxed; in fact he was, because Churchill never really considered the Burma campaign as his main priority. In general, I am very curious about the relationship between Churchill and Mountbatten.

-Norman Chua Ching Poo, Republic of Singapore

*From: Savrola99@aol.com*

Many Canadians not only wonder how Mountbatten got the Southeast Asia Command but also the Dieppe assignment, which cost us so many of our compatriots because of his inexperience and overweening ambition. It would appear that Churchill admired his aggressiveness, thinking he would turn southern England from a defensive bastion into a springboard into Europe, but also recognized that Lord Louis was a protege of Beaverbrook (until Dieppe) and that he was the darling of >>



# Yes, Churchill knew about the Holocaust; and contrary to popular belief, he tried to do something about it.

A LETTER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE BY DR. CYRIL MAZANSKY

**J**N the December 22nd New York Times Magazine, William vanden Heuvel -published an article, "The Holocaust Was No Secret," subtitled: "Churchill knew, we all knew, and we couldn't do anything about it—except win the war."

Quoting a forthcoming book, *The Myth of Rescue*, by William D. Rubenstein, which he claims is "the most significant new contribution to the history of the Holocaust," vanden Heuvel asserted that "no one plan or proposal made anywhere in the democracies by either Jews or non-Jewish champions of the Jews after the Nazi conquest of Europe could have rescued one single Jew who perished in the Holocaust."

Dr. Mazansky's letter to the Times Magazine refers to "Churchill and the Holocaust," a speech by Sir Martin Gilbert at the 1993 Churchill Conference, ICS Proceedings 1992-1993, available from Churchill Stores (address page 2):

**T**HAT Winston Churchill was aware of the Holocaust is certainly not news. Mr vanden Heuvel indicates that the recently released intercepts of the British Military Intelligence provide the public with information that makes it aware for the first time that the Allies knew of the onset of the Holocaust. This is incorrect.

In a speech to the International Churchill Society at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in late 1993, Sir Martin Gilbert gave an impressive

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Dr. Mazansky heads the Radiology Department at Carney Hospital, Boston. He is a director of the International Churchill Society and a governor of the Churchill Center.

overview of Churchill's knowledge of the Holocaust and of his personal efforts to ameliorate it. This speech has been published in the *Proceedings of the International Churchill Societies 1992-1993*, pages 38-61. In it Sir Martin provided the details of these intercepts.

**M**R. vanden Heuvel points out correctly that Churchill was a champion of the Jewish cause, but it is inaccurate to state that the only way Churchill could have helped was by winning the war. Certainly in magnitude and significance this was obviously the most important thing to do, but Churchill did not let it rest there. He made multiple and varied attempts, both on a small and large scale, to try to mitigate the effects of the Holocaust. Specific endeavors were proposed or projects actually instituted, often in opposition to the wishes and policies of the British civil and military bureaucracy and even of the American administration earlier on. Many such examples were quoted by Sir Martin. These examples would also, therefore, be a rebuttal of Professor Rubenstein's argument.

We must await the publication of Martin Gilbert's book, *Churchill and the Jews*, to get the complete picture. As Churchill's official biographer, as a leading authority on the Holocaust, and as one of the twentieth century's preeminent historians, Gilbert will undoubtedly provide more than sufficient evidence attesting to Churchill's lifelong efforts in support of the Jews and particularly his unrelenting human-rights efforts during World War II to save even a small fraction of them.

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## CHURCHILL ONLINE, *concluded*

President Roosevelt, who loved the British aristocracy. Mountbatten was an upstart to the General Staff. He breached many of their procedures for his own purposes. His rapid rise and behaviour at Dieppe caused General Sir Alan Brooke to question Mountbatten's competence in the presence of Churchill, Ismay and others at a dinner party at Chequers in December 1942. The role of Brooke in Churchill's decisions about Mountbatten should be explored.

There is evidence in the Ismay papers that Churchill was prepared to be quite critical of Mountbatten in his war memoirs but submitted to pressure from the younger man, who would perhaps blame Churchill himself, and so the former Prime Minister eventually accepted Mountbatten's complete rewriting of the account of Dieppe. Consult Brian Loring Villa's *Mountbatten and the Dieppe Raid*. It has some interesting insights into the Churchill, Mountbatten and Brooke situation.

-John Plumpton

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# BOOKS, ARTS & CURIOSITIES

## The One Indispensable Man

RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

**L**ORD Mountbatten recalled the relish with which Winston Churchill once conducted the "aye" team at an Oxford Union debate: "Resolved, the time is not ripe for a Labour Government." One can imagine the joy with which Churchill would have conducted a debate before publishers: "Resolved, a proper tribute to Harry Hopkins is long overdue."

Of course, Hopkins has had two good and full biographies (both entitled *Harry Hopkins*, by Henry H. Adams, 1977; and George Mcjimsey, 1987). But nothing specific on his World War II missions has been published, save references in Robert Sherwood's brilliant *Roosevelt and Hopkins*, and Sherwood's book is almost fifty years old. Since then, numerous new sources have come to light and Matthew Wills, a Friend of ICS, has tracked them down. Included among his primary sources are Robert Hopkins, Harry's son, with whom Wills spent many hours in conversation; and retired Flight Lt. David C. McKinley, DFC, RAF, Hopkins's pilot on a perilous and crucial flight to Russia in 1941.

Though this book is comprehensive, the type is small, resulting in a modest page count. A function of the compact text is a very reasonable price: low enough that there is no excuse for not acquiring a copy. The many photographs are excellent, and most of them will be new to readers. In sum, it is as important a work for the Churchill library as Alanbrooke's diary, Ismay's memoirs, and Jock Colville's three books of recollections. If you wish to know the Churchill of

World War II, you must know your Harry Hopkins.

Without Hopkins none can tell how the Churchill-Roosevelt relationship would have developed. Small in stature, pale and almost always ill, Hopkins seemed an unlikely ambassador between these two giants whose tremendous presences were



*Wartime Missions of Harry L. Hopkins*, by Matthew B. Wills, Raleigh, N.C.: Pentland Press, 92 pages, illus. Bookshop price \$17.95, ICS New Book Service price \$15. To order this book please telephone (603) 746-5606, fax (603) 746-4260 or contact the Editor.

always accompanied by ample doses of bonhomie, and egos matching their greatness. When Hopkins flew to London for his first meeting with the PM in January 1941, Brendan Bracken found him curled up on the plane, "appearing sick and shrunken, too exhausted to get out of his seat." One wonders if this was because of a

rough flight, or the assignment he knew he had from Roosevelt.

But Bracken, that canny judge of people, soon realized there was more to Hopkins than met the eye, informing Churchill that this worn out traveler was the most important American visitor Britain had ever had. With that kind of introduction Churchill would have treated anyone with deference, but to his delight he found in Hopkins a soulmate. Wills quotes the PM's private secretary, Jock Colville, on their first lunch together: "they were so impressed with each other that their *tete-a-tete* did not break up till nearly 4:00."

Hopkins was likewise impressed with his English host. "Churchill is the gov't in every sense of the word/' he wrote Roosevelt"—he controls the grand strategy and often the details—labor trusts him—the army, navy, air force are behind him to a man. The politicians and upper crust pretend to like him. I cannot emphasize too strongly that he is the one and only person over here with whom you need to have a full meeting of minds."

Hopkins himself was the one and only person to walk the tricky line between two great personalities who, however indispensable they were to each other/had potentially conflicting political agendas. On the one hand was Roosevelt of the Four Freedoms, champion of home rule, feeling as a surety that empires, Britain's included, were the root of the world's troubles; on the other was Churchill of the Marlboroughs, a royalist convinced of the British Empire as a civilizing boon to the human race: two navy men, devoted to their respective navies, yet, after Pearl Harbor, not necessarily sharing the identical strategic vision for the war in which they had found themselves allies.

Hopkins was indispensable. His first key act was to convince Roosevelt to ignore the advice of his ambassador in London, Joseph P. Kennedy, who said Britain was finished. Britain *did* have the will to win, Hopkins reported, and under



Churchill there would be no repeat of the French debacle. Hopkins's missions led to Lend-Lease, often panned today by young historians who are very wise after the fact—but which Churchill characterized as "the most unsordid act" of one nation toward another. Hopkins was at Argentia to smooth the communiqué of the Atlantic Charter, no easy task given the dichotomy of view between WSC and FDR over subjects like colonialism. Hopkins's pacifying influence was pervasive throughout the war. In 1944, he avoided a looming rupture in Anglo-American relations by convincing U.S. Admiral Leahy to cancel Admiral King's order to the U.S. Navy to cease supplying the British in Greece, where Churchill had unilaterally intervened against the ELAS communist rebels. Wills believes that this was potentially the most serious wartime breach between the two allies.

Nor did Hopkins's influence end with the death of Roosevelt; indeed, he was not close to him during the last year of FDR's life, and his contributions only reached their earlier level under Truman, who sent him to Moscow in June 1945. His mission was impossible: try to get Stalin to adhere to the Yalta commitment guaranteeing Polish democracy.

One of the special values of this book is its thorough description of what Hopkins and the Allies were up against. "These unprecedented meetings with Stalin failed to save Poland

from four decades of communist rule," concludes Wills, "but it is hard to believe that anyone could have obtained a genuine commitment from Stalin to allow free elections in that country."

Harry Hopkins died on 29 January 1946, the world he fought to create still unachieved. "We really believed in our hearts," he said, "that this was the dawn of a new day we had all been praying for and talking about for many years." Yet no one had contributed more than he to the Grand Alliance that had brought within reach the "broad sunlit uplands," which Churchill was confi-

dent in finding one day.

Revisers of history are inclined to minimize the role of Harry Hopkins—to write him off as a Roosevelt toady who led Churchill away from the realpolitik of disengagement with Hitler, toward a Britain shackled to the United States. None of them were there at the time. At the time things looked different. "No one at the time knew we were going to win," Lady Soames once said. "No one who was not there could fully appreciate the impact [Hopkins] made," reflected Pamela Harriman, "especially on the great war leader who would become his friend."

## Randolph: Another View

ANTHEA MORTON-SANER



Randolph, his cousin Johnny, Winston and Uncle Jack, Calgary, 1929. (Broadwater Collection, Churchill College Cambridge.)

IT is unlikely that anyone would have written, let alone wanted to read, a biography of Randolph had he not been the son of Winston S. Churchill. He was a minor politician, a journalist and the author of a dozen or so books, most significantly the first two volumes of the Official Biography of his father. Yet it is precisely because he is the son of Sir Winston that his life is so intriguing.

The notion of the burden of parental expectation is commonplace, but the history of the Churchill family suggests an alternative. Sir Winston himself felt a desperate need to be worthy of his own father's praise and admiration. Even in old age he records a dream in which he is justifying himself to Lord Randolph. (*The*

*His Father's Son: The Life of Randolph Churchill*, by Winston S. Churchill, MP, London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 514 pages, illus. Bookshop price £20. ICS New Book Service price \$38.

*Dream*, available from Churchill Stores. -Ed.) Imagine what it is like to be his son. Inevitably, whatever Randolph did with his life, he would feel the shade of failure, but his father's dominant character gave him an ambitious energy, rather than, as one might suppose, the easy acceptance of privilege.

We all know the history and think that we know the characters. Randolph's son does not try to hide his father's drinking, gambling and often boorish behaviour—it is a "warts and all" portrait—but by drawing on previously unpublished family papers, the reader gets an inkling of understanding of this generous but insecure human being, and is provided with a unique insight into history as seen from the dinner as opposed to the Cabinet table.

*Reviews continue overleaf >>*

Editor's note: If it seems like you're reading a second review, you are: our friend Anthea Morton-Saner, a literary agent at Curtis-Brown, London, sent us this review before we published our own in the last issue, and we misplaced it.

## Old Titles Reviewed:

# "The Dreary Steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone"

GEORGE RICHARD

**A**LTHOUGH it is three decades old, Mary Bromage's *Churchill and Ireland* is useful for anyone who wants to know where Churchill stood on Ireland and its social and political convolutions—or who simply cannot understand the inter-necine "Troubles" which have beset Ireland in the 20th century—this volume is ideal.

Churchill's involvement with Ireland and its sad, tragic story, began in the 1870s when his father and family spent some three years in Dublin. From there, Mary Bromage follows Churchill's Irish participation through the Great War, the founding of the Irish Free State in 1921, World War II, and his retirement.

Throughout, one constant tenet of Churchill's political creed vis-à-vis Ireland was the well-being of Britain; any change in the political structure of the Emerald Isle should be permitted only if such change can be shown not to be detrimental to the integrity of the United Kingdom as a whole.

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*Churchill and Ireland*, Mary C. Bromage, South Bend, Indiana: The University of Notre Dame Press 1964, 222 pages. Redbum 184. Frequency: scarce.

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This approach, for someone in Churchill's position, is natural and indeed quite correct; a politician, particularly a member of the Government, who wittingly made concessions which weakened his own country would be most unlikely to have much of a future in politics. Nevertheless this fundamental belief has to be borne in mind when considering any of Churchill's actions in relation to Ireland and its politics, its economy and its seemingly interminable fratricide.

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Mr. Richard writes regularly for *Finest Hour* from Tasmania, Australia.

*"I remember on the eve of the Great War we were gathered together at a Cabinet meeting in Downing Street, and for a long time, an hour or an hour and a half, after the failure of the Buckingham Palace Conference, we discussed the boundaries of Fermanagh and Tyrone. Both of the great political parties were at each other's throats. The air was full of talk of civil war. Every effort was made to settle the matter and bring them together. The differences had been narrowed down, not merely to the counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone, but to parishes and groups of parishes inside the areas of Fermanagh and Tyrone. And yet, even when the differences had been so narrowed down, the problem appeared to be as insuperable as ever, and neither side would agree to reach any conclusion.*

*"Then came the Great War. Every institution, almost, in the world was strained. Great Empires have been overturned. The whole map of Europe has been changed. The position of countries has been violently altered. The modes of thought of men, the whole outlook on affairs, the grouping of parties, all have encountered violent and tremendous changes in the deluge of the world.*

*"But as the deluge subsides and the waters fall short, we see the dreary steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone emerging once again. The integrity of their quarrel is one of the few institutions that has been unaltered in the cataclysm which has swept the world.*

WSC, SECOND READING OF THE IRISH FREE STATE BILL,  
HOUSE OF COMMONS, 16 FEBRUARY 1922

Lord Randolph Churchill's 1886 words, "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right," referred to the question of Home Rule for the whole of Ireland. When in 1912 his son, in Belfast, quoted his father's words, he was referring rather to the partition of Ireland into a Catholic South and a Protestant North. Not all agreed: Winston and his wife were pelted with rotten fish as they boarded their ship for the return trip to England.

The next thirty years led to the divided Ireland we know today. The boundaries controversy alluded to above by Churchill subsided during World War I, but quickly reemerged, and in 1920 the Government of Ireland Act offered partition as a fact of life. The following year, the Anglo-Irish Treaty created the Irish Free State. One of the Irish leaders with whom Churchill dealt over the Irish Treaty was Michael Collins, the Irish Republican Army gunman turned negotiator who was assassinated shortly afterwards by his own com-

rades for his efforts. On his deathbed he said, "Tell Winston we could have done nothing without him."

In the 1930s a border treaty was signed, and in 1937 the Irish Free State wrote itself a new constitution, changing the country's name to today's Eire. Nineteen thirty-eight saw completion of Anglo-Irish agreements which, *inter alia*, meant the relinquishment of Irish ports upon which Britain had depended in World War I. For much of this period Churchill was out of office, but in or out of power he maintained his involvement and interest in Ireland. His sense of history and of justice made him strive to ensure that any change in the status quo did not unduly prejudice either Ulster or Eire. In particular he believed the Loyalists of Northern Ireland should not be coerced into unwanted reunion with their former compatriots in the South, although he did believe that unification would come by free will one day. >>

## Churchill and Ireland...

With the outbreak of World War II the Irish ports assumed even greater significance. Churchill by then was back in the Government and in a position to become actively involved in negotiations. Queens-town and Berehaven in particular, being in the south coast, were ideally situated for refuelling purposes by the Royal Navy, extending the range of the ships used to escort trans-Atlantic convoys and reducing the chance of loss to U-boats.

A darker side of the ports question was the possibility of their use by the German Navy. Though Ireland had proclaimed neutrality, there was a real risk of the ports falling into German hands, either as the result of invasion or by action by the IRA. Aware of the danger, Churchill worked hard to gain some concession

from the Irish leader Eamon De Valera, but was only partially successful. His approaches on the same topic to Franklin Roosevelt similarly met with limited success. It would of course have been quite possible for Britain to have seized the ports, but when this was suggested Churchill refused even to consider such a course, saying that this was just the sort of thing he was fighting against.

In the event, the lack of Irish ports was overcome by the combination of using ports in Ulster, rerouting convoys and improving ship design and construction. If World War II saw the peak of Churchill's career, then the ports in the south of Eire were perhaps the crux of his dealings with that country.

On Ireland as on so many subjects Churchill's consistency of approach emerges: that of an Englishman who is also a politician. He

endeavours to deal fairly with a complex issue, sometimes with people less than congenial to him, but with the overriding requirements of the security and good of Britain herself. The sheer length of time over which he was connected either intimately or peripherally with the "Irish Question" and the "Troubles" shows that Churchill was unique among British politicians in this as in so many other things.

I was in Dublin in September 1969, just after the present "Troubles" began. Enroute to town from the airport I asked my taxi driver's opinion on the renewed terrorism. He thought for a bit then said, "They're all bloody mad." He didn't say anything else for the rest of the trip, and didn't need to; he'd said it all quite succinctly. It is not inconceivable that Churchill may have had at times a similar opinion. \$

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## WOODS CORNER

A BOOK COLLECTOR COLUMN, NAMED FOR THE LATE BIBLIOGRAPHER, FRED WOODS

### THE CULLING OF GREAT CONTEMPORARIES

WHEN Churchill first published his collection of essays on the great personages of his time, he included two feisty columns on Russians. The counterrevolutionary Boris Savinkov, who was lured back to Russia and destroyed by Stalin, Churchill described as "that extraordinary product—a Terrorist for moderate aims." The Bolshevik Trotsky) Whom Stalin had assassinated soon after the publication of Churchill's book, was represented as "a skin of malice stranded for a time on the shores of the Black Sea and now washed up in the Gulf of Mexico."

In 1938 Churchill produced a revised and extended edition, in which he introduced Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whom he described in diffident terms, questioning parts of the New Deal: "There can never be good wages or good

employment for any length of time without good profits, and the sooner this is recognized, the sooner the corner will be turned."

Events conspired to revise *Great Contemporaries*. After Hitler invaded Russia in June 1941 and the Prime Minister found himself Stalin's ally, he concluded that it would be impolitic to continue the essays on Stalin's old enemies. Accordingly, when the London Reprint Society and World Books issued new editions in 1941, Savinkov and Trotsky were expunged from the contents. In December 1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and Roosevelt too became Churchill's companion in arms. So the Macmillan edition of *Great Contemporaries*, issued early in 1942, deleted FDR as well as the Russians.

By war's end Churchill presumably concluded that these diplomatic niceties were superfluous, and with the new Odhams Edition of 1947, Roosevelt, Trotsky and Savinkov were all reinstated. They remain in every edition of *Great Contemporaries*

published to date, along with the other three, less controversial characters added to the 1938 edition.

An odd discovery concerns the Macmillan issue of 1942. I recently noticed that the white dust jacket (wrapper) to this smallish book has two states. The first state fails to omit Roosevelt from the front flap copy. The line reads, "...George Bernard Shaw, Lawrence of Arabia, King George V. [including the period] and Roosevelt." The back face promotes this same *Great Contemporaries* among three other works available from Macmillan.

We must conclude that Roosevelt was a last minute deletion, probably in the wake of Pearl Harbor. The second state jacket reads... "...Lawrence of Arabia and King George V." Also, on the back face, *Thoughts and Adventures* has replaced the blurb for *Great Contemporaries*.

There is no difference in flap prices (8/6) nor any difference in the books underneath, FDR being of course excluded from both. I am confident the djs were always on these books. Please check your copies and let us know if you confirm this thesis. RML \$

# Aquascaping on a Churchillian Scale: "77nis is an Orfe-ful Place<sup>1</sup>/"

DOUGLAS J. HALL

**C**ONTEMPLATING the desolation of my garden pond during the drought of 1995, I was reminded of the words of Capt. Robert Scott, the polar explorer, written at the South Pole in 1912: "Great God! This is an awful place!"

The summer of 1995 brought the longest drought experienced in eastern England for over thirty years. The flow of water in the stream feeding my pond gradually diminished and finally dried up altogether. Such an event had been unknown in living memory—and living memory around here includes several nonagenarians.

Without the sustaining stream the water level in the pond dropped rapidly. For a few days I tried to avoid disaster by running a hose-pipe from the garden tap into the pond, but even with the water meter spinning expensively I was making no headway. The Golden Orfe with which I'd stocked my pond resisted being netted—although where could one find alternative accommodation for more than two dozen fairly large fish? Inevitably the oxygen level in the depleted volume of water became too low. My hapless colony of Golden Orfe were gasping for breath and life whilst I watched equally haplessly. It was a mournful task to recover the bodies of almost thirty of these beautiful fish from the depressing detritus of the dried-up pond.

My Golden Orfe project had begun fourteen years previously. On moving house to Grantham, Derbyshire, I acquired a small stream which rises from a spring on the side of Somerby Hill to flow through my garden towards the River Witham in the valley below. The garden is not, of course, on the Chartwell scale—it is in fact 250 times smaller. Still, by damming the stream I could create a




Orfe at play, c.1988. The plastic hoop marks the dining room; the fish quickly learn where to congregate for meals. It has the advantage that uneaten food can be netted off, preventing water pollution from the decaying matter.

lake; or if not a lake, at least a respectable pond. In that pond I could establish a colony of Golden Orfe at least as magnificent as those at Chartwell. Then, with the pond planted all around with every example from that vast range of shrubs and flowers which have been named in honour of Sir Winston Churchill, I could add an exciting dimension to my indoor collection of Churchill memorabilia: an outdoor exhibit of "Churchilliana Live."

I took up my project with great enthusiasm. Much digging, damming, wall building and rockery construction ensued over several months. With the transformation almost complete, a sudden heavy thunderstorm turned the normally gently flowing stream into a raging torrent which comprehensively demolished my proud creation. Bloodied but unbowed I began again, and this time built everything twice as strong. The following winter, after a period of heavy snow, the meltwater turned the placid stream into an even greater torrent. Rocks which I had barely been able to lift were tossed several yards downstream. I now know why the rocks at Chartwell are so large...

Never Despair! I studied hydraulics and fluid mechanics. I worked out an ingenious system whereby the normal flow of the stream could be allowed to trickle through the pond but any greater deluge of water would be diverted along a deep and heavily fortified overflow channel. The pond surrounds were planted and water lilies and other aquatic species established to provide an environment suitable for fish. When all was ready the first six Golden Orfe were carefully transported from the local Water Garden Centre and introduced to their new home. Although only 4-5 inches long, they were an instant delight as they whipped through the water and readily rose to take pelleted food.

Soon the Golden Orfe were happily sharing the pond with families of frogs and toads and within two years had grown to 8-9 inches. They were now of breeding age but showed no inclination to multiply. I discovered that Golden Orfe will rarely breed in an outdoor pond in the northern counties of Britain. So I added another batch of fry bought from a commercial breeder and did the same each year for a few years. In time my family of Golden Orfe ranged in size from 3-4 inches up to 20-24 inches. I introduced a breeding pair of Common Goldfish, and another of Golden Rudd, which added some variety to the life in the pond as well as the prospect of some spawning activity. The fish coexisted quite peacefully and their different lifestyles added greatly to the enjoyment of pond-watching. Then came the trauma of 1995.

I remember Churchill's advice to the Boys at Harrow School in October 1941: "Never give in, never, never, never..." Those words had often fortified me over the years. They did so again. The water in the stream is now flowing again. The pond has been cleaned out, replanted and restocked. The newly-introduced fish are smaller, but they will grow. All I need now is a few years' freedom from another drought... 

Mr. Hall is *FH's* Features Editor.

Churchill Commemoratives Calendar Part 3:1939-1941

**T**HE first two years of World War U saw a flood of Churchill ceramics from potteries large and small, famous and unknown. This was in spite of the fact that most of the pre-war producers of decorative pottery had switched a considerable part of their output to highly specialised ceramic wares essential to the war effort: laboratory porcelain, porous diaphragms, electrolytic cells, sparking plugs, electrical insulators and many other components to replace items formerly made of metal, rubber or other materials in short supply.

**I**T was recognised that an output of patriotic items, morale-boosting icons, also had an important part to play. During the early part of the period wartime restrictions prohibited the production of decorated china for the UK market (although colouring for export, notably to the United States, was permitted). However, the embargo was soon partially lifted when it was realised that the national esprit de corps would benefit if the "Churchills" on everybody's sideboard were coloured rather than just plain white. This selection represents just a few of the many pieces produced between 1939 and 1941.



LEFT: A 1939 character jug from Shorter's, six inches tall, first to celebrate Churchill's reappointment as First Lord of the Admiralty: rather inaccurately and unsympathetically painted. Fielding's (Crown Devon) produced a similar jug using the same mould but with altogether superior paintwork. Some of the Fielding's jugs had a clockwork musical movement. Last sighting on the UK secondary market, £225. CENTRE: The 1939 "Colossus Churchill," maker unknown. Churchill stands astride "HMS Winston." Very rare. About £40 when last seen. RIGHT: The third of the 1939 trio and undoubtedly the best Embassy Ware from Kirkland's. This uncoloured version is very rare, about £145 in the UK and (Carmichael Catalogue) \$300 in the USA. I also have an exceedingly rare coloured version, the only one I have ever seen.



LEFT: Wilton Pottery, 1940, seven inches tall, backstamped "Never was so much owed by so many to so few." Wilton also produced a coloured version with different facial moulding and a cigar in Churchill's mouth. This variation is very rare: UK value £100+. CENTRE: Also from Wilton Pottery and made in 1940, with the same backstamp as above. This piece is quite nicely coloured—the George Robey eyebrows look much worse on the photograph than on the actual jug. Rare—no recent UK sightings. RIGHT: ModeUed by Frank Potts for Meakins, 1941. Issued in two monochrome colours and all-white. Value today is around £120 in the UK



LEFT: John Beswick, 1941 (part of the Royal Doulton Group since 1973). Also backstamped "Cee Pee Ware." The scroll reads, "We shall fight on the beaches, the landing grounds, in the fields, in the streets, and on the hills, we shall never surrender—Churchill 1940." Very rare. Current UK value £200-£250. CENTRE: Superb 1941 issue by Kirklands, 10 1/2 inches tall. The top hat is removable. Excellent paintwork. Quite rare. UK value £150+. RIGHT: Designed in 1941 by Eric Olsen for Copeland Spode. Also issued in an uncoloured version. One of a pair, the other jug depicting Franklin Roosevelt. The coloured version was listed recently in a London dealer's catalogue at £275 and the white version seen at an antiques fair for £145.

The Beswick jug remained in production until 1954. And who can forget that 1941 also saw the launch of Harry Fenton's famous toby jug, in three sizes, by Royal Doulton, destined to be in production fifty years until 1991!

## Osprey\* Corner, Part 5 and the Last



**T**HIS fine biscuit tin was first issued in 1965. It remained on sale for several years and, I believe, was reissued briefly in 1974. It was sold in large, medium and small sizes (those on offer, illustrated at left, are the medium size 9 x 8 1/2 x 2 1/2 inches).

The tin carries on the lid a splendid full-colour portrait of Sir Winston Churchill taken by Yousuf Karsh of Ottawa. Churchill is seated, wearing evening dress with the sash riband and breast star of the Order of the Garter, the collar badge of the Order of Merit and a selection of his other decorations and medals.

On the table at his left is the Town Crier's bell presented to Churchill by the Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg on 7 December 1955.

Churchill was the first recipient of the Williamsburg Award. The bell is inscribed, "...for his unexampled contribution in our time to the historic struggle of men to live, free and self-respecting, in a just society." In accepting the bell from Winthrop Rockefeller, the clearly delighted Churchill said, "Its silver tone is gentle and I shall ring it, I can assure you, whenever I feel there is duty to be done." After the presentation Churchill left the Drapers' Hall smiling broadly and vigorously ringing the bell.

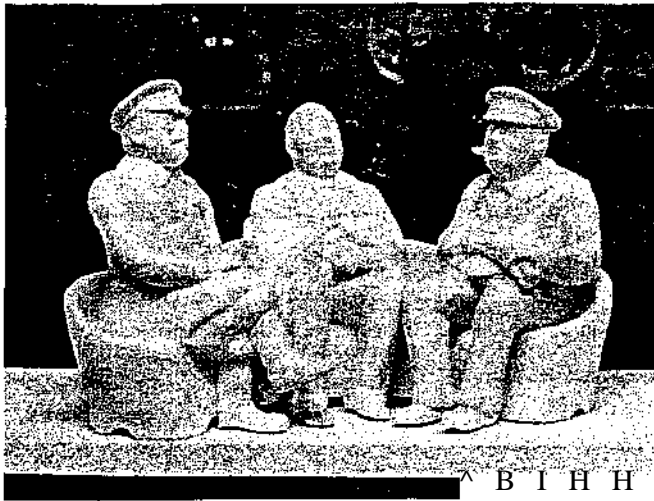
Around the sides of the tin are nine cameo illustrations in red, black and gold of scenes from Churchill's life. I have seen this tin in US catalogues at \$40-\$50. I have also seen it offered by a London dealer at £30.

The OSPREY reserve price including shipping to North America or anywhere in the Commonwealth is £15, which includes a donation of £5 to ICS United Kingdom funds. Two examples are available. Best bid(s) at or above the reserve price received within six weeks of publication of this issue will win. Do not send money with bids—winning bidders will be notified. Bids in sterling preferred—those in other denominations should add the equivalent of £5 to cover currency conversion charges. Write to me, address on page 2. If demand is high I may be able to secure additional examples.

The Official Society for the Prevention of Rip-offs to Expatriates and Yanks (OSPREY) was established to provide Churchilliana to readers of *Finest Hour* at prices lower than some of the ones I have seen in catalogues and auctions. Owing to limited response I am terminating this service effective this issue. I thank those who participated, helping to raise a nice contribution to the funds of ICS United Kingdom.



## Help Wanted: Identifying Ronald Smith's Yalta Triptych



**A** RECENT centrepiece of the window display in Ronald Smith's new and larger commemoratives emporium at Camden Passage Antiques Market, London, is the superb white china triple figure above. Measuring thirteen inches across and standing just over six inches tall, the piece depicts Josef Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill at the Yalta Conference in February 1945.

In fact the sculptor appears to have used as references group photographs of both the Yalta Conference and the Teheran Conference of November 1943. Stalin's high-buttoned tunic, boots and cap of a Marshal of the Soviet Union were in evidence on both occasions; the filing Roosevelt certainly appeared swathed in a cloak at Yalta, but Churchill's rather spurious uniform seems to derive more from his presence as an Air Commodore of the Royal Air Force at Teheran than from anything he wore at the Yalta photo call.

This is a very finely modelled piece but completely unmarked. Who was the sculptor? Where and when was it made? Is it unique or are there other examples? Ronald Smith

acquired the sculpture from a Danish dealer. He thinks it may have been modelled and potted in Denmark but cannot be certain. Nor can we be sure about the date. Thus far our attempts to establish the provenance of the piece have brought no result. "It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery

inside an enigma," As Churchill said.

If any reader can provide any information about the origin of this piece, Ronald Smith will be delighted to have it. (Write to me, address on page 2.)

" Our England is a  
Garden " -Kipling



**T**HE Baytree Nurseries Garden Centre near Spalding is the largest establishment of its kind in Lincolnshire, and probably one of the largest of its kind anywhere in the British Isles.

Baytree's German-born proprietor, Reinhardt Biehler, is an ardent Churchillian. His promotional displays are created by the same team which is responsible for window displays at top London department stores such as Harrods.

In 1994 the centrepiece of the Garden Centre's lavish Christmas display was formed around a life-size waxworks model of Sir Winston Churchill which had been obtained on loan from the famous Madame Tussaud's wax figures exhibition in London. The occasion was the 120th anniversary of Churchill's birth but, more than that, Mr Biehler knew that the image of Winston Churchill would attract the attention of that generation of Englishmen and women which provides the bulk of national expenditure on all things horticultural.

Sir Winston was back on display at Baytree in the autumn of 1996. This time the waxworks model was dressed in a large floppy hat and white smock (looking remarkably like the Bairstow Pottery "Winston the Artist" china figure) and seated at an easel in a woodland glade, "painting" a large poster illustrating the "Sir Winston Churchill" narcissus.

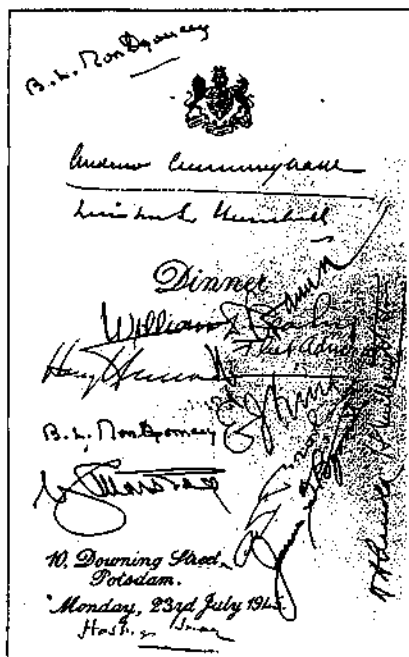
Around the panorama were several large, frequently replenished baskets of bulbs with notices inviting customers to pick their own selection, ten bulbs for £1, with discounts available for large quantities.

Mr. Biehler explained: "Sir Winston Churchill is always one of the ten top-selling varieties of narcissi. I thought that a little special extra promotion might not go amiss this year."

Judging by the activity around the display during my visit, I would guess that the gardens of Lincolnshire, and surrounding counties, will be putting on many a brave show of these delightful tall creamy-white, orange-cupped, double flowers in April 1997. Afterwards, left undisturbed, they will multiply and provide an annual source of pleasure for many years.

*continued overleaf»*

## Price the Name—Then Name the Price



**A**T Christies South Kensington in May 1995, a page from the autograph album of Churchill's wartime Chief Steward, Mark Pinfield, came up for auction. It contained the signatures of Churchill, Roosevelt, Truman, Stalin and Attlee. The lot included five other items of ephemera relating to the Potsdam Conference. The price paid was £20,250, a new record for Churchilliana, with some assistance from four other notable names of the era.

When Christies' catalogue arrived for their sale on 17 November 1995, at the same auction room, I found that another memento from the Potsdam Conference was on offer. No doubt attracted by the price realised six months earlier, the lot had come from Russia. It had originally been given to the vendor by Ella Zhukova, the daughter of former Marshal of the Soviet Union Gen. Grigory Zhukov. It was described as "an important seating plan and music programme" for a dinner hosted by Winston Churchill at "10, Downing Street, Potsdam"

on Monday 23 July 1945. It consisted of a single piece of card folded down the centre to give four 8x5-inch pages. On the front were the signatures of Winston Churchill, Josef Stalin, Harry Truman, Bernard Montgomery (twice), Henry Maitland Wilson, Andrew Cunningham, William Leahy, George Marshall, James Byrnes, Alan Brooke, Ernest King, Hastings Ismay and Henry Arnold. Discreetly and modestly tucked away on the otherwise blank back page was the signature of Mary Churchill, now Lady Soames. Included in the lot was a separate signed photograph of General Zhukov. Churchill's signature was claimed to be the last he had given in his capacity as World War II Prime Minister, since four days later he lost the 1945 election to Clement Attlee.

Christies' estimate was £10,000-£15,000 which, in the light of the price realised in May, I adjudged to be one of their "come-on" devices designed to attract a full sale-room. There would certainly be no point in my attending the sale! The lot was sold, in the event, for a remarkable £21,375, comfortably exceeding the previous record.

With the exception of Churchill's, none of the thirteen signatures has a great value by itself. For example, a recent catalogue issued by a leading British autograph specialist listed Montgomery and Wilson at £10 (\$16) each, Ismay at £25 (\$40) and Alanbrooke at £40 (\$65). In this case the apparently compulsive attraction of Churchill's autograph and the scarce combination of signatures on a document relating to an interesting historical event evidently attracted at least two determined bidders. That was all that was needed to give Christies, and the vendor, just the result they had hoped for. \$

## The Poet's Corner: D. Peter Ford

Never did any in word or deed  
So many pages of history fill  
As the man whom Providence decreed  
By courage, fortitude and will,  
With countenance of bulldog breed,  
As Sir Winston Spencer Churchill.

A man who stoutly stood alone  
In his country's darkest hour,  
Allegiance sworn to defend the throne  
Against the awesome Nazi power,  
A lifeline to all of Europe thrown,  
From a man who would not cower.

Armed with little but determination,  
The great man spoke for all,  
As he rallied an unyielding nation,  
Its back against the wall,  
To fight for the freedom of civilisation  
Was the old bulldog's rallying call.

A man who realised his own worst fear  
As the Luftwaffe daily came  
In that precarious Battle Year,  
To bomb our cities, kill and maim  
When the island which he held so dear  
Tottered from Axis bomber planes.

Not screaming bomb nor incendiary  
Could deter him from the fray,  
His defiant spirit would never appease  
That fearsome German beast of prey  
Or see his beloved country writhe,  
While he held her fortunes in his sway.

He made a pledge and by it stood,  
Offering nought but blood and tears,  
If given the tools for the job he would  
Destroy the Reich of 1000 Years,  
Whose foundations were cast in  
Europe's blood  
Deprivation, misery and fears.

No, never did any man in word or deed  
So many pages of history fill,  
In his country's most critical hour of need  
As Sir Winston Spencer Churchill.

*Sent to us by Keith Moss of Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK, who unites: "I showed my friend Mr. Ford's poem to Mrs. Kay of ICS, UK, who liked it and advised me to send it to you in the hope that it will be published in Finest Hour." We are tardy in doing so, but are grateful for the contribution. \$*

## CHURCHILL TRIVIA

EDITED BY CURT ZOLLER

*Curt relieves Barbara Langworth after 744 questions! Our thanks to Barbara. Virtually all questions can be answered in back issues of Finest Hour or other ICS/CC publications, but it's really not cricket to look.*

*Twenty-four questions appear in each issue, the answers in the following issue. Question categories are: Contemporaries (C), Literary (L), Miscellaneous (M), Personal (P), Statesmanship (S) and War (W).*

745. Who introduced Churchill on 12 December 1900 at his speech at the Waldorf-Astoria Ballroom? (C)

746. Which military installation did Churchill visit in the United States on 13 Nov. 1895? (M)

747. Where was Churchill taken after being run down by a New York taxi on 13 Dec. 1931? (P)

748. When and to whom did WSC write "I pursue profit not pleasure in the States this time"? (L)

749. What does Churchill's quote to the press, "I plead, I pray, that time and tolerance will not be denied," refer to? (S)

750. On what occasion did Churchill write, "I consider myself a Democrat as far as American politics are concerned"? (P)

751. Who (all) joined Churchill on a camel ride visiting the Pyramids on 15 Feb. 1921? (P)V

752. What was the occasion for Churchill's "We shall defend our island, and, with the British Empire around us, we shall fight on unconquerable until the curse of Hitler is lifted from the brows of men"? (S)

753. General Ismay was concerned that Churchill's staff might develop into a "Garden Suburb." What was the "Garden Suburb"? (M)

754. Who succeeded Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty when he resigned in May 1915? (P)

755. Who wrote the first poem about Winston S. Churchill? (L)

756. What is Churchill's connection with A.P. Herbert's book *The Secret Battle*? (L)

757. Where did Churchill write about heroism of the Medical Staff in action? (L)

758. Whom did Churchill identify as "the resuscitation of the Pan-European idea"? (C)

759. What is the English title of *Grosse Zeitgenossen*? (L)

760. How much money had been allocated from the National Lottery to purchase the Churchill papers from WSC's grandson? (M)

761. What is the name of the student who interviewed Churchill for a college newspaper in 1901? (L)

762. What was the slogan of the Churchill badge for the 1951 election? (L)

763. Which American general said of Churchill, "He was unusually well informed on American affairs, he showed a keen interest in our plans and prospects"? (M)

764. How did Churchill support "continental commitment"? (S)

765. What was "Operation Dynamo" & who commanded it? (W)

766. What was the Political Warfare Executive and who directed it? (W)

767. What was the G.C. & C. S. and where was it located? (W)

768. What did Churchill and Lord Fisher do in 1913 to increase the speed of British dreadnoughts? (W)

ANSWERS TO LAST TRIVIA:

(721) Austin Chamberlain called WSC "as cross as a bear with a sore head."

(722) *Blenheim* is a spinoff of *Marlborough*. (723) Churchill first came to America on the liner *Etruria*. (724)

Winston's Harrow nickname was "Copperknob" for his red hair. (725)

Speaking about the Soviets Churchill said: "There is nothing they admire so much as strength and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness." (726) 14,000 British troops were in Russia when Churchill became Minister of War in 1919. (727) Arthur Balfour was First Lord of the Admiralty when the Dardanelles campaign was abandoned. (728)

"Writing a book is an adventure. To begin with it is a toy, an amusement; then it becomes a mistress..." (729)

Because of hostile crowds in Egypt, WSC rode in an armoured car and was not able to paint. (730) About 1.5 million documents are in the Churchill Archives. (731) Churchill was honored by a ticker tape parade in New York City on 15 March 1946. (732) The ground floor offices above the War Rooms were known as No. 10 Annex. (733) Lady Lavery started Churchill's painting career. (734) Churchill said the *Manchester Guardian* was "the best newspaper in the world." (735)

Churchill wrote "Finis" in the Chequers visitors' book on 29 July 1945. (736) Clementine objected to WSC's purchasing Chartwell because she wasn't consulted and didn't think it affordable. (737) The 1926 General Strike was a consequence of returning England to the gold standard. (738)

"It would be a great pity to stuff the Polish goose so full of food that it died of indigestion." (739) Alanbrooke said Churchill was "the most difficult man I have ever served, but thank God for having given me the opportunity." (740) *The Unknown War* was the alternate title for *The Eastern Front*. (741) Columbia was the first country to honor Churchill on a postage stamp, in 1945. (742) Glasgow University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) upon Clementine Churchill in 1947. (743) "Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say 'this was their finest hour.'" (744)

Churchill moved that the House "attend the church of St. Margaret, Westminster to give thanks for our deliverance from the threat of domination" at the end of World War II. His morion duplicated that made at the end of World War I. \$

# Churchill in Stamps: Yalta to Potsdam

BY RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

## Pages 235-240: LATE WARTIME CONFERENCES

Catalogue numbers are Scott (#) and Stanley Gibbons (sg). A slash mark (/) indicates a set with a common design from which any value is usable. Cams and Minkus catalogue numbers are sometimes used, and identified by name.

These pages are not in the chronological order we have pursued in previous columns because they were created recently with new acquisitions, some of the stamps issued on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. (I sweat whole blood finding the DDR Potsdam stamps on page 239). The pages do, however, constitute a chronological sequence from Yalta to Potsdam, and the end of the period I have entitled "Apogee.."

235. Russia #666 (sg 799) offers a view of Yalta, site of the penultimate wartime conference. This is linked to artistic (Antigua & Barbuda 1982 Roosevelt commemorative) and photographic (Nicaragua #2358, sg 1910) portrayals of the Yalta Big Three and, to illustrate Stalin's intentions for Poland, a set of Polish stamps exalting the Soviet Union's style of socialism: Poland #451-53 (sg 646-48).

236. This famous photo of World War II has been used, or was the basis of, dozens of stamps. A 1995 souvenir sheet by St. Vincent & the Grenadines adapted it, inappropriately, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE-Day. After Yalta it was fairly well assured that Europe was not out of the woods by any means in 1945.

237. This page devoted to the death of Roosevelt takes as its quote: quote Churchill's comment in *Triumph and Tragedy* about Mi last meeting with the President, in Alexandria. Stamps are Dominica #407 (sg 436), Liberia #696 (sg 1009), El Salvador #606/11 (sg 965/70) and Nicaragua #C272-76 (sg1080-84).

238. Churchill's noble tribute to FDR is accompanied by more stamps from El Salvador's FDR set, #606/11 (sg 965/70.) along with a label promoting stamp collecting, Antigua & Barbuda's 1982 Roosevelt issue, and Upper Volta #349. The El Salvador stamps, by Waterlow & Sons of London; are quite magnificent.

239. A triptych from the former East Germany, DDR #1226-28 (sg E1319-21) dominates this page on Potsdam. The Big Three are Russia #1699 (sg 1833), St. Vincent Grenadines sg 56 (Minkus 55) and Israel #561 (sg 595). At bottom are Austria #B 172/8 (sg 977-84) mopping up the Nazis, and Poland #B40 (sg 533) promoting a Red workers conference.

240. The last two Nazi stamps issued are Germany #B292-3 (sg 897-98). Another Austrian victory stamp from the set #B 172/8 (sg 977-84) is linked to a recent, colorful quartet from the Marshall Islands showing, among other scenes, the German surrender. De Tassigny, France #B442 (sg 1876), led the French into Berlin on 8 May 1945.

(To be continued)

FINEST HOUR 93/44

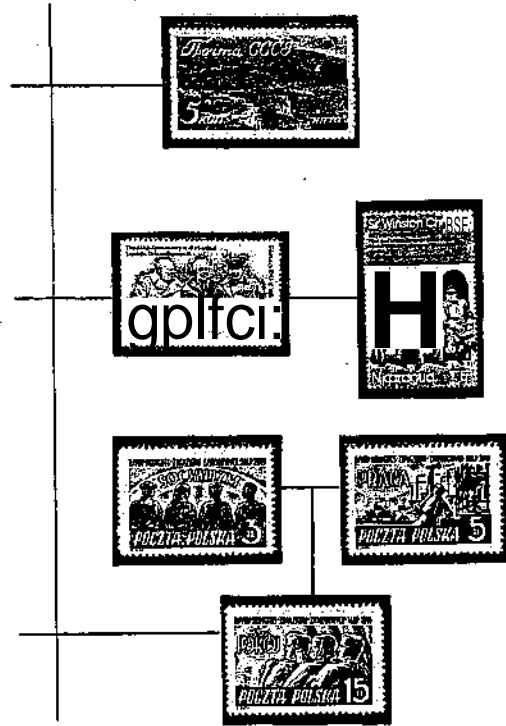
235.

236.

Apogee  
YALTA RENDEZVOUS  
Since Stalin maintained that war duties prevented him from leaving Russia, the Big Three determined to meet at Yalta, the Soviet resort city in the Crimea on the Black Sea, where the Czar had holidayed in bygone days.

At Yalta, the Soviet headquarters were in the Yusupov Palace, while Roosevelt was housed in the even more elaborate Livadia Palace. In a portent of the conference to come, Churchill and his party were assigned to a villa five miles away.

The big issue was Poland: the placement of her postwar boundaries, which Stalin wanted to shift to the west at the expense of Germany. Russia taking former Polish territory in the East, Stalin also favored the Lublin provisional Polish government composed largely of Communists, who would safely direct the country's postwar affairs.



Apogee  
YALTA DECLARATION  
•When a Polish Provision Government of National Unity has been properly formed, the Government of the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States will establish diplomatic relations, and will exchange ambassadors...The three heads of Governments consider that the eastern frontier of Poland should follow the Curzon line...They recognise that Poland must receive substantial accessions of territory in the north and west."

The text of the Yalta Agreement gave Stalin the borders he wanted. In exchange for his promise to support a bipartisan Provisional Polish Government, this promise Stalin had no intention of keeping.



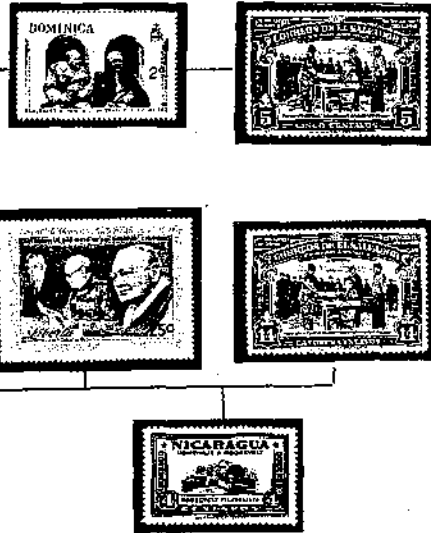
LAST FAREWELL

"At Alexandria I went on board H.M.S. Aurora. Later that morning the American cruiser Quincy steamed into Alexandria harbour, and shortly before noon I went on board for what was to be my last talk with the President. He seemed placid and frail. I felt that he had a slender contact with life. I was not to see him again. We bade affectionate farewells." -wsc. Triumph and Tragedy, 1953

237.

The Great American friend with whom Churchill had survived 90 many vicissitudes was not to witness victory. Franklin Roosevelt had scarcely two months left to him.

Upon his own return home Churchill said of Yalta to his private secretary: "It was a tragedy, because the President is a dying man."



POTSDAM CONFERENCE

Churchill was anxious to meet President Truman, "a potentate with whom my cordial relations. In spite of differences, had been established by correspondence." They met in mid-July 1945 in Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin, amid the rubble of shattered Germany, where they gathered with Stalin for what would be the last wartime conference. Afterwards in his room, Churchill remarked to Eden: "I like him. He considers a problem and when he is determined on its solution he comes down solidly on both feet." With that he gave a little jump to demonstrate Truman's method.

239.

At Potsdam Stalin suggested transferring the title deeds of Poland to the Provisional (Communist) government which, he told Churchill, "never refused to hold free elections."

Churchill left Potsdam July 25th to receive the results of the British general election. He wrote that he had in mind to force a show-down over Poland when he returned to Potsdam, but this was not to be.



TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

"...The causes of human freedom and social justice, to which so much of his life had been given, added a lustre...which will long be discernible among men...For us it remains only to say that in Franklin Roosevelt there died the greatest American friend we have ever known, and the greatest champion of freedom who has ever brought help and comfort from the New World to the Old."

-WSC House of Commons. 17 April 1945

238.



POTSDAM: THE RUINED ENEMY

In Potsdam, while Stalin remained reclusive, Truman and Churchill made separate tours of Berlin. The city was nothing but a chaos of ruins," wrote Churchill. "No notice had of course been given of our visit and the streets had only the ordinary passers-by. In the square in front of the Chancellery there was however a considerable crowd. When I got out of the car and walked about among them, except for one old man who shook his head disapprovingly, they all began to cheer. My hate died with their surrender; and I was much moved by their demonstrations."

240.

The last two stamps issued by Nazi Germany

The German surrender and subsequent celebrations of May 1945

The victorious Allies



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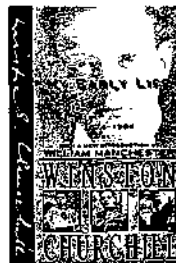
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## IMMORTAL WORDS

### "WE ARE STILL CAPTAIN OF OUR SOULS"

Late in July I learned that the President of the United States would welcome a meeting with me in order to survey the entire world position.

I obtained His Majesty's permission to leave the country.

I crossed the Atlantic Ocean in one of our latest battleships to meet the President at a convenient place.

Important conclusions were reached on four main topics.

First of all, on that Eight-Point Declaration of the broad principles and aims which guide and govern the actions

of the British and United States governments and peoples ...

Secondly, on measure to be taken to help Russia

to resist the hideous onslaught which Hitler has made upon her;

Thirdly, the policy to be pursued toward Japan ...

Fourthly, there was a large number of purely technical matters

which were dealt with

and close personal relations were established

between high naval, military and air authorities

of both countries ..\*

I have, as the House knows, hitherto consistently deprecated the formulation of peace aims, or war aims—however you put it—

by His Majesty's Government at this stage. -

I deprecate it at this time,

when the end of the war is not in sight.

But a Joint Declaration by Great Britain and the United States

is a process of a totally different nature.

Although the principles in the Declaration, and much of the language,

have long been familiar to the British and American democracies,

the fact that it is a *united* Declaration sets up a milestone or monument

which needs only the stroke of victory

to become a permanent part of the history of human progress ...

Thus far then have we travelled along the terrible road we chose at the call of duty.

The mood of Britain is wisely and rightly averse

from every form of shallow or premature exultation.

This is no time for boasts or glowing prophecies,

but there is this:

A year ago our position looked forlorn, and well nigh desperate to all eyes but our own.

Today we may say aloud before an awe-struck world:

"We are still masters of our fate.

"We are still captain of our souls."

*Prime Minister's Speech on the War Situation, House of Commons, 9 September 1941*