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the U.S. National Archives

Making THEIR MARK

Stories Through Signatures
An Exhibition Guide

Making Their Mark: Stories Through Signatures

by: Jennifer N. Johnson

Examining the Records at the National Archives
Washington, DC



About the National Archives



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all documents and materials created by the United States Federal Government in the course of its business, only 1 to 3 percent are so important for legal or historical reasons that they are kept by us forever.

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Follow along and tweet about the *Making Their Mark: Stories Through Signatures* eGuide and exhibition with #Signatures.

President Franklin Roosevelt signing the Declaration of War against Japan, December 8, 1941

National Archives, Records of the National Park Service

Introduction

“Making Their Mark: Stories Through Signatures” is based on an exhibition at the National Archives Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery in Washington, DC. This eGuide is an invitation to explore some of the stories behind the millions of signatures that rest in our holdings. Well-known signatures are found throughout the records of the National Archives. Equally important are the multitude of marks by people unknown to history.

“Making Their Mark” explores signatures in seven different categories:



Autographs



Famous



Infamous



Signature Style



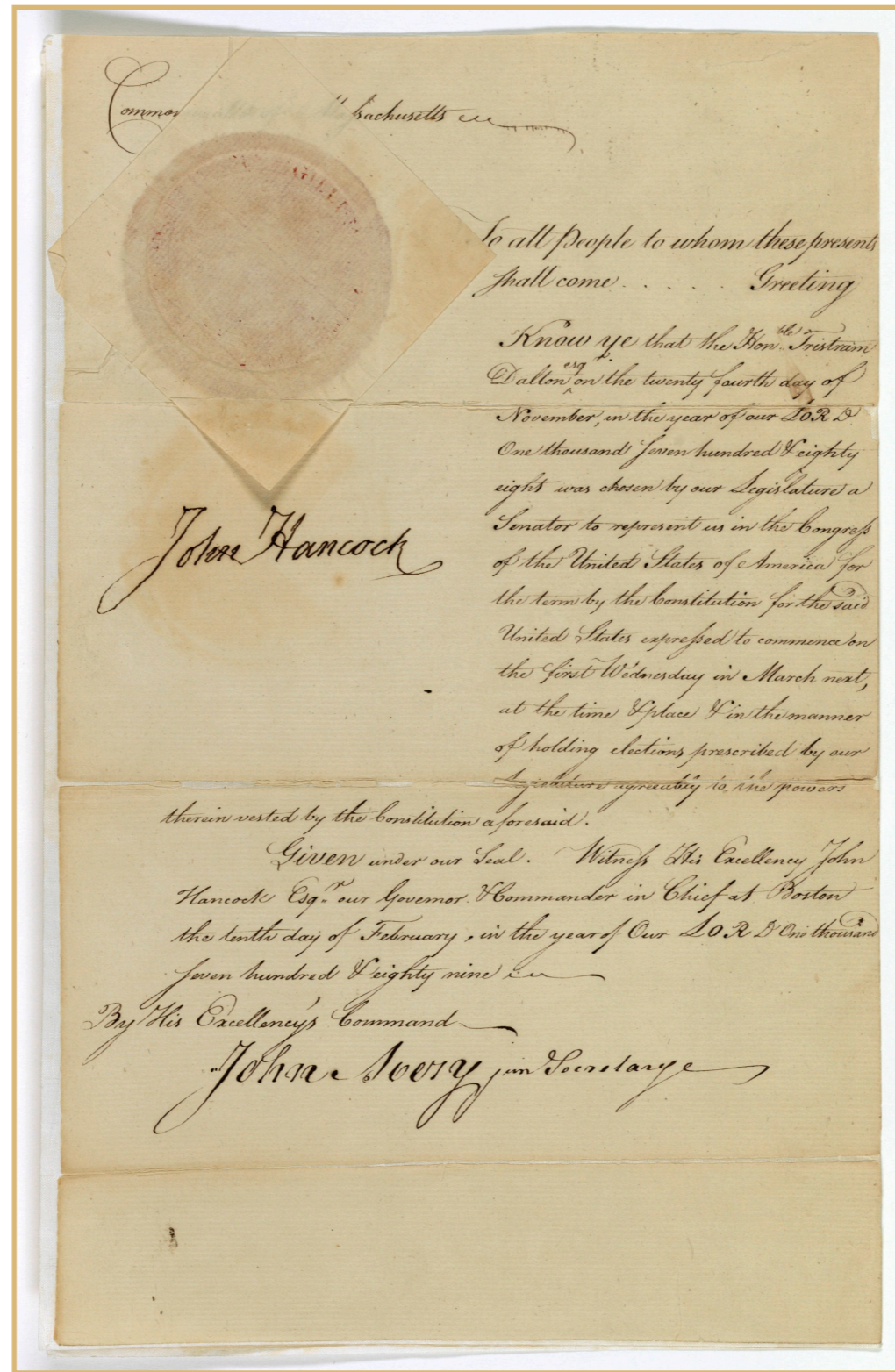
Official Business



Power of the Pen



Something to Say



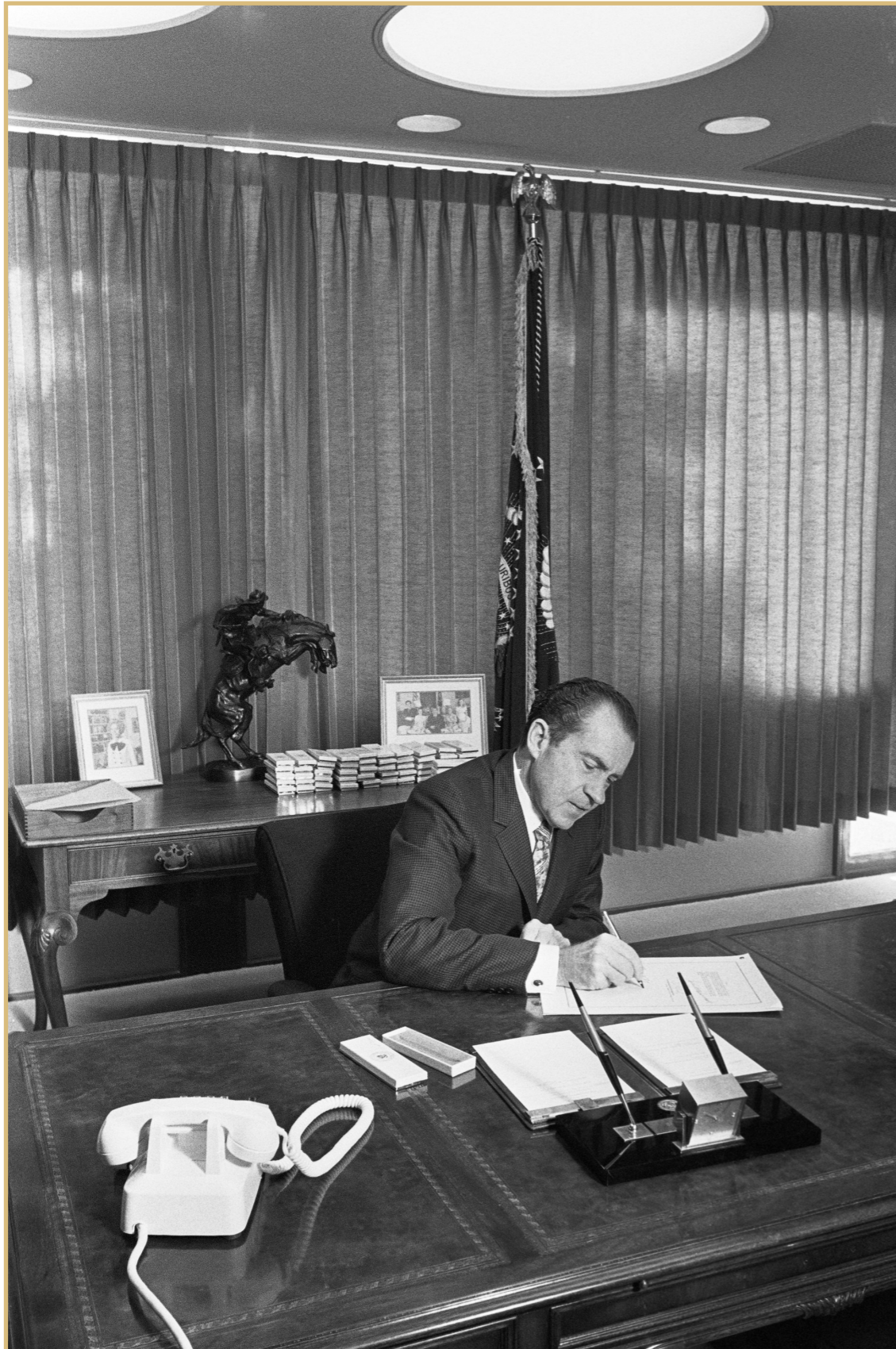
Senate “credentials” for Tristram Dalton, signed by John Hancock

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate

You can see famous signatures such as those of Magic Johnson and Michael Jackson in “Autographs” and “Famous,” “Infamous” marks such as Adolf Hitler and John Wilkes Booth’s, and in “Something to Say,” there are signatures of boys pleading for President Eisenhower to change their lives and a letter signed by Albert Einstein hoping to garner support for peace. Other stories such as George Washington humbly asking for how he should retire as Commander in Chief are found in “Official Business.”

All of these “signatures” illustrate the many ways people have placed their signature on history, from developing a “Signature Style” to signing groundbreaking policy into law in “Power of the Pen.” The stories in these records, of famous and infamous, known and unknown individuals, are part of our nation’s history, all having made their marks on the American narrative.

A signature can be as routine as a mark on a form or as extraordinary as a stroke of the pen that changes the course of history. Through their signatures, for example, the 56 men who signed the



Signing ceremony for environmental legislation

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives

Declaration of Independence simultaneously committed the brave (or dangerously foolish) act of treason against King George III and created a new nation. However, today, when you make a credit card purchase, sign a mortgage contract, or even a marriage license, your signature is likely to be electronic. Legislation allowing electronic signatures to formalize a contract, or allowing the autopen to authenticate a law is leading us further away from personalized marks, symbolized by John Hancock's famous and distinctive signature.



President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev exchanging pens after signing the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, December 8, 1987

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Autographs

Truman,
Stalin, and
Churchill
8

A Gift of
Thanks
9

A First
Lady
10

Short
Snorter
11

Lakers
12



Famous

Katharine
Hepburn
14

Johnny
Cash
15

Jackie
Robinson
16-17

Ezra
Pound
18

Michael
Jackson
19-20



Infamous

John Wilkes
Booth
22

Adolf
Hilter
23-24

Saddam
Hussein
25



Signature Style

Jacqueline
Kennedy
27

Franklin
Roosevelt
28

Dwight
Eisenhower
29

Lyndon
Johnson
30

Michelle
Obama
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Ansel Adams
32

Dorothea Lange
33

Walt Disney
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Official Business

Emerson &
Whitman
36

Julia Child
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Richard Nixon
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Barry
Goldwater
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Selective
Service Cards
40-41

John Huston
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Mint
Petition
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George
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Power of the Pen

Recovery &
Removal
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Act of
Congress
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Domestic
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50

Presidential
Proclamation
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Order
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Court
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53-54



Something to Say

Hopi Tribe
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Michael
Rosenberg
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Osama Nakata
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Albert Einstein
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Mercury 7
Astronauts
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Autographs

Imagine Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill, and Harry S. Truman sitting at a dinner during the Potsdam Conference in 1945 making decisions for a post-World War II world. At some moment, aware of history-in-the-making or the power assembled in the room, Truman passes his program around to be signed. Even world leaders respond to the lure of an autograph, just as people in all walks of life seek and collect signatures from athletes, actors, and singers every day. What gives an autograph its power?






Truman, Stalin, and Churchill

Taking a moment

Hosted by Crown Prince Wilhelm of Prussia at his palace, Cecilienhof, U.S. President Harry S. Truman, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met in Potsdam, Germany, as World War II was coming to an end. It would be the first and only time Truman and Stalin would meet. The three heads of government needed to agree on a few central issues: the political future of Eastern Europe; Russia's commitment to help defeat Japan (which happened on Truman and Stalin's initial meeting before the conference even began); and the future of Germany.

On the fifth night of the conference, the participants took a break from their negotiations to attend a lavish dinner. During the evening, President Truman passed around his program for the attendees to sign. Harry Truman, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin signed the cover. Inside are signatures of many who attended that night.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC
by
The String Orchestra of the Royal Air Force
Conductor - Wing-Commander R. P. O'Donnell, M.V.O.



I	
"Ay-ay-ay" (Mexican Serenade)	Friere
"Carry me back to Green Pastures"	Pepper
"On Wings of Song"	Mendelssohn
"Sons of the Soviet"	Curzon
II	
"Serenade"	Mozart
III	
"Holberg Suite"	Grieg
IV	
"Serenade Espagnole"	Chaminade
"Deep River"	arr. Coleridge-Taylor
"Irish Reels"	arr. Hartley
"Skye Boat Song"	arr. Moffat

W.S. Truman
Dinner
Harry Truman
Winston Churchill
10, Downing Street,
Potsdam.
Monday, 23rd July 1945.

R. L. Donaghey

<i>Supreme Commander of the Army</i> <i>General of the Army H. H. Arnold</i> <i>Army General A. J. Antonov</i> <i>Field-Marshal the Honble. Sir Harold Alexander</i> <i>Marshal of the Soviet Union G. K. Zhukov</i> <i>Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham</i> <i>Major A. Birse</i> <i>His Excellency Generalissimo J. V. Stalin</i> <i>Prime Minister</i> <i>The President of the United States of America</i> <i>Charles E. Bohlen</i> <i>The Rt. Honble. C. R. Attlee</i> <i>Fleet Admiral W. D. Leahy</i> <i>Field-Marshal Sir Henry Maitland Wilson</i> <i>Commander C. R. Thompson</i>	<i>Sir Edward Bridges</i> <i>Marshal of Aviation F. Ya. Falaler</i> <i>Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery</i> <i>General of the Army G. C. Marshall</i> <i>Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Charles Portal</i> <i>Mr. V. N. Pavlov</i> <i>His Excellency Mr. T. M. Molotov</i> <i>The Rt. Honble. Anthony Eden</i> <i>The Honble. James F. Byrnes</i> <i>Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke</i> <i>Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov</i> <i>Lord Moran</i> <i>Fleet Admiral E. J. King</i> <i>General Sir Hastings Ismay</i>
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Entrance
Mary Churchill

Dinner program from Potsdam

conference, July 23, 1945

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library
and Museum, National Archives





A Gift of Thanks

A reason to celebrate

For nearly 20 years, Iraq's national football (soccer) team played under the oppressive and brutal leadership of Saddam Hussein's oldest son, Uday Hussein. In 2007, under new coaches, the team won the Asian Cup for the first time. The win, which signaled Iraq's return to greatness on the international football scene, united Iraqi citizens and offered hope to the war-torn nation. This jersey is signed by the 2007 team and other officials. It was presented to President Obama by Prime Minister of Iraq Nouri al-Maliki in 2009.



Iraqi soccer jersey

National Archives, Courtesy of the Presidential Materials Division



Jump to
Famous



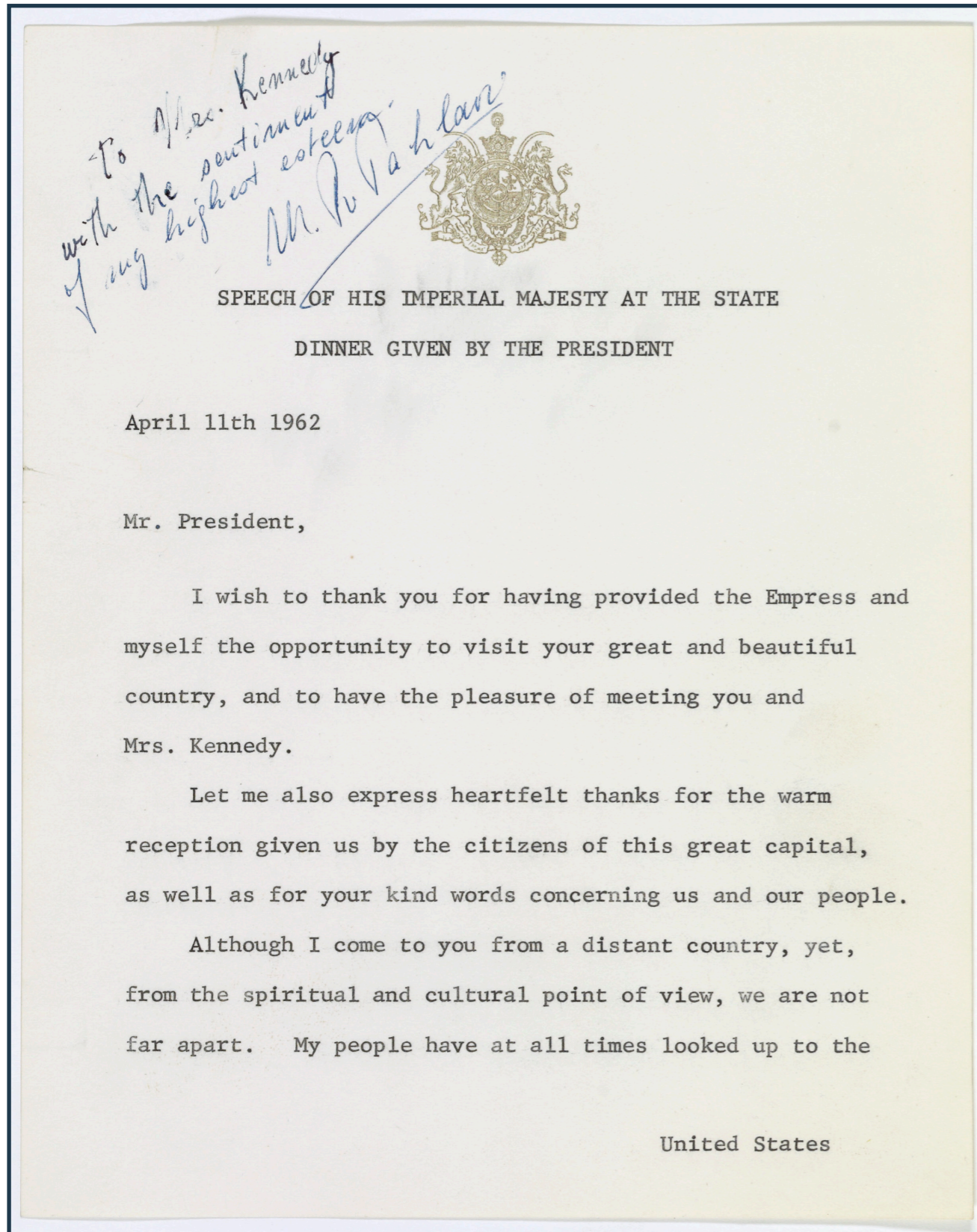
See All
Signatures



A First Lady

Collecting

Jackie Kennedy often asked dignitaries to autograph her seating card, a dinner menu, or reading copy of a speech they had just given. This is a reading copy for the speech Shah Mohammad Rezā Shāh Pahlavī of Iran delivered at the State Dinner held in his honor at the White House in 1962. He inscribed and signed it to Mrs. Kennedy.



Reading copy of speech given by the Shah of Iran

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Jump to
Famous



See All
Signatures



Short Snorter

Short = less than a full measure

Snort = mixed drink

King George VI of England, the last Viceroy to India Lord Mountbatten, and President Franklin Roosevelt's son Elliott Roosevelt are a just a few of the 90-plus men and women who signed General Eisenhower's short snorters, a collection of 19 bank notes, representing over 10 countries. Short snorters date to the 1920s, when pilots in the Alaskan bush started the tradition of signing and exchanging currency and then sharing a drink with those they traveled with or met along the way. The tradition was adopted by the military.



Eisenhower's short snorter

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Lakers

Showtime

Given to President Reagan in 1988, this Los Angeles Lakers shirt is signed by the team, including Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and James Worthy. Credited for playing some of the best basketball ever seen, the team had the best record in the National Basketball Association for the 1987–1988 season and had just won their fifth championship of the decade.



Lakers polo shirt signed by team

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Jump to
Famous

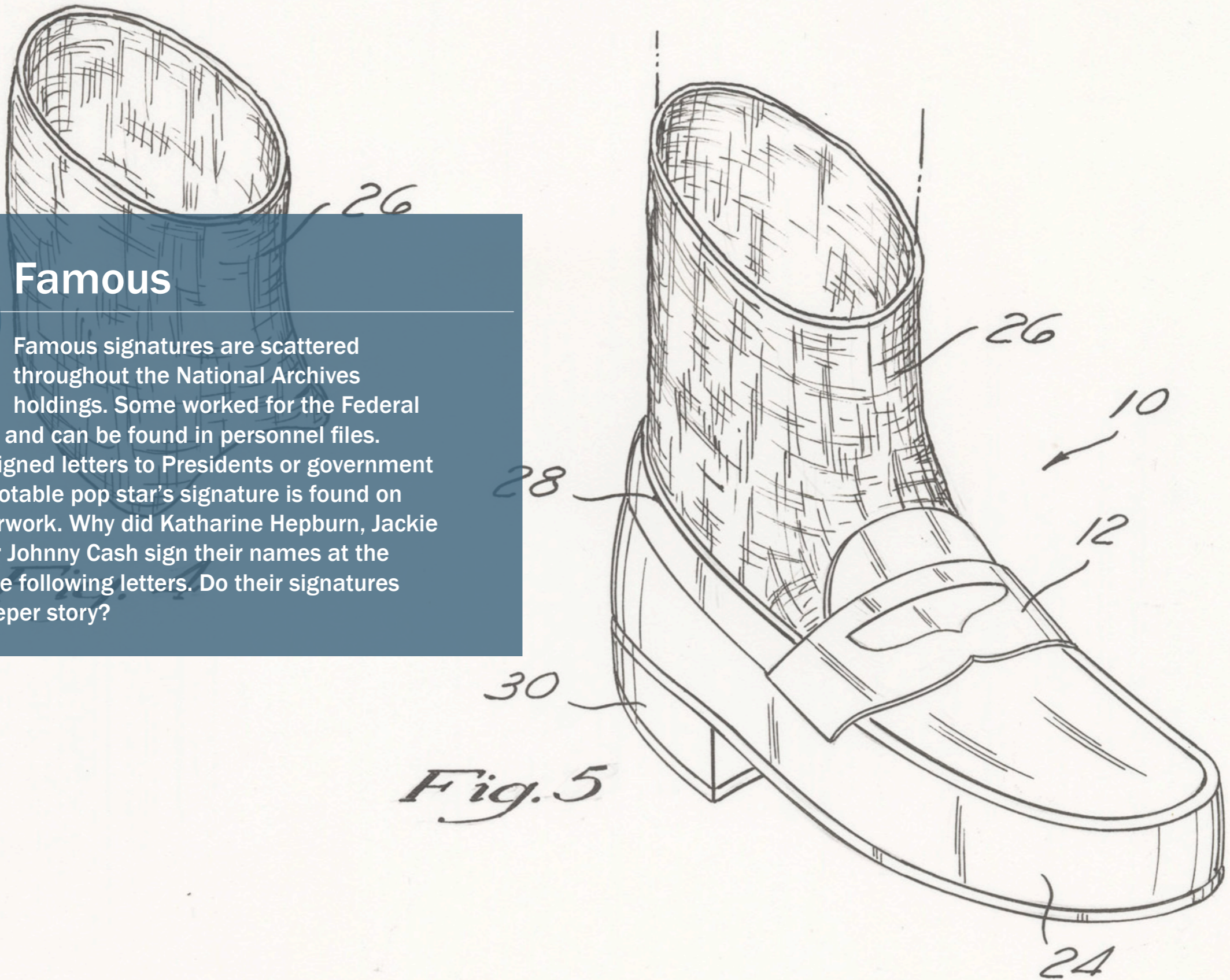


See All
Signatures



Famous

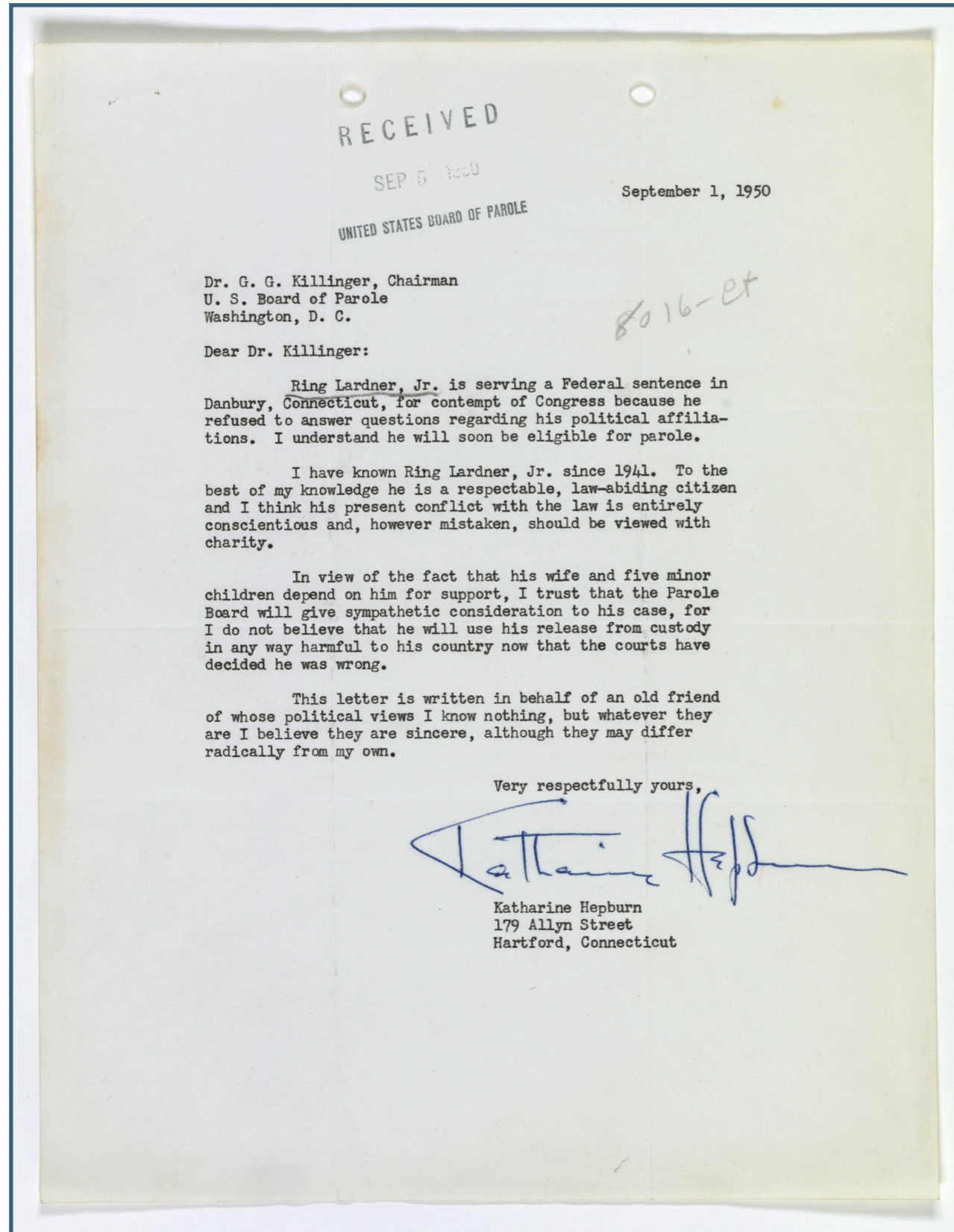
Famous signatures are scattered throughout the National Archives holdings. Some worked for the Federal Government and can be found in personnel files. Others are signed letters to Presidents or government officials. A notable pop star's signature is found on patent paperwork. Why did Katharine Hepburn, Jackie Robinson, or Johnny Cash sign their names at the bottom of the following letters. Do their signatures lead to a deeper story?





Katharine Hepburn

Vouching for “an old friend”



RECEIVED

SEP 5 1950

September 1, 1950

UNITED STATES BOARD OF PAROLE

Dr. G. G. Killinger, Chairman
U. S. Board of Parole
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Killinger:

Ring Lardner, Jr. is serving a Federal sentence in Danbury, Connecticut, for contempt of Congress because he refused to answer questions regarding his political affiliations. I understand he will soon be eligible for parole.

I have known Ring Lardner, Jr. since 1941. To the best of my knowledge he is a respectable, law-abiding citizen and I think his present conflict with the law is entirely conscientious and, however mistaken, should be viewed with charity.

In view of the fact that his wife and five minor children depend on him for support, I trust that the Parole Board will give sympathetic consideration to his case, for I do not believe that he will use his release from custody in any way harmful to his country now that the courts have decided he was wrong.

This letter is written in behalf of an old friend of whose political views I know nothing, but whatever they are I believe they are sincere, although they may differ radically from my own.

Very respectfully yours,

Katharine Hepburn
179 Allyn Street
Hartford, Connecticut



Katharine Hepburn, ca. 1932

National Archives, Records of the United States Information Agency

Actress Katharine Hepburn worked with Ringgold Wilmer “Ring” Lardner, Jr., on the film *Woman of the Year*, for which they were both nominated for Academy Awards, with Lardner winning for best screenplay. Hepburn wrote to the U.S. Board of Parole on behalf of Lardner, on September 1, 1950.

Early during the Cold War, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated allegations of Communist activity in the film industry. In 1947, Lardner, and 19 others suspected of being Communists were called to testify. After they

refused to answer the Committee’s questions, Lardner, and 9 others were found guilty of contempt of Congress. Blacklisted from Hollywood, they became known as the “Hollywood 10,” and Lardner was imprisoned. By signing this letter, Hepburn opened herself to the risk of having her career destroyed. Few who were blacklisted were able to return to Hollywood.

Letter from Katharine Hepburn to U.S. Board of Parole

National Archives, Records of the Bureau of Prisons



Jump to Infamous



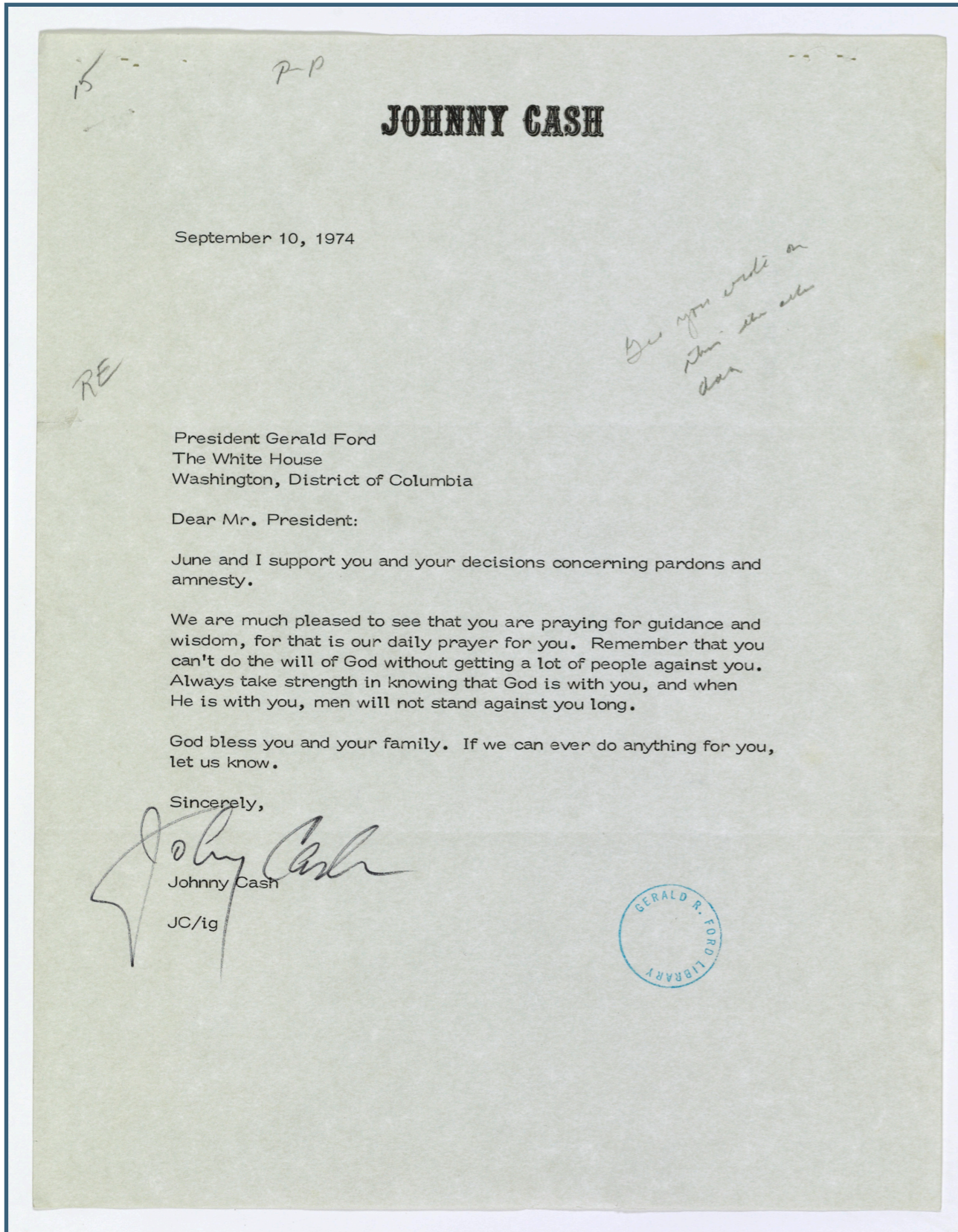
See All Signatures



Johnny Cash

Support from "The Man in Black"

Country music artist Johnny Cash wrote to President Gerald R. Ford on September 10, 1974, expressing support for two of Ford's recent controversial decisions. Two days earlier, the President had issued an unconditional pardon of Richard Nixon for crimes he might have committed as President. That same day, Ford also revealed plans to introduce an amnesty program for Vietnam War draft resisters.



Letter from Johnny Cash to President Ford

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash at the White House, November 21, 1975

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Jump to Infamous



See All Signatures



Jackie Robinson

“Oh no! Not again.”

“17 million Negroes cannot do as you suggest and wait for the hearts of men to change”

Jackie Robinson’s entry into Major League Baseball ended 60 years of racial segregation in that sport. Off the baseball field, Robinson campaigned tirelessly for civil rights for blacks. In this letter to President Eisenhower dated May 13, 1958, Robinson, then vice president of personnel at Chock Full O’Nuts, criticizes comments Eisenhower made urging blacks to have patience in their struggle for equality.



Jackie Robinson, President
Eisenhower, and comedian Joe E.
Brown at the White House, 1957
*National Archives, Records of the
National Park Service*



Jump to
Infamous



See All
Signatures



Telephone
MUrray Hill 2-0500

Chock Full o' Nuts

425 LEXINGTON AVENUE
New York 17, N. Y.

May 13, 1958

THE WHITE HOUSE
MAY 14 11 36 AM '58
RECEIVED

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I was sitting in the audience at the Summit Meeting of Negro Leaders yesterday when you said we must have patience. On hearing you say this, I felt like standing up and saying, "Oh no! Not again."

I respectfully remind you sir, that we have been the most patient of all people. When you said we must have self-respect, I wondered how we could have self-respect and remain patient considering the treatment accorded us through the years.

17 million Negroes cannot do as you suggest and wait for the hearts of men to change. We want to enjoy now the rights that we feel we are entitled to as Americans. This we cannot do unless we pursue aggressively goals which all other Americans achieved over 150 years ago.

As the chief executive of our nation, I respectfully suggest that you unwittingly crush the spirit of freedom in Negroes by constantly urging forbearance and give hope to those pro-segregation leaders like Governor Faubus who would take from us even those freedoms we now enjoy. Your own experience with Governor Faubus is proof enough that forbearance and not eventual integration is the goal the pro-segregation leaders seek.

In my view, an unequivocal statement backed up by action such as you demonstrated you could take last fall in deal-

MAY 26 1958

The President

Page 2

May 13, 1958

ing with Governor Faubus if it became necessary, would let it be known that America is determined to provide -- in the near future -- for Negroes -- the freedoms we are entitled to under the constitution.

Respectfully yours,

Jackie Robinson
Jackie Robinson

JR:cc

Letter from Jackie Robinson to President Eisenhower

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Jump to
Infamous



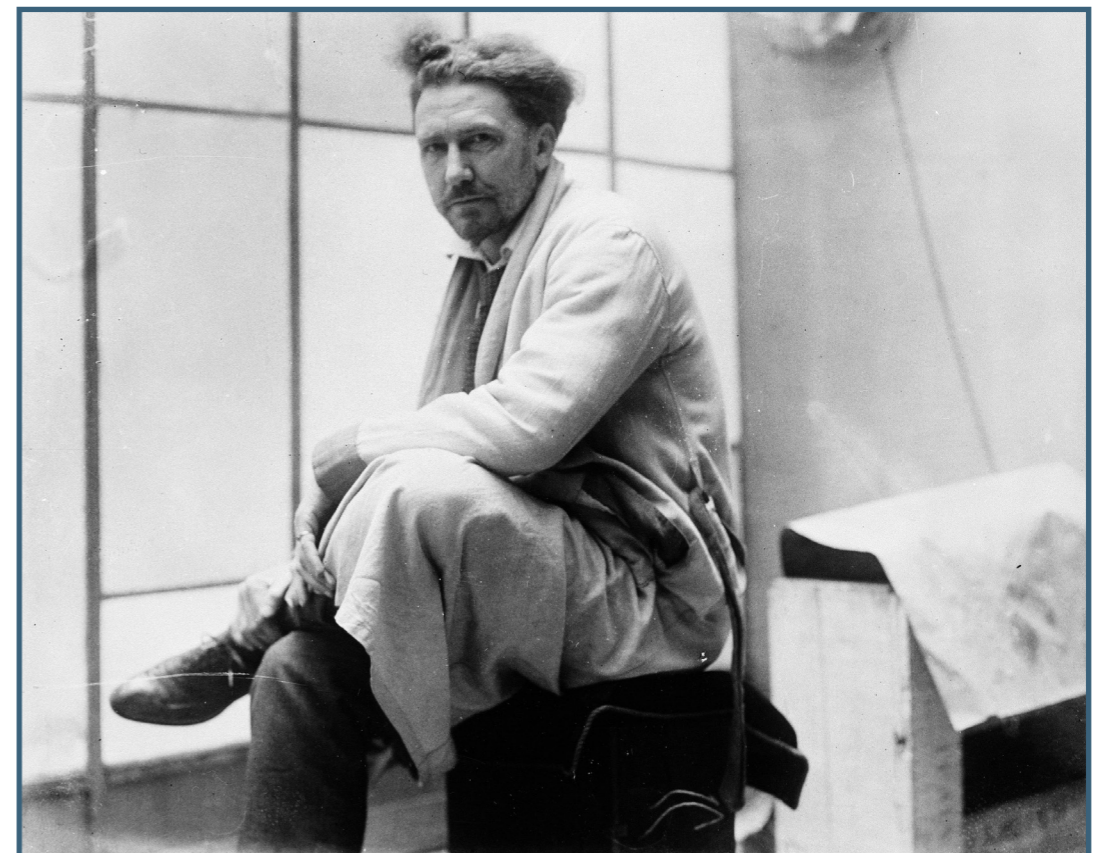
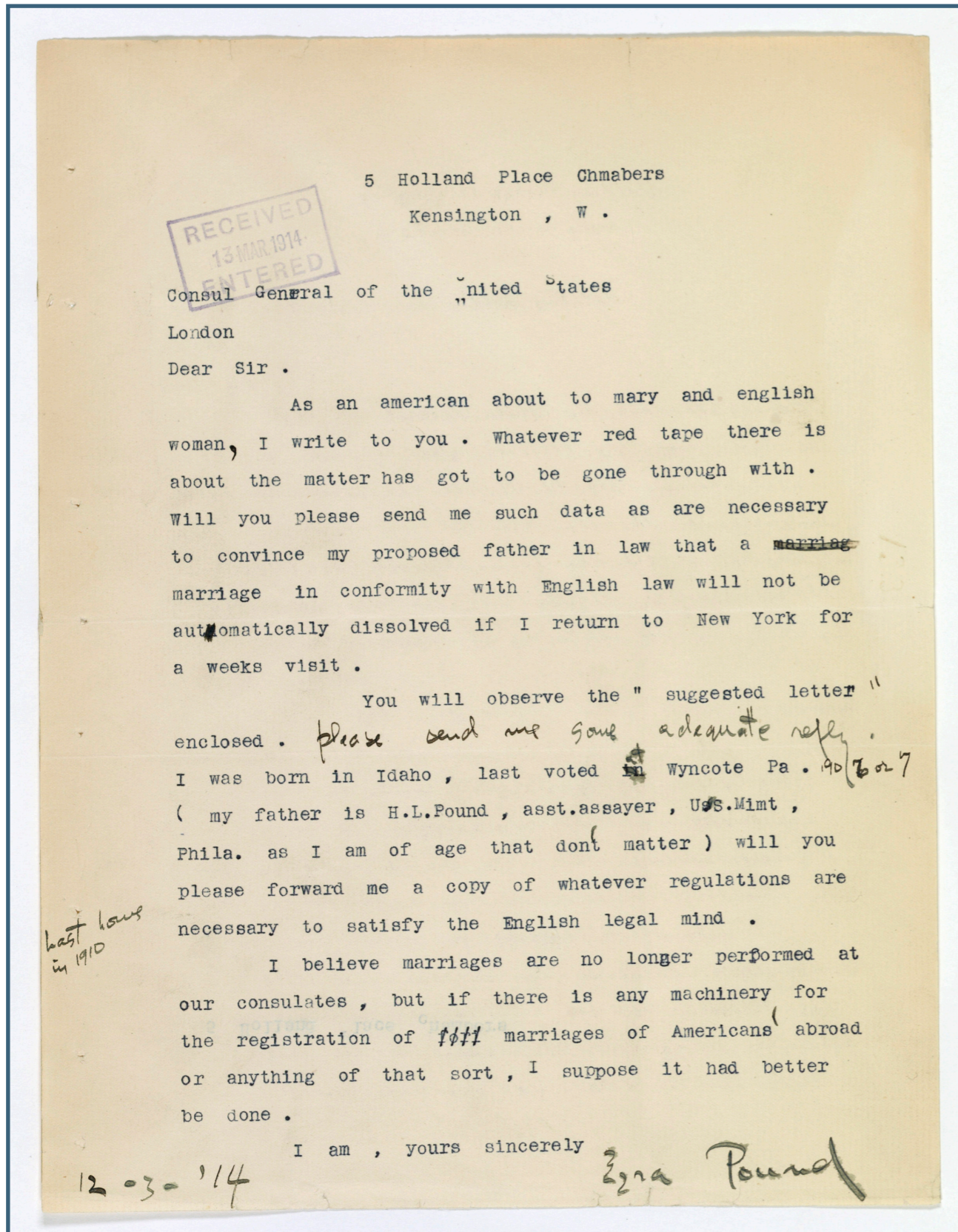
See All
Signatures



Ezra Pound

Mollifying a future father-in-law

In his letter dated March 12, 1914, poet Ezra Pound wrote to the Consul General of the United States in London seeking information that would help him ease the reservations of his future father-in-law that Pound's marriage to his daughter would be invalid if he returned to the United States. Pound is a well-known and influential poet, but at the time of this letter, he was a struggling artist.



Ezra Pound, 1923

National Archives, Records of the United States Information Agency

Letter from Ezra Pound to the Consul General of the United States

National Archives, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State



Jump to Infamous



See All Signatures



Michael Jackson

Defying gravity

Singer, songwriter, dancer, inventor?

Michael Jackson started performing at age six with his brothers as the Jackson Five, and grew up to become an internationally famous, award-winning star known as the "King of Pop." This patent for a shoe that allows the "wearer to lean forwardly beyond his center of gravity" was created by Jackson and two other designers, so he could perform live on stage a signature move that

he'd previously done in the music video for "Smooth Criminal." The trick had previously been accomplished for the "Smooth Criminal" video using wires. Jackson was known for using unique moves like this and the Moonwalk to enhance his stage performances.

4. Triumph International, Inc. has not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and is under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern or a nonprofit organization, under 37 C.F.R. §1.9.

5. Triumph International, Inc. is entitled to status as a small entity, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.9 and 1.27(a) and (b), in view of the above.

6. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true.

7. These statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Date: August 25, 1992 By Michael J. Jackson, President

PATMISC\T114382.619

2

EXPRESS MAIL NO. RB905057417

MAIL ROOM
AUG 31 1992
PAT. & TRADEMARK OFF.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MICHAEL J. JACKSON, MICHAEL L.)
BUSH, AND DENNIS B. TOMPKINS)

For: METHOD AND MEANS FOR)
CREATING ANTI-GRAVITY)
ILLUSION)

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL J. JACKSON
IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING STATUS OF
TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL, INC. AS A SMALL
ENTITY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.27

I, MICHAEL J. JACKSON, declare that:

1. I am the President of Triumph International, Inc.,
empowered to act on behalf of Triumph International, Inc.

2. Triumph International, Inc. is the assignee of
United States patent application, for "METHOD AND MEANS FOR
CREATING ANTI-GRAVITY ILLUSION," and to the invention
described therein, pursuant to Assignment of ^{August 25} June _____,
1992.

3. Exclusive rights to the invention have been
conveyed to, and remain with, Triumph International, Inc.,
pursuant to the Assignment identified in Paragraph 2 hereof.

PATMISC\T114382.619 1

Declaration of Michael J. Jackson in Support of Establishing Status of Triumph International, Inc. as a Small Entity, August 25, 1992

National Archives, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office



Jump to
Infamous



See All
Signatures



APPROVED BY DRAFTSMAN O.G. FIG. 7 CLASS SUBCLASS 036 113.00

4382 54 3 of 4

Fig. 7

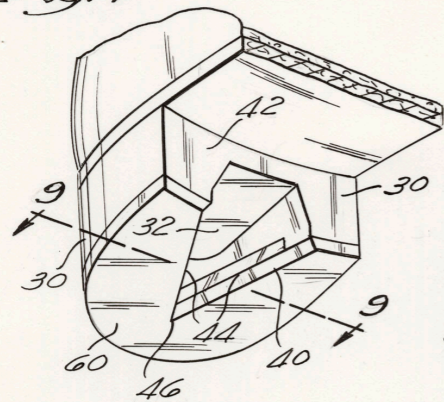


Fig. 10

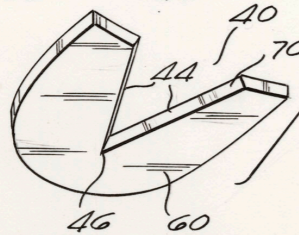
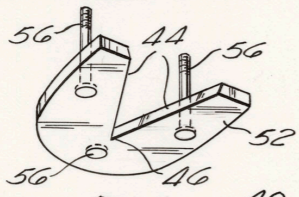
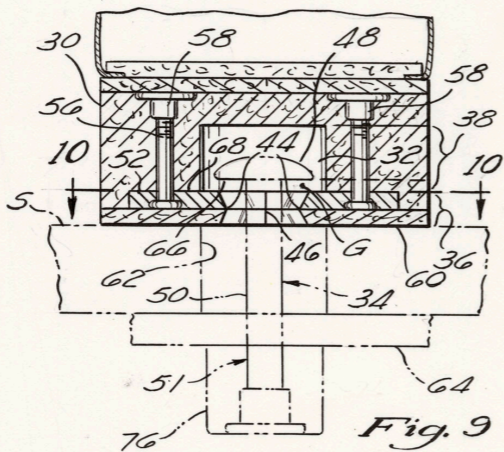
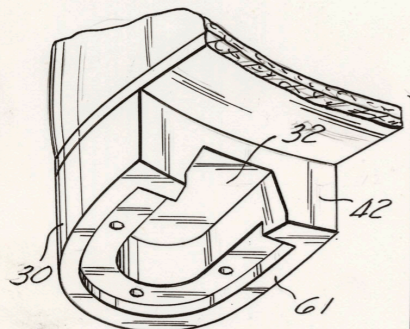
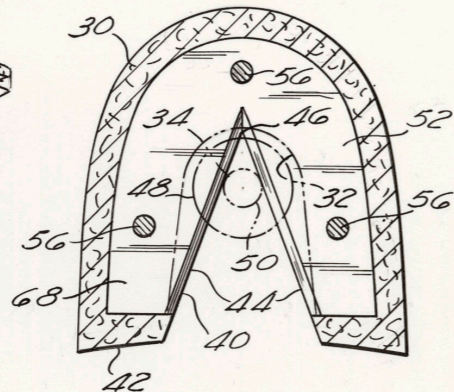


Fig. 8

APPROVED BY DRAFTSMAN O.G. FIG. CLASS SUBCLASS

4382 54 2 of 4

Fig. 4

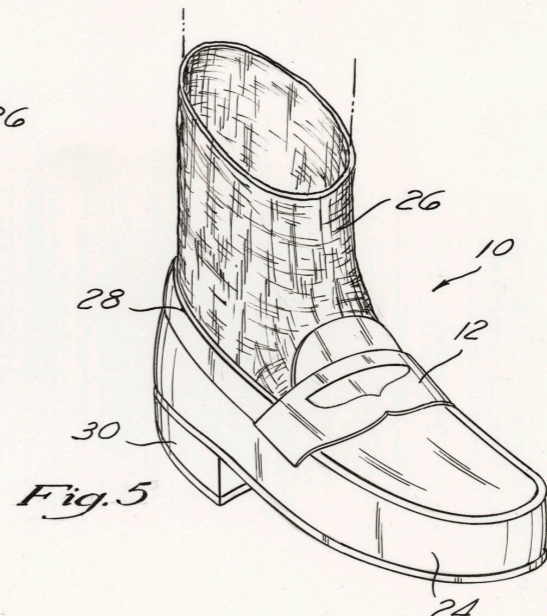
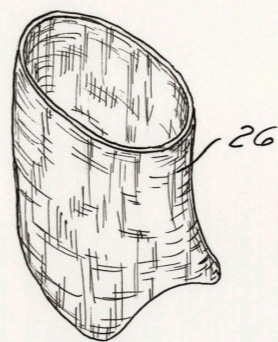


Fig. 5

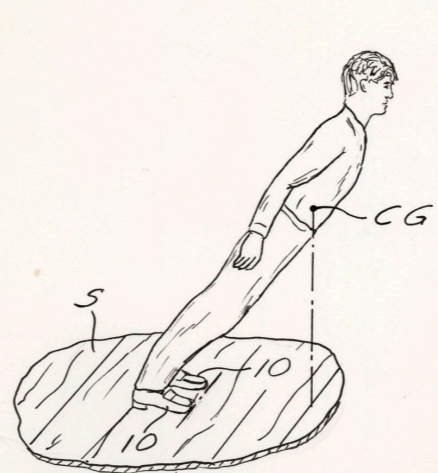


Fig. 6

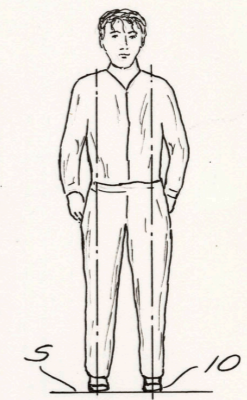


Fig. 14





Infamous

These three examples are a small selection of some of the infamous signatures that are preserved in the National Archives. Each has a unique story. From captured records to a greeting card, read on to find out more about the stories behind their signatures.

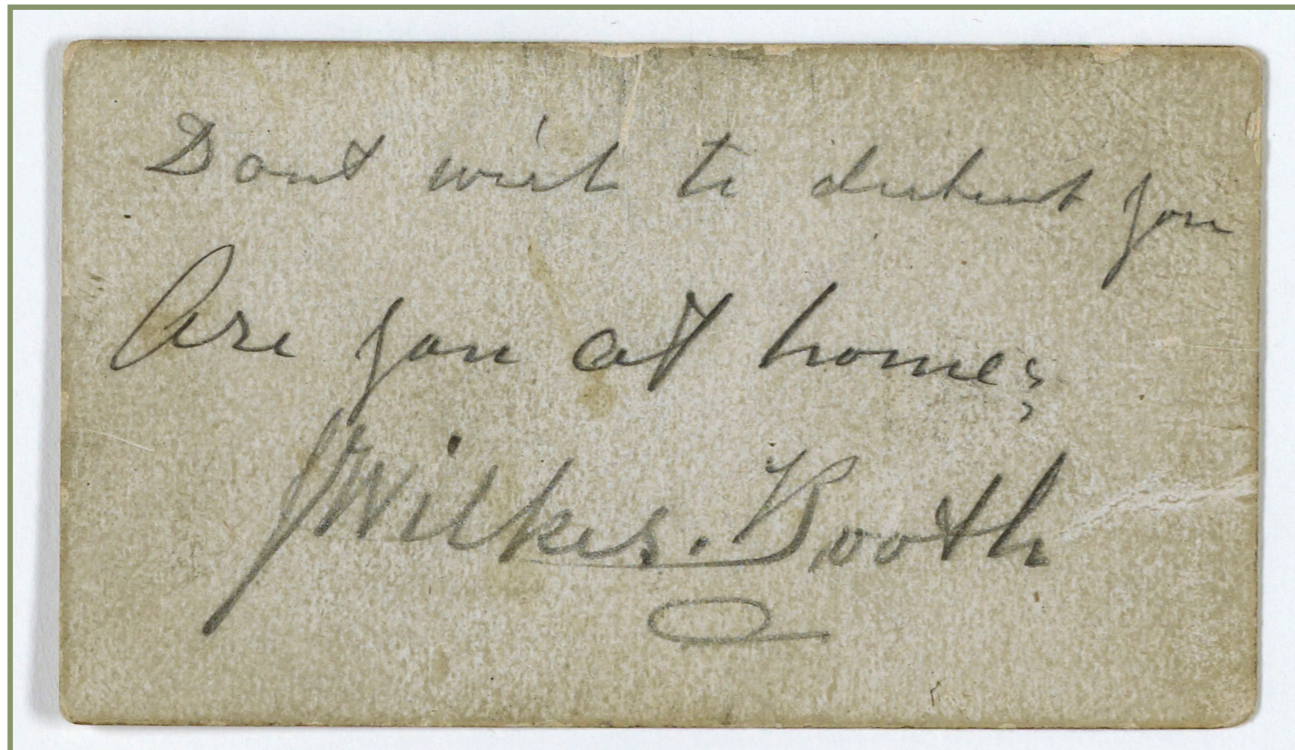


John Wilkes Booth

“Don’t wish to disturb you. Are you at home?”

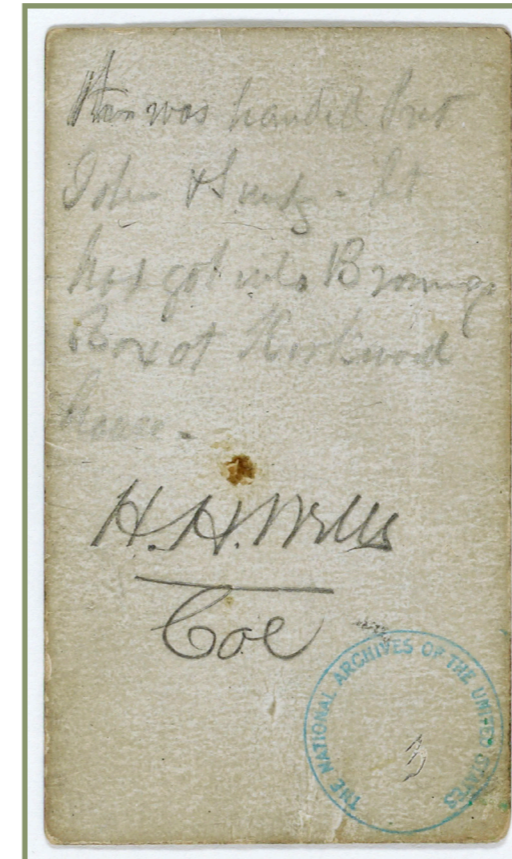
Originally, John Wilkes Booth designed an elaborate plan to kidnap Abraham Lincoln and take him to Richmond. Once a hostage, the Confederacy would demand that prisoner exchanges

resume. (Previously, the Union and Confederate armies had an agreement to exchange prisoners. This fell apart when the Confederacy refused to exchange black soldiers.) However, at his second inaugural, Lincoln revealed some of his early plans for Reconstruction, which included giving blacks the right to vote. It was about at that time that Booth’s plans changed from kidnapping to assassination. His plan grew to involve killing numerous high-level individuals.



Calling card left by John Wilkes Booth

National Archives, Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)



On the afternoon of April 14, 1865, just hours before he assassinated President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth left this calling card for Vice President Andrew Johnson at his Washington, DC, hotel. Booth’s co-conspirator George Atzerodt was to kill Johnson that night, but he lost his nerve and did not make an attempt. Historians continue to debate why Booth left his card with Johnson.



Adolf Hitler

“Are you willing to take Our Fuehrer Adolf Hitler as your husband”

In the early morning of April 29, 1945, as Soviet troops closed in on his bunker, Adolf Hitler married his longtime companion Eva Braun. Less than 40 hours after their marriage, the newlyweds committed suicide together. In his will, Hitler states that Eva “goes to death with me as my wife, according to her own desires.”

Marriage certificate:

In this volume is Adolf and Eva Hitler’s marriage certificate signed by them and by witnesses Joseph Goebbels and Martin Bormann, as well as the registrar of marriage they pulled in from Berlin just before 1am to perform the ceremony.

Final will and testament:

Also in this volume is Adolf Hitler’s final will and political testament, signed by him and by witnesses Joseph Goebbels, Martin Bormann, and Lt. Col. Nicholas von Below. This was created and made official the night he married Eva Braun.

Three copies were made and sent out of Berlin.

Eva Braun’s Album, ca. 1913 to 1944

National Archives, National Archives

Collection of Foreign Records Seized,

1675–1958



Jump to
Signature
Style



See All
Signatures



Weihnachten, / Dezember 1939 / 1940.
Berghof.

242-EB-8



- 2 -

Die Erschienenen zu 1 und 2 erklären, daß sie rein arischer Abstammung und mit keiner die Eheschließung ausschließenden Erbkrankheiten befallen sind. Sie beantragen mit Rücksicht auf die Kriegsereignisse wegen außerordentlicher Umstände die Kriegstraumung und beantragen weiter das Aufgebot mündlich entgegenzunehmen und von sämtlichen Fristen Abstand zu nehmen.

Den Anträgen wird stattgegeben. Das mündlich abgegebene Aufgebot ist geprüft und für ordnungsgemäß befunden worden.

Ich komme nunmehr zum feierlichen Akt der Eheschließung. In Gegenwart der obengenannten Zeugen zu 3 und 4 frage ich Sie,

ob Sie gewillt sind, die Ehe mit *Mein Braut Adolf Hitler* einzugehen. In diesem Falle bitte ich Sie, mit "ja" zu antworten.

ob Sie gewillt sind, die Ehe mit *Magdalena Sophie Adolf Hitler* einzugehen. In diesem Falle bitte ich auch Sie mit "ja" zu antworten.

Nachdem nunmehr beide Verlobte die Erklärung abgegeben haben die Ehe einzugehen, erkläre ich die Ehe vor dem Gesetz rechtmäßig für geschlossen.

Berlin, am *29.* April 1945

Vorgelesen und unterschrieben:

- 1.) Ehemann: *Adolf Hitler*
- 2.) Ehefrau: *Magdalena Sophie geb. Braun*
- 3.) Zeuge zu 1: *Dr. Franz Schulz*
- 4.) Zeuge zu 2:
- 5.) *Wapner*
als Standesbeamter

arbeiterinnen, an der Spitze meinen alten Sekretären, Sekretärinnen, Frau Winter, usw., die mich jahrelang durch ihre Arbeit unterstützten.

Ich selbst und meine Gattin wählen, um der Schande des Absetzens oder der Kapitulation zu entgehen, den Tod. Es ist unser Wille, sofort an der Stelle verbrannt zu werden, an der ich den grössten Teil meiner täglichen Arbeit im Laufe eines zwölfjährigen Dienstes an meinem Volke geleistet habe.

Gegeben zu Berlin, den 29. April 1945, 4.00 Uhr

Adolf Hitler

als Zeugen:
Martin
Dr. Schulz

als Zeugin:
Nicolaus von Below

Adolph Hitler's Marriage Certificate and Will, signature pages

National Archives, National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized, 1675-1958



Jump to Signature Style



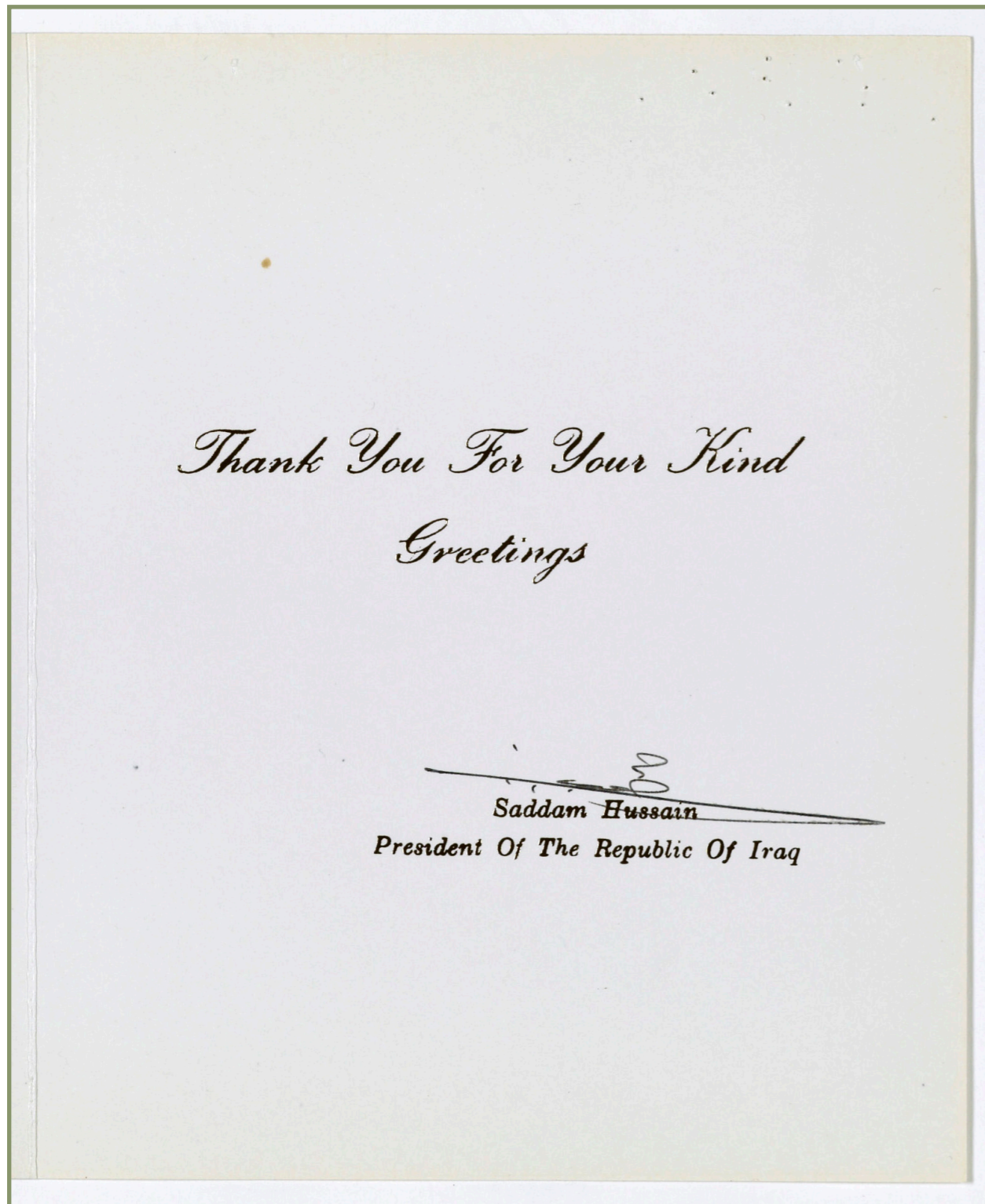
See All Signatures



Saddam Hussein

“Thank you for your kind greetings”

This card was sent to President George H.W. Bush in February 1989 by President of the Republic of Iraq Saddam Hussein to congratulate Bush on his inauguration as the new President of the United States. Most heads of states send notes such as these as a courtesy when a new President takes office.



Card from Saddam Hussein to President Bush

George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Signature Style

From signature looks to signature works, these individuals made their mark in film, photography, politicking, or their clothing choices. General

Eisenhower was looking for a practical garment when he asked for the standard issue field jacket to be tailored for him, creating what came to be known as the "Ike jacket." President Johnson had a unique way of achieving his political goals, and First Lady Michelle Obama is recognized for her own signature style. What qualities makes something "signature"?



Jacqueline Kennedy

Jackie's pillbox hat

This pillbox hat, worn during her husband's 1960 campaign for President, was one of Jackie Kennedy's signature looks. The First Lady became a fashion icon for women around the world, wearing pillbox hats, gloves above the elbow, A-line dresses, oversized sunglasses, and strands of pearls.



Jackie's pillbox hat

*John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
and Museum, National Archives*



Franklin Roosevelt

FDR's Fedora

Few personal accessories are more closely associated with FDR than the fedora. This felt fedora, made by Cavanaugh, ca. 1931, was worn by him.



FDR's fedora

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Franklin D. Roosevelt talks with Chaplain Crawford W. Brown at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas
Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives

Dwight Eisenhower

The “Ike” jacket

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower considered the Army’s World War II military uniform to be restricting and poorly suited for combat. Instead, he had a standard issue wool field jacket tailored to be “very short, very comfortable, and very natty looking.” The resulting “Eisenhower jacket” or “Ike jacket,” as it came to be known, was standard issue to American troops after November 1944.



General Eisenhower wearing an “Ike jacket,” 1943

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



Eisenhower’s “Ike” jacket

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives

Lyndon Johnson

The “Johnson Treatment”

Standing at 6 feet 4 inches tall, President Lyndon Baines Johnson used his imposing stature as one tool in his own brand of political persuasion, known as the “Johnson treatment.” LBJ used his “treatment,” shown in these photographs, to intimidate, badger, flatter, or plead in order to achieve his political goals.



President Johnson and Louis Martin at the reception for Democratic National Committee delegates, April 20, 1966

Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



President Johnson with Senator Richard Russell at the White House, December 7, 1963

Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives

Michelle Obama

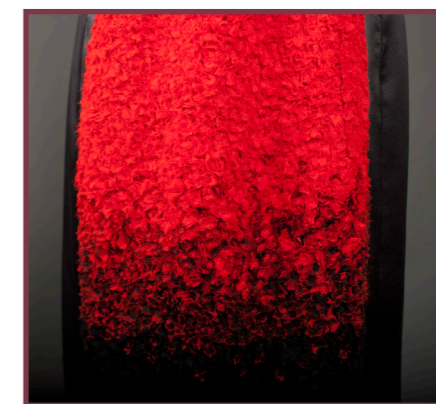
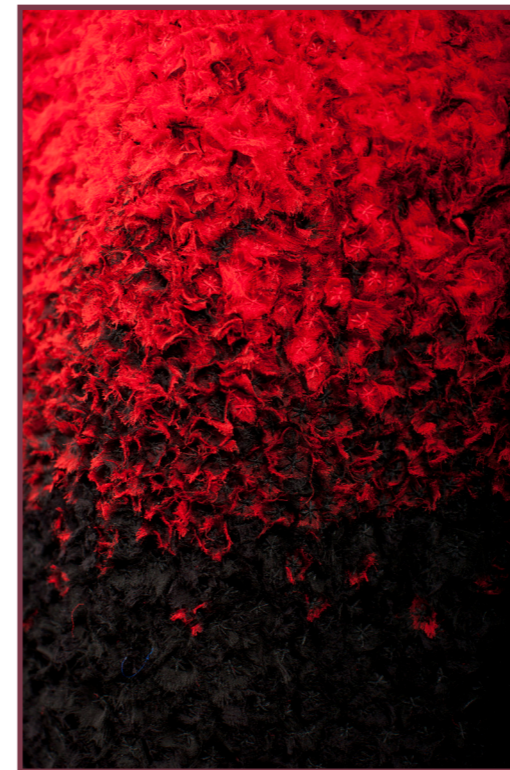
Signature style

First Lady Michelle Obama wore this Narcisco Rodriguez dress on the night of the 2008 Presidential election, when Barack Obama was elected as the first African American President of the United States. Since then, the First Lady's signature issues have taken the spotlight—from helping kids get healthy, to supporting our military families, to ensuring that all our young people work hard to reach their dreams. And her clothing choices have supported her work. As Mrs. Obama said, “I always say that women should wear whatever makes them feel good about themselves. That's what I always try to do. . . . I also believe that if you're comfortable in your clothes, it's easy to connect with people and make them feel comfortable as well. In every interaction that I have with people, I always want to show them my most authentic self.”



Michelle Obama's dress

National Archives, Courtesy of the Presidential Materials Division

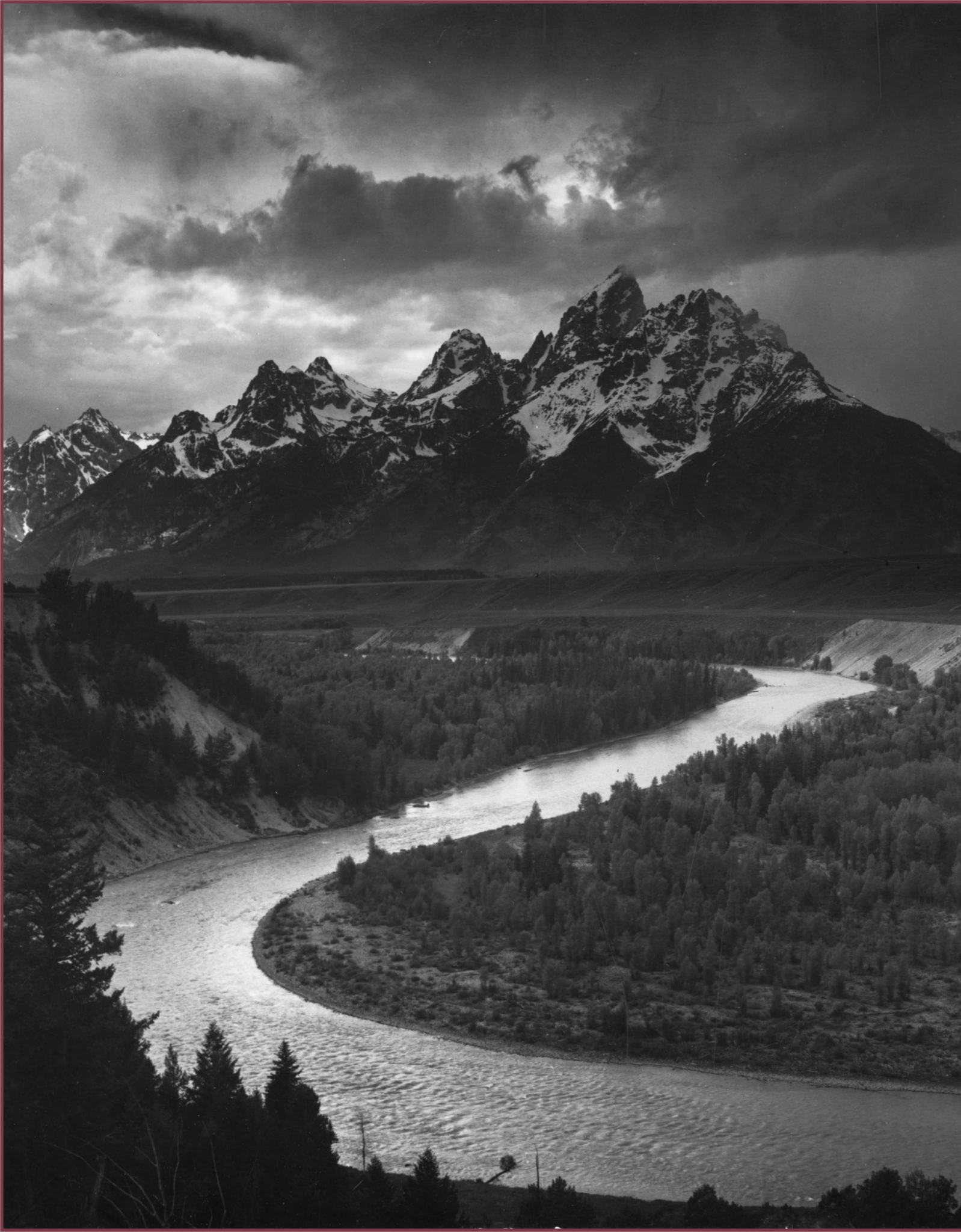




Ansel Adams

Activism through art

Ansel Adams's photographs are some of our nation's most recognizable images of the American West. Adams was an activist and an artist, and his signature black-and-white photographs were influential in the creation of new national parks and wilderness preservation efforts. In 1941 Adams was commissioned by the Department of the Interior to create a photo mural for its building in Washington, DC, with the theme "nature as exemplified and protected in the U.S. National Parks." The project was halted because of World War II and finally completed in 2010.



"The Tetons – Snake river," 1942

National Archives,

Records of the

National Park Service





Dorothea Lange

Influence and Legacy

Dorothea Lange believed that her role as a photographer was to promote political and social change by documenting compelling scenes, as in this photo of jobless men lined up to claim unemployment benefits. Lange worked as a photographer for several government agencies, including the Resettlement Administration (the predecessor to the Farm Security Administration) and the War Relocation Authority. Her photographs of the rural poor and migrant workers during the Great Depression, notably her “Migrant Mother,” are iconic.

Jobless men lined up in California to file claims for unemployment compensation, 1938

National Archives, Records of the Social Security Administration



**Jump to
Official
Business**

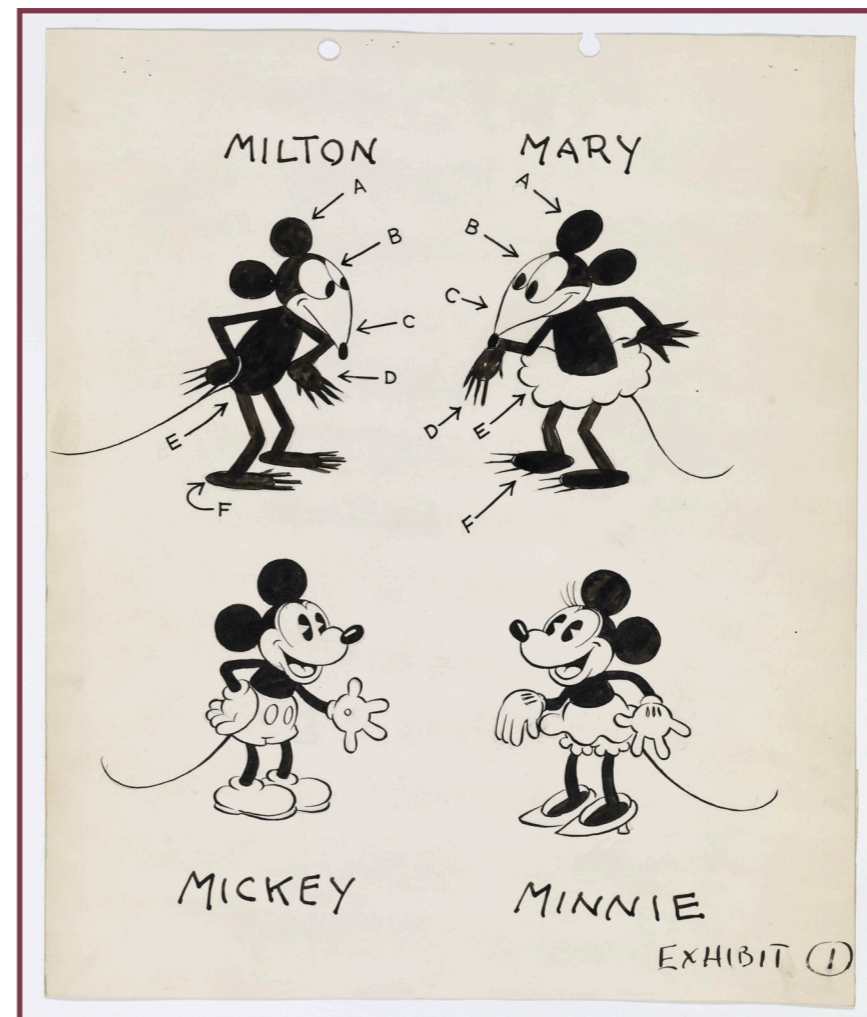
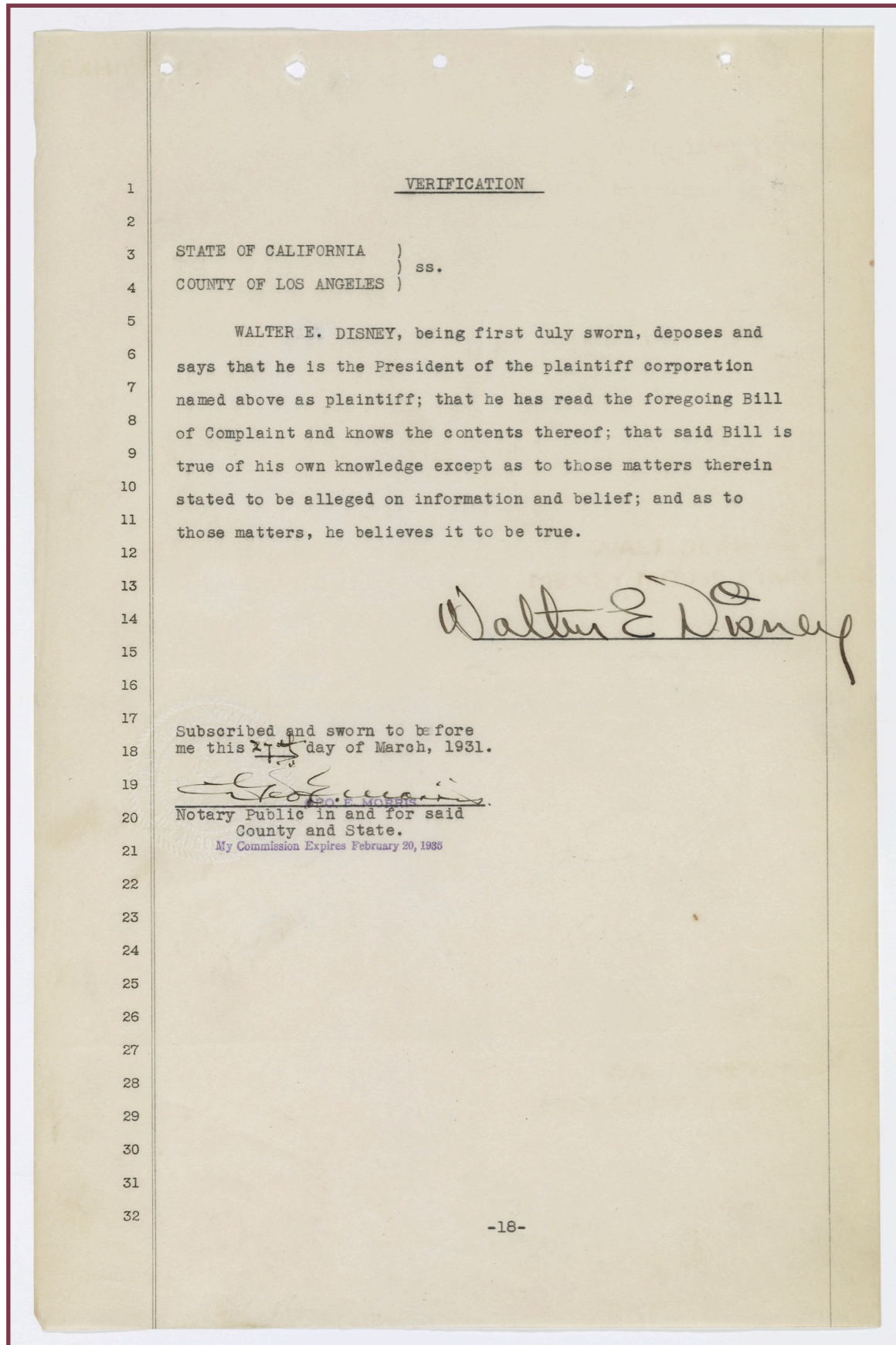


**See All
Signatures**

Walt Disney

Mickey and Minnie vs. Milton and Mary

Few cartoon characters are more recognizable around the world than Mickey Mouse and his girlfriend Minnie Mouse. This early copyright infringement case came just a few years after Mickey and Minnie Mouse had been copyrighted and trademarked. Walt Disney won his case against the creators of Mickey and Minnie look-a-likes Milton and Mary. The defendants, the Pathé Exchange and Van Beuren Corporation, were barred from ever using Milton or Mary in another animated film.



Pages from copyright infringement case for Walt Disney

National Archives at Riverside, Records of District Courts of the United States



Official Business

The day-to-day business of the Federal Government can reveal some surprising finds. Famous names, before they became famous, appear on applications for Federal jobs. The Father of our Country asks for guidance from Congress. Draft registrations were signed by the famous and little-known alike. A famous signature can turn a routine document into a treasure. Which story in these files do you find most intriguing?



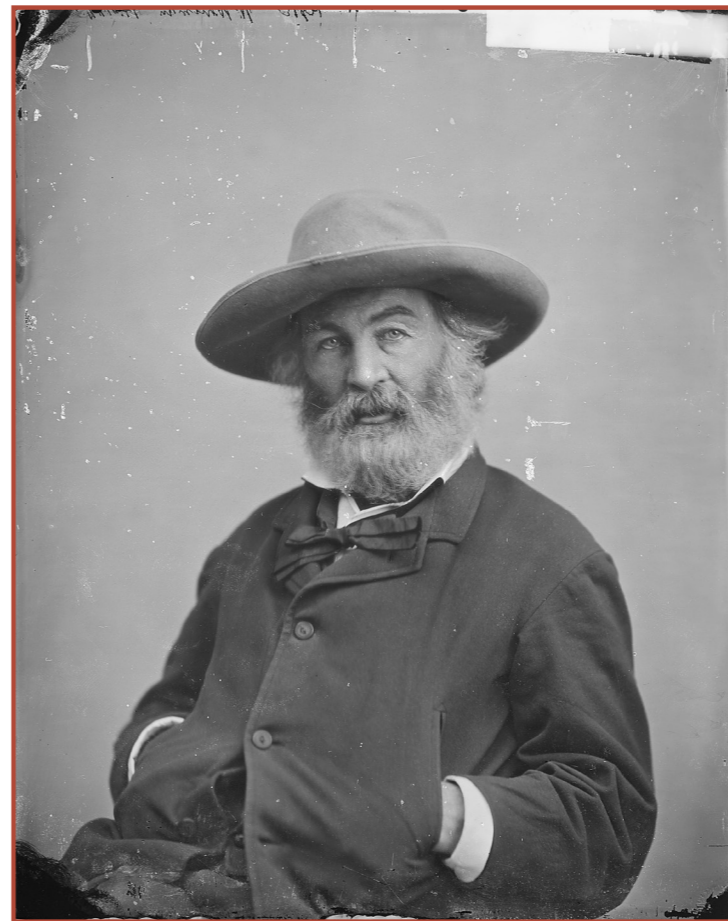
Emerson recommends Whitman

A job referral for a poet?

“will you permit me today that he is known to me as a man of strong, original genius, combining, with marked eccentricities, great powers & valuable traits of character & a self-relying large-hearted man, much beloved by his friends; entirely patriotic and benevolent in his theory, talks, & practice.”

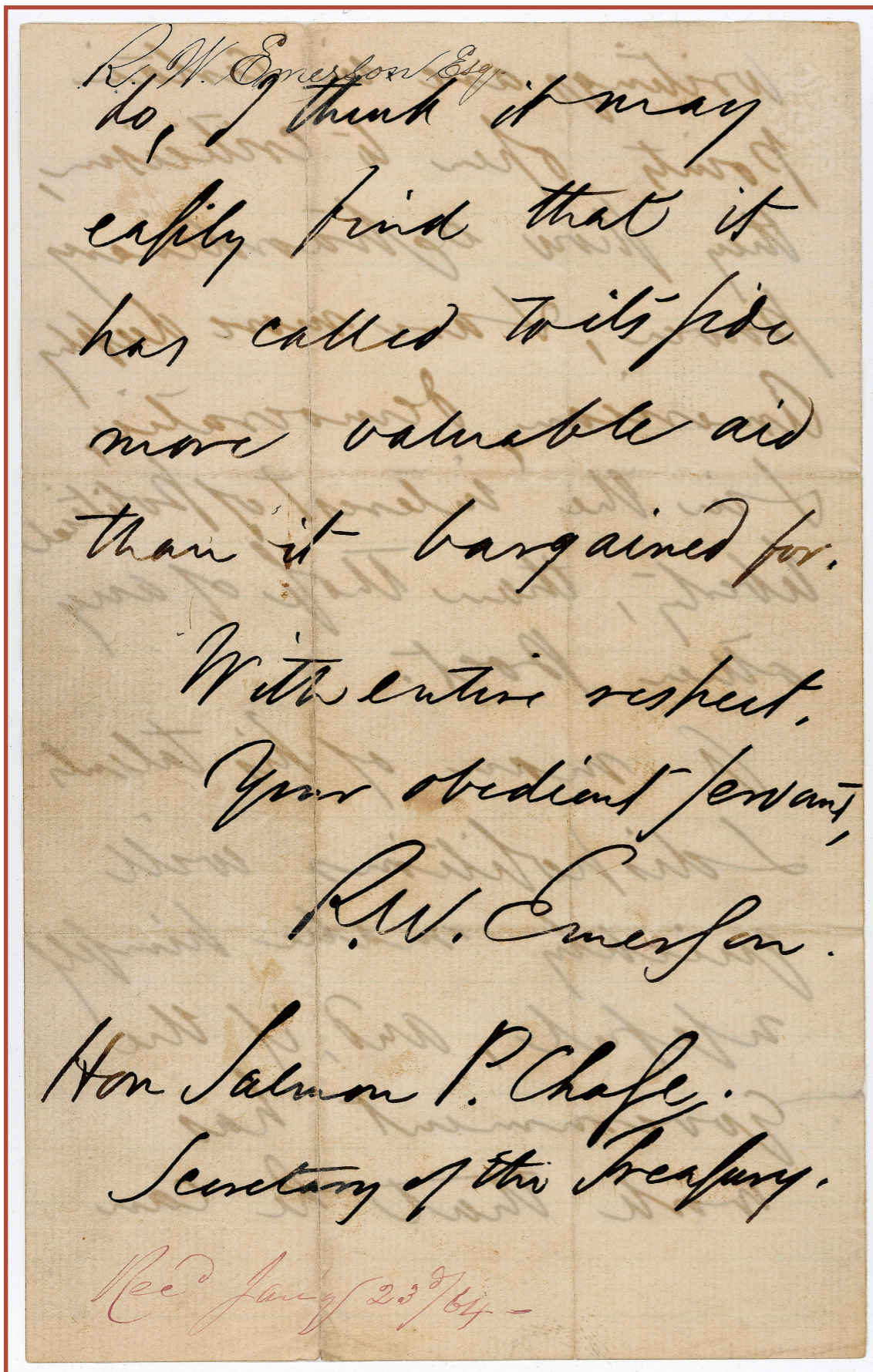
In 1863, Whitman sought the aid of fellow author Ralph Waldo Emerson in obtaining a position in the Government. They had

maintained contact ever since Whitman asked Emerson for his opinion of “Leaves of Grass.” Emerson’s response to Whitman was, “I greet you at the beginning of a great career.” Later, Emerson wrote on Whitman’s behalf to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase. He was not hired, but Whitman obtained a position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



Walt Whitman, ca. 1866

National Archives, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer



Letter from Ralph Waldo Emerson, January 10, 1863

National Archives, General Records of the Department of the Treasury





Julia Child

From top-secret researcher to cookbook author and TV personality

Before she was a well-known TV personality and cookbook author, Julia Child, worked for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), precursor to the CIA, during World War II. Known then as Julia McWilliams, she began as a typist, but because of her experience and education was eventually promoted to research assistant. Not only did she play a role in communications between U.S. Government officials and intelligence officers, often having access to top-secret documents, but she was able to travel the world while on different assignments. In 1945, while on assignment in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) she met fellow OSS employee and future husband Paul Child. This application, which is in her handwriting, includes a memo in which she explains her “forced resignation” from a previous job.

25. IF YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED MILITARY PREFERENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, CHECK (✓) THE KIND OF PREFERENCE: 5-POINT; DISABILITY; WIFE OF DISABLED VETERAN; WIDOW OF VETERAN

26. IF YOU ARE RECEIVING A PENSION OR COMPENSATION FROM THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION, STATE PARTICULARS (IF FOR DISABILITY, STATE PERCENTAGE AND NATURE).....

27. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISMISSED FOR CAUSE OR FORCED TO RESIGN FROM ANY EMPLOYMENT? Yes IF ANSWER IS "YES" DESCRIBE CIRCUMSTANCES FULLY ON SEPARATE SHEET AND ATTACH TO THIS FORM. (Yes or No)

28. ARE ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY OR RELATIVES (EITHER BLOOD OR BY MARRIAGE) IN ANY PART OF THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES (EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL, LEGISLATIVE, MILITARY, OR NAVAL)? ANSWER "YES" OR "NO" Yes IF SO, FILL IN THE FOLLOWING BLANKS STATING, UNDER "RELATIONSHIP," WHETHER THE CONNECTION IS BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE. IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NECESSARY, ATTACH A SHEET.

NAME	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS (Give street number, if any)	POSITION AND DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE IN WHICH EMPLOYED	RELATIONSHIP	MARRIED OR SINGLE
JOHN McWILLIAMS	1207 S. Pasadena Ave PASADENA CALIFORNIA	Position <u>CAPTAIN</u> Department or office <u>U.S. ARMY</u>	<u>FATHER</u>	<u>MARRIED</u>
		Position.....		
		Department or office.....		
		Position.....		
		Department or office.....		

29. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED, INDICTED, OR CONVICTED FOR ANY VIOLATION OF LAW OTHER THAN A MINOR TRAFFIC VIOLATION? IF "YES," STATE NAME OF COURT, NATURE OF OFFENSE, YOUR AGE AT THE TIME, AND DISPOSITION OF YOUR CASE. No

30. HOW MANY WORKING DAYS HAVE YOU LOST IN THE PAST TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF ILLNESS? None DAYS. NATURE OF ILLNESS,

31. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY PARTY OR ORGANIZATION WHICH ADVOCATED THE OVERTHROW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES? No (Yes or No)

32. MAY WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PRESENT EMPLOYER? (Yes or No)

33. GIVE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF FIVE PERSONS OTHER THAN RELATIVES WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR CHARACTER, EXPERIENCE, AND ABILITY:

FULL NAME	FULL ADDRESS	OCCUPATION
1. MRS. PETER BELVIN	3132 O Street NW, W.D.C.	Housewife
2. Mrs. Turner McBAIRD	2233 BANCROFT Pl., W.D.C.	"
3. A.W. FORESTER	575-5th Ave - New York	Advertising Director
4. Mrs. MARJORIE WILLIAMS	48 N. EL MOLINO, PASADENA, CALIF.	Am. Red. Cross Exec. Sec'y.
5. COL. J. G. BOSWELL	HELLMAN Bldg. Los Angeles	BUSINESS MAN

34. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, NOTIFY—

Name	Street address
John McWILLIAMS	1207 S. Pasadena Ave.
Relationship	Telephone
FATHER	579-1084
City and State	
PASADENA, CALIF.	

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. (Any false statement is sufficient cause for rejection of the application or dismissal after appointment.)

(The Coordinator of Information reserves the right to investigate all statements made in this application. Copies of publications or other data may be submitted with this application to support your candidacy.)

(Signature) Julia C. McWilliams
(Sign one given name, middle initial or initials, if you have any, and your surname)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-23265

Julia McWilliams's OSS application, June 12, 1942
National Archives, Records of the Office of Strategic Services





Richard Nixon

A future President for FBI special agent

Here we see Richard M. Nixon's famous signature from a time when his future was unknown. Upon graduating from Duke Law School in 1937, Nixon submitted this application to be a special agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). After his interview with the FBI, he never received a response. Assuming he didn't get the job, Nixon returned home to California, passed the bar, and began practicing law. It wasn't until Nixon was Vice President of the United States that he learned what happened with his application. Director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover told him that he had been accepted as a special agent, but that due to budget cuts, his appointment was held back.

RECEIVED

4

24. List the names of any relatives now in the Government service, with the degree of relationship, and where employed:
None

25. What is the lowest entrance salary you will accept? Standard for special agents

26. Are you in a position to accept probationary employment at any time, without previous notice, and, if notice is required, how much? Yes - no notice necessary

27. In the event of appointment will you be willing to proceed to Washington, D.C., upon 10 days' notice and at your own expense? Yes

28. If appointed are you willing and prepared to accept assignment or transfer to any part of the United States where services are required, for either temporary or permanent duration? Yes

Write your name plainly in block letters on a photograph not larger than 3 by 4 1/4 inches. Write your name plainly on the photograph to be taken not more than 30 days prior to date of application.

Respectfully,

Richard M. Nixon
(Signature of applicant as usually written)

NOTE.—If the applicant desires to make any further remarks or statements concerning his qualifications or in answer to any question contained in the application, the same should be made on a separate sheet of paper, numbering the remarks in accordance with the original questions.

Subscribed to by all applicants for positions in the Federal Bureau of Investigation to before me by the above-named applicant, this 29 day of April, 1937, at city (or town) of Durham, county of Durham, and State (or Territory or District) of North Carolina

Lina E. Wilson
(Signature of officer)
notary Public
(Official title)

[OFFICIAL IMPRESSION SEAL]

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 7-2092

my comm. expires Jan. 15, 1939.

Richard Nixon's application to be an FBI special agent, April 29, 1937

National Archives, Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

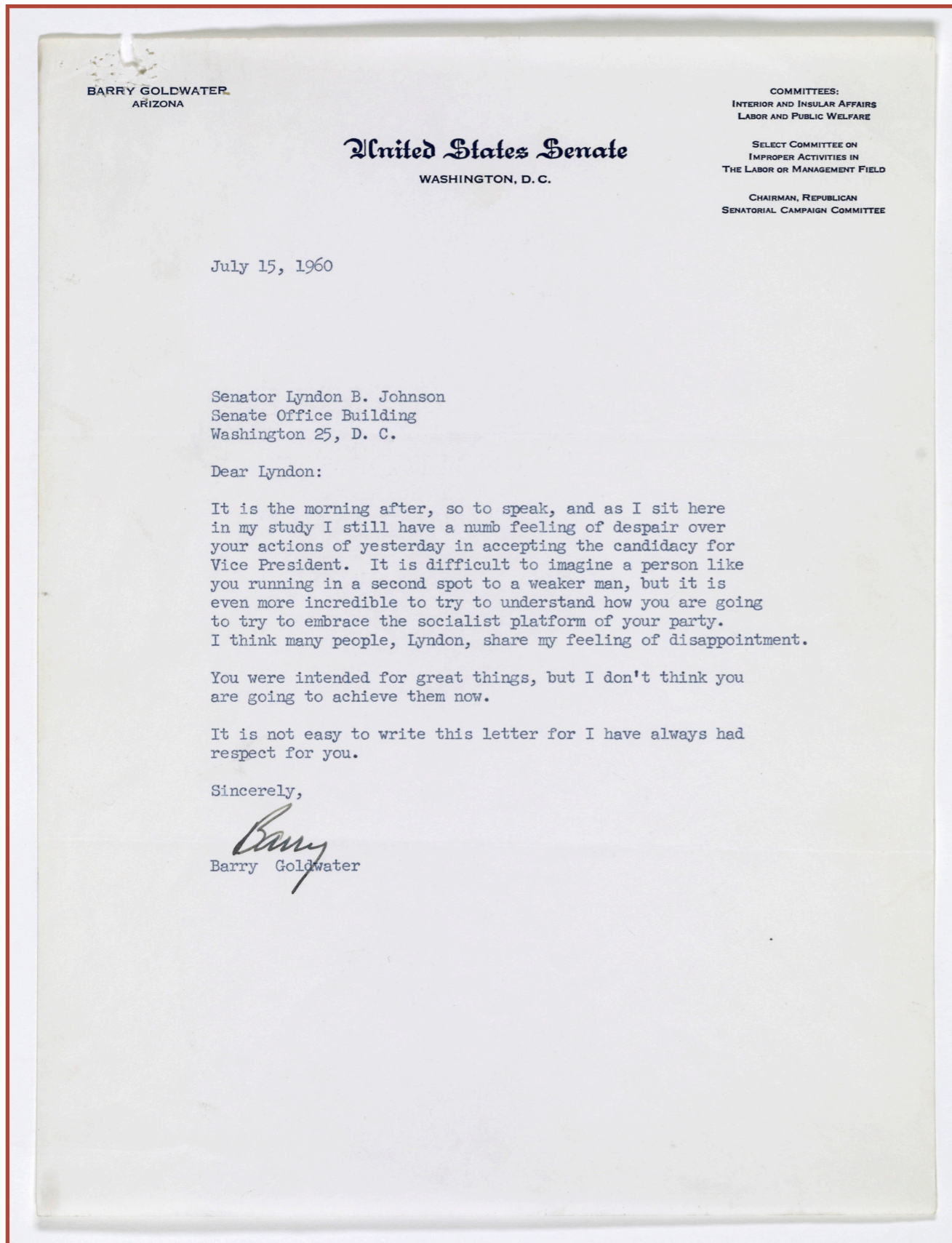




Barry Goldwater

From Senators across the aisle to competing Presidential candidates

Signed “Barry,” Senator Barry Goldwater wrote Senator Lyndon Johnson bluntly expressing his disappointment at Johnson’s acceptance of the Democratic candidacy for Vice President. He wrote, “you were intended for great things, but I don’t think you are going to achieve them now.” Goldwater’s prediction did not quite come true, as four years later Johnson defeated Goldwater in the 1964 Presidential election by one of the largest landslides in history.



BARRY GOLDWATER
ARIZONA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
IMPROPER ACTIVITIES IN
THE LABOR OR MANAGEMENT FIELD

CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN
SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

July 15, 1960

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson
Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

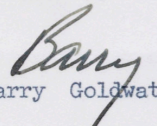
Dear Lyndon:

It is the morning after, so to speak, and as I sit here in my study I still have a numb feeling of despair over your actions of yesterday in accepting the candidacy for Vice President. It is difficult to imagine a person like you running in a second spot to a weaker man, but it is even more incredible to try to understand how you are going to try to embrace the socialist platform of your party. I think many people, Lyndon, share my feeling of disappointment.

You were intended for great things, but I don't think you are going to achieve them now.

It is not easy to write this letter for I have always had respect for you.

Sincerely,


Barry Goldwater

Letter from Barry Goldwater to Lyndon Johnson

Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives



See All
Signatures



Selective Service Cards

Registering for the World War I draft

As World War I began, the United States Army was fairly small, and by 1916, it was clear that more troops were needed if the United States were to enter the conflict. Initially, President Wilson desired an army made up of volunteers and wanted 1 million men, but six weeks after declaring war, only 73,000 had volunteered to serve.

On May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act. It authorized the Federal Government to expand the military. The act provided that all men between the ages of 21 to 30 were required to register for military service. Later, it was amended to include men up to age 45. The significant difference for this draft from the previous one, which was for the American Civil War, was that men were not allowed to hire a substitute if they did not want to serve.

Approximately 24 million men registered, which was almost a quarter of the population in 1918. Not all men who registered actually served. By the end of World War I, 2.8 million had been drafted and 2 million men had volunteered. When the armistice ending the war was signed on November 11, 1918, the activities of the Selective Service System greatly decreased, and by 1919 all activities were terminated.

REGISTRATION CARD				
SERIAL NUMBER 1145	ORDER NUMBER A 3156			
1 <i>Edward Kennedy Ellington</i> (First name) (Middle name) (Last name)				
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>1955-3rd St NW</i> <i>Washington, D. C.</i> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)				
Age in Years 3 <i>19</i>	Date of Birth 4 <i>Apr. 29th 1899</i> (Month.) (Day.) (Year.)			
RACE				
5 <input type="checkbox"/> White	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negro	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Oriental	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Citizen	
9 <input type="checkbox"/> Noncitizen				
U. S. CITIZEN			ALIEN	
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native Born	11 <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized	12 <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Declarant	14 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-declarant
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?				
PRESENT OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER'S NAME		
16 <i>Messenger</i>		17 <i>Federal Govt.</i>		
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: <i>Chief Staff - War Dept. Wash. D.C.</i> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)				
NEAREST RELATIVE	Name	19 <i>Edna C. Ellington</i>		
	Address	20 <i>1955-3rd St NW Wash. D.C.</i> (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE				
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red)		<i>E. K. Ellington</i> (Registrant's signature or mark)		
e3-6171		(OVER)		

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington

National Archives, Records of the Selective Service System





REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER **1645** ORDER NUMBER **A1839**

1 Name in full **Harry Handcuff Houdini**

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS **278 W. 113rd St. N.Y. N.Y. N.Y.**

3 Age in Years **44** 4 Date of Birth **April 6th 1874**

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	7	Citizen	Noncitizen

U. S. CITIZEN			ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	12	13	14

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

16 PRESENT OCCUPATION **actor** 17 EMPLOYER'S NAME **Harry A. Houdini**

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: **216 Mechanics St. Hoboken N.J.**

19 NEAREST RELATIVE Name **Beatrice Houdini**

20 Address **278 W 113rd St. N.Y. N.Y.**

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red) 09-6171 **Harry Handcuff Houdini** (REGISTRANT'S SIGNATURE OR MARK) (OVER)

Harry Handcuff Houdini
National Archives, Records of the Selective Service System

REGISTRATION CARD

Form 1 **670** No. **146**

1 Name in full **Norman Rockwell** Age, in yrs. **23**

2 Home address **308 August St. New Rochelle**

3 Date of birth **February 3rd 1894**

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? **Natural born**

5 Where were you born? **New Rochelle N.Y. U.S.**

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? **Artist**

8 By whom employed? **Freelance**

9 Where employed? **New Rochelle**

10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? **Wife**

11 Married or single (which)? **Married** Race (specify which)? **Caucasian**

12 What military service have you had? Rank **None**; branch **None**; years **None**; Nation or State **None**

13 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? **None**

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Norman Rockwell (signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, mark corner

Norman Rockwell
National Archives, Records of the Selective Service System

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER **3049** ORDER NUMBER **A2840**

1 Name in full **Alphonse Capone**

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS **38 Garfield Place Brooklyn Kings Co. N.Y.**

3 Age in Years **19** 4 Date of Birth **January 17th 1899**

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	7	Citizen	Noncitizen

U. S. CITIZEN			ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	12	13	14

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

16 PRESENT OCCUPATION **Paper Cutter** 17 EMPLOYER'S NAME **United Paper Box Co.**

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: **33 - 34th St. Brooklyn Kings Co. N.Y.**

19 NEAREST RELATIVE Name **Mother Theresa Capone**

20 Address **38 Garfield Pl. Bklyn Kings Co. N.Y.**

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red) 09-6171 **Alphonse Capone** (REGISTRANT'S SIGNATURE OR MARK) (OVER)

Alphonse Capone
National Archives, Records of the Selective Service System



Jump to Power of the Pen



See All Signatures



John Huston

Let There Be Light documentary in the dark for years

John Huston's career as a filmmaker, writer, and actor spanned over four decades. Before becoming an Oscar-winning icon in Hollywood, he made three films for the Army. *Let There Be Light* was his third and final war documentary. Huston used his revolutionary style to create documentaries that are ranked by critics among the finest films ever made about World War II.

Known for unflinching realism—the unscripted interviews featured were uncommon in filmmaking until over a decade later—*Light* followed 75 soldiers suffering from “battle neurosis,” now called Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and chronicled the men and their treatment. Huston wanted to convey that men suffering from PTSD were not failures or cowards, but also “were employable, as trustworthy as anyone.”

In 1946 the Army rejected the film and confiscated the prints, fearing the demoralizing effects it might have on recruitment. Suppressed since 1946, it was premiered to the public in 1980, and preserved and restored by the National Archives.

You can view this film in its entirety and learn more about the preservation and restoration from the National Archives' Motion Picture Preservation Lab, [See the film.](#)

Let There Be Light, 1946

National Archives, Records of the
Office of the Chief Signal Officer



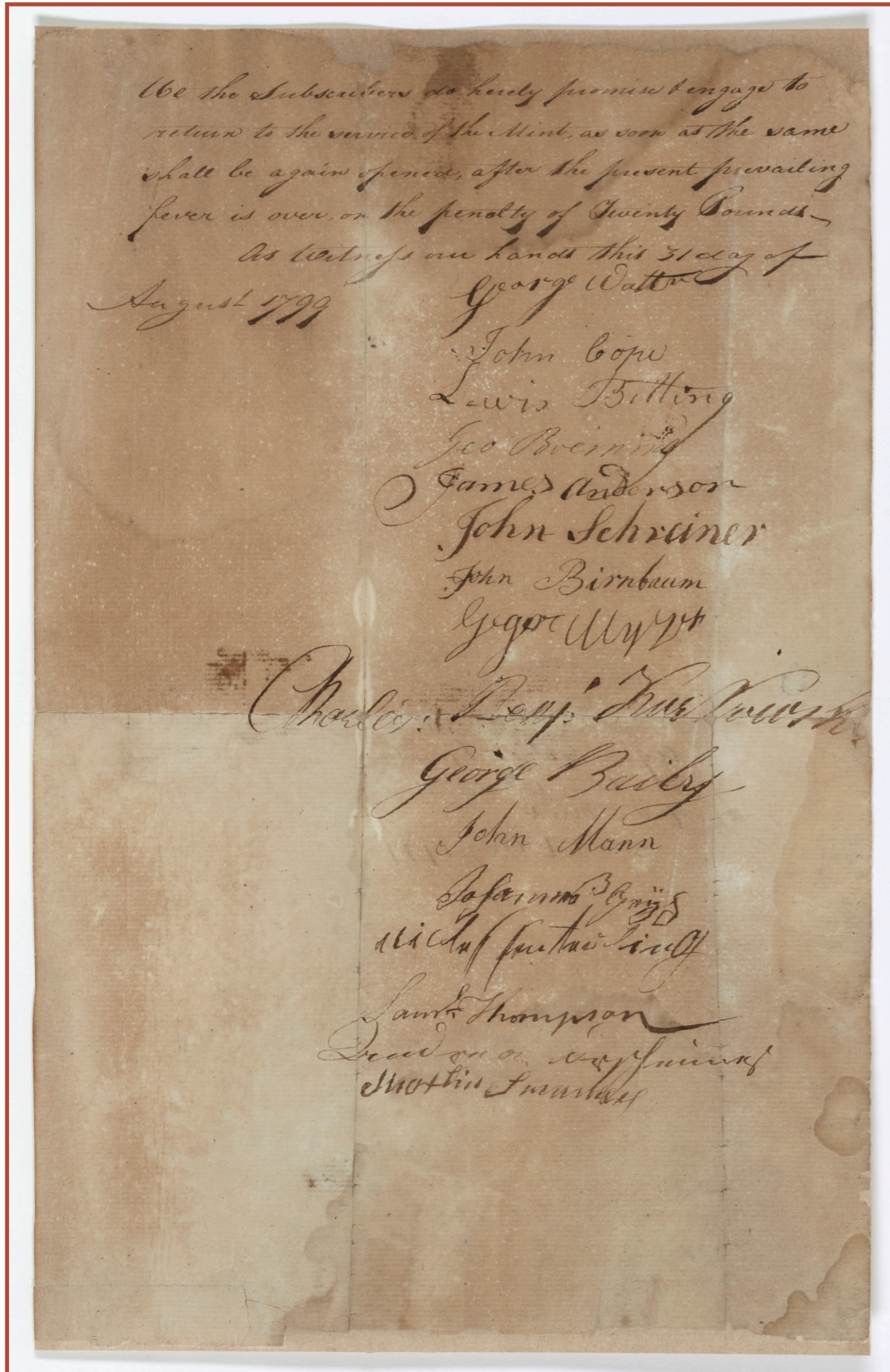


Mint Petition

U.S. Mint Employees

"We do hereby promise and engage to return to the service of the Mint"

This petition signed by the employees of the U.S. Mint, on August 31, 1799, was their promise to return to work after the "present prevailing fever is over." Trying to survive an epidemic, these workers were reluctant to go to their workplace. Just five years earlier, a yellow fever plague took the lives of 10 percent of Philadelphia's population.



Petition from employees of the U.S. Mint
National Archives at Philadelphia, Records of the U.S. Mint

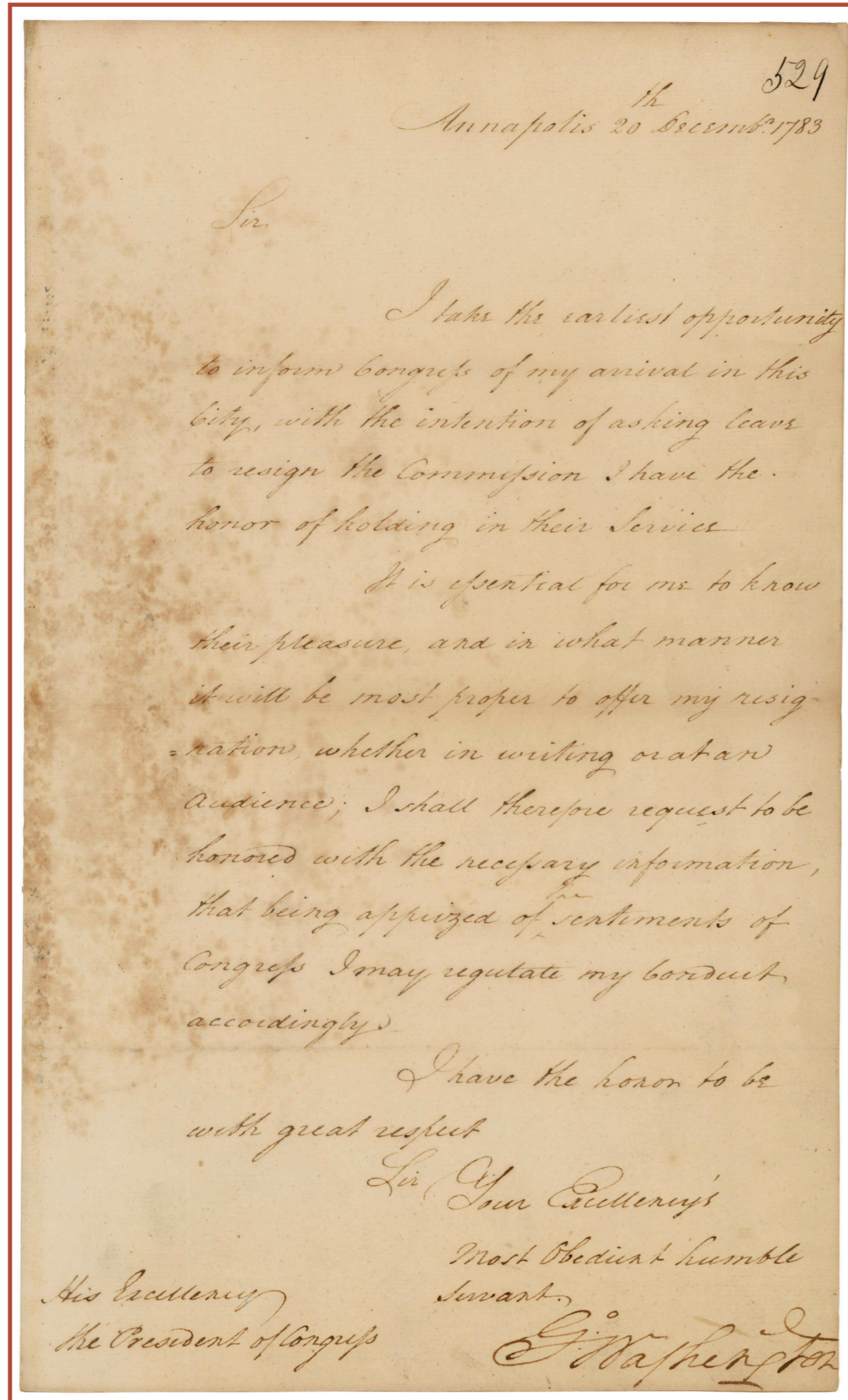




George Washington

The commander in chief inquires how he should retire

Gen. George Washington arrived in Annapolis, Maryland, on December 20, 1783, at the end of the Revolutionary War. He penned this note to the Continental Congress asking how they would like him to officially resign, “whether in writing or at an audience” so that he “may regulate his conduct accordingly.” Three days later, before the assembled Congress, he announced his resignation as commander in chief. Washington set many precedents, but this resignation was a precedent in itself: many believed he could have become a king or dictator, but Washington chose to give the power back to Congress.



Letter from Washington to the Continental Congress, December 20, 1783

National Archives, Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention



Jump to
Power of
the Pen

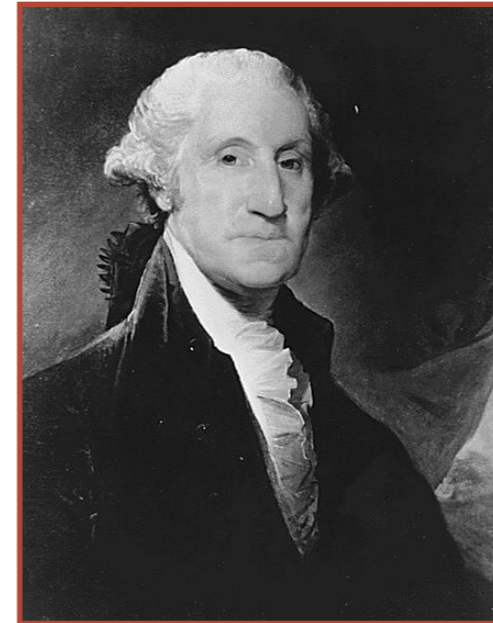


See All
Signatures



Declaring Loyalty

“I solemnly swear ...”



George Washington

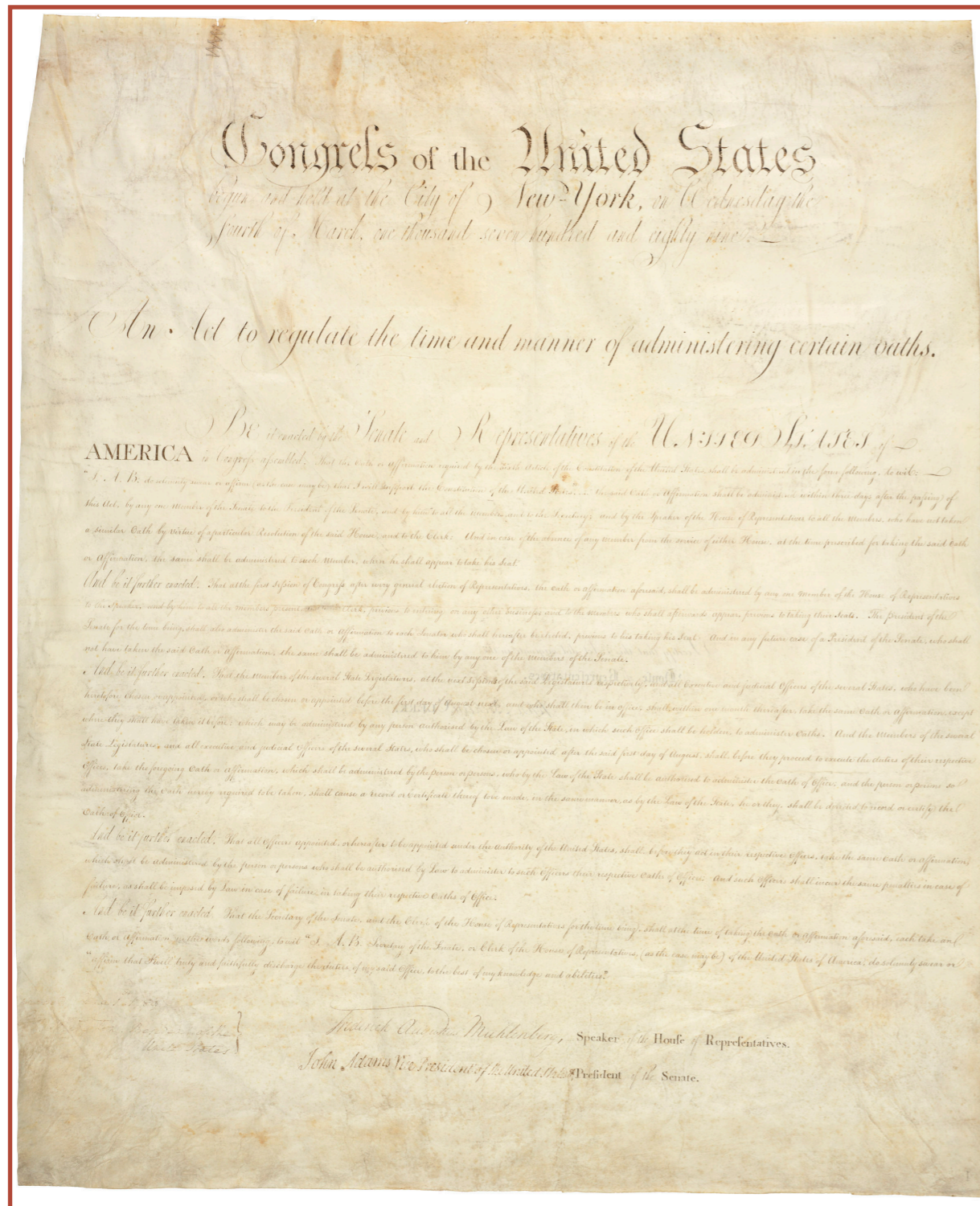
National Archives, Records of Exposition, Anniversary, and Memorial Commissions

The very first act signed into law by President George Washington was “An Act to Regulate the Time and Manner of Administering Certain Oaths.” Signed on June 1, 1789, it mandated the actual oath to be recited and how it should be administered. This oath was to be taken by “any person elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit either in the civil, military, or naval service, except the President of the United States ...” and it remained that way until the Civil War.

Due to concerns of sabotage during the Civil War, Federal employees had to take the Iron Clad Oath beginning in 1862.

Members of Congress began taking the oath in 1864. At that time, the Senate decided that the Senators should attest to the oath in writing in addition to taking the verbal oath. For that reason, no written, signed oaths exist before the Civil War. The Iron Clad Oath was in effect until 1884, when the law mandating it was repealed. Since 1884, Members of Congress have taken the same oath.

In addition to the Iron Clad Oaths and congressional oaths, also featured are three Oaths of Allegiance from the Revolutionary War for: Alexander Hamilton, the Marquis de Lafayette, and Benedict Arnold.



An Act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths, June 1, 1789

National Archives, General Records of the U.S. Government

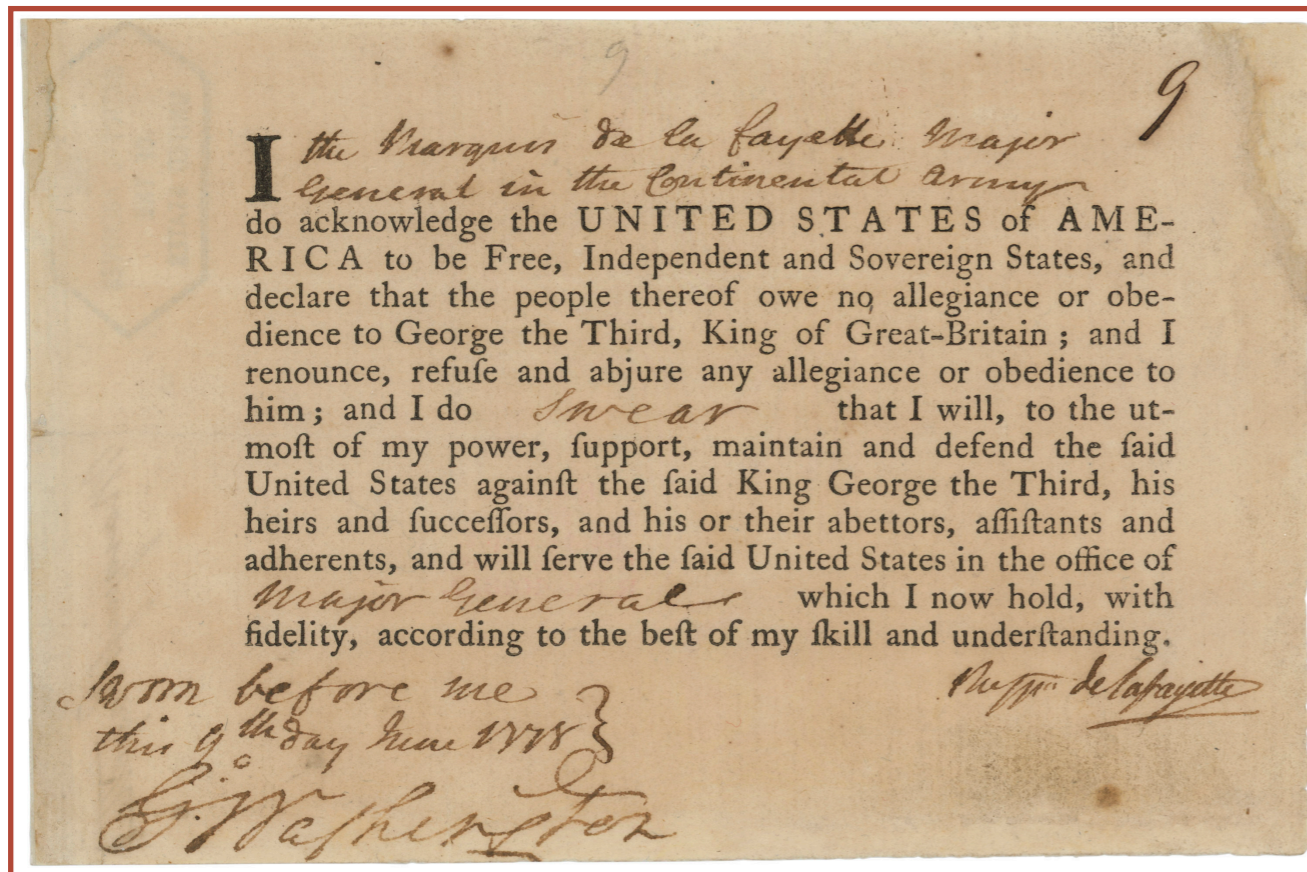




Marquis de Lafayette

A Frenchman, an American hero

Serving as major general, the Marquis de Lafayette signed his oath of allegiance to the United States on June 9, 1778, with George Washington signing as his witness. Lafayette was a French nobleman determined to have a role in the American Revolution. He was so taken with the American cause that he set sail from France without the king's permission. Initially, he was a volunteer in the army, serving as Washington's aide-de-camp, but he soon earned the rank of major general.



The Marquis de Lafayette's Oath of Allegiance, June 9, 1778

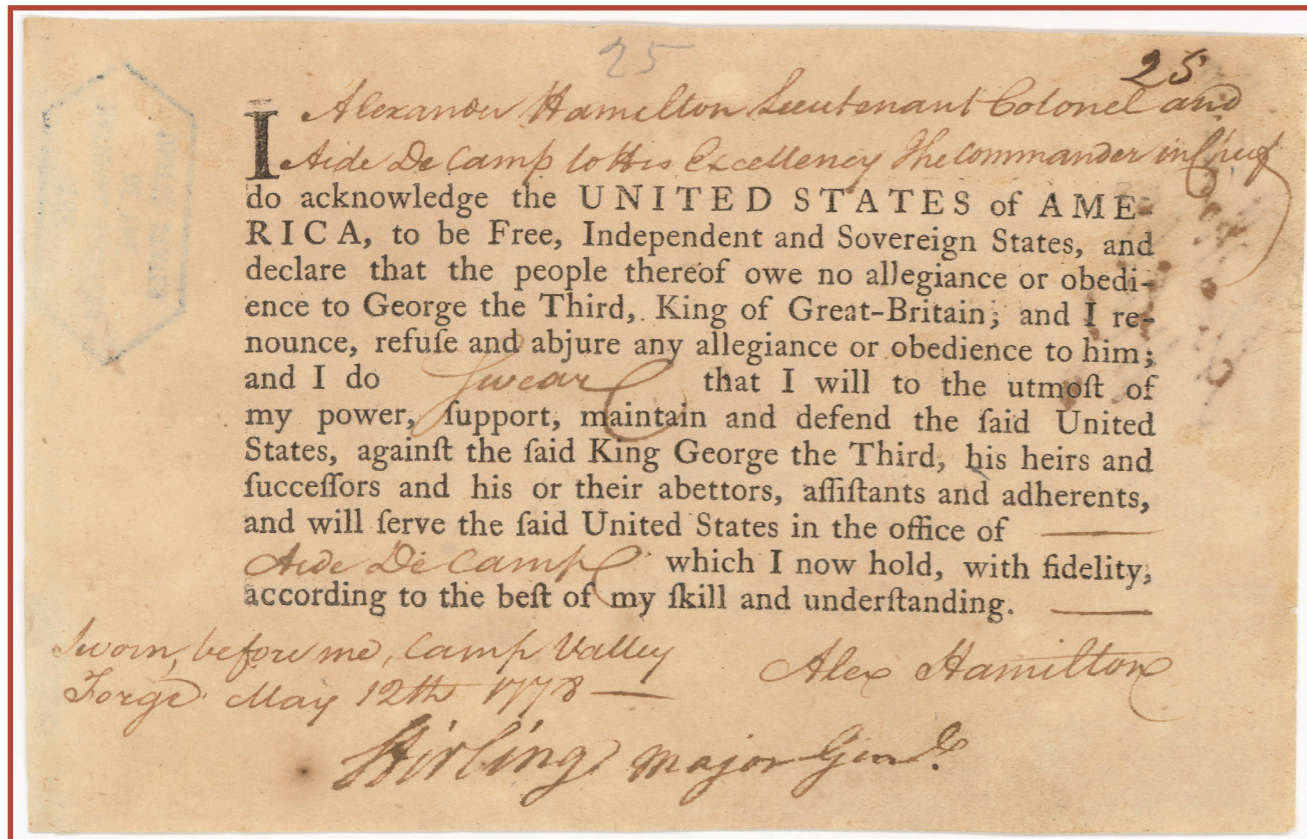
National Archives, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records



Alexander Hamilton

Founding Father at war

Alexander Hamilton was studying at King's College (today Columbia University) when the Patriot cause against Great Britain was sweeping the colonies. He left school to join the Revolution in 1776, and after two years he caught the attention of Gen. George Washington. Hamilton became an integral part of Washington's camp, serving as the general's assistant and trusted advisor. In signing this oath, Alexander Hamilton swore his allegiance to the United States on May 12, 1778. Later in the war, it was Hamilton who helped lead the charge with the French against the British at the Battle of Yorktown, the battle that led to Lt. Gen. Lord Cornwallis's surrender.



Alexander Hamilton's Oath of Allegiance, May 12, 1778

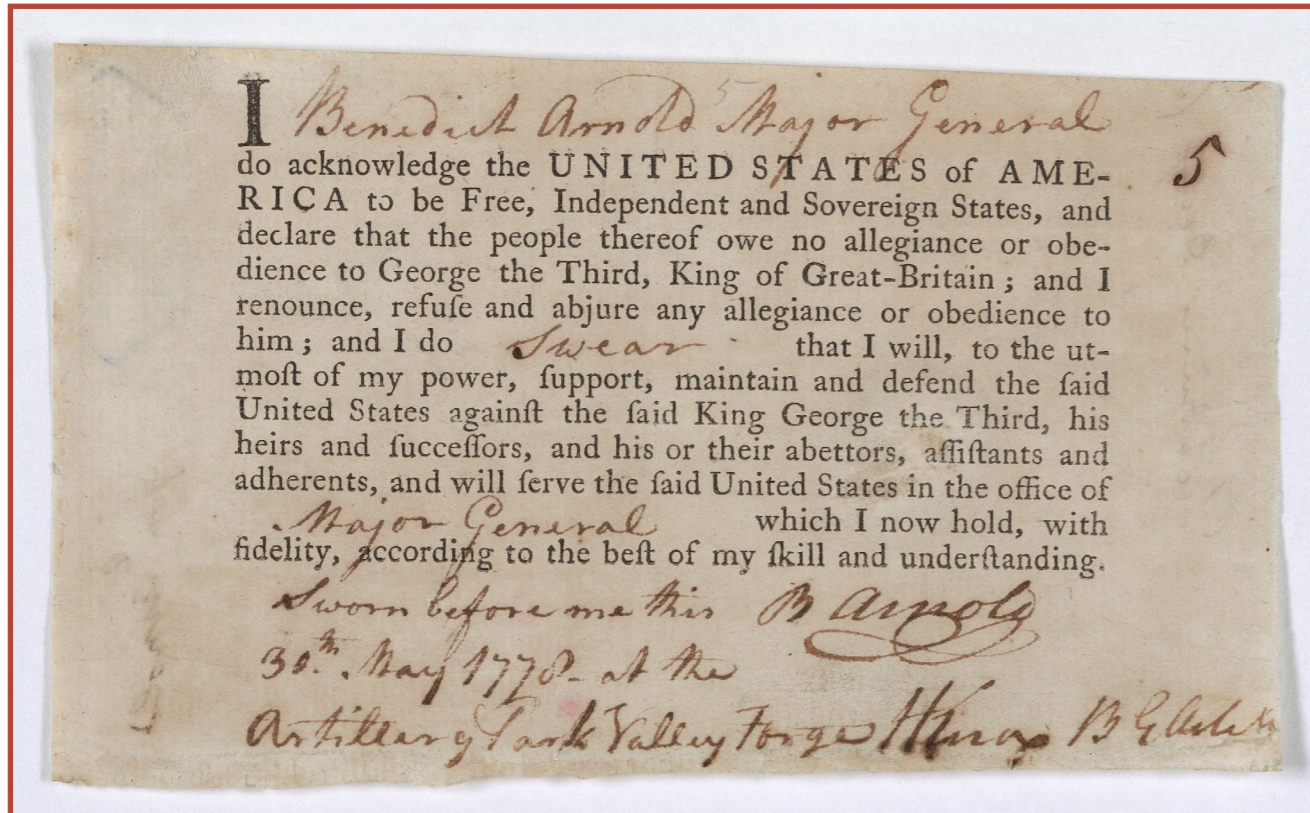
National Archives, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records



Benedict Arnold

A hollow allegiance

In signing his oath, Benedict Arnold swore his allegiance to the United States on May 30, 1778, at Valley Forge, with Brig. Gen. Henry Knox signing as witness. Just a year later, Arnold was spying for the British, feeding them information, and by August 1780, helping them in an unsuccessful attempt to capture West Point. His disloyalty was discovered, and he fled, narrowly escaping capture. Arnold defected to the British side and by the winter of 1780 was fighting against the United States. With these acts, “Benedict Arnold” has made it into American vernacular meaning “traitor.”



Benedict Arnold's Oath of Allegiance, May 30, 1778

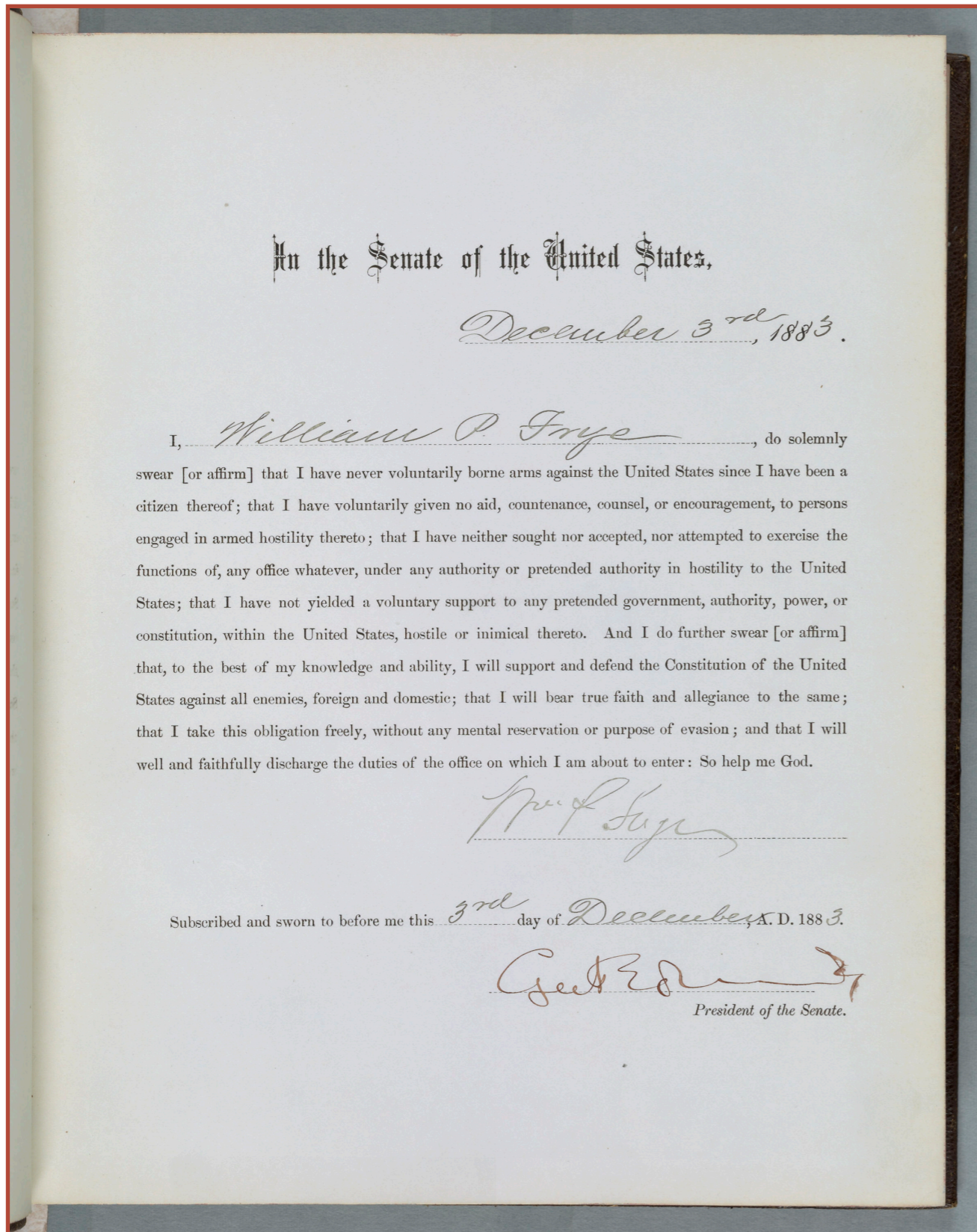
National Archives, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records



William P. Frye

An Iron Clad Oath

Signed on December 3, 1883, this is the Iron Clad Oath for William P. Frye, a longtime Senator from Maine who was also a member of the commission which negotiated the Treaty of Paris in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. This written declaration of loyalty was added to the traditional, verbal oath that all Federal employees took in 1862 because of fears of sabotage during the Civil War. Members of Congress took it from 1864 to 1884.



In the Senate of the United States,

December 3rd, 1883.

I, William P. Frye, do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement, to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of, any office whatever, under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or constitution, within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear [or affirm] that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

W. P. Frye

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of December, A. D. 1883.

Geor. Edmunds
President of the Senate.

Iron Clad Oath for William P. Frye, December 3, 1883

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate

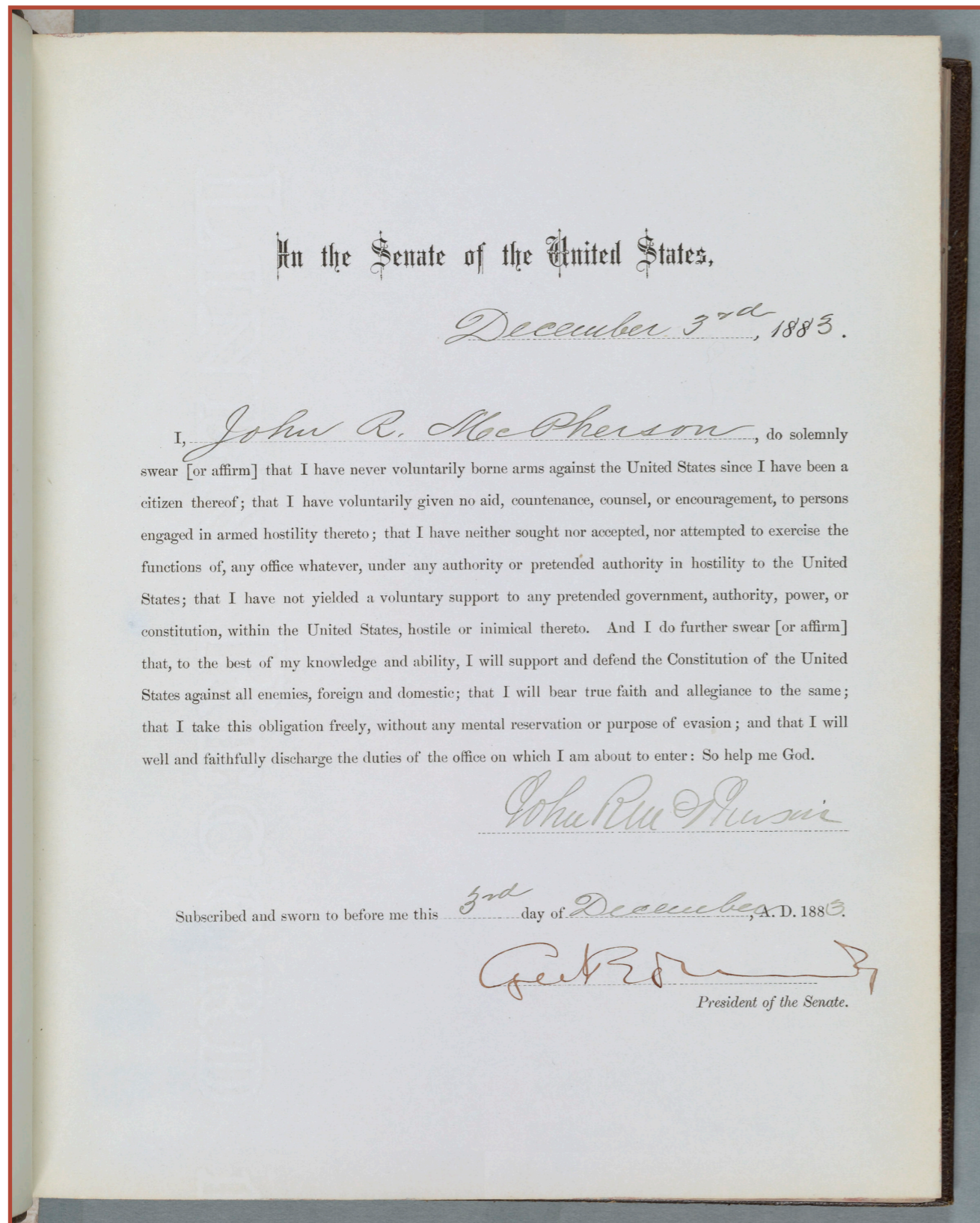




John R. McPherson

An Iron Clad Oath

Signed on December 3, 1883, this is the Iron Clad Oath for John R. McPherson, a three-time Senator from New Jersey. This written declaration of loyalty was added to the traditional, verbal oath that all Federal employees took in 1862 because of fears of sabotage during the Civil War. Members of Congress took it from 1864 to 1884.



Iron Clad Oath for John R. McPherson, December 3, 1883

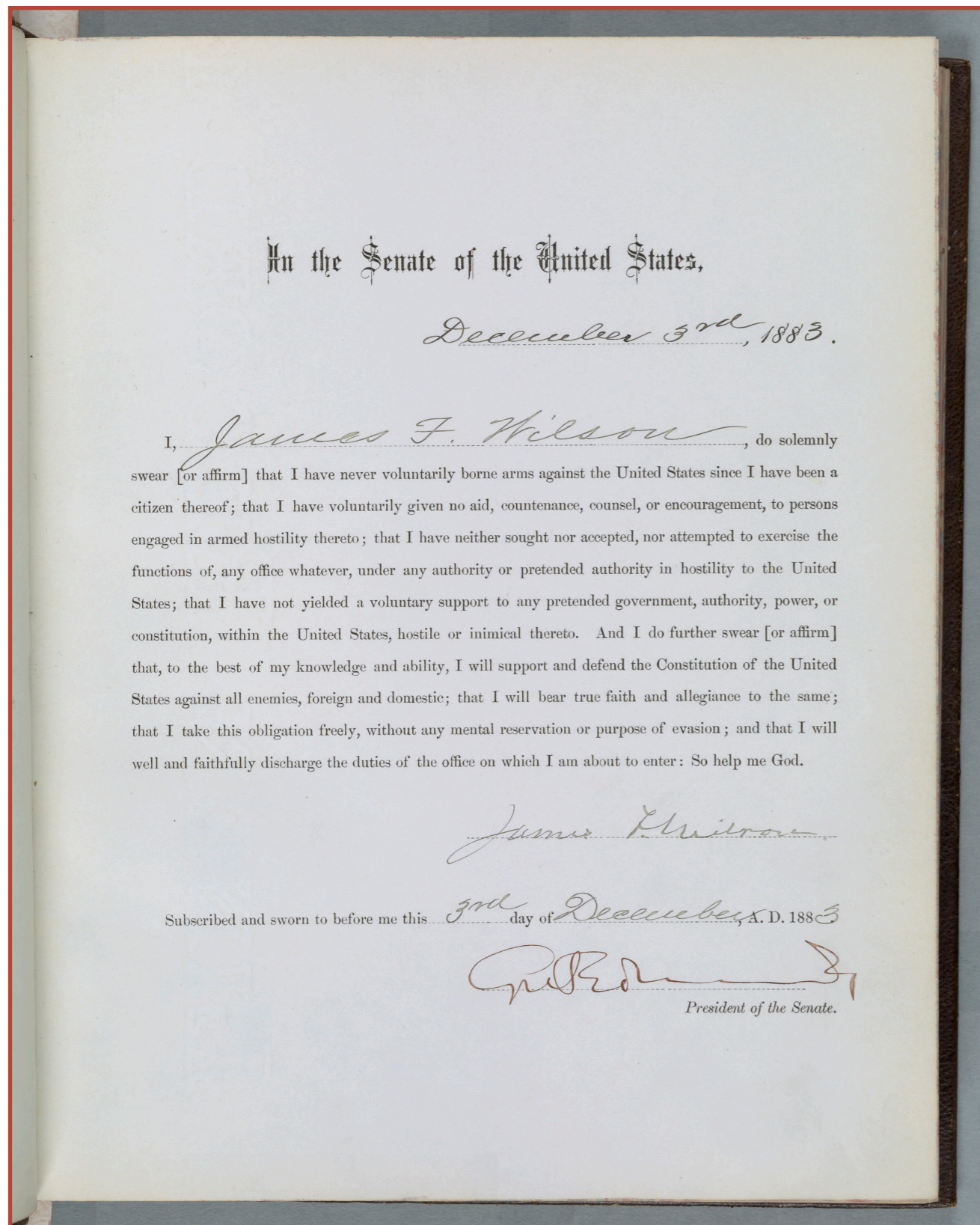
National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate



James F. Wilson

An Iron Clad Oath

Signed on December 3, 1883, this is the Iron Clad Oath for James F. Wilson, a two-time Senator from Iowa. This written declaration of loyalty was added to the traditional, verbal oath that all Federal employees took in 1862 because of fears of sabotage during the Civil War. Members of Congress took it from 1864 to 1884.



Iron Clad Oath for James F. Wilson, December 3, 1883

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate

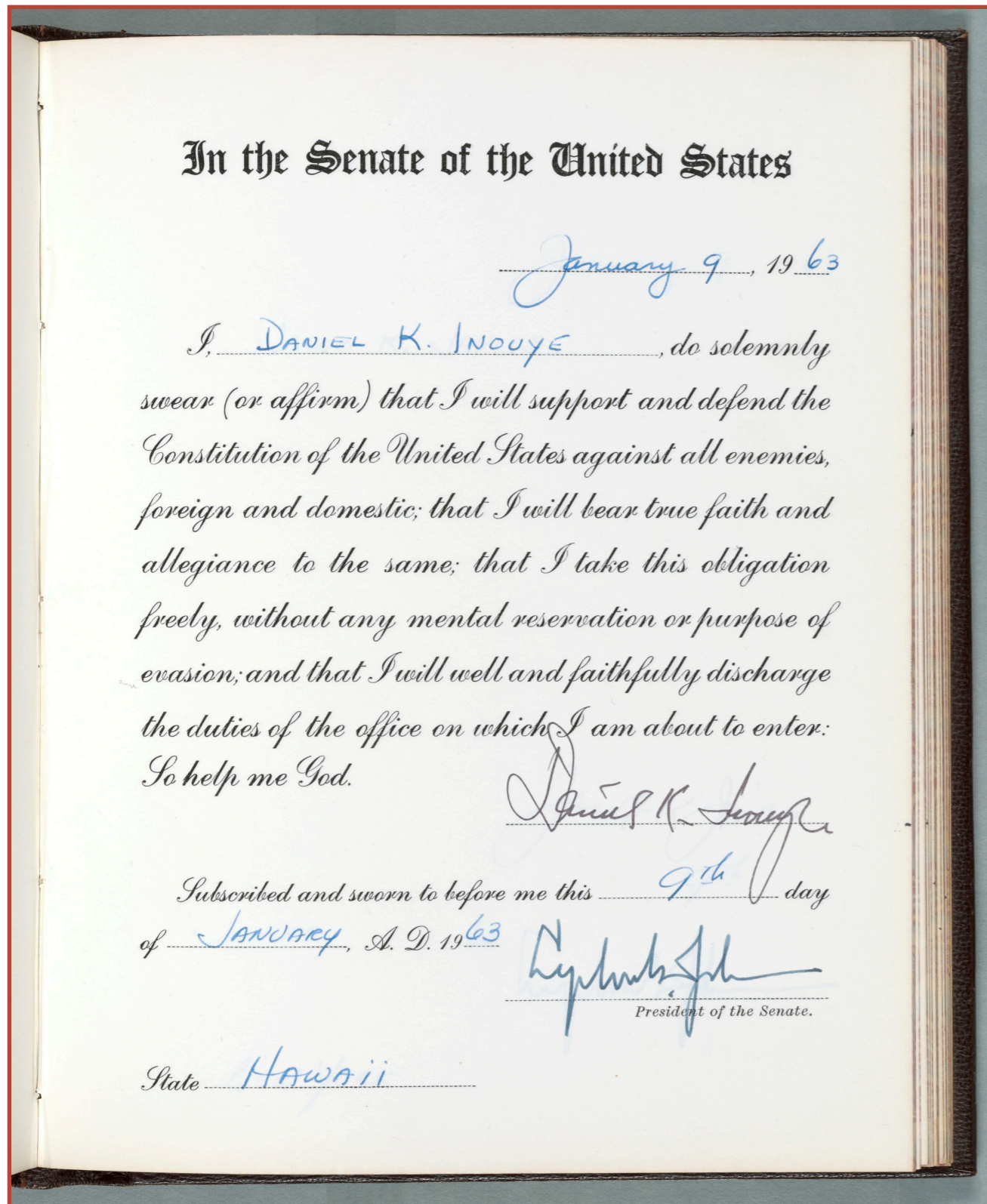




Daniel K. Inouye

Congressional oaths

Daniel K. Inouye, a Senator and Representative from Hawaii, and decorated World War II veteran, served as a Member of Congress for more than 50 years. This is one of his oaths of office for the Senate, signed January 9, 1963, and is representative of the oaths taken by all Members of Congress since 1884. The Constitution provides no details on how oaths should be given, but in 1789 the First Congress developed procedures for it and the oath has been taken by members since then.



Oath of office for Daniel K. Inouye, January 9, 1963

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate



Margaret Chase Smith

Oath of office for Margaret Chase Smith

Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, signed her oath on January 5, 1955, which is representative of the oaths taken by all Members of Congress since 1884. The Constitution provides no details on how oaths should be given, but in 1789 the First Congress developed procedures for it, and the oath has been taken by members since then.

In the Senate of the United States

January 5, 19*55*

I, *Margaret Chase Smith*, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter:
So help me God.

Margaret Chase Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *5th* day
of *January*, A. D. 19*55*

Richard Nixon
President of the Senate.

State *Maine*

Oath of office for Margaret Chase Smith, January 5, 1955

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate



Jump to
Power of
the Pen



See All
Signatures



Prescott Bush

Oath of office for Prescott Bush

Senator Prescott Bush from Connecticut and father to George H.W. Bush and grandfather to George W. and Jeb Bush signed his oath on January 3, 1957, which is representative of the oaths taken by all Members of Congress since 1884. The Constitution provides no details on how oaths should be given, but in 1789 the First Congress developed procedures for it, and the oath has been taken by members since then.

In the Senate of the United States

JAN 3, 1957

I, PRESCOTT BUSH, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter:
So help me God.

Prescott Bush

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day
of JAN, A. D. 1957

Richard M. Nixon
President of the Senate.

State CONNECTICUT

Oath of office for Prescott Bush, January 3, 1957

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Senate





Power of the Pen

With a stroke of the pen, the President's signature gives the force of authority to a law. He can extend voting rights to the disenfranchised or build highways across America. Throughout our history and all across the government, a Presidential signature changes the words on a page from an idea into a reality. Sometimes the signature changes lives for the better and sometimes for the worse. As you look at the examples of documents that, once signed, became powerful instruments of change, imagine the moment the document was signed. What did the President think while adding his signature? What effect did the decision to sign have on the lives of Americans?





Recovery and Removal

Same signature, two outcomes

The “Emergency Fund for the President,” called by different titles at different times, is money reserved for a President’s unanticipated needs. The emergency funds have been used under a variety of circumstances that affect national interests such as disasters, security threats, and national defense. In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used his \$100 million “Emergency Fund for the President” to recover, mobilize, and protect the country as it moved from peace to war. As these two records illustrate, with the stroke of a pen, the President can bring welcome relief or implement policies that will drastically disrupt the lives of many.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, shocked and outraged the nation. Congress declared war against Japan the following day. Roosevelt quickly deployed his emergency fund to aid Hawaii and help with its recovery after the attack.

A couple of months later, on February 6, 1942, President Roosevelt’s signature allocated more funds for “the removal of enemy aliens ... and for transportation of their dependents, and for the relocation of and temporary aid to enemy aliens or their dependents who have been removed from such prohibited areas or whose normal means of livelihood has been interrupted.”

“to be expended by the Governor of the Territory of Hawaii in connection with emergencies ... in furnishing refuge for evacuees ...”

“to be available for the expenditure ... for the purpose, in making provision for the removal of enemy aliens ...”

The damage and upheaval resulting from the attack on Pearl Harbor is shown in both of these photos. On the top, is the wreckage at Pearl Harbor. On the bottom, is a young evacuee waiting to be taken with her family to an assembly center.



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Something
to Say



See All
Signatures



Allocation No. 42-36

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DEC 12 1941

My dear Mr. Secretary:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the provisions of the appropriation entitled "Emergency Fund for the President", contained in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1942, approved April 5, 1941, I hereby allocate from the fund of \$100,000,000 provided by said appropriation, as follows:

To	Amount
Governor of (the) Territory of Hawaii	\$ 2,800,000

to be expended by the Governor of the Territory of Hawaii in connection with emergencies affecting the national security and defense in furnishing refuge for evacuees in the Territory of Hawaii, by providing temporary sanitary, rough shelter and messing facilities.

The funds hereby allocated shall be available for all necessary expenses of the Governor of the Territory in carrying out the above described activities, including the purchase of supplies, services and materials without regard to Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, and the advance of funds without regard to Section 3648 of the Revised Statutes.

Please arrange for the necessary transfer of funds and advise the Governor of the Territory of Hawaii accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

*Clad, 12/16/41
Misc Civil to App Wt #359, 12/13/41*

Letter signed by FDR that money
be disbursed for recovery
National Archives, Records of the
Bureau of Accounts (Treasury)

*Misc FAX #488,
2/7*

Allotment No. 42-74

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FEB 6 1942

My dear Mr. Secretary:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the provisions of the appropriation entitled "Emergency Fund for the President," contained in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1942, approved April 5, 1941, I hereby make the following allocation:

To	Amount
The Administrator of the Federal Security Agency	\$ 500,000

to be available for expenditure through such public or private agents or agencies as said Administrator may designate for the purpose, in making provision for the removal of enemy aliens excluded from designated areas pursuant to authority contained in Proclamations No. 2525, of December 7, 1941, No. 2526 and No. 2527 of December 8, 1941, as amended, and for transportation of their dependents, and for the relocation of and temporary aid to enemy aliens or their dependents who have been removed from such prohibited areas or whose normal means of livelihood has been interrupted by reason of restrictions imposed by the Attorney General.

The funds hereby allocated shall be available for all necessary expenses in carrying out the above described activities, including the procurement of supplies, services and materials without regard to Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes; the advance of funds without regard to Section 3648 of the Revised Statutes; and the employment of personnel without regard to the civil service classification laws.

Please arrange for the necessary transfer of funds and advise the Administrator of the Federal Security Agency.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Letter signed by FDR that money be
disbursed for the removal of enemy aliens
National Archives, Records of the Bureau
of Accounts (Treasury)



Jump to
Something
to Say



See All
Signatures



Signing Power

This next series of stories are connected. Each one represents a branch of our Federal government:

Acts of Congress are joint resolutions, meaning a majority in both houses voted in favor of them. For an Act of Congress to carry the force of law, it must be signed by the President. (If the President vetoes it, then Congress can override it if two-thirds of both houses pass it. That is for another eGuide though.) The act featured in this guide illustrates an early step that the government took, through legislation, in addressing slavery.

The President can issue an executive order or a Presidential proclamation. Executive orders can only be applied within the Federal Government and Presidential proclamations are aimed outside the government. Read on to see the two examples featured here.

The Supreme Court has nine justices, and each justice is allowed one vote. The Court cannot enforce its decisions. However, some decisions carry their own power. Read on to see how one unanimous ruling resulted in a legal basis for changing the cultural definition of marriage.



**President Johnson signing
the Immigration Act of
1965 on Liberty Island,
October 3, 1965**

*Lyndon Baines Johnson
Presidential Library and
Museum, National Archives*



**Jump to
Something
to Say**



**See All
Signatures**



Act of Congress

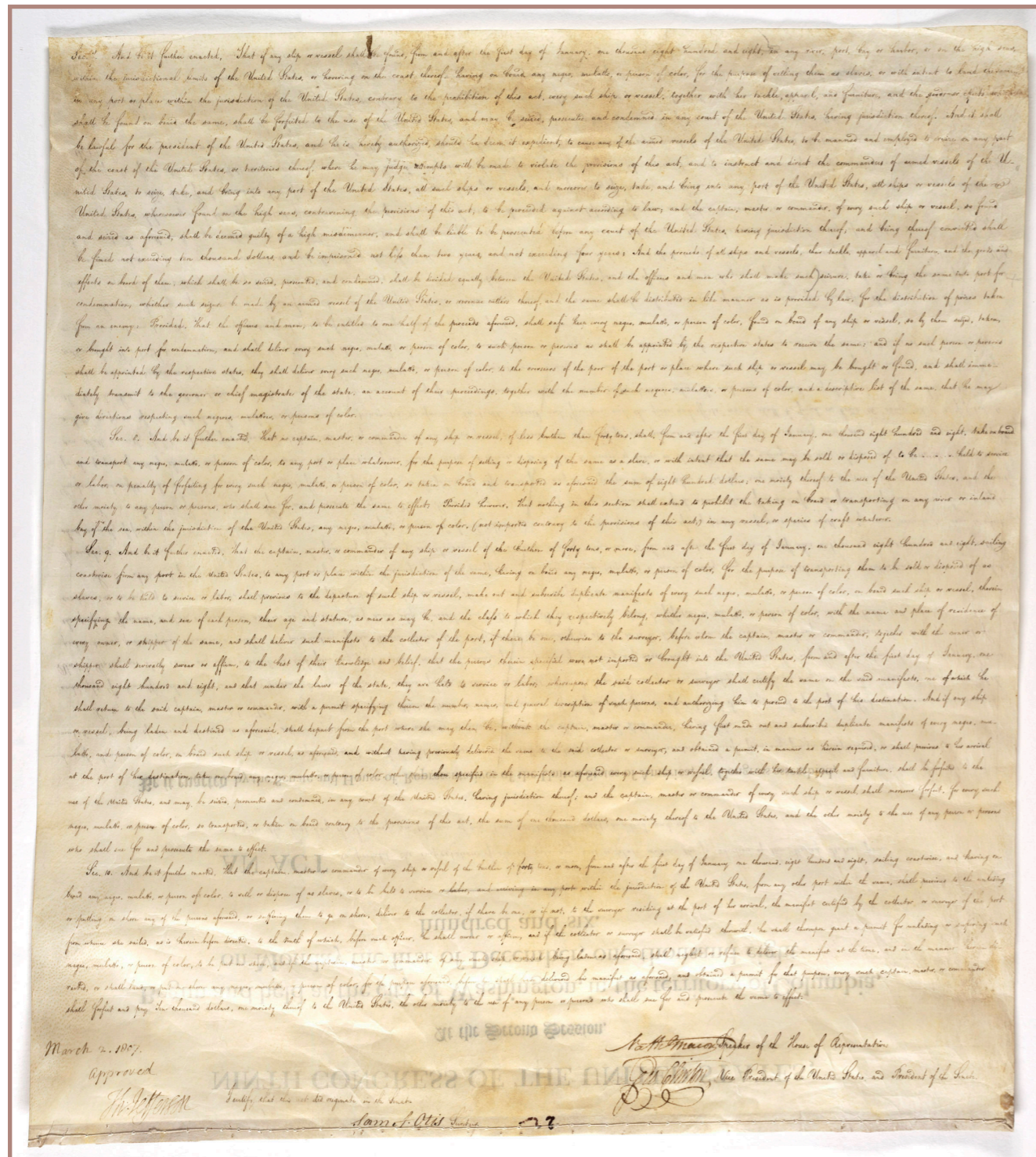
Abolishing the importation of slaves

“The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.” – Constitution, Article 1, Section 9

By the time of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, only Georgia still participated in the international slave trade, which had been abolished during the Revolution as part of the ban against trade with England. Nonetheless, Southern states were determined to protect the slave trade. A compromise, Article 1, Section 9, of the Constitution, placed a possible time limit on the international trade but did not end it.

Twenty years later, President Thomas Jefferson, who himself held deeply contradictory beliefs about the morality and legality of slavery, signed the Slave Trade Act. Jefferson and Congress hoped to finally settle one aspect of the contentious issue of slavery by ending the international slave trade.

The Slave Trade Act imposed heavy penalties on traders but did not end slavery itself. It drove the trade underground, encouraging the creation of a reverse underground railroad. Also, ships caught illegally trading were brought into the United States, and their passengers sold into slavery.



Act banning international slave trade, January 1, 1808

National Archives, General Records of the U.S. Government



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Signatures



Domestic Slave Trade

“Slave for Life”

This ship declaration from the port of Baltimore, Maryland, dated November 1820, is just one record of the domestic slave trade that continued until 1865. Upon examination of the slave ship, ship inspector Charles Robinson wrote that those aboard, except for one, “acknowledge themselves to be Slaves for Life.” The only other signature on the declaration was George Ellicott, who was a member of the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers. Ardent abolitionists, the Friends were often present at ports, questioning the captain and people aboard to ensure that claims of ownership were legitimate.

Custom House
Nov^r 8th 1820

The Surveyor will please direct an officer to examine the slaves on Board the Brig Hyperion - lying at Tennants Wharf & Booms for New Orleans - to morrow morning at 10 O'clock.

J. A. Walsh

Mr. Robinson will please to attend to the above order and return the same certified as usual

Wm. Long

Port of Baltimore 4 November 1820

I certify that agreeable to the within instructions I have examined the ^{slaves} ship on board the Brig Hyperion whereof James Blackwell is master for New Orleans and that they acknowledge themselves to be slaves for life, except James Spencer who says that he had the promise of a former master that he should be free at some future period but what time he cannot say that he was purchased by his present owner George G. Hiles from Greenbury Wilson of this place

Friends George Ellicott present at the time of examination

Chas. Robinson Inspr

Slaves
Brig Hyperion
Nov 10 1820

Declaration for a ship regarding cargo, or slaves, on board
National Archives, Records of the U.S. Customs Service



Jump to Something to Say



See All Signatures



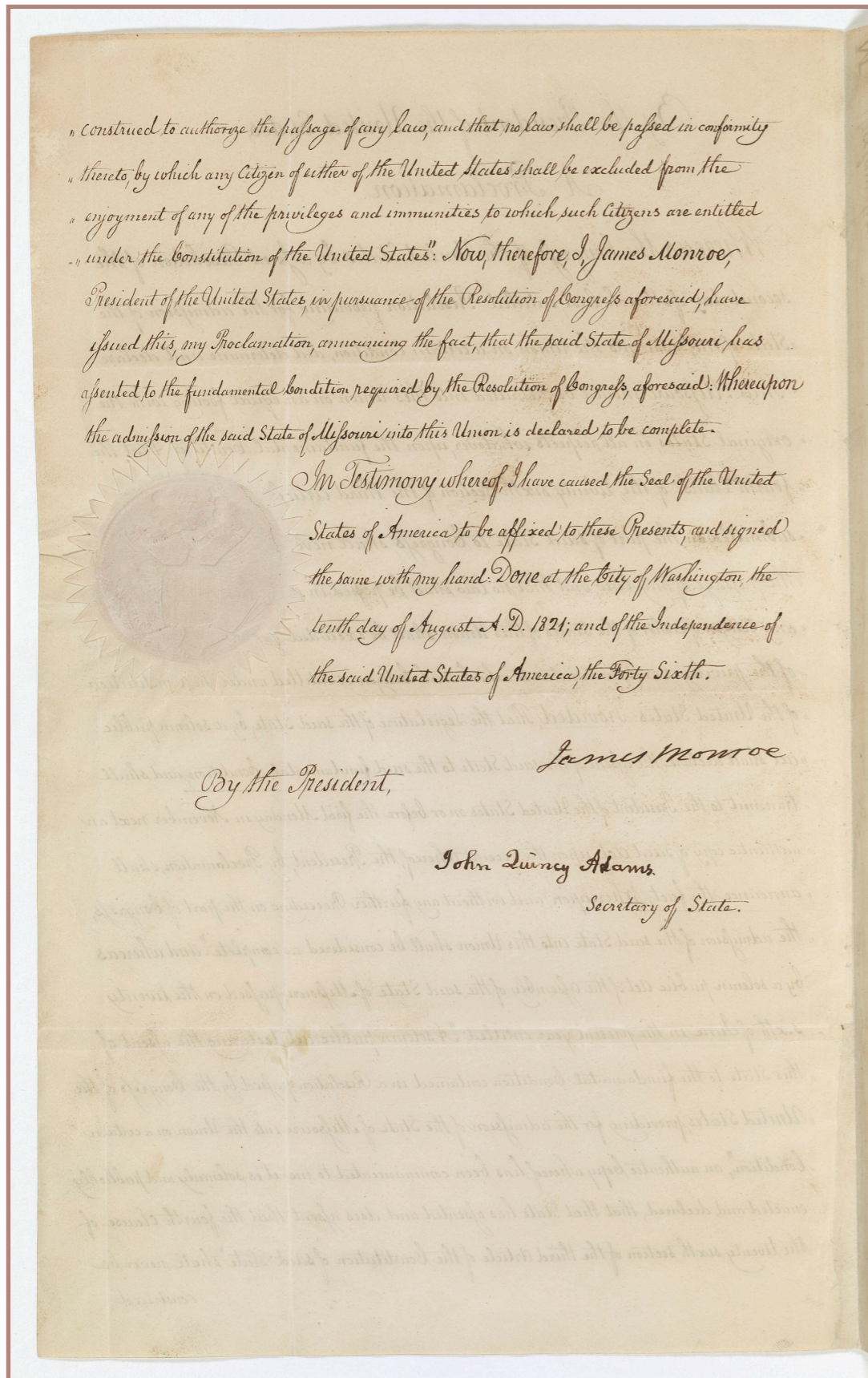
Presidential Proclamation

The institution of slavery in a democracy

“it is hushed indeed for the moment. but this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence. a geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper.” – Thomas Jefferson, April 22, 1820

To achieve an agreement among the states, the Founders did not fully address the issue of slavery in the Constitution but left it for future generations to resolve. As the country matured, the unresolved issue of slavery grew more contentious. The issue came to head when Missouri, which allowed slavery, applied for statehood in 1819. To maintain an equal number of free and slave states, Congress adopted legislation—known as the Missouri Compromise—that also admitted Maine, which had previously been part of Massachusetts, as a free state and prohibited slavery above the 36° 30' latitude in the Louisiana Territory. The Compromise allowed Congress to continue working and kept sectional disagreements at bay, at least temporarily.

President James Monroe signed, and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams certified, Presidential Proclamation 28 on August 10, 1821, officially announcing that Missouri had entered the Union.



Presidential Proclamation 28 admitting Missouri as a slave state, August 10, 1821

National Archives, General Records of the U.S. Government



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to Say



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Signatures



(b) Make rules and regulations, in consultation with the Civil Service Commission, deemed necessary to carry out the Board's duties and responsibilities under this order.

(c) Advise all departments on problems and policies relating to fair employment.

(d) Disseminate information pertinent to fair-employment programs.

(e) Coordinate the fair-employment policies and procedures of the several departments.

(f) Make reports and submit recommendations to the Civil Service Commission for transmittal to the President from time to time, as may be necessary to the maintenance of the fair-employment program.

6. All departments are directed to furnish to the Board all information needed for the review of personnel actions or for the compilation of reports.

7. The term "department" as used herein shall refer to all departments and agencies of the executive branch of the Government, including the Civil Service Commission. The term "personnel action," as used herein, shall include failure to act. Persons failing of appointment who allege a grievance relating to discrimination shall be entitled to the remedies herein provided.

8. The means of relief provided by this order shall be supplemental to those provided by existing statutes, Executive orders, and regulations. The Civil Service Commission shall have authority, in consultation with the Board, to make such additional regulations, and to amend existing regulations, in such manner as may be found necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this order.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
THE WHITE HOUSE MADE AVAILABLE
FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
July 26, 1948
JUL 27 10 39 AM '48
IN THE DIVISION OF THE
FEDERAL REGISTER

9980

Executive Order

Creating a Federal policy of fair employment

"The head of each department in the executive branch of the Government shall be personally responsible for an effective program to ensure that fair employment policies are fully observed in all personnel actions within his department." — Executive Order 9980

On July 26, 1948, President Truman signed Executive Orders 9980 and 9981. The more widely known EO 9981 desegregated the Armed Forces. Executive Order 9980 was a mandate to integrate the Federal workforce.

At the time, Washington, DC—our nation's capital—was a segregated city. "Whites only" or "Negroes" signs designated separate lunchrooms, work places, and restrooms. The Federal workforce was segregated, too, a policy implemented under President Wilson's administration. When President Truman entered the White House, only one agency—the Department of the Interior—was integrated.

Frustrated by congressional inaction, and armed with documentation from his Committee on Civil Rights that found discriminatory practices pervaded Federal agencies, President Truman issued the executive order. To give Executive Order 9980 strength and ensure implementation, Truman made the Presidentially appointed heads of each department or agency responsible. Within a year, 18 agencies had desegregated, and some agency heads that had not cooperated were removed from their positions.

EO #9980, integrating Federal workforce, July 26, 1948

National Archives, General Records of the U.S. Government



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See All
Signatures



Supreme Court Decision

Overturing the Racial Integrity Act

“Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay, and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement ... the fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix.”— Virginia State Judge Bazile, in his ruling convicting Richard and Mildred Loving

In June 1958, Richard Loving, a white man, and Mildred Jeter, who identified as black and Native American, quietly married in Washington, DC. They returned home to Virginia and woke up one morning with policemen in their bedroom. The Lovings were arrested for violating the Racial Integrity Act of 1924.

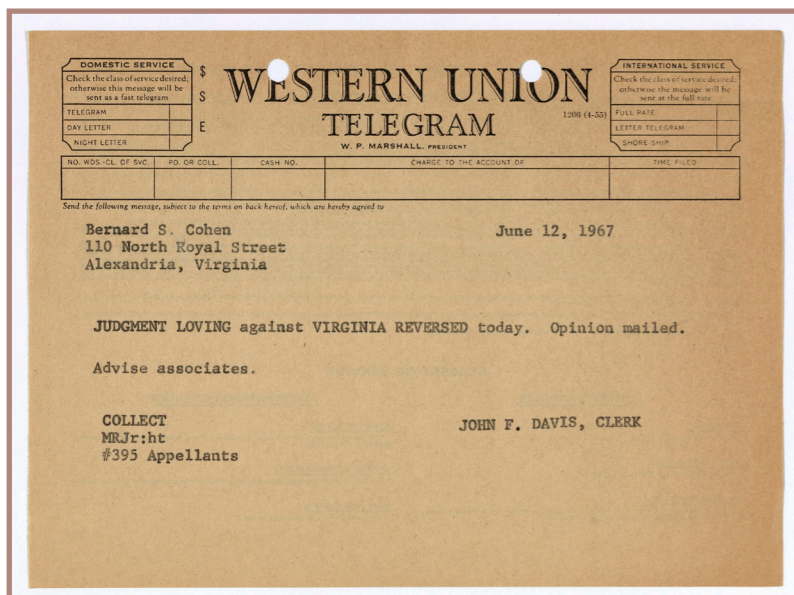
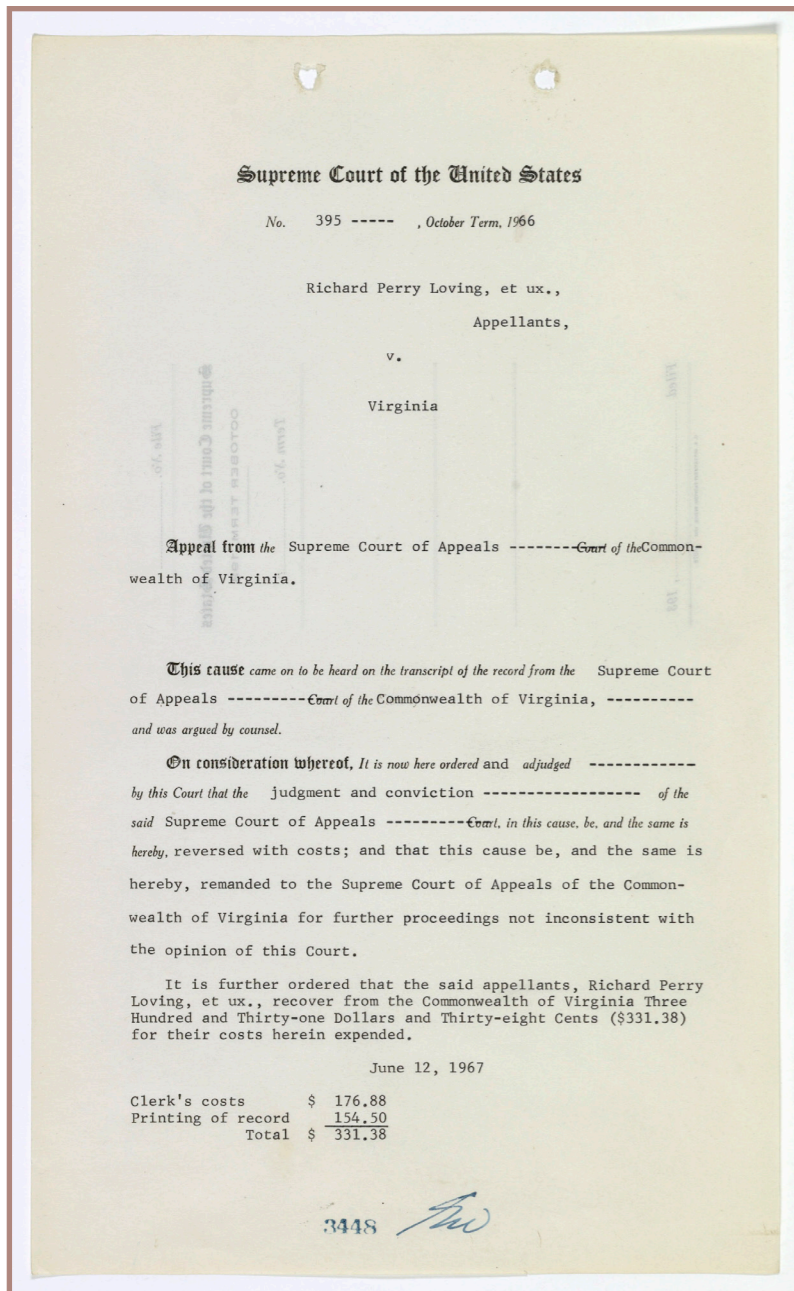
Richard and Mildred were found guilty and sentenced to one year in jail, or they could accept a plea bargain and leave Virginia. So they left. But by 1963, tired of visiting family and friends separately, they sought legal help. Attorneys Bernard S. Cohen and Philip J. Hirschkopf took their case to the Virginia Court of Appeals, where Judge Leon Bazile upheld the lower court’s ruling. The case was sent to the United States Supreme Court.

Dated June 12, 1967, and initialed by Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren, this page confirms the decision the justices reached—they voted unanimously in favor of the Lovings. The Supreme Court Justices ruled that Virginia’s law violated the equal protection clause in the 14th amendment.

After the Supreme Court ruling, the Lovings returned to Virginia.

Decision page, initialed “EW,” by Earl Warren, June 12, 1967
National Archives, Records of the Supreme Court of the United States

Telegram to Bernard S. Cohen announcing the verdict, June 12, 1967
National Archives, Records of the Supreme Court of the United States



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IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

RICHARD PERRY LOVING and)
MILDRED JETER LOVING,)
Appellants) RECORD NO. 6163
v.)
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,)
Appellee)

NOTICE OF APPEAL TO
THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES - *filed May 31, 1966*

1. Notice is hereby given that RICHARD PERRY LOVING and MILDRED JETER LOVING, the appellants above named, hereby appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States from the final Order of this, the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, entered herein on March 7, 1966, affirming the decision of the Circuit Court of Caroline County entered on January 22, 1965, which decision denied the appellants' motion to vacate the judgment and set aside the sentence, and further, affirming the judgment of conviction originally entered by the Circuit Court of Caroline County on January 6, 1959.

This appeal is taken pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1257 (2).

Appellants, Richard Perry Loving, a White person, and Mildred Jeter Loving, a Negro person, were convicted for "unlawfully and feloniously go[ing] out of the State of Virginia, for the purpose of being married, and with the intention of returning to the State of Virginia...[and] cohabiting as man and wife against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth".

§ § 20-58, 20-59 of the 1950 Code of Virginia as amended.

37

Rec'd
5-31-66
JES
card

5. Do the Virginia anti-miscegenation statutes deprive the appellants of the civil rights guaranteed by §1981 of Title 42 of the U.S. Code?

RICHARD PERRY LOVING and
MILDRED JETER LOVING
By Counsel

BERNARD S. COHEN
PHILIP J. HIRSCHKOP
LAINOF, COHEN & COHEN, ESQS.
Attorneys for Appellants
1513 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia

By: *Bernard S. Cohen*
Bernard S. Cohen

OF COUNSEL:
MELVIN WULF, ESQ.
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Bernard S. Cohen, one of the attorneys for Richard Perry Loving and Mildred Jeter Loving, appellants herein, and a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, hereby certify that on the 27th day of May, 1966, I served a copy of the foregoing Notice of Appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, on the Commonwealth of Virginia, by mailing copies in duly addressed envelopes, with first-class postage prepaid, to Robert Y. Button, the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia and to R. D. McIlwaine, III, Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Bernard S. Cohen
Bernard S. Cohen
Attorney for Richard Perry Loving and
Mildred Jeter Loving
1513 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia

4

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Copy of the appeal, signed by lawyer Bernard Cohen, May 27, 1966
National Archives, Records of the Supreme Court of the United States



Jump to
Something
to Say



See All
Signatures



Something to Say

The boys were counting on a miracle, Einstein was hoping to educate, and the entire Hopi tribe petitioned the “Washington Chiefs” in order to organize how they saw fit. These signatures and the people behind them are captured moments in our collective history. Decades later, why do their stories and signatures continue to intrigue us?



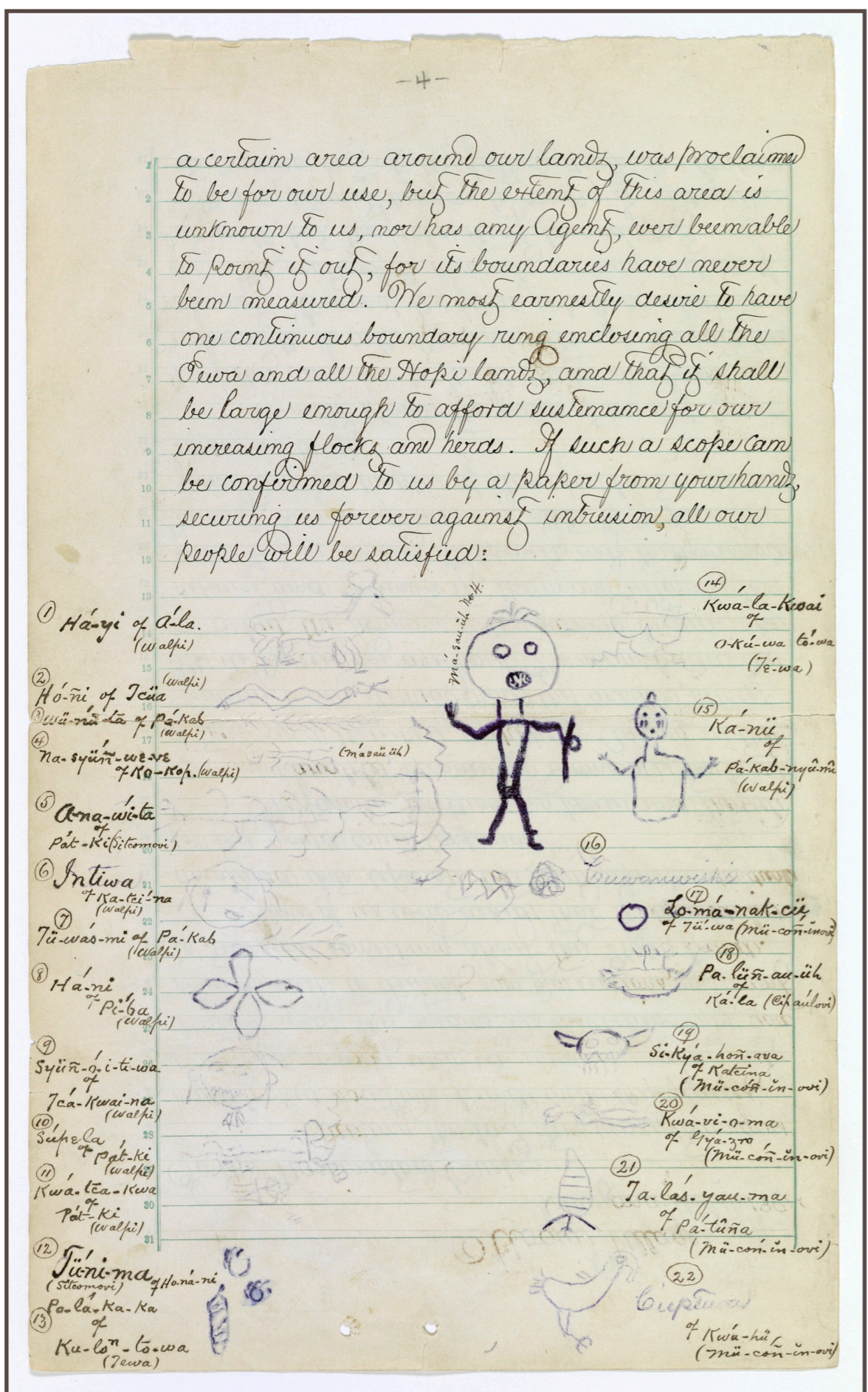
Hopi Tribe

Petitioning the "Washington Chiefs"

"During the last two years strangers have looked over our land with spyglasses and made marks upon it, and we know but little of what this means." – Hopi tribe

Seeking an answer from the Federal Government, the Hopi tribe in the Arizona Territory petitioned Congress asking that the entire tribe be given land, rather than allotments to individuals as determined by the Dawes Act. The Hopi lived in the arid desert and farmed communally to survive. The allotment process would sell off "excess" lands, reducing the overall acreage the tribe needed to survive. Also, the Hopi were a matrilineal society, meaning they traced ancestry through the mother. They were fearful that the allotment process would eventually cancel out their way of life, and that women would not have control of their own homes. Each pictogram represents a family, and every family in the tribe signed the petition.

The government never formally responded to the petition, and the Hopi's lands were never allotted. In an annual report from the Indian commissioner, it was recommended that the Hopis be allowed to continue their custom, "it is believed that the best interests of the tribe would be promoted by granting the petition."



Hopi petition, 1894

National Archives, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs



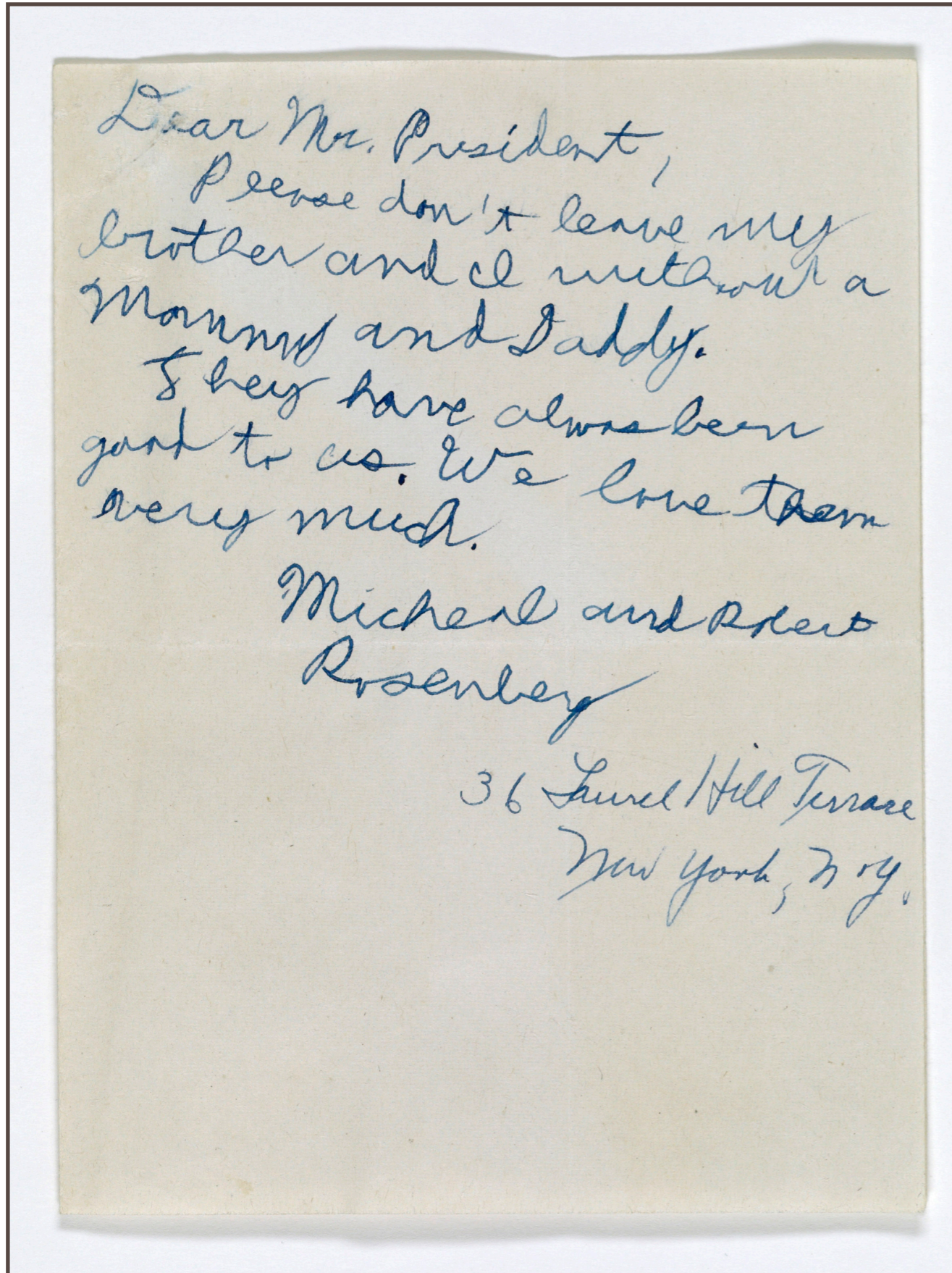


The Rosenberg Boys

“Please don’t leave my brother and I without a Mommy and Daddy”

In a letter to President Eisenhower, 10-year-old Michael Rosenberg and 6-year-old Robert Rosenberg pleaded for the lives of their parents, convicted spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, stating, “We love them very much.” Julius and Ethel were U.S. citizens sentenced to death for passing secret information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. Supporters of the Rosenbergs lobbied for an executive pardon, but it was not granted. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed on June 19, 1953. After their parents’ deaths, the Rosenberg children were adopted by Abel and Anne Meeropol.

For decades after their execution, many questioned the legitimacy of the Rosenberg’s conviction. Recent evidence indicates that Julius was a Soviet spy. Ethel was most likely aware of her husband’s involvement in espionage, but was probably not a spy herself.



Letter from Michael and Robert Rosenberg to President Eisenhower, June 14, 1953

National Archives, Records of the Office of the Pardon Attorney



Nakata Declares Loyalty

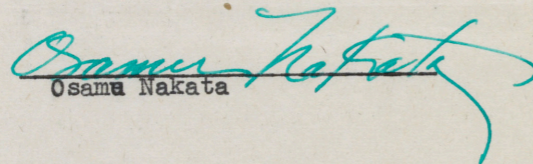
“I am willing to preserve the principles of democracy and freedom”

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which ordered the removal of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans from the west coast. Osama Nakata was incarcerated at Poston Relocation Camp in remote western Arizona, behind barbed wire and watched by armed guards.

Nakata was required to fill out a loyalty questionnaire which included questions about his relatives, the newspapers and magazines he read, and his ability to read, write, and speak Japanese. The final page of his application is a signed statement answering one of the last questions, “Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?”

If my family are not returned this
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS of the U.S.
I will not serve in the armd forces of
the U.S., this does not mean that I
will not completely serve the armd
force of the U.S. but will serve half
way, but I am willing to preserve the
principles of ■ democray and freedom
by working in a defence plant or by
operating a farm or in any other form
to help the U.S. to win this war
providing that the U.S. government will
provide the fund.

Very truly yours,


Osama Nakata



Poston incarceration camp, living quarters, June 1, 1942

National Archives, Records of the War Relocation Authority

Loyalty questionnaire, May 31, 1944

National Archives at Riverside, Records of the Selective Service System



Atomic Energy

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE of ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

INCORPORATED

ROOM 28, 90 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

November 29, 1947

mm

Red 125
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LEO SZILARD
V. F. WEISSKOPF

Dear Friend:

I write to you out of a feeling of grave concern, which I believe you share. I am convinced that if the present bitterness continues to dominate international relations we face catastrophe.

We can not count on the prestige or strength of any single nation to bring about international stability. The power that one country possesses today, tomorrow will belong also to others. Industrial installations, however complex, can be duplicated; inventive ingenuity and economic resources can be exploited under other systems of government. So long as international relations are determined by rival national sovereignties, the threat of atomic war will remain.

We scientists believe that a clear and widespread understanding of the facts and implications of the atomic discoveries is indispensable to a reasonable public stand on questions of international politics. Given this understanding, men and women will recognize that only international cooperation through effective institutions can ensure security against humanity's destruction.

The enclosed article sets forth my beliefs as to the reasons for the stalemate which confronts us today in the vitally important negotiations on international atomic energy control. It proposes certain actions on the part of our people and our government which I think would be helpful in lessening the present tensions. Because each one of us must bear his share of the burden of this generation, I ask you to consider these suggestions, and to discuss them with your neighbors. Only through clear formulation and frank discussion of concrete proposals can men of good will in all countries help to achieve a solution.

Now still a little time remains for us to consider different paths leading to the establishment of a federation of nations in which men may develop and use their creative capacities to serve mankind. Each one of us can do his part by working to bring about responsible public action based on understanding of the present crisis. Through our campaign of public education on the simple facts of atomic energy and its social implications, we of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists have pledged our utmost effort to this end. Friends have already subscribed nearly \$400,000.00 of the one million dollars we need to carry out our minimum program. I ask you to help us in fulfilling our task.

Faithfully yours,

A. Einstein

AE:mr

800/71

Einstein Promotes Peace

"If the present bitterness continues ... we face catastrophe."

Not long after the end of World War II, Albert Einstein founded the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists. He and his co-founder, scientist Leó Szilárd, toured the country to educate the public on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Ironically, an earlier letter signed by Einstein—warning President Roosevelt of the dangers of a possible German atomic bomb—is credited with starting the U.S. drive to establish the Manhattan Project that built the first atomic bomb.

Letter from Albert Einstein
National Archives, Records
of the Foreign Service Posts
of the Department of State





CONFIDENTIAL

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6. Timing of such a proposal is very important. If such a proposal is made, it should be done very soon, before either Russia or the U.S. has accomplished a man-in-space mission.

7. If we wait until we make the first orbital flight, and then propose an exchange, it would appear that we are "rubbing it in" a little and are willing to throw a little information to our poor cousins who could not do it themselves. This would probably do us more harm than good in the attitude with the rest of the world.

8. If, on the other hand, we wait until the Russians have made the first orbital flight before we propose such an exchange, it would appear that we are trying to get information on how they did it because we have not been able to do the same thing. This would also do us harm in the eyes of other countries.

9. To summarize, we stand to gain information in an exchange of visits, while giving little information that is not already known. Propoganda value of such a proposal and visit should be very favorable for us, if the proposal is made from the U.S. and before either country has made an orbital flight.

10. One way to assess the value of such a proposal is to think of our reaction and the reaction of other countries if the Russians make such a proposal first. It appears that we stand to gain by making the proposal first.

11. It is realized that there are many considerations involved in such a proposal. NASA, State Department, Intelligence, and many other government sources concerned must have vital inputs that will determine whether the proposal is not only feasible, but advisable.

12. The proposal is herewith submitted for consideration.

M. Scott Carpenter
M. Scott Carpenter
Lieutenant, USN

Leroy G. Cooper Jr
Leroy G. Cooper
Captain, USAF

John H. Glenn Jr.
John H. Glenn
Lt. Col., USMC

Virgil I. Grissom
Virgil I. Grissom
Captain, USAF

~~Walter M. Schirra~~ *WMS*
Lt. Cmdr., USN

Alan B. Shepard
Alan B. Shepard
Lt. Cmdr., USN

~~Donald K. Slayton~~ *DKS*
Captain, USAF

CONFIDENTIAL

Mercury 7

Not in agreement?

"Propaganda-wise, we apparently stand to gain a great deal and could lose little or nothing." – Memo from NASA regarding exchange of visits with Russian astronauts, October 21, 1959

Selected from 500 applicants, the Mercury Seven were to be the first Americans in space. Introduced to the world on April 10, 1959, the men considered themselves to be military test pilots, but became instant national heroes. However, the men were caught in the middle of the larger Cold War rivalry and space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. NASA sent

this memo proposing to publicly work with Russia. Five of the seven astronauts signed the memo.

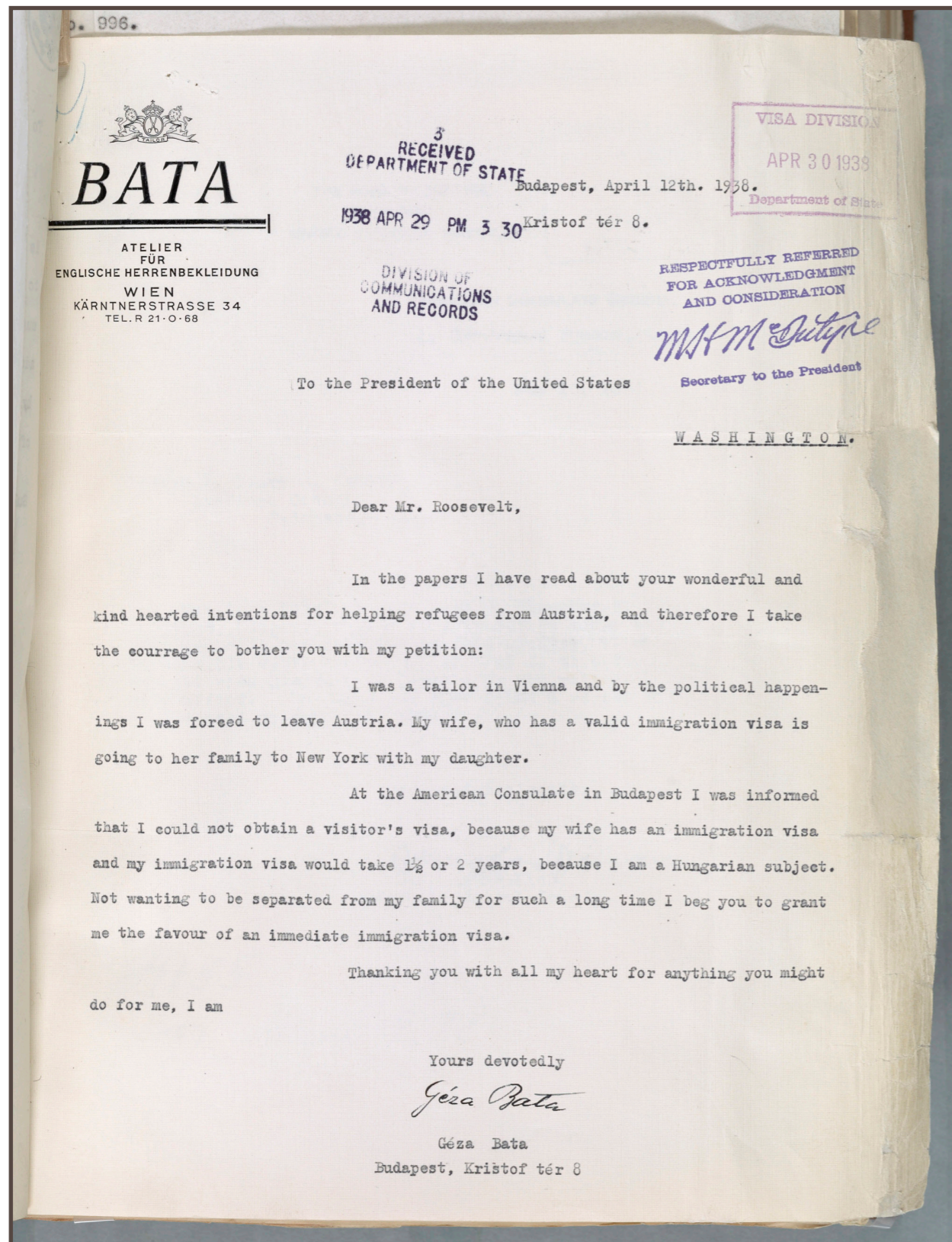


The original Mercury Seven and the only time they would appear all together in pressure suits, 1960
Courtesy of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Memo from NASA

National Archives at Ft. Worth, Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)





Geza Bata

Forced out by “political happenings”

“I was a tailor in Vienna and by the political happenings I was forced to leave Austria.” –Geza Bata, in a letter to the U.S. State Department

On the morning of March 12, 1938, the German army marched into Austria, beginning the Nazi takeover known as the Anschluss. German dictator Adolf Hitler followed his army into Austria and was greeted by cheering crowds with their arms raised, and with many holding flowers. After a three-day tour, Hitler declared, “the oldest eastern province of the German people shall be, from this point on, the newest bastion of the German Reich.”

One month later, a Jewish tailor, Geza Bata, who had fled the Nazis to Budapest, Hungary, signed his name to a letter that meant life or death for him, and asked President Franklin Roosevelt for help to join his family in New York. Bata received a response from the State Department notifying him that it would be two-three years before his turn.

Bata eventually made it out of Hungary. He arrived in New York on January 2, 1939. Six months later, in June 1939, he declared his intent to become a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Letter from Geza Bata to President Roosevelt, April 12, 1938

National Archives, Records of the State Department





ORIGINAL UNITED STATES OF AMERICA No. 481075

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION
[Under General Provisions of the Nationality Act of 1940 (Public, No. 853, 76th Cong.)]

To the Honorable the _____ Court of _____ at _____

This petition for naturalization, hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is GEZA BATA

(2) My present place of residence is 100 W. 55 St., NY NY NY (3) My occupation is tailor

(4) I am 58 years old. (5) I was born on Dec. 6, 1885 in Budapest Hungary

(6) My personal description is as follows: Sex male, color white, complexion med. R., color of eyes BROWN, color of hair BROWN
height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 160 pounds, visible distinctive marks none, race xyz white

present nationality Hungary (7) I am _____ married; the name of my wife or husband is essie

we were married on October 11, 1920 at Vienna Austria

she was born at Vienna Austria on Dec 23, 1900

and entered the United States at NY NY NY on Dec 12, 1939 for permanent residence in the United States and now resides at 100 W. 55 St. NY NY

(8) I have 1 children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:
Constance / August 1, 1921 born in Vienna Austria and now resides in NY NY

(9) My last place of foreign residence was London England (10) I emigrated to the United States from Southampton England

at NEW YORK NY under the name of Geza Bata (11) My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was on January 2, 1939 on the vessel Franconia

as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached to this petition.

(12) Since my lawful entry for permanent residence I have not been absent from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, as follows:

DEPARTED FROM THE UNITED STATES			RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES		
PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE	PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

(13) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on June 1, 1939 in the U.S. Dist. Southern Dist. Court of New York NY

(14) It is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, State, or sovereignty of whom or which at this time I am a subject or citizen, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (15) I am not, and have not been for the period of at least 10 years immediately preceding the date of this petition, an anarchist; nor a believer in the unlawful damage, injury, or destruction of property, or sabotage; nor a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government; nor a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposition to organized government. (16) I am able to speak the English language (unless physically unable to do so). (17) I am, and have been during all of the periods required by law, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. (18) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of 5 years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since January 2, 1939 and continuously in the State in which this petition is made for the term of 4 months at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since January 2, 1939

(19) I have not heretofore made petition for naturalization: No. _____

and such petition was dismissed or denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: _____

(20) Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for naturalization, are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States (if such declaration of intention be required by the naturalization law), a certificate of arrival from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of my said lawful entry into the United States for permanent residence (if such certificate of arrival be required by the naturalization law), and the affidavits of at least two verifying witnesses required by law.

(21) Wherefore, I, your petitioner for naturalization, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to _____

(22) I, aforesaid petitioner, do swear (affirm) that I know the contents of this petition for naturalization subscribed by me, that the same are true to the best of my own knowledge, except as to matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe them to be true, and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name: SO HELP ME GOD.

Geza Bata
(Full, true, and correct signature of petitioner, without abbreviation)

e16-19120-1

Form N-405 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (Edition of 3-1-42)

Petition for Naturalization for Geza Bata, 1944
National Archives at New York, Records of the District Courts of the United States

434170

TRIPPLICATE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA No. _____

DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

STATE OF NEW YORK
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK In the _____ DISTRICT of _____ Court of _____ UNITED STATES NEW YORK, N.Y.

I, GEZA BATA now residing at 681 Fifth Ave New York, N.Y. occupation tailor, aged 58 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Sex male, color white, complexion fair, color of eyes brown, color of hair brown, height 5 feet 6 inches; weight 165 pounds; visible distinctive marks none

race Hungarian; nationality Hungarian

I was born in Budapest Hungary, on December 6, 1885

I am married. The name of my wife or husband is Bessie

we were married on October 11, 1920 at Vienna Austria; she or he was born at Vienna Austria, on December 23, 1900, entered the United States at New York, N.Y. on December 12, 1939, for permanent residence therein, and now resides at 681 Fifth Ave. New York, N.Y. I have 1 children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows: Constance August 1, 1920, Born in Austria - Resides in New York, N.Y.

I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number _____, on _____, at _____

my last foreign residence was London England

I emigrated to the United States of America from Southampton England

my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N.Y. under the name of Geza Bata, on January 2, 1939 on the vessel Franconia

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me.

I swear (affirm) that the statements I have made and the intentions I have expressed in this declaration of intention subscribed by me are true to the best of my knowledge and belief: So help me God.

Geza Bata
Original signature of declarant without abbreviation, also state, if used

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the form of oath shown above in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at New York, N.Y. this 1 day of June, anno Domini, 1939 Certification No. 626520 from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

[SEAL] Charles Feiser
Clerk of the _____ Court.
By _____, Deputy Clerk.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

14-2623
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

No 308461

Declaration of Intention for Geza Bata, June 1, 1939
National Archives at New York, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service

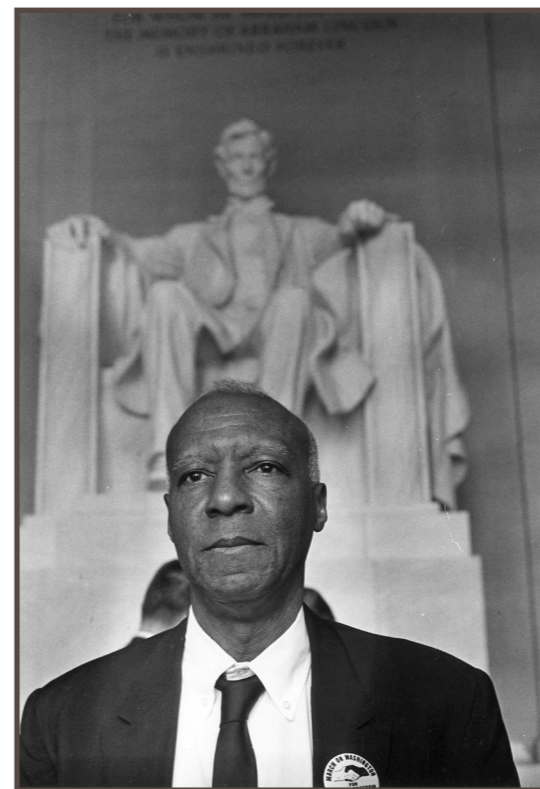




A Philip Randolph

Mobilizing a march on Washington in 1941

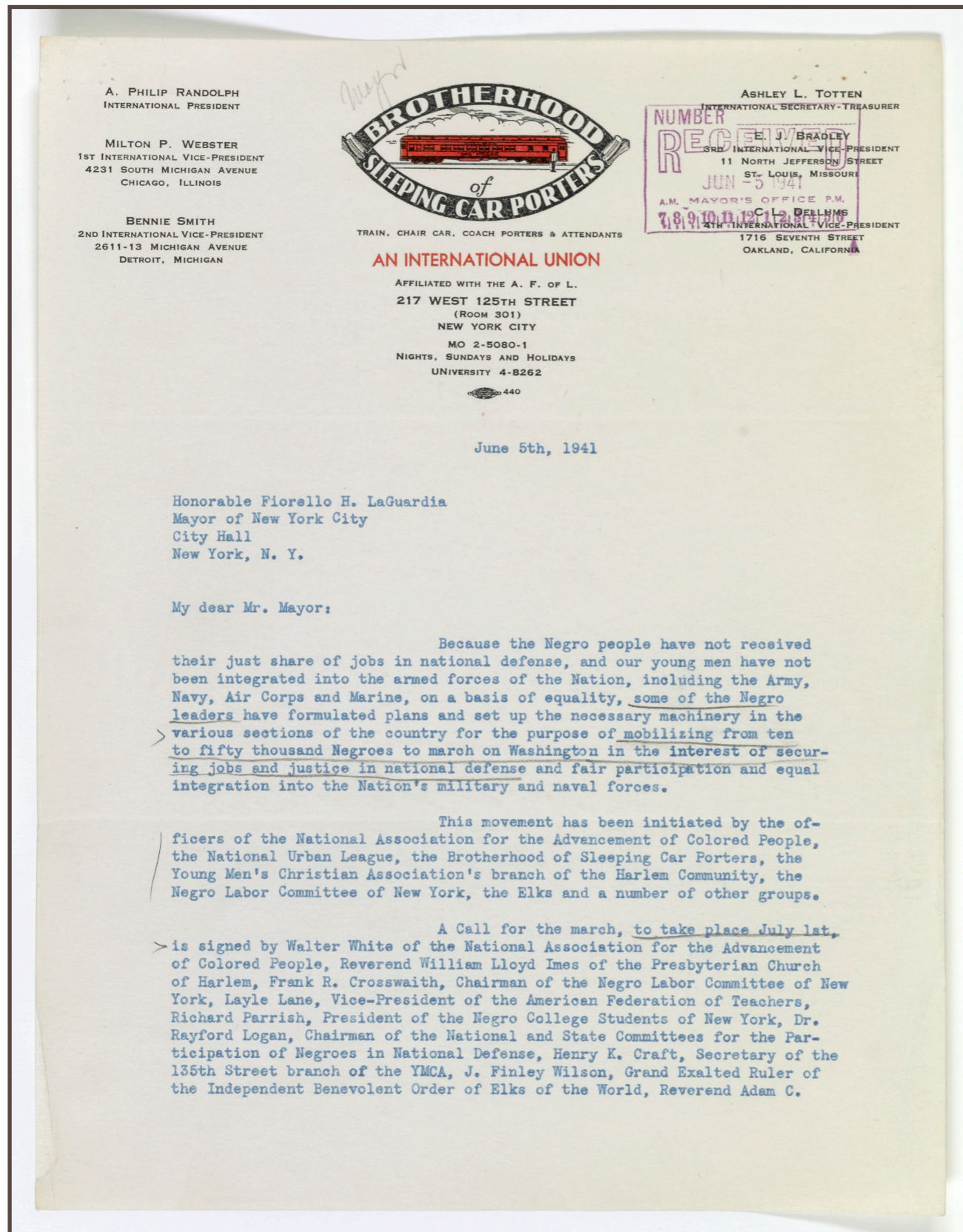
Frustrated by the lack of job opportunities for blacks in defense industries and by racial segregation in the military, labor leader and civil rights advocate A. Philip Randolph wrote to New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia asking for his support. In his



letter, Randolph, director of the first predominately black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, also proposed a march on Washington. Randolph dropped the idea after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, setting up the Committee on Fair Employment Practice. Later Randolph would become a leader of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

A. Phillip Randolph at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, August 28, 1963

National Archives, Records of the U.S. Information Agency



Letter from A. Philip Randolph

National Archives, Records of the Office of Civilian Defense



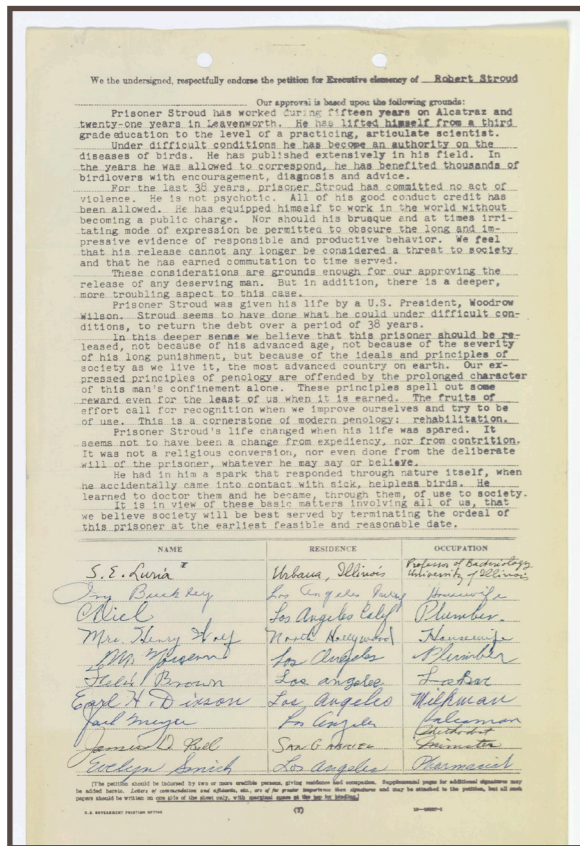


Robert Stroud

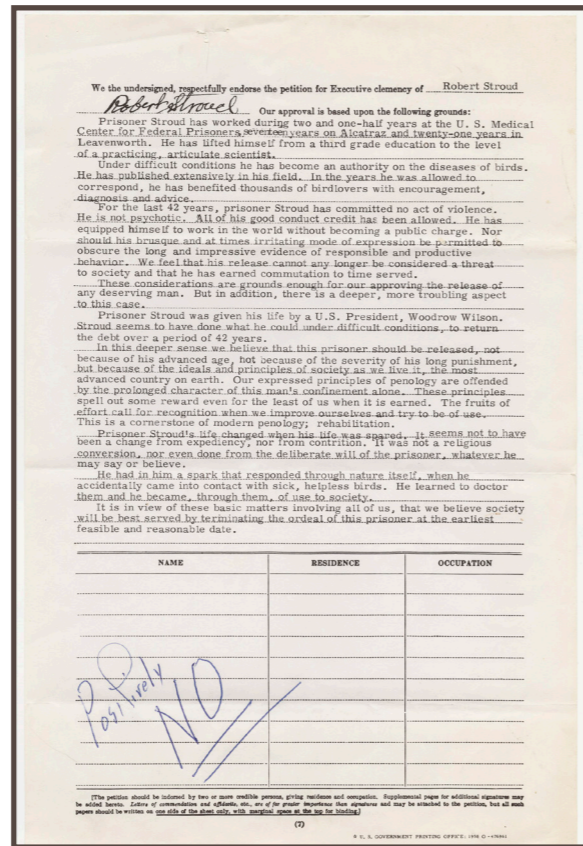
The Birdman of Alcatraz

Initially, he was convicted of murder and sentenced to 12 years in prison, but when his sentence was almost complete, he killed a fellow inmate and was sentenced to death. After his mother wrote to President Wilson asking for clemency, it was commuted to life in prison. While imprisoned at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, he cared for a family of sparrows. Eventually, he was credited with raising over 300 canaries, and after publishing two books became a respected ornithologist.

In 1942, he was transferred to Alcatraz. Known to be violent, but with an IQ near 130, he was described by a psychiatrist as a man with “supreme intellect” but “dangerous and menacing.” By the time *Birdman of Alcatraz* was published in 1955, Robert Stroud had been in prison for over 40 years. The book was made into a movie starring Burt Lancaster as Stroud. After the movie, a wave of support unfolded to release him. The “Committee to Release Robert F. Stroud” was formed. These two petitions are an example of what was sent in. Most were covered with signatures of support for his release, but some included messages such as the one on the top right.



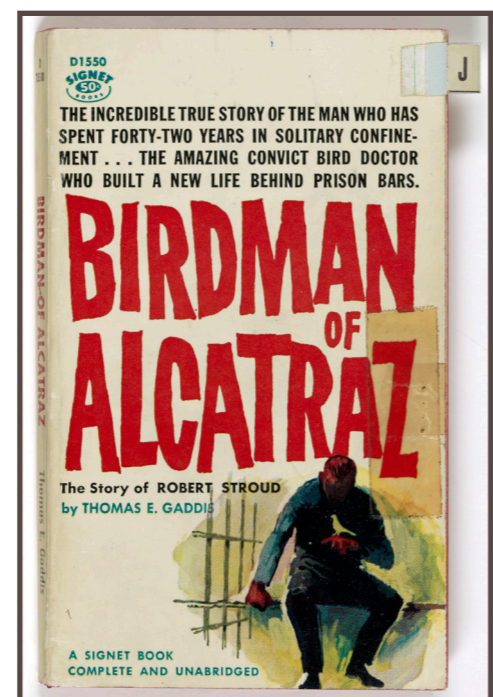
Petition for executive clemency of Robert Stroud
National Archives, Records of the Office of the Pardon Attorney



Petition against executive clemency of Robert Stroud
National Archives, Records of the Office of the Pardon Attorney



Photo of Robert Stroud, ca. 1922
National Archives at Kansas City, Records of the Bureau of Prisons



Book, *Birdman of Alcatraz*, 1955
National Archives, Records of the Office of the Pardon Attorney





This guide is based on the exhibition “Making Their Mark: Stories Through Signatures” on exhibit in the Lawrence F’ O’Brien Gallery March 21, 2014–January 5, 2015, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. [Visit Us.](#)

Credits

National Archives Staff, Washington, D.C.

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Studio photography by Michelle Farnsworth

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Created under the direction of Chris Rudy Smith, Director of the Museum, and Jim Gardner, Executive for Presidential Libraries, Legislative Archives, and Museum Programs, the exhibition and this eGuide would not have been possible without the combined efforts and expertise of many National Archives staff.

I want to especially thank my colleagues in the National Archives Museum and those who were on the “Making Their Mark” core team. Ray Ruskin designed the exhibit. Karen Hibbitt, James Zeender, Patrick Kepley, and Alexis Hill served as exhibit registrars. Amanda Perez created and designed this eGuide. Terry Boone was the exhibit conservator, and Michelle Farnsworth was responsible for much of the scanning and photographing of the artifacts. Bruce Bustard and Alice Kamps read drafts of the exhibit script, and through their thoughtful reading and insightful questions, the final script evolved into a more concise, refined set of stories that I wanted to tell. And last, I want to thank Corinne Porter. Her research led to some of the real gems in the exhibit, and her hard work and presence at every stage of this exhibit was invaluable.

This exhibit would not have been possible without the generous support of the Foundation for the National Archives, led by Director Patrick Madden and Deputy Executive Director Frank Cordes. I would like to specially thank Stefanie Mathew, Director of Development, who led the fundraising effort for the exhibition.

In addition, I am grateful to the following National Archives staff for their expertise and assistance: Karen Abramson, Audrey Amidon, Claudia Anderson, Lynn Bassanese, Shane Bell, Mark Beveridge, Doug Bicknese, Christine Blackerby, Vicky Blue, Stacey Bredhoff, Ashley Bucciferro, Carol Buswell, V. Chapman-Smith, Bob Clark, Barbara Cline, Susie Cox, Greg Cumming, Netisha Currie, Sara Davis, Stacy Davis, Halaina Demba, Laura Diachenko, Elaine Didier, Katie Dishman, Kate Dodge, Jamie Draper, Mike Duggan, Cecilia Epstein, Jane Fitzgerald, Michelle Frauenberger, Gwen Granados, Martha Grove, Geir Gunderson, Chris Gushman, Benjamin Guterman, Meg Hacker, Dee Harris, Ken Heger, Richard Hnat, Kirstin Holm, Heidi Holstrom, Robert Holzweiss, Miriam Kleiman, Criss Kovac, Jessie Kratz, John Laster, Meghan Lee-Parker,



Glenn Longacre, Alan Lowe, Sarah Malcolm, Jennifer Mandel, Becky Martin, Ashley Mattingly, Mike McDonald, Doug McRae, Ellen Mulligan, Isabel Parker, Hilary Parkinson, Jay Patton, Jennifer Pederson, Rick Peuser, David Pfeiffer, Trevor Plante, Stephen Plotkin, Connie Potter, Holly Reed, Tim Rives, Christina Rodriguez, Daniel Rooney, Rod Ross, Sam Rushay, Thomas Schwartz, Bill Seibert, Rebecca Sharp, Leslie Simon, Lynn Smith, Sara Shpargel, Yoonjoo Strumfels, Jerry Thompson, Mathew Thompson, Jennifer Torres, Irina Tsiklik, Jim Wagner, Tammy Williams, Anne Witty, Amy Young, Christopher Zarr, Morgan Zinsmeister, and Neils Zussblatt.

I also appreciate the generous assistance and time of Professors David M. Kennedy at Stanford University and Michael Kazin at Georgetown University, who provided advice and encouragement.

Lastly, I want to thank my friends and family for their support. Whether it was user testing early versions of the eGuide or acting as a sounding board as I turned each story over and over, they were hugely helpful in shaping this project.

Many thanks to you all.



Jennifer Johnson
Curator

Citations

National Archives at College Park, Maryland

Photograph “Card Punch Operators working on population cards, Negro section. Approximately 329,341,293 cards in 151 forms were punched for the decennial census.” 1940 – 1941; 29-C-1B-39, Photographs Documenting the Sixteenth Decennial Census, 1940 – 1941, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives at College Park

Photograph “Card Punch Operators working on population cards. A total of 2,400 punchers were employed and 1,859 punch machines of all types were used in the 1940 Census”, 1940 – 1941; 29-C-1B-38, Photographs Documenting the Sixteenth Decennial Census, 1940 – 1941, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives at College Park

Letter from FDR to Secretary of Treasury, 12/12/1941; Subject Files of the Division of Bookkeeping and Warrants, 1909 – 1949, Records of the Bureau of Accounts (Treasury), Record Group 39; National Archives at College Park

Letter from FDR to Secretary of Treasury, 2/6/1942; Subject Files of the Division of Bookkeeping and Warrants, 1909 – 1949, Records of the Bureau of Accounts (Treasury), Record Group 39; National Archives at College Park

Photograph “Jobless men lined up for the first time in California to file claims for unemployment compensation,” 1/1938; 47-GA-90-1, Photographs of the Social Security Board Activities, 1936 – 1948, Records of the Social Security Administration, Record Group 47; National Archives at College Park **(Identifier 7716670)**

Photograph “White Angel Breadline,” 1933; 47-GA-90-497, Photographs of the Social Security Board Activities, 1936 – 1948, Records of the Social Security Administration, Record Group 47; National Archives at College Park **(Identifier 2637551)**

Letter from Ralph W. Emerson to Sec. of Treasury (Walt Whitman), 1/10/1863; Personnel Files of Notable Treasury Employees, General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 56; National Archives at College Park **(Identifier 4943010)**

Richard Nixon's application to be and FBI special agent, 4/29/1937; Official and Confidential Subject Files, 1924 – 1972, Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Record Group 65; National Archives at College Park

Photograph of Jackie Robinson, President Eisenhower, Comedian Joe E. Brown at White House, 5/11/1957; 79-AR-4175C, White House Photographs taken by Abbie Rowe, 1941–1967, Records of the National Park Service, Record Group 79; National Archives at College Park

Photograph, “Looking across lake toward mountains, “Evening, McDonald Lake, Glacier National Park,” Montana,” 1933 – 1942; 79-AA-E06, Ansel Adams Photographs of National Parks and Monuments, 1941-1942, Records of the National Park Service, Record Group 79; National Archives at College Park ([Identifier 519861](#))

Photograph “The Tetons – Snake River,” Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, 1933 – 1942; 79-AA-G01, Ansel Adams Photographs of National Parks and Monuments, 1941–1942, Records of the National Park Service, Record Group 79; National Archives at College Park ([Identifier 519904](#))

Photograph “View with shadowed ravine, “Grand Canyon from Sought Rim, 1941,”” Arizona (vertical orientation), 1941; 79-AA-F08; Ansel Adams Photographs of National Parks and Monuments, 1941-1942, Records of the National Park Service, Record Group 79; National Archives at College Park ([Identifier 519885](#))

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President Eisenhower's Short Snorter, ca. 1944; Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Abilene, KS ([Identifier 7717455](#))

Letter from Jackie Robinson to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 5/13/1958; Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum; Abilene, KS ([Identifier 186627](#))

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George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Card from Saddam Hussein to George H.W. Bush, 2/1989; George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum; College Station, TX

External

Photograph “The original Mercury Seven and the only time they would appear all together in pressure suits”, 1960; Courtesy of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)