

WILSON REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

CBS Sunday Morning Visits Wilson Library

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum was pleased to host Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner A. Scott Berg on Tuesday, August 27, for an interview with *CBS Sunday Morning*'s Mo Rocca. The interview, taped on the grounds of the Wilson Library, aired nationally on *CBS Sunday Morning*, September 8, 2013, and was held in conjunction with the release of Mr. Berg's much anticipated book *Wilson* on September 10, 2013.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration as the 28th President of the United States, and as a result of a decade of research and writing A. Scott Berg's *Wilson* is a commanding and enthralling portrait of one of America's most influential, yet often misunderstood, presidents. Berg drew not only on the hundreds of thousands of documents that have long comprised the Wilson Archives, but on two major new troves of documents, the manuscript collections of Wilson's personal physician, Cary T. Grayson, and of his second daughter Jessie Wilson Sayre. These papers shed fresh and fascinating light on Wilson's entire life, but particularly on his private family life and his periods of precarious health, especially his final years of incapacity, both in and out of the White House.

Perhaps ironically, Berg contends, Wilson's presidency in many ways parallels the issues of today's current administration: a country divided by ideology, region, and class; storm clouds on the international horizon that threaten an ambitious domestic agenda; and a desire to guide progressive social and economic legislation through a gridlocked Congress. Both Obama and Congress could draw vital lessons from Wilson, Berg maintains, namely, the importance of meeting regularly, sustained dialogue, and the necessity of putting aside partisan differences in the face of a grave threat, whether it be a foreign enemy or the national debt.

In addition to honoring the Wilson Library with his *CBS Sunday Morning* interview, A. Scott Berg will be returning to Staunton as keynote speaker for the 2013 Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Annual Luncheon. The luncheon will be held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, Virginia at 12:00 pm Friday November 8th. For more information or for reservations contact Elizabeth Shortt at eshortt@woodrowwilson.org or call (540) 885-0897 ext 113.



top: A CBS cameraman makes the final adjustments as Mo Rocca and A. Scott Berg begin their interview.

left: A. Scott Berg and Mo Rocca pause for a photo before taking a ride in the Pierce-Arrow.

"My fixation on Wilson has been steadily refreshed over the decades whenever some current event reminds me that a political figure can maintain the loftiest ideals."

— A. SCOTT BERG, AS QUOTED IN *VANITY FAIR*

From the President's Desk



As President and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum, one of my major goals over the past four years has been addressing the impression that a new visitor has when he or she enters our facilities. Does it appear presidential? Is it well-maintained? Is it an inviting place to learn more about our 28th president? Is it easily accessible? Therefore, a number of projects have been successfully accomplished including: a

new entryway to the museum, adding a new World War I exhibit on the lower level of the museum building, moving and consolidating the President's Shop and Orientation area to a central point on campus, and upgrading lighting and installing new exhibit features in the Pierce-Arrow area. All of these things, along with other improvements not so visible to the public eye, have been part of an effort to "get our house in order."

Now we are turning our focus to the exterior buildings and grounds, and embarking on several projects that will enhance and better accommodate our guests. With a generous grant of \$21,000 from the Beirne Carter Foundation of Richmond, we are in the process of installing new site signage that will better identify our location and parking facilities for visitors. Designed by Frazier Associates, these signs utilize Woodrow Wilson's signature and provide a distinctive contemporary look to the campus. This same grant also allows us to install a wheel-chair lift on the side of the Smith House to accommodate handicap visitors easier access to the Opie Communication Center and the President's Shop. Both projects will be completed this fall.

I am also pleased to announce that recently we have been awarded two **matching** grant opportunities that together will greatly improve the infrastructure needs of our facilities. The first is from the Cabell Foundation for \$98,000 and the second is from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation for \$50,000. Both of these grants, once



matched dollar for dollar from other sources, i.e. private gifts, are to be used for renovations of our historic buildings. The identified needs include window repair and refurbishment in the Museum, a new HVAC and security system for the Birthplace Manse, plaster repairs in the Museum and slate roof repairs. Nearly all of the improvements and upgrades are based on the recommendations from a 2012 Conservation Assessment Report of our facilities completed by The Virginia Association of Museums. All of the work undertaken will focus on *energy efficiency*. As an institution whose mission is preservation and active learning, we are particularly well suited to model green behavior and design for the public.

These are wonderful financial opportunities to make a significant difference in the sustainability of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum. But we **must match these grants** with private donations from people like you. I am asking that you please consider making a contribution to this effort. You may even designate your gift to a specific aspect of the overall project. To see a full list of giving designations, please visit our website at www.woodrowwilson.org. Your gift could make a huge difference in determining our success.



Sincerely yours,
Don W. Wilson, President and CEO



SAVE THE DATE:
NOVEMBER 8, 2013 AT 12:00 NOON

**Annual Luncheon with A. Scott Berg delivering keynote address
at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center.**

Members \$35, Nonmembers \$45, Patrons \$100, and Table Sponsors \$750.

To reserve your space call (540) 885-0897, x113 or email eshortt@woodrowwilson.org.

A WILSON TAKE ON



First Annual Antique Appraisal Show a Popular Success



Top: Bonham's fine arts expert tells an owner about his antique portrait.
Left: Gertraud Hechl looks on as Katherine Wilkins learns the value of her jewelry from Jewelry expert Susan Abeles.

On June 22nd, the WWPL played host to an inaugural event titled “The Valley’s Hidden Treasures.” Organized with generous support from Bonhams, one of the world’s oldest and largest auctioneers of fine art and antiques, the event featured four professional appraisers on hand to help people determine the value of their prized possessions. People from around the Valley and from as far away as Tidewater Virginia and Maryland came to learn more about their own history.

Experts in jewelry, art, furniture, and manuscripts were available and examined objects ranging from Japanese silk screens to bronze sculptures. The appraisers, some of whom have appeared on the popular PBS show “Antiques Roadshow,” were able to help attendees assign a monetary value to their items and find out if Grandma’s ring really was “priceless.”

Over the course of the day-long event, over 150 items were appraised including an original painting by Clementine Hunger valued at \$10,000, a Confederate officer's sword valued at \$750, and a group of wooden circus toys valued at \$350. On two separate occasions, people arrived with paintings they had owned and enjoyed for years, only to find they could be worth up to \$40,000.

Even those who didn’t find a hidden windfall left knowing more about their objects and history. One guest brought in a French ceramic platter with delicate painted designs, a piece described in family stories as being “at least 100 years old... probably worth a lot.” While the age was found to be correct, the value was not, being worth only about \$50. Nevertheless, the visitor left pleased, now being able to “tell the real story” of the object.

Given the success of the Appraisal Show, the WWPL and Bonhams hope to offer another next year.



NEW ACQUISITIONS OF THE WWPL

Silk Portrait of Wilson Donated

In August of this year, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library received a very interesting package containing a small, framed portrait of Woodrow Wilson, printed on silk. Originally distributed in packs of English cigarettes, such portraits were popular souvenirs during World War I. The WWPL maintains a small collection of such items, but as all are embroidery, this generous donation represents the first silk printed example in the Library's possession. Mr. W. Denny Freeston, an alumnus of Princeton University, and his wife, Paula, visited in July and felt the portrait belonged at the Library. The WWPL is extremely grateful for their thoughtful contribution.

Woodrow Wilson's First Ladies to be featured in C-SPAN's First Ladies program

On September 23rd at 9pm, C-SPAN premiered a special program on the lives of Ellen Axson Wilson and Edith Bolling Galt Wilson. The program is part of C-SPAN's ongoing series *First Ladies: Influence and Image*, which is providing in-depth discussion of each of the 45 women to hold the title "First Lady," beginning with Martha Washington early this year and ending their first season with Ida McKinley in June. The show's second season began on September 3rd with Edith Roosevelt, second wife of Theodore Roosevelt, and will end in February with a program on Michelle Obama. The show is presented with the cooperation of the White House Historical Association.



This August, a team from the show arrived in Staunton to prepare field pieces for the upcoming program on Ellen and Edith. Numerous objects and documents were filmed throughout the Presidential Library, as well as at other sites around the country relevant to the lives of these two remarkable women. The programs consist of historians discussing the First Ladies interspersed with off-site pieces and calls from viewers. Prominent scholars are always on hand to describe the life and times of each of these important figures. The WWPL was grateful to be consulted for the upcoming program on the wives of Woodrow Wilson — two women who helped their husband change America.

WHITE GLOVE ACCESS PROGRAM



The White Glove Access program allows visitors to don white gloves and get up close to many pieces from the curatorial and archival collections that are not on display. The most recent program was held on May 30 and featured the collection of Peyton Cochran, a Staunton, Virginia native and attorney who had several points of direct and indirect contact with Woodrow Wilson. Director of Library and Archives Peggy Dillard and archivist Connie Murray gave a behind the scenes look at correspondence, photos, and World War I documents and maps from the Peyton Cochran Collection. The next White Glove Access program is scheduled for October 6, from 2:00 – 4:00, and will feature artifacts and documents related to the Pierce Arrow limousine. A "Behind the Rope" tour will follow the program. The cost for the program is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. For more information contact Peggy Dillard at pdillard@woodrowwilson.org.



Successful History Camp and Growing Educational Offerings at WWPL

The education department at WWPL teaches schoolchildren about Woodrow Wilson’s legacy and his times through a variety of programs. During the weeks of June 17-21 and June 24-28, WWPL employees Linda Petzke and Nadine Woodrum conducted “Pathways to the Presidency,” our 17th Annual Journey Into History Camp. This year, campers learned about the lives of Virginia’s eight presidents through experiencing life as a Revolutionary War soldier, interacting with animals, plants and archaeological finds like those Lewis & Clark brought back to Thomas Jefferson, walking through our World War I trench like dough boys, and many other fun activities. Dolly Madison even visited one day, telling campers about her life as mistress of Montpelier. Campers also practiced historic dances in order to attend their own Inaugural Ball. The week closed focusing on our 8th Virginia President Woodrow Wilson and a fun trivia game that challenged campers and their parents alike. Fifty children were able to experience history in this vibrant way thanks to generous grants made possible by the Hershey Company, Energizer, Wal-mart,

and Target. Thank you to our volunteers Sam Drumeller, Jarrett Dunning, Anne Knopp, Addison Philpott, Rachel Shafer, and Steven Woodrum for their many hours of work that made this event possible.

The educational staff at WWPL is also looking forward to reaching out to school children this school year through class visits to WWPL for our three popular programs: *Journey Into History*; *President, Professor, Peacemaker*; and “*Over There... Over Here: The Great War*.” We will continue to offer these three programs, outreaches and field trips, and we are excited to develop programs that are geared toward middle and high school students. As teachers plan their students' educational experiences, they are seeking to have more of an interdisciplinary approach so that they can fulfill as many Virginia Standards of Learning requirements as possible through field trips and other class activities. As we seek to expand our offerings for the middle and high school aged audience, we will offer programs that continue to engage our students over a range of topics. Exhibits like our recent *President Electric*, which showcased the technological advances during Woodrow Wilson’s time in office,



Top: Campers experience the life of a Revolutionary War soldier complete with tri-corner hats and an historic flag.

Below: Campers study leaves and the natural world like the third President from VA, Thomas Jefferson.

create a bridge between our heritage and current developments in science and technology, and we hope to continue to strengthen this bridge for students and teachers who come to the WWPL.



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PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY



Be a part of the museum community and become a volunteer.

Contribute your time and expertise to support our mission of education. We are looking for volunteers who enjoy working with young people to conduct visits for school children of all ages. Scheduling is flexible and there is no minimum requirement for hours. For more information contact museumeducator@woodrowwilson.org or Susan Laser at (540)885-0897 x110.

Upcoming Events:

SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

Spies, Lies, and Disguise!

OCTOBER 6, 2013

White Glove Access

NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Annual Luncheon with speaker A. Scott Berg

DECEMBER 28, 2013

Woodrow Wilson Birthday Celebration

