

Presidency, 1974-1977 Artifacts



Primary Title:

Bicentennial elephant doll

Description:

The red, white, and blue, flag-style elephant displays a Bicentennial theme. The elephant wears a red bow around its neck. There are white, stitched letters that reads, "76" on the front of the elephant surrounded by stars.

Historical Attributions:

Accepted by H. Oldenburg from N.C. trip.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mrs. Joseph J. Fox



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Bicentennial - Rifle

This rifle was bestowed to President Ford by Fred D. Henderson in honor of America's Bicentennial. It took Mr. Henderson, a master craftsman, over 1,000 hours to carve and engrave the rifle by hand. The resulting product was presented to White House staff member Milton E. Mitler for inclusion in a Bicentennial display.

Description:

The 30-30 caliber Marlin rifle is engraved with detailed scrollwork and scenes from American history, including images of the Liberty Bell, a scene entitled "moving west," which shows a covered wagon, the Spirit of St. Louis, and the Lunar landing. The sights, trigger, butt cap, banding, an engraving of Lincoln's head and an engraving of the marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima are all gold plated. The rifle is housed in a wooden case also engraved by Mr. Henderson. A 30-30 caliber Marlin rifle which was engraved with scenes from American history in order to commemorate America's Bicentennial. The engravings include scroll work and dogwood blossoms over most of the steel components. The wooden stock is adorned with images of the liberty bell, a scene entitled "moving west," which shows a covered wagon, the Spirit of St. Louis, and the Lunar landing. The sights, trigger, butt cap, banding, an engraving of Lincoln's head and an engraving of the marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima are all gold plated. The butt of the gun is engraved with, "Gerald / Ford / The 38th / United / States / President ."

The rifle is housed in a wooden case also engraved by Mr. Henderson. It features engraved scroll work on the front and scroll work and dogwood blossoms on the top and sides.

The corners are covered in brass tips and has a brass clasp on the front. On the top is a plate with the inscription, "The Bicentennial Rifle." Inside is a brass chain to keep the lid from going back too far and molded, cushioned, red velvet that the weapon sits in. Inside is a small plastic plaque that reads, "United States of America / 1776-1976." The dates have a star on either side.

Historical Attributions: Fred D. Henderson has also engraved a shotgun for Hank Aaron in celebration of his homerun record and a miniature cannon for Jimmy Carter while he was governor of Georgia

Credit Line: Gift of Mr. Fred D. Henderson



Primary Title:

Declaration of Independence Plaque

Description:

This walnut plaque is 33 inches by 46 inches. It features the Declaration of Independence spelled out with alphabet noodles.

Historical Attributions:

The ten members of Girl Scout Troop #208 from St. Mary's Catholic School in Richland Center, Wisconsin, made and presented this plaque to President Gerald R. Ford for the United States' 1976 Bicentennial celebration. They gave it to him on October 30, 1975 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The girls spent 60 hours reproducing the document using over 8,000 alphabet noodles.

Credit Line:

Gift of Richland Center Girl Scout Troop #208, c/o Sharon Schimtz



Primary Title:

Porcelain Figurine - Declaration of Independence

Formal Title:

Kings

Description:

This limited edition porcelain figurine depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The officers also presented him with his certificate of membership to the society. The piece "The Declaration of Independence," made by Italian painter and sculptor Aldo Falchi, is the sixth of two hundred sets made in 1975-1976 and weighs about 40 lbs.

Historical Attributions:

Principle officers of the Sons of the American Revolution National Society (SAR) gave this figurine to President Gerald R. Ford on January 24, 1975.

Correspondence between Ted Marrs and Jack Marsh on April 5, 1975 indicates that this porcelain figurine may have traveled on the Freedom Train as part of America's Bicentennial celebrations.

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. M. Graham Clark, Jr.



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Kutani Ceramic Plate - Japan

When President Gerald R. Ford made his state visit to Japan in November of 1974, he established a historic milestone as the first sitting President of the United States to have visited the nation. Ford regards this in a speech given to Emperor Hirohito himself: "The first state visit of an American President to Japan is an occasion of very great importance to all Americans. Your gracious hospitality symbolically honors the 213 million Americans I have the honor to represent . . . Though separated by the broadest of oceans, Your Majesty, we have achieved between our two nations the closest of friendships."

In honor of such friendship and diplomacy, both heads of state exchanged gifts with one another. One such gift was this Kutani plate given by the Emperor. The term Kutani refers to Kutani Village, a 17th-century town from which this style of porcelain originated. Gotō Saijirō, member of the powerful Maeda clan, established the first kiln for Kutani ware at the wish of a Maeda feudal lord. The porcelain ceased production at the end of the 17th century until it was revived in the early 19th century. Kutani ware was officially designated as a traditional craft in 1975, one year after President Ford received this plate, and is now representative of the Japanese iroe ("overglaze enamels") style.

The plate itself was produced by ceramic artist Kizane Kamiide, noted master of Kutani ware. It is basic white with a gold leaf surface. The surface is accented with raised silver flowers, possibly inspired by an ancient motif known as

'tomoe', and form a large floral design throughout. It also bears an eight-sided star as the nucleus. Tiny flowers consisting of various shades of browns, reds, blues, and greens are systematically patterned across the plate's surface.

Description:

The ceramic Kutani plate itself was produced by ceramic artist Kizane Kamiide, noted master of Kutani ware. It is basic white with a gold leaf surface. The surface is accented with raised silver flowers, possibly inspired by an ancient motif known as 'tomoe', and form a large floral design throughout. It also bears an eight-sided star as the nucleus. Tiny flowers consisting of various shades of browns, reds, blues, and greens are systematically patterned across the plate's surface.

Historical Attributions:

Emperor Hirohito presented this ceramic Kutani plate to President Gerald R. Ford during Ford's visit to Japan in November of 1974.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Imperial Majesty Hirohito



Primary Title:

the Omani Falcon

Description:

The "Omani Falcon", gold bird with diamond cresting is perched on an oxidized silver tree with enamel leaves and a carved ruby fruit resting on a green, malachite base. In addition, a gold feather is affixed on the right center of the base. The falcon is housed in a grey velvet and white satin lined chest (ID 1981.126b) whose exterior is green with gold embossing and crest on top.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Majesty Oaboos Bin Sultan of Oman



Primary Title:

Betty's Husband for President Campaign button

Description:

A 1976 campaign button for Ford using his wife, Betty, as focus of the slogan, "Betty's Husband / For President / In '76". The button is dark blue with white font.

Credit Line:

Gift of Nancy Thompson



Primary Title:

Soup Tureen - England

Description:

The Royal Crown soup tureen (described as an 1876 Victorian pastiche) depicts a painting of the White House on the front and Philadelphia's Independence Hall on the back. The sides display official seals – one side President Ford's, the other Queen Elizabeth's. Eight cornucopias, two wreathed circles displaying "1776" and "1976", four acanthus leaves looped with gold rings, four rows of 14 gold stars on blue backgrounds, eight borders of red and white stripes, and numerous curlicues grace the piece. It rests comfortably on a wooden base with an engraved plaque that reads, "Presented to / The President of the United States of America / by / Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II / and / His Royal Highness The Prince Philip / Duke of Edinburgh / on the occasion of their visit to commemorate / the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence / July 1976."

Historical Attributions:

Queen Elizabeth II presented this tureen as a Bicentennial gift to President Gerald R. Ford.

Credit Line:

Gift of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II & His Majesty Prince Philip



Primary Title:
Description:

Coffee Set - Denmark

Housed in a wooden case is a coffee set made by Royal Copenhagen Porcelain. The box contains a coffee pot with a lid, a creamer, a sugar bowl with a lid, four coffee cups, four coffee saucers, and a serving tray. All of the items feature silhouettes of American patriots. They have a tortoise shell glaze and a gold band around the bottom, with a gold grapevine inlay around the top. On the lid of the box is an inscription that reads, "To The President of the United States of America from Margrethe II / Queen of Denmark / Henrik / Prince of Denmark / On the occasion of their visit / May 1976 / The year of the Bicentennial of the United States".

Historical Attributions:
Credit Line:

The set is number 1 of a limited edition of 300.

Gift of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II & His Majesty Prince Henrik of Denmark



Primary Title:

Ford campaign button

Description:

A steel campaign button with a plastic face. The blue lettering on white paper reads, "I'm for / Betty's / husband."

Credit Line:

Gift of Mrs. Charles A. Zeddies



Primary Title:

Faux Straw Hat Ford '76

Description:

A white, wide brim, molded Styrofoam campaign hat, in faux straw fashion, created for Ford's '76 campaign. The hat features a blue band around with white lettering that reads, "President Ford '76 The President Ford Committee Rogers C.B. Morton Chairman. Robert C. Moot, Treasurer". On the top is a red, white, and blue sticker with white lettering that reads, "President Ford '76". Embossed inside the hat is additional text that reads, "Can. Pat. 1967 Made in U.S.A. Pat. No. 3305874 Other Pat. Pend."

Credit Line:

Gift of John W. Keeslar



Primary Title:

Ford Dole campaign button

Description:

A white, round, political button for Ford and Dole's campaign. The button features in blue font, "Ford / Dole" at the center with a red line separating their names. Above and below that is additional, red text that reads, "My 2 Favorite / 4-Letter Words".

Credit Line:

Gift of John W. Keeslar



Primary Title:

Ford Campaign Sunglasses

Description:

A pair of plastic sunglasses whose frames are red, white and blue, featuring an American flag design. The frame is attached to a gold colored metal chain on each side. At the end of each chain is a circular pendant that displays a headshot of President Ford on both sides.

Credit Line:

Gift of A. Dean Watkins



Label Text:

On October 2, 1975 - nearly one year after President Gerald R. Ford made his first visit to Japan - Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako traveled to the United States. This occasion is marked as the first state visit by both an Emperor and an Empress of Japan. While the Emperor formally presented a gift to President Ford, the Empress presented this Imari porcelain vase to Mrs. Ford. Also known as Arita ware, Imari porcelain originates during the 17th century from the southern town of Arita. It was commonly exported from the port at Imari, hence its dual titles. It is said that the first kilns were set up by a Korean immigrant, Yi Sam-pyeong, whose his works became widely popular both domestically and abroad. Although this narrative is disputed among historians, there is no question that Imari porcelain is now considered a staple of the Japanese ceramic industry.

Description:

This vase in particular was handmade by Imaemon Imaizumi XII, a master of the Imari tradition. The Imaemon family specializes in a subset of Imari ware known as Iro-Nabeshima (a multi-colored overglaze porcelain from the former Nabeshima clan). The vase is made of blue porcelain and decorated with red and yellow flowers and green foliage. A blue porcelain vase decorated with red and yellow flowers and green foliage. The handmade vase was created by Imaemon Imaizumi XII. The vase was a gift to President and Mrs. Ford from Emperor Hirohito and his wife during their visit to Washington, D.C. in October of 1975. This was the first state visit for an Emperor and Empress of Japan to the United States.

Credit Line:

Gift of Emperor Hirohito & Empress of Japan



Primary Title:

Bicentennial Necklace

Formal Title:

The Bicentennial Jewel

Description:

A white gold necklace made by Pierre Touraine circa 1976 for the Bicentennial. The necklace has stars with diamonds and a detachable pendant that can also be worn as a pin. The pendant is in the design of the Bicentennial seal and is made of rubies, diamonds, and sapphires. The chain is embellished with thirteen stars and diamonds representing the original thirteen states all set in platinum. In all there are 165 specially cut diamonds, 50 prime quality rare Burmese rubies and 25 Burmese blue sapphires.

Credit Line:

Gift of Pierre Touraine



Primary Title:

Formal Title:

Description:

Gerald R. Ford sculpture made out of Rocks

Rock Jerry

A hand-painted, Bicentennial caricature of President Gerald R. Ford made by Michael Manning as one of his "Stoney Maloneys". The sculpture is made out of Pennsylvania river stone. It features Ford painted in a striped business suit, striped shirt, and a blue and red striped tie. It also contains an American Flag lapel pin, along with Ford's signature pipe in his left hand and a gray elephant in his right hand. Painted in white on the back is the message, "To President Ford / Ruane Manning - 1976 / Stoney Maloneys © 1976".

Credit Line:

Gift of Michael R. Manning



Primary Title:

Brown Briefcase

Description:

A worn, brown leather briefcase used by President Gerald R. Ford features a red tag on the handle which says "The President" and a key lock on either side. The briefcase contains a pouch on the inside with little pouches on the front of it.

Historical Attributions:

A note in the accession file states, "President Ford took special concern in giving this briefcase to Ken Rossman saying it had been all over with him. It was THE briefcase he had always used."

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Plaque First Mama

Description:

A wood plaque with grooves carved along side the edge regularly. The top-front is painted mustard yellow with black text reading, "KUY9532 / First Mama". Yellow fabric is glued to the back and a metal hanger is nailed into the back.

Credit Line:

Gift of Penny Lucier



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Jimmy Carter toilet paper

Toilet paper with a caricature of Jimmy Carter printed on each sheet in a black color.

Gift of John Keeslar



Primary Title:

Red Cloisonne Vase with Floral Design

Description:

A dark red cloisonné (also referred to as shippo-yaki) enamel vase features a painted pink chrysanthemum and white anemone flower design, chrysanthemums representing truth and dually serving as a symbol of the Japanese imperial government. White anemones symbolize sincerity. The top and bottom of the vase are bordered with silver.

Historical Attributions:

The vase was received by H. Oldenburg on November 20, 1974.

Credit Line:

Gift of the Honorable Mr. Kenzo Kono, President, House of Councilors, Japan



Primary Title:

Bicentennial Quilt

Formal Title:

Lone Star

Label Text:

In 1975 and 1976, many individuals throughout the United States created quilts to honor America's Bicentennial. It was a remarkable time for creative ingenuity and patriotic celebration. One such quilt, depicted here, was made by Donna Rabe and Pearl Sayer of Snake River Country Quilts. It was the first in a series of Bicentennial quilts done by the organization and it has been displayed in Denver, Los Angeles, and Idaho Falls before reaching President Ford in the White House. The center of the quilt features an eight-pointed star made of various fabrics cut into diamond shapes. The star is surrounded by a white background and red and navy blue borders.

Description:

An intricately stitched quilt created by Donna Rabe and Pearl Sayer in honor of America's Bicentennial. The center of the quilt features an eight-pointed star made of various fabrics cut into diamond shapes. The star is surrounded by a white background and red and navy blue borders.

Credit Line:

Gift of Snake River Country Quilts



Primary Title:

Document Box - South Korea

Description:

A lacquered mother-of-pearl inlaid document box. The black box features a brown lid with a peacock and a flower pattern and it replicates a box on President Park's desk.

Historical Attributions:

President Gerald R. Ford received this lacquered mother-of-pearl inlaid document box on November 22, 1974 as a Head of State gift from Chung Hee Park, President of the Republic of Korea, during Ford's State Visit to Korea. Master Kim Bong-yong crafted the box at 72 years old.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Excellency Park Chung Hee



Primary Title:

King David Sculpture - Israel

Description:

A bronze sculpture depicting King David playing a harp while seated at his throne. The statue rests on square base with four sculpted lions, which serve as the feet for the base. The base is engraved with the artist's name, Frank Meisler, and a bronze plaque on the side of the base. On the opposite side of the base a similar plaque contains the same text in Hebrew.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Excellency Ephraim Katzir



Primary Title:

Lacquered salt shaker - USSR

Description:

A wooden salt shaker painted black and gold with various fruits and flowers painted on for decoration.

Historical Attributions:

A gift given from Boris P. Bugayev, Civil Aviation Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on November 29, 1974.

Credit Line:

Gift of Boris P. Bugayev



Primary Title:

Lacquered jigger-size container - USSR

Description:

A wooden jigger-size container painted black and gold with various fruits and flowers painted on for decoration.

Historical Attributions:

A gift given from Boris P. Bugayev, Civil Aviation Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on November 29, 1974.

Credit Line:

Gift of Boris P. Bugayev



Primary Title:

Lacquered small bowl - USSR

Description:

A small wooden bowl painted black and gold with various fruits and flowers painted on for decoration.

Historical Attributions:

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Lacquered small spoon - USSR

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A small wooden spoon painted black and gold with various fruits and flowers painted on for decoration.

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Credit Line:

Gift of Boris P. Bugayev



Primary Title:

Decanter - Syria

Description:

A red glass decanter with gold and white Arabic designs of floral scroll work below two gold painted rings around the neck. It is topped with a red glass spire stopper with similar scroll design as on the lower piece.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Excellency Abdul Halim Khaddam



Primary Title:

Indonesian Kris Dagger

Description:

The hilt features a gold-colored goddess figure ornamented with jewels mounted on top of a circular pedestal surrounded by stones. The blade is made of black wrought iron. The scabbard consists of a gold-colored aluminum body with a carved ivory throat. The dagger rests in a red velvet covered presentation box lined with white satin. A brass inscribed plaque and emblem of Indonesia is on the lid.

Historical Attributions:

President Gerald R. Ford received this presentation dagger known as a Balinese "kris" on December 15, 1975 from General Suharto, the President of Indonesia, on his trip to Indonesia.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Excellency General Suharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia



Primary Title:

Bicentennial Eagle Figurine

Formal Title:

Eagle of Freedom

Description:

Life-size, porcelain eagle perched on rock outcroppings made by Boehm for President Ford for the nation's Bicentennial in 1976.

Credit Line:

Gift of Edward Marshall Boehm, Inc.



Primary Title:

Gerald R. Ford's Golf Shoes

Description:

A pair of white leather golf shoes worn by Jerry Ford with wood spacers, and black rubber soles.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Formal Title:

Description:

Gerald R. Ford's Tennis Racket with Cover
Davis Classic

(a) A wood framed tennis racket, with leather dark brown leather grip attached to the shaft. The wood is laminated and the racket has a design around the head which runs down the shaft; in the form of two blue lines. Near the base of the head and the throat, is a black, red, and teal pattern. The name of the racket and crest is there as well. There is a gold decorative band, which is considerably faded, in the handle. There is a manufacturing sticker which has silver writing, faded, which also gives some information about the racket. There is a piece of brown tape at the top of the racket where the grip meets the shaft.

(b) Is a tennis racket cover intended to cover the head of the racket. It is trimmed in brown leather and beige textile material on the outside and cover. Inside is a green/gray textile material. There is a zipper with brown leather and teeth across the front of the cover 1/3 of the way from the crown, which zips right to left. There is another zipper along the side which comes down the right side from the top to the bottom. At the base there is an opening which allows the shaft to stick out. Around this is a leather strap which has a snap bottom on the end which connects to the knob on the top of the leather at the base. There is a stamping of laurels for decoration just above this.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Pair of Gerald R. Ford's Snow Skis

Description:

Pair of snow skis owned and used by Gerald R. Ford.
"Rossingol Snowbird" model. Complete with steel bindings.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Gerald R. Ford's Red Shorts

Shorts are made out of red cloth and have a front zipper and two buttons to hold shorts shut.

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Earth Core Sample on Plaque

Description:

A cylindrical core sample from 12, 680 feet within earth's surface, which rests on a three tiered wooden base. A triangular support mounted on front displays an engraved brass presentation plate. Bottom of the base protected with green felt. A gift from the president's visit to Houston, Texas

Credit Line:

Gift of Don E. McMahon



Primary Title:

Blue Hard hat

Description:

A blue hard-hat made from plastic and features a bronze-colored plaque attached to the front. The interior contains a fitting made of plastic and rubber. President Ford received this hard-hat from Diamond M Drilling Company while visiting the New Era off-shore drilling rig in April 1975.

Credit Line:

Gift of Don E. McMahon



Primary Title:
Description:

American Independence Sword - 1976

This presentation grade sword features: a beveled stainless steel blade, gilt chasing of military trophy and floral against bluing extends halfway down blade. The ricasso displays etching, with blue leather grip, and 8 turns of double stranded wire. The pommel consists of a round medallion with silver finial, obverse pommel displays an enameled "Great Seal of the United States", surrounded by diamond studded stars. The reverse pommel displays a converse side of the great seal. A silver knuckle bow connects the pommel with the quillon. The knuckle bow displays 3 small jewels on obverse center, with quillon formed by 2 kidney guards displaying the American eagle against openwork. The kidney guards mounted at approx 45 degree angle and extended over quillon. The entire hilt is silver plated. Attached to the sword is a metallic gilt knot. The sword rests in a presentation case. The outside consists of blue leather, while the interior features a white satin lining on the lid and red velvet on the base. The top of case displays an embossing in gold lettering, which reads, "American Independence Sword / Number One / Presented to the / President of the United States of America / by the / Sons of the American Revolution / 1977." On the interior of the sword case, "The American Independence Sword / Issued by the U.S. Historical Society / One of One Thousand / 1976".

Credit Line: Gift of Sons of the American Revolution



Primary Title:

Description:

Shadow box with ethnic buttons from 1976 election

This light brown box frame holds a collection of buttons. The interior of the box features blue fabric that the buttons lie on. The lower panel of the top contains a gold-colored plaque that features the engraving "Ely Peterson People for Ford '76." There are 27 white buttons with blue text naming some people group "For Ford". The groups included are: American Indians, Armenians, Bulgarians, Byelorussians, Chinese Americans, Cuban Americans, Estonians, Filipinos, German Americans, Greek Americans, Hungarians, Irish Americans, Italian Americans, Japanese Americans, Jewish Americans, Latin Americans, Latvians, Lebanese, Lithuanians, Mexican Americans, Polish Americans, Puerto Ricans, Russian Americans, Scandinavians, Serbian Americans, Slovaks, and Ukrainians. There is a piece of glass directly above the buttons.

Credit Line:

Gift of Ely Peterson



Primary Title:

Label Text:

1785 French printing press - France

America's Bicentennial celebrations in 1976 included a variety of significant events, including a State visit by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. On May 17, while at a reception for a dinner honoring the relationship between the United States and France, President Gerald R. Ford was presented this rare 1785 wooden printing press as a gesture of friendship by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. In return, President Ford would present the French President with a bronze cast of a bust of Marquis de Lafayette, a French general who was influential in the American Revolution and who was a close friend to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Today, there are only 450 wooden printing presses left in the world, with 130 located in the United States. There no longer are any wooden printing presses within the entirety of France. This printing press is unique as it is considered a miniature printing press. Furthermore, there are only three printing presses of this type throughout the world. This wooden printing press purportedly was set up to print copies of America's Declaration of Independence. Additionally, a unique aspect of this artifact, according to the French President's interpreter during the gift ceremony was that the press may have been used by Benjamin Franklin during his

ambassadorship (or Minister Plenipotentiary) in Paris; truly making this already unique piece one of a kind!

The long tradition of the exchanging of gifts between the United States and France honors the relationship that the two countries have in their shared independence. For example, France commissioned the construction of the Statue of Liberty for America's first centennial in 1876. They completed the statue ten years later. Given that the French aided the United States in gaining their independence during the American Revolution, gift giving has been symbolically important in maintaining good faith between the two countries.

The Great Hall inside the Commerce Building in Washington, DC, originally displayed the printing press from 1976 to 1977, after the gift had been presented to President Ford. In 1977 the press was shipped to Philadelphia and exhibited at Independence National Historic Park until it was transferred to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in 1987. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is the only museum that has a printing press of this kind on public display.

Description: This printing press from 1785 features a dark wood body with a wooden base. The rest of the printing press features iron. A small presentation plate marking the exchange between France and the United States appears on the front. The President of France gave this to President Ford as a gift in 1976.

Historical Attributions: Thought to be used by Benjamin Franklin during his time as a French Ambassador in the eighteenth century, this rare 1785 printing press was given as a gift to President Ford by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing during a state visit on May 17, 1976. The gift was given in celebration of America's Bicentennial and President d'Estaing received a bronze bust of Marquis de Lafayette in return.

Credit Line: Gift of Giscard d'Estaing



Primary Title:

Bicentennial Betsy Ross Ceramic Figure

Description:

A ceramic made figurine of Betsy Ross sewing the American flag. The flag consists of felt strips over ceramic, while the figurine was hand painted.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crowley



Primary Title:

Cast Piece of Liberty Bell

Description:

A miniature bell cast from a piece of the actual Liberty Bell. This is encased in a red leather commemorative case in the shape of the Liberty Bell. Inside the top cover reads "Presented to the / President of the United States / Gerald R. Ford / Independence Hall / Philadelphia / July 4, 1976 / Set Charles Momjian."

Credit Line:

Gift of Set Charles Momjian



Primary Title:

Description:

USC Fuel Research Project

A USC Fuel Research project plaque made of wood that features a paper certificate, several pieces of shale, two glass bottles, one with a piece of shale in it, and the other contains synthetic crude oil. The paper certificate says, "Gerald R. Ford President of the United States, In recognition of your interest in Oil Shale Development the University of California Fuels Research Project is pleased to present you with samples of our research..."

Credit Line:

Gift of Mr. Jay L. Stern



Primary Title:

Bicentennial Sport Shirt

Description:

A sport shirt made of blue denim with striped collar and cuffs. On the back of shirt there features a Bicentennial patch of fabric. There is a tag on the inside of the collar that says "Fashioned by Jenitogi Chama NM."

Credit Line:

Gift of Marie K. Donaldson



Primary Title:

GOP Elephant sculpture

Description:

An elephant sculpture covered with diamond-shaped, gold-tinted, glass mosaic pieces. Blue plastic jewels compose the eyes of the elephant and spell out "Ford '76" on one side of the elephant and "Michigan G.O.P." on the other.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Profulla K. Mondol



Primary Title:

Betty Ford campaign button

Description:

A campaign button for Betty Ford to be in the White House, not Gerald. The button was put out by the Washington State Women's Political Caucus. The button is tan and contains the slogan, "Betty, Yes! Gerry, No." in dark brown.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Label Text:

Apollo - Soyuz Telephone

On July 17, 1975, Cold War rivals America and the Soviet Union met in Earth orbit as the American Apollo Service Module docked with the Soviet Union's Soyuz 19. President Gerald R. Ford phoned the crews twice during their mission, once after the successful docking of the Apollo module with Soyuz 19 and a second time following the recovery of the American spacecraft on July 24, 1975.

President Ford lightheartedly joked with the crews over the phone on the same day, teasing one of the astronauts about how it must feel to be an "old timer" in space. On a more serious note, he commented "Your flight is a momentous event and a very great achievement, not only for the five of you but also for the thousands of American and Soviet scientists and technicians who have worked together for 3 years to ensure the success of this very historic and very successful experiment in international cooperation." Both crews warmly thanked him for his well-wishes.

On July 24, 1975, President Ford called the American astronaut crew as their spacecraft was being recovered, teasing one of the astronauts about his poor Russian language skills. He addressed the crew, "Tom and Deke and Vance, welcome home. On behalf of your fellow Americans--

about 214 million of them--congratulations and thanks for a very successful and extremely productive flight in space. We are delighted to have you back safely, and we are very, very proud of the great job that you did.

Your safe return marks the close of the Apollo program. And you and all of the rest who have been participants should be extremely proud of its success, from the beginning to the present. And as you know better than all of us, your particular flight also adds a new dimension, that of international cooperation, and that is extremely vital now and in the days ahead.”

Description:

A telephone used by President Gerald R. Ford to talk directly to the astronauts and cosmonauts during the Apollo-Soyuz mission on July 17, 1975 - the first international space mission. The phone rests in a wood presentation box that is lined with a dark colored fabric.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Can of Bicentennial Air from Indiana

Description:

A metal can that features a yellow wrap around the label with red and black text. The can contains 1976 Indiana Air. A white postage mailing stamp is affixed to the label.

Credit Line:

Gift of J. Jungbauer



Primary Title:

Description:

Iranian medal - Order of Pahlavi

A commemorative medal, the "Order of Pahlavi," was presented to President Gerald R. Ford by Mohammad Resa Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, in 1975. The pendant decoration consists of four ornate Pahlavi crowns mounted against a gold and blue enamel sun burst design. The crowns in the center of the decoration are joined by an enamel depiction of the sun rising over the mountaintop. The decoration is suspended on a chain of gold and blue enamel rings that alternate by color. The entire piece was originally enclosed within an ornate, padded presentation box. It also comes with an identical brooch pin of a larger size than the pendant on the metal chain. The decoration was named for the family of the Shah and was awarded for civil merit.

Credit Line:

Gift of His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Resa Pahlavi



Primary Title:
Description:

Bicentennial lunchbox

A metal lunchbox made for the bicentennial. The box has a star-spangled American flag motif, which is inset with different cartoon scenes from the American Revolution. The front scene is George Washington having his boot shined by a boy with the caption above reading, "Back in '76." Other scenes on the side include: an American and a redcoat in a snowball fight, Betsy Ross sewing the first flag, the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Boston Tea Party and the scene on the back is Paul Revere's midnight ride. On the inside is the lunch box's thermos, which features images of the revolution as well, in addition to its red plastic cap and bottom. The thermos is held in place with a metal holder made of wire.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Hawley



Primary Title:

I Flipped my Frisbee over Ford Bicentennial frisbee

Description:

A white, plastic Bicentennial Frisbee that states, "I flipped my Frisbee over...Ford," in blue text in the middle. Below "Ford" there are red and white stripes, and a blue border with white stars and "1776" and "1976" encircles the main text. One hundred of these were made for a convention in Kansas City and six were kept for the First family.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mr. Peter E. Nowinson



Primary Title:

Alaska pipeline jar

Description:

A dark, steel-colored, glazed porcelain decanter. The style mimics a pipe from an oil carrying pipe line. Each end is "capped" and threaded. The top narrows to a threaded bottleneck capped by a ceramic top that looks like the cap of a pipe fitting. This cap has a cork insert that fits snugly into the decanter. White and yellow print decorates the front.

1989.446 b: Purple velvet bag with circular cardboard bottom and gold three-strand cord drawstring.

Historical Attributions:

In a letter to the President, Mr. Wertz states, "Recently we had an idea and from sketch drawings and the help of others a bottle was developed, called the Alaska Pipeline - pictures of which are enclosed. It's a rugged looking bottle made of porcelain and is highly unique in that no two Alaska Pipeline Bottles are identical. A pewter glaze actually varies the appearance of every bottle. Eventually, these bottles will be marketed containing a fifth of Kentucky Straight Bourbon. With your permission, we would like to have one of these sent to you (empty of course) as kind of a memento marking this great event in todays history." The letter is dated September 12, 1974.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mr. Bob Wertz



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Squeaky Fromme's semi-automatic pistol

On September 5th, 1975 President Ford visited Sacramento, California to speak to the California State Legislature. On his way to the State Capitol, a young woman stepped out of a crowd towards the President and drew a gun. Secret Service Agent Larry Buendorf quickly disarmed the young woman as other agents rapidly steered Gerald Ford towards the State House. A press agent described the swift action of the agents, saying, "As soon as the agent said, 'let's go,' there was a kind of football huddle thing, the agents around Ford came and clustered him for about two or three seconds. The two agents who were nearest him on each side literally grabbed him physically, put their arms around him and clutched his clothing and literally hustled him out of there at a trot."

The young woman's name was Lynette Alice "Squeaky" Fromme, a fervent follower of Charles Manson. She would serve 34 years in prison for her assassination attempt. Ford spoke about the attempt later that day, remarking that "I was very thankful to the Secret Service for doing a superb job, but once I saw that they had done it, I thought I better get on with the rest of the day's schedule."

Description:

A Colt 1911 model semi-automatic pistol (a) that fires .45 caliber rounds. It features a blued frame with wooden grips. One side of the slide is marked "Model of 1911 U.S. Army." The opposite side of slide reads "Colt's PT.F.A. MFG. Co. / Hartford. CT. U.S.A." The weapon bears serial number 94854. It also has the original steel ammunition magazine

(b). Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme used this weapon to try and assassinate President Gerald R. Ford on September 5, 1975, in Sacramento, California.

Historical Attributions: 1989.1055.1: This was the gun used by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme in her Assassination attempt on President Ford. Fromme, a follower of Charles Manson, believed Ford to be "Nixson [sic]... wearing a new face," and thus the source of the Manson Family's issues with the law. Some witnesses report that they heard a clicking sound, which lead media to believe that Fromme did, in fact, pull the trigger; upon examination Secret Service realized there was no bullet in the chamber, but Fromme was likely unaware of this. Speculation abounds as to Squeaky's motivations; her roommate Sarah Good claimed she acted with environmental concerns, while prison officials at San Quentin acknowledge that Fromme frequently communicated with cult leader Charles Manson.

Credit Line: Gift of U. S. Attorney's Office, Sacramento, California



Primary Title:

Ford White House Pen - Pardon Pen

Description:

A silver-colored and blue plastic Parker ink pen with a silver-colored metal clip. It was used by President Ford to sign Richard Nixon's pardon. The pen was placed on exhibit on 2013-03-27, while the box remains in storage. The pen was manufactured by the Parker Pen company in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Credit Line:

Gift of Benton L. Becker



Primary Title:

Plaque - Kentucky Coal

Description:

A wooden plaque carved in the shape of the State of Kentucky that features a large piece of coal mounted in the center. The plaque reads "Madisonville / Heart of the Western Kentucky Coal Field."

Credit Line:

Gift of Madisonville State Vocational Technical School



Primary Title:

Description:

Ivory And Gold Brocade Gown With Fur Cuffs

An ivory and light gold metallic floor length gown features a gold spider mums pattern (as described by Albert Capraro in his sketchbook), as well as brown mink banded cuffs at the end of the long sleeves. The top-stitch pleated garment includes a bateau neckline and an obi sash. The dress also features a plunged back and includes a dropwaist that is created by, as described by Capraro in his sketchbook, a low tucked skirt. This dress was worn by Betty Ford during her time as First Lady.

Historical Attributions:

Congressional Ball At The White House 12-17-75

State Dinner For Prime Minister And Mrs. Rabin Of Israel 1-27-76

Congressional Ball 12-9-76

Cabinet Dinner (FST. Club) 1-5-76

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Description:

This brown naugahyde golf bag holds a set of golf clubs most likely belonging to Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A black plastic base allows the bag to sit vertically. The left side of the bag bears a carrying sling attached with metal fixtures that runs approximately half the length of the bag. Two circular tabs are incised in the materials near the top of the bag, just beneath the top attachment for the handle. This side of the bag also features a bronze-tone "SEARS" logo on the top margin, affixed to a separate square piece of material. The front panel of the bag sports two pockets closed with zippers. A ball pocket runs vertically down most of the length of the bag; the zipper opens towards the left side of the bag. An apparel and accessories pocket runs horizontally across the front surface of the bag; the zipper opens towards the top of the bag. Two naugahyde-covered metal bars installed in the opening of the bag allow for club segregations. One brown naugahyde rain hood with two bronze colored snaps accompanies the golf bag.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.



Primary Title:

Golf Club

Description:

A one-wood allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red and black painted wood grip tops a silver-tone metal shaft. Black plastic makes up the head of the club, which is attached with a small red hosel. The face features four screws in a diamond pattern, as well as scoring lines over a red and black trapezoid pattern. The top surface of the head reads "Walker Cup" in gold tone lettering. The toe bears a "RESOLON" logo in gold tone print with a decorative box surrounding the letter "R." The sole of the club features a metal plate affixed with four screws. Lettering printed on the plate reads "Wilson/ Reg. NO / 4300" next to a large red "1."

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:
Description:

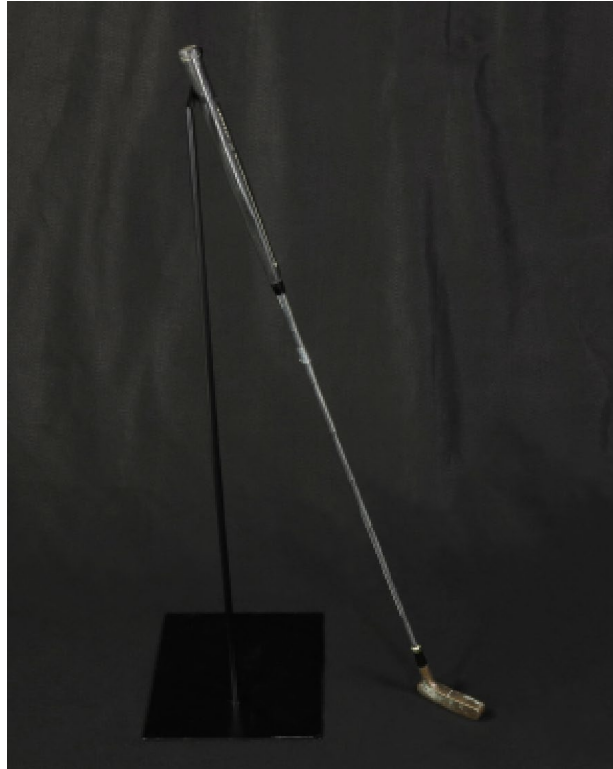
Golf Club

A one-wood allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red-toned wood handle, featuring a line incised in a spiral pattern that runs the length of the handle, tops the silver-tone metal shaft. The club features a black neck with a black hosel with a red upper edge affixing the head to the shaft. The same red-tone wood used in the handle makes up the head itself. The top surface of the head features an engraved "Lou Hamel" beneath a logo made up of the letters "A R" and a four leaf clover. Gold-tone paint lines the inside of the engraved text. The face of the club features four screws in a diamond pattern and scoring marks over red, black, and yellow painted stripes. The sole of the club features an hourglass shaped metal plate affixed with four metal screws. It reads "1 / DRIVER / REG. NO. / 4300" in letters engraved into the metal.

Historical Attributions: Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:

Golf Club

Description:

A classic blade putter allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A black plastic grip tops a silver-tone metal shaft. Beige lettering running vertically down the handle reads "PRO MASTER" around a beige starburst. A downward facing arrows runs from the end of the text down the remaining length of the grip. A black and gold hosel connects the head to the shaft. Copper-tone metal makes up the head, uninterrupted except for black engraved letters reading "Par-Rite" on the sole.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:

Golf Club

Description:

A three-iron allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red-tone vinyl grip, sporting horizontal incisions arranged in rows around the circumference, tops the silver-tone metal shaft. A black and yellow hosel connects the silver-tone head to the shaft. The head of the club reads "Power Weight / Gooseneck" on the bottom half of the putter facing upwards. Directly above this, more engraved text reads "Bill Lyle" in cursive, while the regulation number is given in small engraved text to the right of the signature as "REG. NO. / 5010." The face features scoring lines, but no decoration. A large "3", topped with three five-pointed star outlines, adorns the sole of the club.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:

Golf Club

Description:

A five-iron allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red-tone vinyl grip, sporting horizontal incisions arranged in rows around the circumference, tops the silver-tone metal shaft. A black and yellow hosel connects the silver-tone head to the shaft. The head of the club reads "Power Weight / Gooseneck" on the bottom half of the putter facing upwards. Directly above this, more engraved text reads "Bill Lyle" in cursive, while the regulation number is given in small engraved text to the right of the signature as "REG. NO. / 5010." The face features scoring lines, but no decoration. A large "5", topped with three five-pointed star outlines, adorns the sole of the club.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:
Description:

Golf Club

A seven-iron allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red-tone vinyl grip, sporting horizontal incisions arranged in rows around the circumference, tops the silver-tone metal shaft. A black, yellow, and red hosel connects the silver-tone head to the shaft. The head of the club reads "Power Weight / Gooseneck" on the bottom half of the putter facing upwards. Directly above this, more engraved text reads "Bill Lyle" in cursive, while the regulation number is given in small engraved text to the right of the signature as "REG. NO. / 5010." The face features scoring lines, but no decoration. A large "7", topped with three five-pointed star outlines, adorns the sole of the club.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:

Golf Club

Description:

A nine-iron allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red-tone vinyl grip, sporting horizontal incisions arranged in rows around the circumference, tops the silver-tone metal shaft. A black and yellow hosel connects the silver-tone head to the shaft. The head of the club reads "Power Weight / Gooseneck" on the bottom half of the putter facing upwards. Directly above this, more engraved text reads "Bill Lyle" in cursive, while the regulation number is given in small engraved text to the right of the signature as "REG. NO. / 5010." The face features scoring lines, but no decoration. A large "9", topped with three five-pointed star outlines, adorns the sole of the club.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:

Golf Club

Description:

A pitching wedge allegedly used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A red-tone vinyl grip, sporting horizontal incisions arranged in rows around the circumference, tops the silver-tone metal shaft. A brown and yellow hosel connects the silver-tone head to the shaft. Silver-tone metal made up the head at one point, but is badly worn and mostly corroded. The sole of the club reads "PRO-MADE" on the raised portion and "'750" Custom Made" on the recessed portion. The face features scoring lines, but no additional decoration.

Historical Attributions:

Mr. James Primes donated this golf bag, rain hood, set of clubs, and associated materials to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 13, 1993. The donor claims Thomas Ford, President Gerald R. Ford's half-brother, gifted him with this set of clubs at an unspecified date. Gerald Ford allegedly used the clubs at some point in his life prior to his presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of James Primes



Primary Title:

Label Text:

Apollo Soyuz Medallion

After the Apollo-Soyuz mission in July of 1975, President Ford held a meeting with the crews of both Apollo and Soyuz in October of 1975. In this meeting, President Ford praised the wonderful work done by both crews, remarking especially on their cooperation as a team in space.

General Stafford, commander of the Apollo, presented President Ford with the aluminum American joint plaque that the crews pieced together in space. He also presented the communications and power cables to the Soviet cosmonauts, the cables which connected the command module over to the docking module, and on which were carried the voice communications right after the spacecrafts joined together and through most of the television transmissions.

The Soviet cosmonauts also presented to President Ford a silver medallion with the crew patch of the Soyuz engraved on it to accompany the small pin that they presented to him during their last visit in 1974. The commemorative medal was crafted using metal taken from both spacecrafts. President Ford commented that he had attached the pin at the base of the Apollo-Soyuz model that he kept in his office and would find a way to appropriately display this medallion

as well.

Description: A silver colored metal commemorative medallion from the Apollo-Soyuz mission made from metal taken from both spacecrafts. The medal features a picture of the two spaceships meeting in space.

Credit Line: Gift of Paul Hartunian



Primary Title:

Description:

Wolf Skin Fur Coat - Ford / Brezhnev

President Gerald R. Ford received this hooded brown, grey, white, and black wolf skin fur coat on November 17, 1974. It was a gift from his friend, Jack Kim, an Alaskan furrier, during a stop in Anchorage, Alaska on his way to Japan and Vladivostok, Siberia. Before leaving Siberia on November 24, Ford gave the coat to the Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. Thus, the coat in the collections is a replacement given to Ford by Jack Kim. Black quilted polyester lines the coat and hood. Black faux fur trims the hood and collar while brown leather trims the full length metal zipper and cuffs.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R Ford



Primary Title:

Saigon Staircase

Description:

A metal staircase used during the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. American personnel and Vietnamese citizens ascended the staircase to the roof of the American Embassy in Saigon, Vietnam in attempt to board helicopters and flee the country. The staircase, white in color, features eighteen steps and side railing that lead to a short deck. In regards to the staircase, Ford stated "To some, this staircase will always be seen as an emblem of military defeat. For me, however, it symbolizes man's undying desire to be free."

Historical Attributions:

Hank Meijer, son of Fred Meijer, was the first to suggest the staircase be acquired and preserved by the museum in 1994. The accession number can be found on the inside on the fifth step from the base.

Credit Line:

Gift of Fred Meijer



Primary Title:

Bicentennial Rug

Description:

A framed rug commemorating the United States Bicentennial. The rug features an eagle perched atop the Liberty Bell with the American flag in the background. To the proper right of the Liberty Bell, the text "1776/ 1976" appears. A black and gold-tone frame houses the piece with a plaque at lower center that reads, "To President Gerald R. Ford / and the / Citizens of the United States / On Their 200th Birthday / Premier Furniture & Carpets / July 1975."

Credit Line:

Gift of Leonard Ostrinsky



Primary Title:
Description:

Bicentennial Ceremonial Tree Trunk

A Bicentennial ceremonial tree cross-section of a 200 year old Douglas Fir tree containing brass plaques all over marking significant dates in U.S. history based on the rings of the tree. The largest plaque reads "Presented to / the American People / by Stihl Incorporated / July 1976."

Credit Line:

Gift of Frank S. Rusch



Primary Title:

Description:

Gerald R. Ford's bulletproof raincoat and vest

This tan raincoat features buttons down the front. This coat was worn, along with a bullet proof jacket, in New Hampshire by Gerald R. Ford after there was an attempt on his life in Sacramento California.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Black Tuxedo Coat

Description:

A black tailcoat features six decorative black buttons placed diagonally across the front panels of the coat forming a "V." The black coattails include two buttons placed above them approximately five and a half inches apart. The cuffs of the coat include two decorative black buttons on each side. The peak-lapelled coat incorporates three pockets: one on the front right breast below the lapel, and two interior pockets on the black inside lining of each breast. The interior right pocket includes a tag that reads: "Tailored / By / Lloyd / Of / Grand Rapids." The long vent that creates the coattails reaches to the cropped front of the coat. Two darts are diagonally placed on either side that extend five and a half inches from the bottom of the shortened front of the coat to the first button from the top of the coat. The coat is lined with black satin.

This tuxedo coat is part of a set of two: a coat (labeled 'a') and a pair of trousers (labeled 'b').

Historical Attributions:

President Ford most likely wore this tuxedo for the state dinner for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip in 1976.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:
Description:

Black Tuxedo Pants

A pair of black tuxedo pants prominently feature two black satin stripes down the length of the pants on the left and right sides. The front and back pleated trousers fasten down the front through the inclusion of a hidden button and buttonhole, a straight eye enclosure, and, below those, an approximately eleven inch zipper enclosure. There are six decorative buttons along the outer portion of the waistband. The front of the waistband features four of the buttons, which are approximately four inches apart. The back of the waistband includes two back buttons placed in the center and are placed approximately three inches apart. The trousers also feature four pockets: two side pockets on the front, and two back pockets, the left of which includes a black button and buttonhole enclosure.

This tuxedo coat is part of a set of two: a coat (labeled 'a') and a pair of trousers (labeled 'b').

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Bicentennial Cash Register

This red, white, and blue Bicentennial metal cash register contains a brass-colored plaque commemorating the American Freedom Train, where it was used as the train made its journey across the country in 1975-1976. Another plaque, silver in color, sits below the register key on the front panel. Below the screen, the blue register contains three white stars with red and white stripes, and an American flag insignia below the keyboard. The front panel contains a red body with four white stars. The back features a golden eagle and the manufacturer's labels as well as a power cord.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



- Primary Title:* Decorated Jewish Bible
- Formal Title:* The Holy Scriptures: A Jewish Bible According to the Masoretic Text
- Description:* A decorated Bible presented to First Lady Betty Ford on June 22, 1976 from the Jewish National Fund of America, comprised of fragile paper bound in a silver metal cover. The front cover features four aqua stones framing an emblem of a crown and tablets of the Ten Commandments with Hebrew lettering inscribed on the top and bottom of both the front and back cover. Dr. Salomon and Dr. Maurice Sage, President of the J.N.F., signed the Bible.
- Historical Attributions:* Mrs. Ford displayed the Bible in her residence at Rancho Mirage, California until her death in 2011. Dr. Sage suffered a heart attack as he was about to present the Bible to Betty Ford, and passed away later that evening.
- Credit Line:* Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:

Pair white baby shoes

Description:

Pair of white children's shoe from Operation Baby Lift. It is a high ankle shoe with no laces. However, there are four holes on each side for shoelaces. The sole is thick and smooth. Part of the Operation Babylift Collection.

Historical Attributions:

In late March 1976, with the fall of Saigon looming, Edward Daly, owner of the World Airways airline, flew 50 orphans out of Vietnam on an unauthorized but widely celebrated flight. On April 3rd, following the media frenzy surrounding Daly, President Gerald R. Ford announced Operation Babylift, an Agency for International Development (State Department) plan to airlift an estimated 3000 orphan children to the United States to be adopted by American families. The first official Operation Babylift flight however, would end in disaster. A C5A Galaxy, carrying over 300 passengers, crash landed in a rice paddy, killing over 150. Despite this tragedy, more than 3000 infants were evacuated from Vietnam before the fall of Saigon. Most of these infants were adopted in the United States however, some were adopted in other countries, such as Australia, France, and Canada. Despite what appears to be a humanitarian victory, controversy surrounded Operation Babylift. Many of the infants evacuated from Vietnam were not orphans. It was called into question whether it was truly in the best interests of these children to be taken from their home, their culture, and sometimes from their parents. A number of lawsuits were filed, such as, *Nguyen Da Yen v. Kissinger*. This suit, filed against Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, intended to reunite Vietnamese families; however, after years in the

judicial system little came of this.

International adoption from war torn countries was not unprecedented in the United States before Operation Babylift. After World War II the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 and the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 briefly allowed the adoption of select European children. After Operation Babylift though, the controversial nature of international adoption became clear. In 1993 the Hague Adoption Convention (formally the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption) met and eventually set guidelines to ensure that intercountry adoption takes places in the best interest of the children.

Shirley Peck-Barnes was a hospital administrator in Denver, Colorado, during the Vietnam War, and offered her facility and services to the Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN) adoption agency in April and May, 1975. FCVN was a participating agency in Operation Babylift. Although Barnes was on the periphery for much of the administration of Operation Babylift, her involvement in caring for some of the children upon their arrival in Denver deeply touched and inspired her. In the decades following, Barnes kept in close contact with adoptees and other participants of Operation Babylift. She eventually researched and wrote a book about the airlift, titled *The War Cradle*, which was published in 2000. She also participated in a World Airways reunion tour and traveled with other Babylift participants to Vietnam in 2005. After Shirley Peck-Barnes' passing later that year, her son, David Barnes, donated many of her documents and artifacts regarding Operation Babylift to the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum on her behalf.

Credit Line:

Gift of David Barnes



Primary Title:

Description:

Glass Baby Bottle with Nipple and Cap

A glass baby bottle from Operation Babylift. The bottle is circular and narrows at the top and bottom. There is an area at the top which has threads for a cap and nipple to be placed. Around the outside is the company name and measurement markings (a). A white plastic cap with beige-colored rubber nipple. The plastic has threading to facilitate affixing it to the bottle. Underneath, there are threads which help affix the nipple to the bottle (b). A clear plastic cap which fits over top of the nipple and plastic (c). Part of the Operation Babylift Collection.

Historical Attributions:

In late March 1976, with the fall of Saigon looming, Edward Daly, owner of the World Airways airline, flew 50 orphans out of Vietnam on an unauthorized but widely celebrated flight. On April 3rd, following the media frenzy surrounding Daly, President Gerald R. Ford announced Operation Babylift, an Agency for International Development (State Department) plan to airlift an estimated 3000 orphan children to the United States to be adopted by American families. The first official Operation Babylift flight however, would end in disaster. A C5A Galaxy, carrying over 300 passengers, crash landed in a rice paddy, killing over 150. Despite this tragedy, more than 3000 infants were evacuated from Vietnam before the fall of Saigon. Most of these infants were adopted in the United States however, some were adopted

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Credit Line:

Gift of David Barnes



Primary Title:

Ceramic World Cup

Description:

A small white cup from Operation Babylift. The cup is white ceramic. There is a painted blue line around the lip of the cup. Just below the blue line is a narrower red line, which has the name of the airline in the center, in blue lettering. On the bottom of the cup is the name of the airline in blue lettering. Part of the Operation Babylift Collection.

Historical Attributions:

In late March 1976, with the fall of Saigon looming, Edward Daly, owner of the World Airways airline, flew 50 orphans out of Vietnam on an unauthorized but widely celebrated flight. On April 3rd, following the media frenzy surrounding Daly, President Gerald R. Ford announced Operation Babylift, an Agency for International Development (State Department) plan to airlift an estimated 3000 orphan children to the United States to be adopted by American families. The first official Operation Babylift flight however, would end in disaster. A C5A Galaxy, carrying over 300 passengers, crash landed in a rice paddy, killing over 150. Despite this tragedy, more than 3000 infants were evacuated from Vietnam before the fall of Saigon. Most of these infants were adopted in the United States however, some were adopted in other countries, such as Australia, France, and Canada. Despite what appears to be a humanitarian victory, controversy surrounded Operation Babylift. Many of the infants evacuated from Vietnam were not orphans. It was

called into question whether it was truly in the best interests of these children to be taken from their home, their culture, and sometimes from their parents. A number of lawsuits were filed, such as, *Nguyen Da Yen v. Kissinger*. This suit, filed against Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, intended to reunite Vietnamese families; however, after years in the judicial system little came of this.

International adoption from war torn countries was not unprecedented in the United States before Operation Babylift. After World War II the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 and the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 briefly allowed the adoption of select European children. After Operation Babylift though, the controversial nature of international adoption became clear. In 1993 the Hague Adoption Convention (formally the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption) met and eventually set guidelines to ensure that intercountry adoption takes place in the best interest of the children.

Shirley Peck-Barnes was a hospital administrator in Denver, Colorado, during the Vietnam War, and offered her facility and services to the Friends of Children of Vietnam (FCVN) adoption agency in April and May, 1975. FCVN was a participating agency in Operation Babylift. Although Barnes was on the periphery for much of the administration of Operation Babylift, her involvement in caring for some of the children upon their arrival in Denver deeply touched and inspired her. In the decades following, Barnes kept in close contact with adoptees and other participants of Operation Babylift. She eventually researched and wrote a book about the airlift, titled *The War Cradle*, which was published in 2000. She also participated in a World Airways reunion tour and traveled with other Babylift participants to Vietnam in 2005. After Shirley Peck-Barnes' passing later that year, her son, David Barnes, donated many of her documents and artifacts regarding Operation Babylift to the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum on her behalf.

Credit Line:

Gift of David Barnes



Primary Title:

Blue striped shirt and pants set

Description:

(a) white and blue striped shirt with two buttons along collar, short sleeved

(b) blue pants with elastic waist

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Credit Line:

Gift of David Barnes



Primary Title:
Description:

Bicentennial Medal in Book - QEII

Medals are placed in a blue plastic commemorative book. In the inside cover the medals are located in a clear plastic pocket secured in a cardboard holder. The holder has a seal containing a lion and a unicorn on each side of a circular seal with a text border. The circular seal has a crown on top. And the lion and unicorn are standing on a banner with text. There is text under the seal. There are three identical medals. The silver and gold medals are on each side of the bronze medal. They have the front of the medal facing forward. The front has a picture of Queen Elizabeth II encircled by text. The bronze medal has the back of the medal facing forward. It has text encircling pictures of a bird a plant and a lion with a crown standing on a banner with text. In the center of the book is a clear plastic folder with a certificate explaining the medals. In the right proper lower corner is a return address slip with a red white and blue border. Behind this Certificate facing the other side of the folder is a certificate of authenticity signed by the sculptor and the chairman of the Medallic Art Company.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:

American Freedom Train poster

Description:

This is a poster commemorating the freedom train's trip as a part of Bicentennial celebration. It is a glossy white poster with black text and red and blue stars bordering the edges. American Freedom Train logo on front near upper-center.

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. James A. McConnell



Primary Title:

Fordzie WIN campaign button

Description:

This white campaign button states "Happy Days are Here Again/ Fordzie" in red text. It features a Fonzie caricature of Gerald R. Ford wearing a WIN (Whip Inflation Now) button.

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Betty Ford campaign button

White presidential campaign button with portrait of Betty Ford and text underneath reading "First Mama."

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

S.S. Mayaguez ship's wheel

Description:

The steering wheel from the S.S. Mayaguez, with a plaque dedicating the wheel to Captain C.T. Miller. The wheel is mostly wood, with metal at the very center of the wheel and where the plaque is attached at the top. The wheel has 8 spokes, and the wood is finished. The attached plaque reads "To Captain C.T. Miller / With Deepest Appreciation From / The Crew of S.S. Mayaguez / May 12-15, 1975".

Credit Line:

Gift from the Ann Bolerasky Miller Estate



Primary Title:

Gerald R Ford's Black Dress Shoes

Description:

A pair of simple black dress shoes owned by Gerald R Ford that feature no design on the toe. They feature a "Cat's Paw" heel added to give the shoe extra traction (showing that it had been repaired or "re-heeled"). The shoes are most likely made from tailor production as they have no labels.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford