

The original documents are located in Box 46, folder “White House - China” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

March, 1961

WHITE HOUSE CHINA ROOM

The White House China Room contains pieces of Presidential china representing nearly two hundred years. Until the order made during the Administration of President Woodrow Wilson, official services were imported from Europe. Occasionally, during the term of President Rutherford B. Hayes, for one instance, china was purchased abroad and decorated here in the United States. In this designing, some of the First Families themselves played an active role -- Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and President Franklin D. Roosevelt being two examples in particular.

Originally, White House china was kept in the butler's pantry; later, it was placed in cabinets along the lower corridor. Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison were especially interested in the White House china, and an extensive China Room display was arranged by Mrs. Abby Gunn Baker prior to the First World War. Following the 1952 Renovation, the china was placed in new cabinets; and at the close of 1957 the Room was completely reorganized, at which time several additions and reclassifications were made.

Among the more noteworthy pieces on display in the White House China Room are these from the following Administrations:

George Washington - 1789-1797

Gold and white gravy boat - Sèvres - from the State Dinner Service, ordered from France by George Washington.

Sugar bowl, cup, saucer and tea pot cover - from the "Martha Washington States China". Chainlink border with the names of the 15 states then in the Union.

John Adams - 1797-1801

Several dinner pieces - Sèvres - with decor of floral bouquets. Celery glass, stem missing, initialed "A" and also "S. C. T." (Sarah Corcoran Thom).

Thomas Jefferson - 1801-1809

Several dinner pieces - Chinese Export porcelain - each bearing a heart-shaped blue and gold escutcheon with the letter "J".



James Madison - 1809-1817

Large punch bowl and several dinner pieces - French porcelain - from State Dinner Service. Blue with gold dotted border and shield. Upheld by figures of the three Graces, this punch bowl is especially unique, believed to be the oldest piece of china having remained in continuous Executive possession since its purchase. Two wheel-bordered plates - Nast à Paris - from another State Dinner Service. Orange, black and white.

"Dolly Madison tea plate" - said to have been sent by her from the White House, bearing cakes for a sick friend.

James Monroe - 1817-1825

Soup plate - Dagoty - from State Dinner Service. Five vignettes (representing Strength, Agriculture, Commerce, Art and Science) are set into a magenta border.

John Quincy Adams - 1825-1829

Pieces from a Paris porcelain dinner set, purchased by Adams when he was Minister to Russia. Pink, white and gold.

Dinner plate, soup bowl, and pair of salt cellars - Old Meissen - from a family service.

Cotton-twist stemware.

Flat silver monogrammed "A"; two handsome pots, a vinegar and oil castor, and a master salt - from the Baron de Tuyl service.

Andrew Jackson - 1829-1837

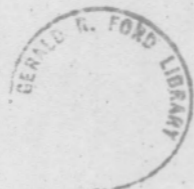
Two fruit compotes - from State Dinner Service. Gold and white, and of open-work, these pieces are on standards.

Martin Van Buren - 1837-1841

Silver water pitcher, quite elaborate, inscribed: "Martin Van Buren - from B F B - Dec. 3 1811 - Nov. 8 1858".

William Henry Harrison - 1841 (died April 4, 1841)

Pieces from a tea set, reputedly a wedding gift from his sister.



John Tyler - 1841-1845

Chocolate-centered plate - French porcelain. Two Sheffield silver fruit baskets, damaged when his Richmond residence burned during the Civil War.

James K. Polk - 1845-1849

Several dinner pieces - French porcelain - from State Dinner Service. Said to illustrate the first use of United States colors in the form of a shield.

Zachary Taylor - 1849-1850

Cut glass decanter and wine glasses.
Pair of Sheffield candlesticks.

Millard Fillmore - 1850-1853

Staffordshire platter. White with scene in a very deep blue.

Franklin Pierce - 1853-1857

Pieces from the "Red-Edged Set" - marked "H & Co." - from State Dinner Service. Borders of deep rose outlined with gold.

James Buchanan - 1857-1861

Soup plate - Sèvres - from State Dinner Service. Lavishly decorated with a wide deep pink and gold border, plus a center landscape with tulips in the foreground.

Abraham Lincoln - 1861-1865

Fruit bowl, and long and slender fish platter - from the "Buff and Gold" State Dinner Service. The well-known "Royal Purple" State Dinner Service. Extensively represented - from three-tiered cake stand to small covered custard cup. The United States Coat of Arms on each piece is a spirited version, with "E Pluribus Unum" inscribed on a gold and white-clouded background. Several pieces - Royal Worcester. From President Lincoln's Summer White House at the United States Soldiers' Home in Washington.



Andrew Johnson - 1865-1869

Plate - "Lenox China" - diameter 8 1/4". Ivory ground with royal blue band near outer edge, interspersed are five panels with floral decoration, narrow gilt lining surrounds edge and panels.

Serving plate - "Lyons" - light ivory ground with a geometric pattern in green, over which is applied flowers and scenes, all decoration is transfer; semi-porcelain ware, American c. 1880. Diameter 9 1/4" with small handles extending on either side - green transfer mark on back is of ship surrounded with anchor chain, "Lyons" above and "W. A. A." below - overall size 10 1/8".

Two saucers - "Lyons" - diameter 5 5/8" - one has same mark as serving plate on back, other does not. Sugar bowl. Bottom 2 15/16" square with cut corners, sides taper out for height of 1", then taper in for 3 3/4" width, including handles 5", overall height including cover 6 3/8".

Glassware: Glass salt dish, master size, American c. 1860, 3 3/8" x 2 3/8" x 1 1/2", base 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" overall, handle 4 3/4".

Holder, white metal base, silver plated, American, Meriden Silver Co. c. 1860.

Spoon, salt, American, shovel shape, possibly brass, silver plated, gold washed bowl, Meriden Silver Co. c. 1860, 3 3/4" long.

Water goblet, clear glass, American, late 19th Century, partially blown and cast construction, base diameter 3", stem 2 1/2" high, bowl 3 3/8" high, top diameter 2 7/8".

Silverware: Teaspoon, silver, American c. 1820, unmarked. Oval tapered bowl 1 5/8" x 7/8", slender tapered shank and handle, overall length 5 1/2" script initials on handle (face) "L. M."

Two teaspoons, matching silver, American, maker S. Bell in rectangle on back of handle, shaped in modified fiddle c. 1840 oval tapered bowl 1 3/4" x 1", overall length 5 9/16".

Three tablespoons, matching, silver, American c. 1850, three touch marks on back of shank, 1 - lion, 2 - C, 3 - unidentified, oval tapered bowl 3" x 1 3/4", overall length 8 5/16", script initials on face of handle "M. J. P." Presented By: Mrs. Margaret Johnson Patterson Bartlett, Greenville, Tennessee 4/28/59.



Ulysses S. Grant - 1869-1877

Several dinner pieces - French porcelain - from State Dinner Service. Yellow border, with sprays of American flowers at center; United States seal in red and gold.

Rutherford B. Hayes - 1877-1881

Several dinner pieces - Haviland - from State Dinner Service. Designed by Theodore Davis, this set is probably the most spectacular display in the White House China Room. Each piece has a different, overall pattern -- ranging from a large curled-edge turkey platter to an indented oyster plate.

James A. Garfield - 1881 (died September 19, 1881)

Pieces from a family service. Cream-white, with delicate orange border and bearing the letter "G".

Chester A. Arthur - 1881-1885

A half dozen assorted dessert plates, two of which are particularly interesting in their generous use of gold and silver.

Grover Cleveland - 1885-1889; 1893-1897

Mintons and Wedgwood plates.

Pieces from a Haviland tea set, said to have been ordered by President Cleveland for his new bride, Mrs. Frances Folsom Cleveland, whom he married at the White House in 1886.

Benjamin Harrison - 1889-1893

Several pieces from Haviland State Dinner Service. The golden cornstalk-and-flower edge design on the dinner plates was made by Mrs. Harrison herself, and combines with deep blue borders, forty-four gold stars and the United States Coat of Arms.

William McKinley - 1897-1901

Several family pieces, including both Mintons and Wedgwood.



Theodore Roosevelt - 1901-1909

Several dinner pieces - Wedgwood - from State Dinner Service. Simple "patriotic" design consisting of lines and stars in gold leaf, with inset of the United States Coat of Arms in colors.

William Howard Taft - 1909-1913

Two dinner plates - Mason's Patent Ironstone China, England - diameter 10 1/2". White with narrow molded rim edged with orange; floral design in predominantly pink, yellow, lavender and dark blue. Tree design in center with two crested birds facing each other. Given to Mrs. William H. Taft as a wedding gift. Believed to have been used in the White House. Mrs. Manning remembers her mother using these plates whenever she entertained when she was a little girl.

Two luncheon plates - Coronado, H & C, made in Bohemia, Bachelor's Button - diameter 9 1/2". Cream color with narrow blue and gold line around edge. Rim of the plate is decorated with scattered design of blue bachelor's buttons.

Two dessert plates - Mintons - manufactured for Spaulding & Co., Chicago. Made in England. Elaborate gold leaf design on white background in a "nouveau art" design of scrolls and stylized flowers.

Two tea cups and saucers - Wedgwood - Etruria, England. Blue and pink and green floral design set against a stippled gold background extending in scallops into the white center ground. Outside of the cup has a gold transfer design which is worn but appears to be a scene from "Robinson Crusoe". Given Mrs. William H. Taft as a wedding gift.

Glassware: Two wine glasses. Light green with overall engraved design of intertwined scrolls and vines and a small eagle incorporated into the design in four places. Dinner wine size 5" tall, chalice shape. One brandy and one wine glass. (White, same description as above.) History: Part of a set brought back from Vienna by Mrs. Alphonso Taft, mother of President William H. Taft, after Mr. Alphonso Taft had served as Minister to Austria during the Administration of President Hayes. Presented by: Mrs. Frederick Manning (Helen Taft Manning) daughter of President and Mrs. Taft, March, 1959.



Woodrow Wilson - 1913-1921

The first White House State Dinner Service of American manufacture. A Lenox set, it is decorated in deep blue and gold. Each piece bears the personal seal of the President of the United States.

Warren G. Harding - 1921-1923

Dessert plate, diameter 8 1/4" and after dinner cup and saucer. Lenox china - narrow blue band between two gold rims-cartouche of pastel flowers.

Presented by: The Harding Home and Museum, Marion, Ohio, April, 1959.

Calvin Coolidge - 1923-1929

Two dinner plates - diameter 10 3/8" and two luncheon plates - diameter 8 7/8". Spode, Copelands China, England. Wide mottled, deep blue rim between two narrow gold bands; gold laurel wreath in center tied with pink bow enclosing a classical urn filled with fruits and leaves. History: These plates belonged to Grace Goodhue Coolidge, wife of President Calvin Coolidge; presented by Mr. John Coolidge, April, 1959.

Herbert Hoover - 1929-1933

Dinner plate - diameter 10"; Luncheon plate - diameter 8 3/4"; Bread and Butter plate - diameter 5 3/4" - Wedgwood: formal dinner service. Serrated white border trimmed with gold bell flowers and fine gold line at inside and outside edge. Center is mottled royal blue with circle of laurel leaves in gold. Marked from William H. Plummer and Co., New York.

Luncheon plate - diameter 8 1/4"; Soup plate - diameter 9 1/2"; Dinner plate - diameter 9 3/4" - Copenhagen China: family dinner service. Blue border on rim and flower and vine design in blue in center of piece, divided into quadrants with fine blue line. Floral motif in center is bordered with sunburst design. Rims of plates are molded with fine wavy line from the edge to center design. Presented by: President Herbert Hoover, October, 1958.

Franklin D. Roosevelt - 1933-1945

Several pieces - Lenox - from State Dinner Service. President Franklin D. Roosevelt himself designed much of the border pattern of this white, cobalt and gold china.



Harry S. Truman - 1945-1953

Pieces from the Lenox State Dinner Service. Teal, green and gold. Selected in 1952, during the Renovation of the White House. The Presidential Seal, standardized by a 1945 Executive Order, adorns each piece.

Pieces from the U. S. S. Williamsburg (used from 1946-1950).

Dwight D. Eisenhower - 1953-1961

Castleton Service Plate. Added in 1955 to accompany the Truman china. The rim is of raised medallion pattern, in pure coin gold.

Pieces from a special service made in 1956 for the plane, "The Columbine".

No discussion of the White House China Room would be complete without mention of Presidential silver and glassware. The celebrated gold flatware has been used as State Service during many Administrations since that of President James Monroe (1817-1825), with several reorders having been made over the years. Another particularly interesting service is that of President John Quincy Adams, which includes not only flat pieces, but also several examples of the Baron de Tuyll hollow ware.

Like the china, much of the early glassware was brought to the White House by the various Presidents. Upon the shelf of collected 19th Century crystal there are many extremely decorative pieces, a large portion of which are attributed to the Administrations of Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren. Of all the crystal on display in the China Room, however, the State Service of President Abraham Lincoln is perhaps the most impressive. This is Dorflinger glass, which factory also manufactured pieces for Presidents Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt.

Although not strictly Presidential, a recent addition to the White House China Room should also be included here. Namely, this is a set of First Lady plates, by S. Wagner, Royal Berlin Factory, presented to the White House "as a tribute to Mrs. Eisenhower". Framed by a wide gold border are the portraits of twenty-six White House ladies, representing the years between 1789 and 1921.

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

INSPIRATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Tables set with American treasures



DAVID KENNERLY
Betty Ford plans parties ahead, tries new dishes on her own family first.

Digging deep into the White House store of treasures, Mrs. Gerald Ford has brought to light historic china not used for years. "I have a great time playing around with all the china, crystal, and silver collections we have here," she says. "I never realized I would be as fascinated by the White House as I am. My favorite china is the Rutherford Hayes, 1879, with a different animal on each plate . . . it always causes comment when I bring it out. We've only one set, the Johnson china, which can serve 120 people, the usual number for a state dinner. So we sometimes arrange separate tables with different china. I like to do the unexpected. Why should everything always be matching? I have even planned one setting for a table with eight differ-

ent service plates. It's a challenge thinking up new ideas. I keep dreaming of new themes, sometimes I even wake up at night and think why don't we try that? One thought I have is to repeat a great historic dinner. I think it would be rather nifty to do it over *exactly* the same, including the decorations and the menu." Here are some of Mrs. Ford's settings.

INSPIRATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Tables set with American treasures



DAVID KENNERLY
Betty Ford plans parties ahead, tries new dishes on her own family first.

74

Digging deep into the White House store of treasures, Mrs. Gerald Ford has brought to light historic china not used for years. "I have a great time playing around with all the china, crystal, and silver collections we have here," she says. "I never realized I would be as fascinated by the White House as I am. My favorite china is the Rutherford Hayes, 1879, with a different animal on each plate . . . it always causes comment when I bring it out. We've only one set, the Johnson china, which can serve 120 people, the usual number for a state dinner. So we sometimes arrange separate tables with different china. I like to do the unexpected. Why should everything always be matching? I have even planned one setting for a table with eight differ-

ent service plates. It's a challenge this ideas. I keep dreaming of new themes even wake up at night and think why that? One thought I have is to repeat a dinner. I think it would be rather nifty, *exactly* the same, including the dec the menu." Here are some of Mrs. Fo

NO58

R

FORD-CHINA

BY FRANCES LEVINE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- ACTING ON PRESIDENT FORD'S ORDERS, A LOAD OF OFFICIAL CHINA AND GLASSWARE HAS BEEN FLOWN TO FLORIDA FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL EVENTS THERE TODAY AND WEDNESDAY.

WHEN SOUTHEASTERN MAYORS SIT DOWN TO DINE WITH PRESIDENT FORD AT THE DIPLOMAT HOTEL IN HOLLYWOOD, FLA., TONIGHT, THEY WILL EAT OFF GOLD-EDGED DISHES WITH THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES ON THEM.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID THE PRESIDENT FEELS THAT WHEN HE IS HOST AT A PARTY "HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS CHINA FOR THE DINNER."

DISHES AND WINE GLASSES FOR AS MANY AS 50 GUESTS WERE FLOWN TO FLORIDA IN ADVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.

NESSEN SAID THE WHITE HOUSE SOMETIMES RUNS INTO A SITUATION WHERE A LOCAL HOTEL, FOR EXAMPLE, DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH MATCHING WINE GLASSES.

ACTUALLY, THE OFFICIALS FORD ENTERTAINS ARE NOT DINING OFF HISTORIC WHITE HOUSE CHINA. WHAT IS BEING USED IS A STANDARD CHINA SUPPLIED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS USE IN WASHINGTON AND IN U.S. EMBASSIES ABOARD.

NESSEN SAID THERE IS NOT EXTRA COST INVOLVED SINCE THE CHINA AND GLASSWARE ARE CARRIED ABOARD PLANES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FLEET WHICH ARE ALREADY IN USE TRANSPORTING COMMUNICATIONS OR THE PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE.

02-25-75 11:52EDT

DRAFT FOR MRS. FORD'S INTRODUCTION TO THE
SMITHSONIAN PRESIDENTIAL CHINA COLLECTION

The collection of Presidential porcelain in the China Room is one of the most fascinating historical collections in the White House. The different examples of Presidential porcelain dating from the pieces used by Martha and George Washington at Mount Vernon to the state service ordered by the White House during the Lyndon Johnson Administration in 1968 take us through almost 200 years of the history of this country demonstrating the changing artistic tastes of the times as well as our development as an independent nation.

I take great interest in the services used in the White House when the President and I entertain. We frequently choose porcelain which will not only complement the occasion but also give our guests an opportunity to see the historical collection of which we are so proud.

For large formal dinners, we use the Lyndon Johnson service which is the largest available service at the present time. For smaller dinners the service ordered for the White House during the Harry S. Truman Administration is one of our favorites. The elegant cobalt blues of the Benjamin Harrison, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt services also make them most appropriate for small formal occasions in the State Dining Room.



For our family dinners, we enjoy using different Presidential porcelain services. Our family favorite is the Rutherford B. Hayes service with all the realistic plant and animal designs. For separate courses and various occasions, we also like to use the Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Harrison and the Franklin D. Roosevelt services and the various dinner plates chosen by Mrs. Grover Cleveland at the end of the 19th century.

To live in the White House is to live surrounded by history. The collections of Presidential porcelain in the White House, the Smithsonian Institution and in other museums in the United States stand as a symbol and a reminder of the continuing history of the White House as well as of the lives of the Presidents and their families who have played such an important personal role in this Nation's history. I hope that this wonderful exhibition will not only encourage collectors to continue this important work but also that all Americans will enjoy this unique ~~view~~ view of American and White House history during our Nation's Bicentennial ~~celebration~~ celebration.

Signed,

BETTY FORD



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

- Audiovisual Unit
 Book Collection
 Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item: 1 color photo } of the Johnson china designed by
2 bw photos } Tiffany, made by Castleton with the
American eagle and border of wildflowers

WM photo 1M468 C-9828-08 (color)
1M468 -9826-05 (BW)

The item was transferred from: Weidenfeld; Box 46; WM-China

Initials/Date Let 6/86

NESSEN

~~REDACTED~~

BRIEFING FEB. 20, 75 (THURS)

CHINA
DISHES

Q Ron, on another subject, does the President plan to appoint former Congressman Thomas Curtis as one of his, I believe, two appointments that he makes to the Federal Elections Commission, and secondly, why the delay in the Presidential appointments to this Commission?

MR. NESSEN: There are a couple of names under consideration. As you know, I think the White House has to appoint two members to that Commission, and there are some names under discussion. And I would expect that the President would be making a decision on that in the near future. I think we need to stick to our policy of not announcing them until the official nomination goes up to the Hill, and I would think that might be perhaps a week or more away.

Q Ron, the question is, why the delay? Why has it been so long?

MR. NESSEN: It just takes time to review names and come up with the best qualified people.

Q He has had months, hasn't he?

MR. NESSEN: Well, it should be coming out in the near future.

Q Ron, did the President have anything to do with the decision of taking china down to the states, the cities, when he went on this tour, where he entertained the Governors? Did he make that decision to take china down there and bring back dirty dishes and feed those Governors six-course meals costing \$40 apiece? Was that his idea, or somebody else in the White House, and who was it?

MR. NESSEN: The President approved having the dinner.

Q Doing everything?

MR. NESSEN: No; no, he does not get into those details.

Q Six-course meal -- he approved the dinner, and he approved the arrangements for the dinner with those dishes being transported at great expense and brought back dirty?

If he didn't, who did on the White House staff. We want the name.

MR. NESSEN: Well, Sarah, the President does not make the decisions at that level, and I cannot tell you who did.

Q Now that he knows that somebody in the White House did, is he going to continue this practice, or is he taking some action to see that that person on the White House staff won't do this again?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I am not sure that there is anything wrong with the practice.

Q There is a great thing here, Ron. There is a question of people in Detroit having to eat out of garbage cans and Governors down here eating six-course meals costing \$40 apiece, engineered by the President of the United States. That is a big thing. Also, the taxpayers' money was wasted by taking those dishes down and bringing them back.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I can check some of those questions and see if I can find answers.

Q I think you ought to find out for us who on the White House staff made such a decision.

MR. NESSEN: To bring the dishes back dirty?

Q Anybody on the White staff who made this decision, or the arrangements on these dinners, you should publicize the name of that person and let us find out if the President has taken action to see that this won't be done again.

Q Are they going to take the china with them to Florida next week?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea, Fran.

Q Ron, you gave us four goals that you said the President would not compromise on, and without exception, those goals are totally noncontroversial and could probably be accepted by most Democrats, and it seemed to always rule out rationing. I wonder if you could tell us if the perimeters of the compromise have broadened considerably in the view of the President, since the vote yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what compromise you are talking about, Aldo.

Q A program that could be agreed upon by both. What we are saying, Ron, is -- I think you know what we are saying. Perhaps "compromise" is the wrong word, but would the President be willing to alter his program to more fit the Democrats' view?

MR. NESSEN: I say that, when there is a Democratic program and alternatives to his program to reach these goals, he would look at the details of it and the specific mechanisms of it to see if there are any places where there can be an accommodation.

Q Has his interest increased since yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: It has not.

MORE

#148



**FOR RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1966**

**Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson**

THE WHITE HOUSE

**SENATE LADIES LUNCHEON
May 19, 1966-1:00 p. m.**

Mrs. Johnson will hostess the annual Senate Ladies Luncheon today at 1:00 p. m. in the White House. She will greet her guests in the Blue Room.

Luncheon will be served in the State Dining Room where Presidential china from past administrations will be in use. (List attached.) The menu will be:

Spring Garden Soup
Breast of chicken Hermitage
Green Beans Amandine
Salad of Endive and fruit
Strawberry Creme Mount Vernon
Demi-tasse

Flowers in the centerpieces will include:

Yellow and white Marguerite Daisies
White and Miniature white Carnations
Blue Cornflowers
Yellow, blue and white Iris and Lily of the Valley

Mr. Jack Jones, popular American television and recording artist, will sing a number of ballads following the luncheon honoring the Senate ladies.



**CHINA IN USE FOR
SENATE LADIES LUNCHEON
MAY 19, 1966**

1. Eisenhower China
Castleton from the State Dinner Service
Gold urn from the Biddle collection
2. Truman China
Lenox from the State Dinner Service
Madison tureen
Dagoty Dinner Service
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt China
Lenox from the State Dinner Service
Jackson urn from the Hermitage
4. Harrison China
Haviland from State Dinner Service
John Adams tureen
5. Hayes China
and centerpiece
Haviland from State Dinner Service
6. Wilson China
Lenox from State Dinner Service
Pierce fruit compote
French porcelain marked "H. & Co."
7. Theodore Roosevelt China
Wedgewood from State Dinner Service
Garfield compote - French porcelain
8. Cleveland China
Jefferson tureen
Chinese porcelain
9. Lincoln China
and fruit compote
Royal Purple from State Dinner Service
10. Washington China
and centerpiece
Society of Cincinnati
Chinese Export Porcelain
11. Grant China
Fruit stand-French porcelain



FOR RELEASE AFTER 4:30 P. M.
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION UNVEILING
THE NEW WHITE HOUSE CHINA

Today is a proud occasion for me. We celebrate the arrival of a new set of state china.

For the artistry, we are grateful to many in this room -- to Tiffany's and Castleton -- and for the gift we are grateful to a donor who asked to remain anonymous.

The White House has been the scene for the drama of the United States for almost 170 years. One has only to walk in the door to feel the presence of history.

The White House china reflects the tastes of past First Ladies -- and often their husbands! And like the great portraits, the furniture and paintings, the china collection is a cavalcade of the changing personalities and events that have enriched the heritage of this house.

When Abigail Adams moved into the still unfinished White House, she brought her own delicate set of Sevres china with her. She was determined to make the Executive Mansion of this new country a source of pride for the country as well as a symbol abroad.

The oldest surviving state china was selected by Dolley Madison: a rather simple design, followed later by the Monroe China whose border medallions reflect the strength, the agriculture and science of the country.

Some of my favorite china is the service selected by Mary Todd Lincoln in 1861. The fashion of the times is well defined by the purple border -- a color she loved -- and by the eagle in the bold wing-spread pose so popular in that era.

I feel indebted to Mrs. Benjamin Harrison for two things: First, she started the china collection -- gathering pieces together from past administrations. I hope you will see that collection in the China Room. Also, I love the border pattern of goldenrod and corn she selected for her own china. It speaks of the richness of our land and of her own region of the country.



Pride in America is reflected by the Presidents who attempted to buy china made in this country for the White House. The slow development of the Nation's kilns, however, meant that no American china was purchased for the Executive Mansion until Woodrow Wilson placed an order with Lenox in 1916. In a slightly earlier era, Theodore Roosevelt raged at a secretary when told that no adequate American procelain could be bought for the White House -- "Do you mean to tell me that in this country no one is fit to make china for the President?" he shouted.

But American industry has developed its own fine china. Over the past five decades, china for the White House tables has been produced in this country.

The growth of the United States is also evident in the growth of the china services. Many of the early Presidents used their own china in the White House; their dinners were small.

President Monroe's guests for state occasions never numbered over 30; even in President Grant's time, the guest list rarely rose above 36!

Today there are sometimes 190 guests at a State Dinner, and some 40 Heads of State are entertained yearly.

The China we are introducing today, made by Castleton for Tiffany's, is a joy to me.

For the eagle which centers the service plates, we went back to President Monroe's china. He was the first President to employ the national symbol holding the arrows and the olive branch, with the American shield as a breastplate. In the time of President Monroe -- the early 1800's -- there was an emerging feeling of nationalism, and I would like to think that this same eagle used in 1968 will symbolize for the future this same patriotism -- a sense of pride in America.

We have also tried to capture a spirit of American unity by including each state in the service; each dessert plate will bear the state flower of one of the 50 states.

We paid tribute to our heritage through the wildflower theme used on most of the pieces. Ours is a country whose people conquered the land, mile by mile, from one ocean to the other. To me, wildflowers will always portray not only the beauty of nature, but the life-giving qualities of our land as well.

The wildflowers also reflect our contemporary concern for conservation and beautification -- an attempt by so many people to protect our Nation's natural resources and to leave a better legacy for our future generations.

So it is with a sense of pride -- and of personal pleasure -- that I welcome the new White House china. May all future occupants and their guests enjoy its use.

#####



FOR RELEASE AFTER 9:30 A. M.
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

The new White House china selected by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson will be used for the first time Thursday, May 23, 1968, at the luncheon given annually by the First Lady for the Senate ladies. It is particularly appropriate that the new state service be inaugurated on this occasion, for in past years Mrs. Johnson has had each of the tables set with the china of a different Presidential administration.

The 100 guests include wives of Cabinet members, and wives of present and former members of the United States Senate. Mrs. Johnson will receive her guests in the Green Room at 1:00 p. m. prior to the luncheon in the State Dining Room. The Marine Band will provide background music in the Foyer.

The round tables will be covered with pale yellow cloths under white organdy covers to complement the gold dotted vaulting of the new china. Spring flowers on the center of each table will be placed in the small bowls which are part of the new state service. The flowers are similar to many of those featured in the design of the new china. Included are: Gypsophila, Blue and White Lupin, Pink and White Peonies, Sweet William and Sweet Peas, Blue Iris and Cornflowers, Geum, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Red Roses, White Marguerite Daisies, and Orange Blossoms.

The menu features the following:

Jellied Madrilene
Ham Quiche
Vol-au-Vent Saratoga
Garden Peas
Spinach Salad Mimosa
Pink Springtime
Demi-tasse

#