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Betty Ford in the gown going to the Smithsonian's First Ladies Hall, photographed at the May, 1975, White House State Dinner the Fords gave for the Shah of Iran.

Cut Out For History

By Nina S. Hyde

A green chiffon gown owned by Mrs. Gerald Ford will be added to the First Ladies Hall in the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology next week.

Chosen because it is one of Mrs. Ford's favorite colors (soft green) and cuts (princess-line with a stand-up neckline), the gown was worn to the White House State Dinner for the Shah of Iran in May, 1975, and on other occasions. Designed and made for Betty Ford by Frankie Welch of Alexandria, the gown is sequined chiffon, chosen to simulate fabric Mrs. Ford brought home from China.

The First Ladies Hall, a popular visitors' attraction, is also the most popular costume collection in the country.

"It shares the glamour that surrounds the position of the First Lady. It is a very personal glimpse of the First Lady," said Margaret Klapthor, curator of the division of political history at the Smithsonian. "That is

Mrs. Ford, like other First Ladies, received a letter from the Smithsonian requesting a gown shortly after she moved into the White House. Mrs. Ford decided to make her donation now so it can be installed before the July 4 peak tourist weekend.

For two months the central exhibits division of the Smithsonian has been developing a mannequin to "wear" Mrs. Ford's gown. Created from measurements provided by the White House and working with a muslin of the dress, the mannequin will be the same physical size as Mrs. Ford, but will have the same classical face of all the other figures in the exhibits.

Mrs. Ford's hairstyle and shoes have been sculpted and painted onto the mannequin. No other accessories will be shown since Mrs. Ford did not carry a bag when she wore the dress.

Often thought to be a collection of inaugural ball gowns worn by First Ladies,



James Hearst 6/28/75

THE NON-INAUGURAL GOWN: The White House didn't like the first mannequin of Betty Ford which Washington's Smithsonian Museum created, so staffer Susan Wallace had to paint all of the red out of the hair. And there were other problems getting the mannequin to exactly duplicate a human form. "It's just not the right fit," said Wallace, "so we shoved a little piece of cotton here and there." But no one seemed to notice, least of all Ford, who presented the museum her favorite gown — a sequined — lime-green chiffon crepe, which she had worn to three state dinners. Many of the dresses behind glass are inaugural gowns, but Ford didn't have one. S. Dillon Ripley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, said the exhibit of first lady's gowns is "as popular as anything in the museum, only the Hope diamond draws bigger audiences." He joked he expected the long-wearing carpet in front of Ford's dress to last only five months.

"I'm thrilled," Betty bubbled as she stopped for a glass of sherry after the unveiling. Frankie Welch, Washington designer and long-time Ford friend, who designed the dress, revealed Betty wasn't kidding when she said that the \$300 gown was a favorite. While she gave the museum the original, the First Lady had Welch make her an exact duplicate so she can keep it in her wardrobe.

—PENNY GIRARD



WWD photo by Guy DeLort

Betty Ford, her favorite dress on mannequin, and S. Dillon Ripley



Evening gown is history



HELEN HERRON Taft, First Lady from 1909 to 1913, was the first to give her gown to the Smithsonian collection.



First Lady Gives 'Favorite' Gown to Smithsonian

By Linda St. Thomas

One way to tell which exhibits are most popular at the Smithsonian is to check how often the rugs wear out.

Judging by the "oh's" and "ah's" of the guests and reporters at the unveiling of Mrs. Betty Ford's gown in the First Ladies Hall, the rug in front of her mannequin might be worn out even before the Bicentennial is over.

In a brief ceremony June 24, amidst flashing cameras, television lights and heavy security, Mrs. Ford donated her green chiffon dress to the Museum of History and Technology collection.

"When I took visitors to the Smithsonian over the past years, never in my wildest dreams did I believe that someday I would be here myself," said Mrs. Ford.

"With today's addition," said Secretary Ripley, "the collection represents every administration from President George Washington to President Gerald R. Ford."

Most visitors to the Museum of History and Technology ask to be directed to the First Ladies Hall, added Mr. Ripley. "They come not only to admire the handsome gowns, but because the gowns symbolize for them the women who wore them, and the gown of the reigning First Lady is always the most popular dress in the collection."

Secretary Ripley requested a gown worn by the present First Lady shortly after the Fords entered the White House.

The designer of Mrs. Ford's dress was Frankie Welch of Alexandria, and she attended the ceremony along with descendents of President Monroe, Martha Washington, and Benjamin Harrison.

The dress, a princess style gown made of sequined chiffon, was made in the designer's Alexandria workshop. This was the first time a gown by a Washington area designer has been displayed in the Hall.

Mrs. Ford wore the gown on four State occasions, including a recent White House dinner for King Juan Carlos II of Spain.



Mrs. Ford poses with her mannequin in MHT's First Ladies Hall.

Photo by John Wooten

The mannequin, "unveiled" from behind a screen before Mrs. Ford spoke, was made to Mrs. Ford's size. It has been placed in the replica of the White House East Room of the First Ladies Hall, joining the dresses of Mrs. Eisenhower, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Nixon.

"Mrs. Ford's mannequin has been in the works since January," said Margaret Klapthor, curator in MHT's Division of Political History. "We duplicated her hair color and style and the color of her eyes as closely as possible in the polyester resin mannequin."

"We do not change the gowns in our First Ladies Hall very often," said Mrs. Klapthor. "Just think of all the historians, fashion buffs, and dollmakers around the country who would be set back by frequent changes in this collection."

But the Smithsonian has changed a few dresses over the years. "I go to the Hall sometimes just to eavesdrop on the visitors' comments and, of course, I read our letters about the dresses," she said.

The comments are not always flattering.

For example, Mrs. Truman's matronly dress was unpopular with the visitors, compared with others in the Hall. "So I contacted Mrs. Truman and we decided to redress the mannequin in a light grey gown with thin straps and lace applique which she had worn to a formal dinner for Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

But dresses are not changed without good reason. Many years ago, friends of Mrs. Coolidge told her that the red flapper dress was inappropriate for this collection. Mrs. Klapthor wanted to keep the dress because it was one of the best "period dresses" in the Hall and was popular with the visitors. The dress, a rose chiffon velvet, was left in the collection.

Mannequins are arranged in eight period settings to suggest the surroundings in which they were worn.

The contemporary East Room setting, with the gown of Mrs. Ford, is still the most popular display. In the words of Secretary Ripley, "It is a tribute to our First Lady that we regularly must replace the worn rugs in front of the East Room display case."

Bicentennial Contest Winners Announced

Nearly 7,500 Americans had ideas about Individual Freedoms in Our Society; American Arts and Culture; Science, Technology, Energy and the Environment; Family Life, Work and Leisure; and U.S. and the World.

They submitted these ideas to the "Toward Our Third Century" Bicentennial contest sponsored by California's Wells Fargo Bank in cooperation with the Smithsonian.

Essays, films and tapes, entered by people from all over the country and some citizens living abroad, were reviewed initially by Wells Fargo staff and more than 500 entries were passed on to the 54 review judges at the Smithsonian.

Dean Anderson, special assistant to Charles Blitzer, Assistant Secretary of History and Art, coordinated the contest and sent the best 100 or so entries to national judges for a final decision.

The 55 winners of the contest were announced jointly on July 15 by Secretary Ripley and Richard Coe, Director of Wells Fargo. The top prize was \$10,000 each for the best essay written by a person 18 years of age or older, the best film or tape recording, and the best recording.

Top three winners:

Category I (under 18)

1st - Arthur Eve

2nd - Daniel S

3rd - Lois Ref

Category II

1st - Sidney

2nd - Eric

3rd - Phi

Category III

1st - L

2nd -

3rd -

M

t



See p 2.

*Thought you might
like these.*

GERALDINE SANDERSON
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

TELEPHONE
(202) 381-6586

Star 10/25/76



—Washington Star Photographer Rosemary Martufi

A Gown for Ever

Betty Ford yesterday donated one of her favorite gowns to the Smithsonian's First Ladies Hall, thus achieving an immortality shared by only 37 other women. Accepting for the institution was Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley. Lacking an inaugural gown, Mrs. Ford presented the museum with a pale green, princess-style dress of sequined chiffon. The gown, designed by Frankie Welch of Alexandria, is embroidered with chrysanthemums to simulate fabric Mrs. Ford received in China. In case you noticed the mannequin's striking lack of resemblance to Mrs. Ford, it's no mistake (below). Each mannequin corresponds to the first lady's physical size and hair style. All, however, have the face of Cordelia (daughter of King Lear), sculpted in 1863 by Pierce F. Connelly. Mrs. Ford's dress will appear in a period setting with mannequins of First Ladies Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

High Time

Star 4/22/76

After wearing the gown on five state occasions, Betty Ford has decided to turn over her mint green, princess-style chiffon gown to the Smithsonian for its First Lady Collection. A duplicate has been made for the First Lady who considers the design "timeless."

—John McKelvey

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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD WILL PRESENT HER FAVORITE MINT GREEN PRINCESS STYLE CHIFFON GOWN TO THE FIRST LADY COLLECTION AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION THURSDAY.

THE GOWN, WITH ITS MODIFIED MANDARIN COLLAR, WAS DESIGNED BY FRANKIE WELCH OF ALEXANDRIA, VA., WHO HAS MADE A DUPLICATE OF IT FOR MRS. FORD.

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TERMINATIONS

EVENT: THE PRESENTATION OF A BALL GOWN BY MRS. GERALD R. FORD TO THE COLLECTION OF THE GOWNS OF THE FIRST LADIES.

TIME: 3 P.M.

LOCATION: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY, CONSTITUTION AT 14TH ST., NW.



Springfield, Va

1st Lady's Gown by Frankie Displayed at Smithsonian

First Lady Betty Ford made a choice which is typical of her when she selected one of her gowns to be displayed for posterity in the Smithsonian Institution.

With the uninhibited sincerity that is her trademark, Mrs. Ford selected this Bicentennial year a dress designed by an American woman, Frankie Welch of Alexandria, who is a long-time friend. The choice represents Mrs. Ford's belief in the potential of American women. Mrs. Ford said she chose to present this gown to the Smithsonian because, "It is my favorite dress. It is timeless and not gimmicky."

The dress was presented to the Smithsonian's First Ladies' Hall at a ceremony on June 24 which Mrs. Ford attended. There it joined gowns worn by other first ladies throughout the republic's history. Fifty thousand visitors a day see the display in the Museum of History and Technology.

The dress is made of sequined lime green chiffon crepe, and flows in classic princess lines. It has long, slender sleeves. There is a touch of Chinese influence at the open neckline with its high standing collar.

Mrs. Ford first wore the dress at a state dinner for the Shan of Iran on May 15, 1975. She has since worn it to state dinners in Salzburg, Austria on June 1, 1975, to a Japanese Embassy dinner in Washington on October 3, 1975, and to a state dinner for King Juan Carlos of Spain and his queen on June 2, 1976.

It has been 13 years since Frankie Welch and Betty Ford brought their highly developed fashion sense to-

gether, and they have been friends ever since. At that time President Ford was in Congress. Mrs. Ford was selected as one of Washington's fashionable women to model clothes from Mrs. Welch's Alexandria shop for a news story — logical since as a young woman Betty Ford worked as a model and fashion coordinator. In 1968 Mrs. Welch designed a red, white and blue daisy fabric as the official material for the Republican party. Mrs. Ford coordinated the fashion show where it was first presented.

Both women lived with their families in Alexandria, and their friendship continued. They attended the same Episcopal church in Alexandria, and eventually the Ford's older son and the Welch's older daughter attended Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., at the same time.

When Mrs. Ford first greeted reporters as first lady she wore a "flowers of 50 states" dress made of Supima cotton. Both fabric and the dress were Welch designs. Mrs. Ford has a fondness for scarves, and often the ones she wears are Welch designs. Mrs. Welch has designed more than 1000 scarves over the years, her most famous one being the Cherokee alphabet scarf. This scarf, because it is so American, has often been used as a gift by various U.S. officials for foreign visitors. Often times the large scarf is framed for wall hangings.

Mrs. Welch has designed a special Betty Ford handkerchief for the first lady — a floral design in her favorite colors which are muted shades of

green and pink. These were gifts to guests at the Smithsonian ceremony. The handkerchief was inspired by Mrs. Ford's official scarf which she gives to visiting dignitaries. It bears Mrs. Ford's signature on a floral and polka dot background. Mrs. Welch designed it for her a year ago, and the first lady gave it to wives at a governors' conference dinner in the White House.

Frankie Welch, however, disclaims the title "fashion coordinator to the First Lady." Of Mrs. Ford, she says, "She coordinates her own wardrobe; she's a fashion authority in her own right."



First Lady Betty Ford is shown with the Empress of Iran wearing the lime green chiffon gown which was installed last week as part of the permanent display of the Smithsonian Institution's First Ladies' Hall. The dress was designed by Frankie Welch of Alexandria, boutique owner. On the right, designer Welch is shown working with the green chiffon material.



invited to ball gown presentation

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Div/Mechanical & Civil Engineering Rm. 5020	Gremillion, G., DS x5126	McVay, Ann, S x5760
*Vogel, Robert, C/S x5294	Fifield, Carol, S x5126	Production Division Rm. 6E013
*Battison, Edwin A., C x5526	Period Reconstruction and Maintenance Division Rm. 5109	*Santoroski, Stanley, SES x5101
*Mayr, Otto, C x5634	Rowell, Charles, HRS x6341	Bishop, Fayette, ST x5181
Stephens, Carlene, MT x5470	Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research Rm. 4601	DISlefano, Anthony, ES x5101
Scott, Catherine, S x5294	Pogue, Forrest C., H x5458	Holst, Donald, ES x5045
Div/Medical Sciences Rm. 5000	Hutchins, James, H x6468	Houser, John, SES x5181
*Davis, Audrey B., AC/S x5529	Lane, Barbara, S x5458	Klinger, Robert, SES x5045
Jackson, Everett, MS x5683	Div/Physical Sciences Rm. 5123	Kolarik, Andrew, ES x5181
Harris, Michael R., MS x5529	*Warner, Deborah, C/S x5757	Lewis, Walter, SES x5181
Div/Physical Sciences Rm. 5123	Cannon, Faye, C x5270	Lynch, John, ES x5181
*Lund, Jon B., C x5330	*Lkfund, Jon B., C x5330	Martin, Albert, ES x5181
Norton, George A., MS x5663	Sune, Margaret, S x5330	Michnya, Nicholas, ES x5181
S&I Technical Lab. Rm. 8B018	Henson, William K., MS x5674	Morton, Sylvester, LF x5181
Hutt, Ray A., ET x5411	Hutt, Ray A., ET x5411	O'Connor, Eugene, ES x5306
Briggs, Dorothy, MS x5478	Briggs, Dorothy, MS x5478	Ondish, John, ES x5181
Dennison, Charles, MS x5663	Dennison, Charles, MS x5663	Ray, Hubert, SES x5181
Sloan, Henry T., MA x5674	Sloan, Henry T., MA x5674	Reid, Willard, ES x5181
Tearman, William, MS x5674	Tearman, William, MS x5674	Shelton, Leonard, ES x5181
ISIS Office Rm. 5214	Office of Public Affairs and Special Events Rm. 5104	Welch, Melvin, ES x5181
*Wulthauf, Robert P., SH x5691	Sanderson, G., PIO x6586	Wink, John, ES x5181
Regan, Rosemary, S x5691	Berthold, Scott, SEA x6586	Ruffing, Emily, S x5181
	Baum, Caroline, S x6586	
	Office of Building Management Rm. 8B035	
	Bush, Lawrence x5052	
	Bldg. Manager	
	Upward Mobility Program Rm. 5109	
	Keys, Mary, EA x6341	
	Mathis, John, EA x6341	
	Pryor, Diane, EA x6341	
	Robinson, Beverly, EA x6341	

KEY

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AstC	Asst. Curator	InS	Info. Specialist
C	Curator	LF	Labor Foreman
CC	Coding Clerk	MA	Museum Aid
CH	Chairman	MS	Museum Specialist
CRS	Collec. Registr. Spec.	MT	Museum Technician
C/S	Curator/Supervisor	PIO	Public Info. Officer
Cs	Conservator	PHO	Program Mgmt. Officer
DC	Docent Coordinator	S	Secretary/Clerk-Typist
DS	Documentation Spec.	SEA	Special Events Asst.
EA	Exhibits Aid	SES	Super. Exhibits Spec.
EdS	Education Specialist	SH	Senior Historian
ES	Exhibits Specialist	ST	Supply Technician
ET	Electronics Technician	SVIS	Super. Visual Info. Spec.
H	Historian	VIS	Visual Info Specialist

x = on other invitation lists
 * = curators, assoc curators, asst curators invited

? invited to ball gown presentation



List of persons to receive invitation to
First Ladies Opening

- ✓ Mr. Vernon Rickman, 4520 Macarthur Blvd. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007
- SI ✓ Mr. John C. Widener, 3201 Landover Street, #1125, Alexandria, VA 22305
- SI ✓ Mr. James A. Mahoney, Jr., 4905 Cumberland Ave. Chevy Chase, MD 20015
- SI ✓ Mrs. Constance Minkin, 1251 S Oakcrest Rd. Arlington, VA 22202
- ✓ Mrs. Susan Wallace, 4514 Connecticut Ave N.W. #203, Washington, D.C. 20011
- ✓ Mr. Stanley M. Santoroski, 7412 Convair Dr. Alexandria, VA 22306
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- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Craddock R. Gqins, HTB, 4013
- ✓ Dr. and Mrs. Philip Lundeberg, ~~XXXXXXXX~~, 1107 Crotton Dr. Alexandria, VA 22308
- ✓ Mrs. Anne W. Murray, HTB, 4100
- ✓ Dr. Robert P. Multhauf, 4504 Salem Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007
- ✓ Mrs. Leonard Carmichael, 4520 Hoban Road, Wash.D.C. 20007
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ewers, 4432 26th Road North, Arlington, VA 22207
- ✓ Mrs. Deborah Bretzfelder, HTB, 4210
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Klapthor, 500 3rd Street, S.E., Wash. D.C., 20003
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- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Mayo, 8319 Midwood Street, Alexandria, VA 22308
- ✓ Miss Barbara J. Coffee, 614 H Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024
- ✓ Miss Virginia Beets, HTB, 5204
- ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- ✓ Mr. Keith Melder, 334 South Carolina Ave, S.E., Wash.D.C., 20003
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- ✓ Mrs. Mary Ellen Kay, HTB, 4109
- ✓ Miss Marilyn Higgins, HTB, 4109
- ✓ Miss Wendy C. O'Bert, 7605 Riverdale Road, #414, New Carrollton, MD 20784
- ✓ Miss Peggy Lorimer, HTB, 4109



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- SI Mrs. Frances Hainer, HTB, 4020
- Mrs. Ann Bellino, HTB, ~~HTB~~ 4013
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- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Lee Theisen, 4107 Medford Drive, #40, Annandale, VA 22003
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Byron Koste, 1736 Lanier St. N.W., Washington, D.C.
- ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
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- ✓ Mrs. Stanley Bak, 531 South Lee Street, Alexandria, VA
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Clement Conger, 320 Mansion Drive, Alexandria, VA
- ✓ Miss Betty Monkman, Office of the Curator, The White House, Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Ms. Wilma Sands, Office of the Curator, The White House, Washington, D.C.
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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD TODAY BECAME THE 38TH WOMAN TO BE IMMORTALIZED IN THE FIRST LADY'S HALL OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY.

MRS. FORD DONATED A PALE GREEN CHIFFON GOWN TO THE FIRST LADY'S COLLECTION. A MANNEQUIN MADE TO HER PHYSICAL SIZE AND HAIR STYLE WILL STAND NEXT TO FORMER FIRST LADY PAT NIXON, IN A SHOWCASE REPLICA OF THE WHITE HOUSE'S EAST ROOM.

THE DRESS, DESIGNED BY FRANKIE WELCH OF ALEXANDRIA, VA., SIMULATES FABRIC MRS. FORD BROUGHT FROM CHINA.

"IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE TO GET USED TO THE IDEA THAT I CAN COME OVER TO THE SMITHSONIAN AND SEE MYSELF," MRS. FORD SAID AFTER AN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY SMITHSONIAN SECRETARY S. DILLION RIPLEY.

UPI 06-24 06:13 PED

