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12:01 AM NOVEMBER 29, 1996

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1996 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS CARD FEATURES THE GREEN ROOM

Washington, DC -- The 1996 White House Christmas Card is a reproduction of Thomas McKnight's "White House Green Room." Featuring the Green Room, the casein on canvas painting was done especially for this year's Holiday Card. (Casein is the mixing of paint pigment with a milk protein.) The card was printed by American Greetings at its Corbin, Kentucky plant and will be sent to approximately 300,000 families.

American artist Thomas McKnight who lives in Palm Beach, Florida and Litchfield, Connecticut, also created 1994 and 1995 Holiday Cards, which featured the White House's Red Room and Blue Room. Mr. McKnight began working of this year's Holiday Card during the past summer. In 1982, McKnight was one of thirty artists selected to paint Easter eggs for a White House and Smithsonian exhibit, and his 1988 serigraph "Constitution" was chosen as the official image for the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial. A print of the serigraph by McKnight hangs in the private quarters of the White House.

The Democratic National Committee paid for all production and mailing costs associated with this year's card. **Reproduction of the 1996 White House Christmas Card must credit the artist, Thomas McKnight.**

OF INTEREST:

- Stockings for the President, Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea are hung on the mantel.
- Socks, the first cat, is sitting beside the fire.
- Sleeping under the Christmas Tree is "Shadow" the McKnight family dog.
- The painting above the cabinet is the view from the artist's summer house in Litchfield, Connecticut, a memory of magical July evening with the moon descending in the west.
- The card will be available on the White House web page.

THE GREEN ROOM:

Throughout most of its existence the Green Room has served as a parlor for teas and receptions.

However, Thomas Jefferson used the Green Room as his dining room, as was originally intended by the architect of the White House, James Hobin. In 1803, the room was known as the "Common Dining Room" and by 1809 as the "Small Dining Room." Here Jefferson dined with his guests at an oval table to avoid problems of protocol imposed by rectangular seating plans.

Beginning with the Madison administration, the room was the "President's Sitting Room," and became the "Card Room" under his successor, James Madison.

By John Quincy Adams' tenure, the room had become the "Green Drawing Room," named for the color of the draperies and upholsteries, although it had acquired a green canvas floor cloth as early as the Jefferson Administration and green silk curtains in Monroe's time. Green has remained the color of the room to this day.

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Draft

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*Past
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THE GREEN ROOM:

Throughout most of its existence the Green Room has served as a parlor for teas and receptions.

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By John Quincy Adams' tenure, the room had become the "Green Drawing Room," named for the color of the draperies and upholsteries, although it had acquired a green canvas floor cloth as early as the Jefferson Administration and green silk curtains in Monroe's time. Green has remained the color of the room to this day.

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The White House - The Green Room

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by Thomas McKnight

The White House Christmas card this year focuses at the request of the First Lady on the Green Room. Together with the two previous cards created by the American artist Thomas McKnight- The Red and Blue Room, this completes a set of three rooms that serve as a focal point for formal events at the Executive Mansion.

One of the themes for Christmas this year at the White House is the ballet "The Nutcracker" and two of its characters are placed with presents under the tree. Also under the tree at Mrs. Clinton's request is one of Chelsea's dolls, perhaps to symbolize the fact that her childhood will soon be ending as she enters college next year.

Socks, the White House cat sits on an armchair and is warily watched by Shadow, the artist's wife's dog who is under the tree to represent dog lovers - and perhaps to symbolize that Americans unlike many dogs and cats should try to live peaceably together.

The painting above the cabinet is the view from the artist's summer house in Litchfield, Connecticut, a memory of a magical July evening with the moon descending in the west. It is intended to represent the sweep of America and balance one of our country's greatest symbols of liberty - the White House itself, which is depicted behind the tree.

The fire roars on Christmas Eve, the three stockings for the first family are hung above it, refreshments are laid out - especially for Mrs. Clinton who loves her tea, and a book - perhaps IT TAKES A VILLAGE lies open on a table.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Office of the Curator
February 1996THE GREEN ROOMHistory

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However, Thomas Jefferson used it as his dining room, as was originally intended by the architect of the White House, James Hoban. In 1803, it was known as the "Common Dining Room" and by 1809 as the "Small Dining Room." Here Jefferson dined daily with his guests at an oval table to avoid problems of protocol imposed by a rectangular seating plan.

Beginning with the Madison administration, the room was the "President's Sitting Room" becoming the "Card Room" under his successor, James Monroe. On the occasion of large receptions, however, crowds usually overflowed from other State Rooms.

By John Quincy Adams' tenure, the room had become the "Green Drawing Room," named for the color of the draperies and upholsteries, although it had acquired a green canvas floor cloth as early as the Jefferson Administration and green silk curtains in Monroe's time. Green has remained the color of the room to this day.

The Green Room has often been used by Presidents' wives for teas and the reception of guests. Here, Mrs. Grover Cleveland held her first White House reception, and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt received guests before the Friday musicales and concerts held in the adjoining East Room.

In 1862, Willie Lincoln died in the White House of typhoid fever, and his grieving parents placed his open casket in the Green Room. An account of the time stated that Mrs. Lincoln never again entered the room.

THE WHITE HOUSE



"White House, Blue Room"
Painting by Thomas McKnight
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AMERICAN GREETINGS



THE WHITE HOUSE, The Blue Room, 1995

*Our family wishes you and yours
a beautiful holiday season
filled with the warmth
of friends and loved ones,
and with the promise
of a happy new year.*

Bill Clinton Hillary Rodham Clinton