

[Text version]



It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the White House.

For the last four years, we have been blessed to call this house, the people's house, our home. We are continually awed by its majesty, and humbled by the historic events which have taken place here. Anyone who has ever had the honor of living or working in the White House, would surely agree, that at holiday time there is probably no more special place in the world. We are grateful for your visit and the opportunity to share this beloved house with you.

The theme of this year's display, "The Nutcracker" ballet, has great personal meaning for millions of Americans and especially for our family. Ever since we took

our daughter Chelsea to her first performance at age two, it has been a highlight of our Christmas celebrations. Through the years, this ballet has also inspired the many artisans from around the country, such as those who have created this year's ornaments, including many of the creative minds from our nation's ballet companies.

We hope as you wind your way through these great halls and rooms, the magic of "The Nutcracker" will fill your hearts and imaginations. May you and your family have peace and joy during this holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Bill Clinton Hillary Rodham Clinton



Take the 1996 Holiday Tour

michael,
where does this
go? John
File: White House

[Text Version]

Holidays at the White House

[ENLARGED]

The Nutcracker

For over one hundred years, "The Nutcracker" ballet has been a seasonal favorite, delighting children and grown-ups alike, and filling many a small child's head with dreams of princes and princesses, beautiful fairies and brave soldiers.

This year, as a very personal tribute to the joy and family spirit of the holiday season, this First Family has chosen to decorate the White House with magical scenes from "The Nutcracker" ballet.

The First Family invited three groups of artisans, from across America, to create ornaments for the White House trees: regional and professional ballet companies, wood-working artists, and members of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderers Guild of America.

Each ornament, inspired by personal recollections of "The Nutcracker" ballet, presents a unique vision of this time-honored classic.

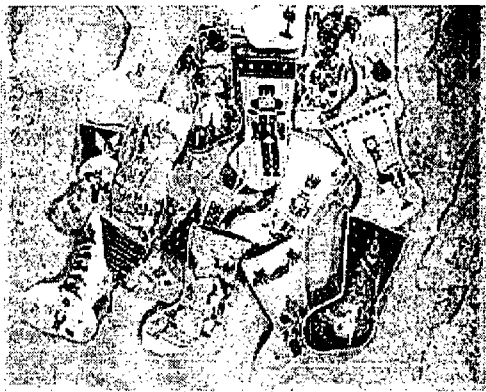
And as always, each ornament is a charming example of the artistry and imagination found in every part of our country.



The East Entrance

Upon entering the White House through the EAST WING, you see the first of three retrospective holiday trees; it stands in the East Garden Room, and is decorated with angel ornaments created by American craftsmen for the 1993 Holidays at the White House.

At the end of the EAST COLONNADE, where oversized wreaths hang in each window, you come to



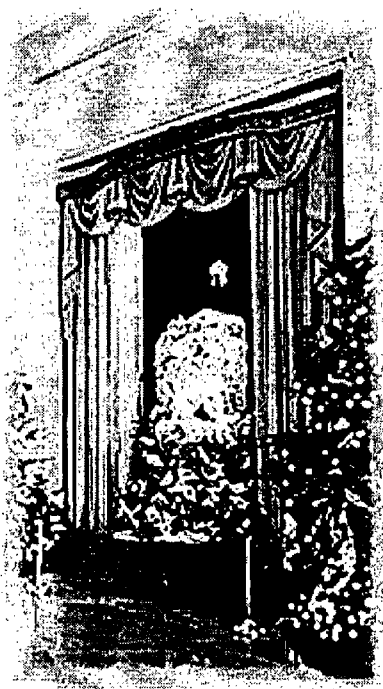
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oversized wreaths hang in each window, you come to the East Foyer, and our second special tree. This 1994 Holiday tree is trimmed with ornaments representing the "Twelve Days of Christmas" as interpreted by art and design school students, as well as the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters.

The White House Library is the site of the tree which honors Holiday 1995. It is decorated with ornaments from architects and architecture students that reflect the theme, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Needlepoint stockings stitched by members of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderers Guild of America complete the tree.

Also in the East Foyer, is the exhibit of White House Christmas cards dating back to the Eisenhower Administration. Showcased here, the original painting, "The White House, The Green Room," by Thomas McKnight, from which the official 1996 card was created.



[ENLARGED]

The East Room

A focal point of the elegant EAST ROOM is the traditional White House creche. It was made in Naples, Italy in the late 18th century. Its 47 carved wood and terra cotta figures epitomize the exquisite artistry of old world craftsmanship. The creche was a gift to the White House from Mrs. Charles Engelhard, Jr. of Far Hills, New Jersey, and has been displayed each year since 1967 as part of the Holiday celebrations.



Six towering trees -- one on either side of the creche, one at each window, and two flanking the entrance -- add greenery and majesty to the East Room. The trees are beribboned in gold and burgundy, while mixed greens and hurricane candles grace the mantels of each fireplace. Festive holiday music, provided by groups from across the country, wafts through the air.

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The Parlors

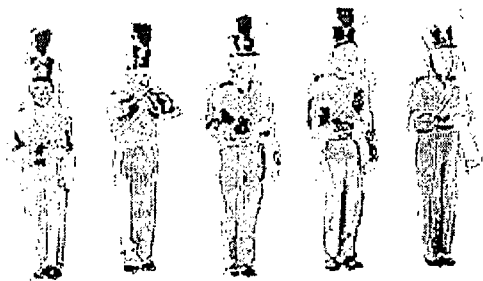
The GREEN ROOM, inspiration for the 1996 White House Christmas card, is used for small teas and receptions. Throughout the year, the renowned portrait of Benjamin Franklin by David Martin, which hangs above the fireplace, is a highlight of this charming room. During the holidays, the mantel decoration becomes a focal point, and this year the mantels in both the Green Room and Red Room were designed and decorated under the direction of the accomplished holiday artist, Christopher Radko, with assistance from a number of American artists and craftsmen, including the costume department of the New York City Ballet.

The Green Room mantel was inspired by the winter beauty of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. It glistens with shades of antique pink and wedgwood blue, and sparkles with the spirit of snowflakes, sprites and fairies.

The Official White House Tree, an 18'6" Colorado Blue Spruce from the Scheetz Tree Farm in Coshocton, Ohio, resides in the BLUE ROOM. It was presented to the President and Mrs. Clinton by Kenny and Joann Scheetz and family who won the honor by being named the 1996 National Grand Champion Growers by the National Christmas Tree Association.

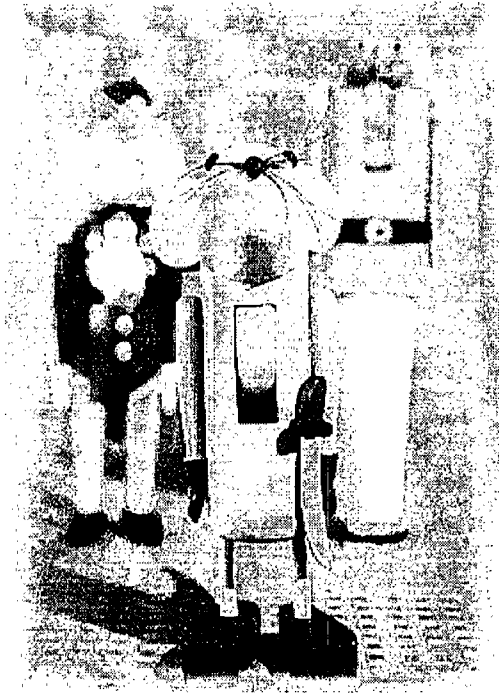
The decorations on the tree come from three distinct and talented groups: regional and professional ballet companies contributed ornaments which represented their own performances of "The Nutcracker" ballet, wood craft artisans created ornaments depicting scenes or characters from the ballet, and members of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderers Guild of America stitched holiday stockings to hang on the tree. The green velvet handmade tree skirt was designed by individuals from each of the 50 states, territories and the District of Columbia, in celebration of the Clinton family's first holiday at the White House.

In the RED ROOM, which is furnished in classic



In the RED ROOM, which is furnished in classic American Empire style, is the second of the Christopher Radko mantelpieces, its inspiration was the opening act of "The Nutcracker," in which the children celebrate around the Christmas tree. Along with characters from the ballet, look for figures from American History, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The centerpiece of this holiday confection is a candy castle covered with sweets.





[Enlarged]

The State Dining Room and Gingerbread House

Heads of state, dignitaries, and special guests are entertained in the beautiful and spacious STATE DINING ROOM, where George P. Healy's famous portrait of Abraham Lincoln hangs. Mixed greenery and ribbons on the mantel and sconces give the room a festive air.

Of course, the holiday star of the State Dining Room is the traditional Gingerbread House, created each year by the White House Pastry Chefs. In honor of "The Nutcracker," this year's edible edifice is modeled after a Victorian-era home. Outside, two nutcracker soldiers stand guard, and in the warm and cozy parlor, the party scene from the ballet is recreated.





The Grand Foyer

As you enter the GRAND FOYER, look up to see the needlepoint "kissing ball" designed and made by master needlepoint artist, Hyla Hurley of Washington, D.C.. Mrs. Hurley chose to portray the children's party, which is the same scene featured in the Gingerbread House in the State Dining Room.

The four large trees found in the Grand Foyer are decorated with gold ribbon, gold ribbon roses and red glass ornaments.



The West Wing

**Art Direction & Design by H.
Kemper Johnson**
Text by Susan A. Cooper
Photography by James Wojcik
**Illustration by James Noel
Smith**

A distinctive, handcast menorah adds grace and beauty to the WEST WING. It was loaned to the White House by the artist, Zachary Oxman from Hillsboro, Virginia, and represents the celebration of family with dancing figurines. Mr. Oxman is one of the artists represented in the White House Collection of American Crafts.

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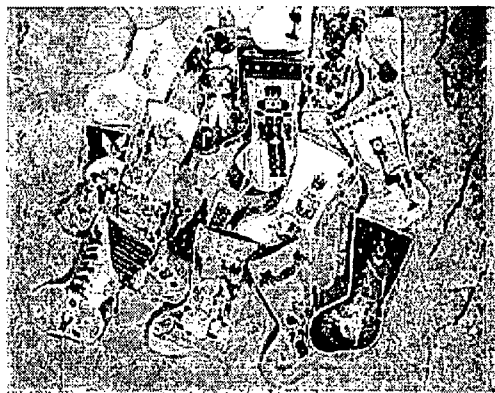
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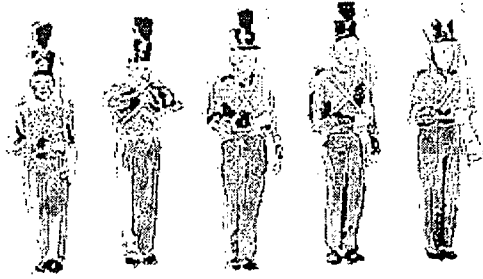
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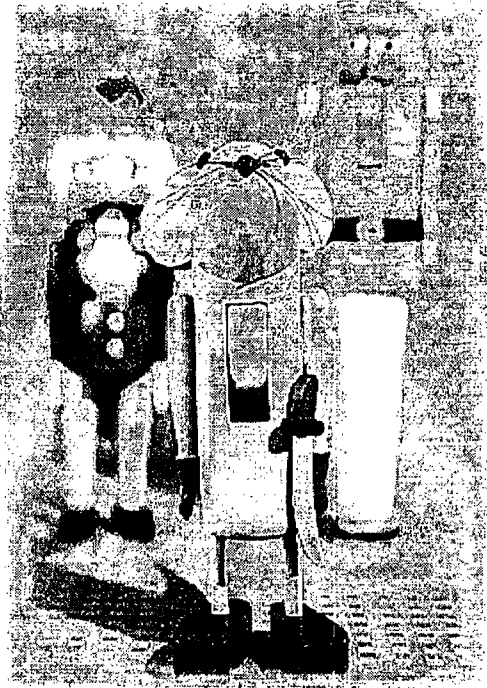
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HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO THE
JOBS FOR THE FUTURE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM**

Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to welcome you as you convene your Sixth Annual National Leadership Forum on School-to-Career Transition.

As many of you know, the President and I have worked with Jobs for the Future since the 1980's when we initiated a workforce development system for the State of Arkansas to better connect employers to the education system and equip all young people with the skills and knowledge necessary for economic success in the global economy. Following those efforts, we asked JFF to come back and design a program to create a youth apprenticeship system -- the first in the country.

Jobs for the Future continues to work with states, localities, and the Administration to develop a national school-to-career system through research, policy development, technical assistance and public education. It was instrumental in shaping the School To Work Opportunities Act of 1994 and has been involved in its implementation ever since.

School-to-career is one of the Administration's most important achievements. Thirty-seven states are actively implementing the 1994 School To Work Opportunities Act. A few years ago, people were asking the questions -- Would the public embrace the school-to-work idea? Would it improve students' academic achievement and turn them on to college and lifelong learning? Would it attract enough employers?

I am happy to report that there has been an explosion of interest, development and implementation at all levels and that the school-to-career approach is strongly endorsed by a wide range of employers, educators, students and parents. Achievement rates have improved; students enrolling in post-secondary education and training have increased; and paid work experiences are being multiplied by interested employers. The benefit for our nation is that children will have the opportunity for successful lives of work and learning, and the fulfillment of their God-given potential.

This is why I am delighted to see that Jobs for the Future is using this conference to better connect school-to-career to mainstream education reform and workforce development, and to promote student achievement and heighten academic standards.

The field has come a long way since its early days and it represents hope for many young people that their schools and communities are for their future. Thank you for your vision, commitment and leadership and please accept my very best wishes for your deliberations this week and for your continued success.

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