

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME
ROME, ITALY
JUNE 2, 1994**

DRAFT

[Acknowledgments: Adele Chatfield Taylor, president of the Academy; Caroline Bruzelius, director. You might want to mention the gold and bronze centennial medals (and the two baseball caps) given to you at the White House event. Each has the Academy insignia, designed by Roy Lichtenstein, a former fellow]

Greetings to all of you, and thanks so much for inviting me to this citadel of creativity and learning.

On April 21st -- Rome's 2,747th birthday -- Adele and Caroline were at the White House to launch the Academy Centennial and the presentation of the Rome prize to next year's winners. It was a great occasion, and so is this opportunity to witness firsthand the energy and creativity of the Fellows and staff here.

Today, as Americans and Europeans celebrate events that led to an end of tyranny on this continent 50 years ago, we can all reflect on democracy's role in strengthening our cultural life.

By uniting around a common cause during World War 2, great nations and great peoples were able to build a lasting peace. And with that peace came a re-affirmation of the freedoms we cherish -- freedoms that encourage artistic, creative, and intellectual expression.

Of course, the roots of modern cultural and intellectual life can be traced, at least in part, to ancient Rome. And that's why it is so fitting that the Academy is here -- in a city so steeped in art, architecture, history, literature, music, and ideas.

I just had the chance to see the exhibition "American Art in Italian Collections," which is wonderfully symbolic of the alliance and friendship that has endured between the United States and Italy for many years.

Your presence at the Academy is but another example of that relationship. You are here because you are the best that America has to offer. And no doubt your time in Rome will add to the artistic and scholarly contributions you make -- not just to American culture but to the enrichment of world civilization.

I envy the time you will have to absorb what this magnificent city and country have to offer. And I look forward to seeing the fruits of your labors in the years ahead.

To: Nicole Rabner
Staff of the First Lady, White House
FAX: 202 456-6244
Fr: Adele Chatfield-Taylor
American Academy in Rome
011 39 6 584-61
Date: 30 May 1994
CC: Lisa Kressbach

Dear Nicole:

Here are the few words we discussed that, we hope, will be useful to you in preparing Mrs. Clinton for her visit at the American Academy in Rome. Many thanks for all your help. Please call Lisa, Jeffery in New York at 212 751-7200, or me in Rome at 011 39 6 584-61 if you have any question.

Everyone is very much looking forward to having Mrs. Clinton and Melanne here!

Adele

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HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME
VIA ANGELO MASINA, 5
2 JUNE 1994, page 1

Fellows and Friends of the American Academy in Rome, greetings from Washington. This is almost a reunion, because Adele and Caroline and I were at the White House together on April 21st -- Rome's 2,747th birthday -- for the launching of the Academy Centennial and the presentation of the Rome Prize to next year's winners.

It is therefore appropriate that in this important year we actually visit Rome and this wonderful institution in its three dimensions. It has been a pleasure to see where you Fellows actually work, and to see the exhibition "American Art in Italian Collections" -- the quality of these works of art is a perfect reminder of the excitement and inspiration that comes from being an American artist in Rome -- I know this is true also for scholars. This show exemplifies what can happen when two nations appreciate one another -- these are all works created by Americans, and I understand they are all owned by Italians in Rome.

I hope you feel lucky! I know you have worked hard to get to this point, and that you were chosen because you were the best, but it must be thrilling nevertheless to occupy these marvelous studios and studies, and this library, and to have all the physical and

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2 JUNE 1994, page 2

mental sustenance you need to do your work, and all of Rome at your fingertips, not to mention your feet!

It is sobering to be among those representing the United States on this official trip to observe the end of a terrible World War, and it is great to know that each of you is here representing something joyous -- American creativity.

Relish this time and this place, and know that by making the most of it, you are undoubtedly preparing yourselves for useful, interesting and productive lives. You stand for all the American artists and scholars who competed to be here, for all who came in the last century, and for all who will walk through these gates in the next generations. Because surely it is through the arts, and scholarship that both the United States and Italy will continue to make their enduring contributions to civilization.

And in that pursuit we want you and Rome and the Academy to flourish!

And now I want to meet every one of you.