



WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

February 4, 2000

file -

Ms. Shirley Sagawa
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Shirley:

I am pleased to let you know that we are in the process of producing a comprehensive new book on the White House decorative arts collection. In November 2000, it will be 200 years since John and Abigail Adams became the first president and first lady to move into the White House. Our new book will help mark this anniversary by telling the story of many of the historic objects and furnishings that each president and his family have acquired and used while living and entertaining in the White House.

The book is being written by Betty Monkman, curator of the White House, and will be copublished by the White House Historical Association and Abbeville Publishing Group. It will be heavily illustrated with more than 200 new color photographs of furniture, china, silver, glass, textiles, and ceramics, as well as room shots and historical images of White House rooms. The photography and text have been completed and the design process is well under way; the book is expected to be available in the fall of 2000.

We would like to invite Mrs. Clinton to write an opening paragraph for the book's introduction in which we hope she would share some of her personal thoughts about living amongst the beautiful and historic objects in the White House. We envision this to be approximately 150-200 words and it would serve as a lead-in to a series of brief reminiscences from each of the five former first ladies. Because the objects in the White House are used, handled, and lived with in a way no museum pieces are, an introductory message from the present first lady followed by the words of the former first ladies would be ideal to set the stage for presenting how the White House collection is truly unique.

We hope to be able to include a contribution from Mrs. Clinton and know it would help make the book very special. If you have any questions about the book or the introduction, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil", written in a cursive style.

Neil Horstman
Executive Vice President