

Events past -

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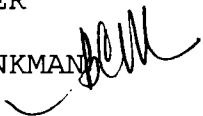
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: BETTY C. MONKMAN 

Re: Request to present book to Hillary Rodham Clinton

Enclosed is a request to present a copy of the new book White House China to Mrs. Clinton. This is a revised edition of a book published by the Smithsonian in 1976 which has long been out of print. The new edition has new photographs of all White House services and a revised text.

The Barra Foundation subsidized the book. Its president, Robert L. McNeil, Jr. is former member of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House and has been a major donor to the White House - the Bierstadt painting (Red Room), a pair of chairs used by George Washington (China Room), three pieces of sculpture (Oval Office and Roosevelt Room) and several pieces of china. He also made a substantial gift to the first organization which began fundraising for what became the White House Endowment Fund.

The suggested date of May 20 for the presentation corresponds to an opening exhibit on White House china at the Wilson House that evening. May 19 or 21 are other possible dates.

If this can be scheduled, Mr. McNeil would like to include five to six other people who have worked on the book or been associated with it.

cc: Capricia Marshall  
Patti Solis Doyle



THE BARRA FOUNDATION, INC.

April 5, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

It would give the editors and sponsor a great deal of pleasure to present a signed copy of the new edition of *Official White House China* to you at the White House at a time and place of your convenience, preferably on May 20, 1999.

The book, *Official White House China*, is a revised and updated edition of Margaret Klapthor's original work of 1975, which has long been out of print. Major contributions to the text have been made by Betty Monkman, Bill Allman and Susan Detweiler. Spectacular new photographs of all of the services were taken at the White House by Will Brown.

The sponsor, The Barra Foundation, and the publisher, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., are proud to have supported this important educational study documenting cultural aspects of our national heritage. The White House Historical Association has enthusiastically endorsed this project with a commitment to purchase a sizable quantity for distribution to White House visitors.

We trust that you will also be enthusiastic about the historical contribution *Official White House China* will make and hope that we shall have the opportunity of presenting a signed copy to you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. McNeil, Jr.  
President

RLMJr:ghf