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*OUR IMPERIAL NO. 1* >
“With his pronouncement on Mesopotamia, and the opening of the Imperial Conference, this is a great week for Mr. Winston Churchill.”  
Frank Reynolds in *Punch*, or *The London Charivari*, 15 June 1921.) The cartoon alluded to Churchill’s well-known love of polo—by far his favorite team sport, in which he was still engaged. In remembrance of his passion, the New York Churchillians held the First Churchill Polo Cup on 14 September in Greenwich, Connecticut. Article on page 11.
Now is the Time! Annual Fund Appeal

2008 Heritage Fund: Contributions Flooding In Number Ten Club Up 250%

The Churchill Centre, in the midst of its annual Heritage Fund appeal, is enjoying unprecedented support from its generous members despite difficult economic times as we wind up another successful year of activity.

Last year, a record $43,000 was received from Heritage Fund contributors, and the "Number Ten Club" of members giving $10,000 or more per year numbered four. As this Chartwell Bulletin goes to press, the Number Ten Club has increased to ten, and the Heritage Fund may well break another record for total receipts.

The Number Ten Club is growing thanks in part to commitments by several Trustees who have come to our board from the merged American Friends of the Churchill Museum. Number Ten Club contributions, up to $25,000 per year, are also abetted by matching funds from entities such as Microsoft. They are not only vital to our goals but hugely encouraging to every one producing work for The Churchill Centre.

It is appropriate to recognize and thank all our Number Ten Club members—Carolyn and Paul Brubaker, Lester Crown, Kenneth Fisher, Laurence Geller, Rick Godfrey, Gretchen Kimball, Harry McKillop, Elihu Rose, Michael Rose and Mick Scully—and to assure them that we will be worthy of their confidence in the years ahead.

As most members know, the basic subscription of $50 in the USA covers about ten percent of our working budget. Everything else is funded by some 800 members who contribute throughout the year: either through the Heritage Fund, Number Ten Club, bequests to the Centre’s endowment, by their support of special events like the Polo Match (see page 11), or by renewing their membership—as nearly forty percent of you do—at the $100, $250, $500 and $1000 levels.

If you have not already responded to the Heritage Fund appeal which you received in the mail, please help us by picking up the phone and dialing us toll free: (888) WSC-1874, and making a pledge large or small to help us “finish the job” in 2008.

Remember, all these gifts are in addition to your subscription, and are therefore 100% tax-deductible. Please know that any amount you are able to send, be it $10 or $10,000, is deeply and equally appreciated.

A Wedding Centenary at 52 Portland Place

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 18TH—In central London, 52 Portland Place played an important part in the marriage of Winston Churchill and Clementine Hozier a century ago. It was the home of Clementine’s great-aunt Mary (Lady St. Helier), who had taken an interest in her life and development. In March 1908 she held a dinner party there; Clementine was invited at the last moment to fill a gap which would have left thirteen at the table. She was reluctant to attend, but her mother insisted that she could not ignore Lady St. Helier’s call for help, so she attended.

On being seated at the table she found that there was an empty chair next to her. Another guest, Winston Churchill—at this date Under-Secretary-of-State for the Colonies—had also decided he didn’t want to go, but his private secretary, Eddie Marsh, persuaded him that he must: Lady St. Helier had helped to secure authority, through her private contacts such as the Adjutant General, for him to join the Nile expedition in 1898 which had resulted in his massive two volumes on The River War; he couldn’t let her down. He arrived after the main course had started, and took the empty chair next to Clementine.

Their only previous meeting in 1904 had ended in Winston’s being rooted to the spot and completely tongue-tied: on this occasion they dazzled each other and virtually ignored the other guests. She was enthralled by the brilliance, warmth and charm of his personality; he later wrote to her, saying “What a comfort and pleasure it was to meet a girl with so much intellectual quality and such strong reserves of noble sentiment.”

Barely four months later they were engaged, and less than four weeks after that they were married.

The wedding was to take place at the Church of St. Margaret’s, Westminster on 12 September 1908. Clementine spent the previous night at 52 Portland Place. She woke early next morning with a strong desire to see her family in Kensington; so she borrowed some clothes from a housemaid and took a bus home, where she joined her family for breakfast. There was much hilarity at her unusual costume, and she returned to Portland Place before her great aunt discovered that she was absent without leave. It was from here that she left for the church and it was back to 52 Portland Place that everyone returned for the reception.

Today the house belongs to David Coffer, a member of The Churchill Centre – UK, who uses it as his business headquarters. To mark the Centenary, he most generously hosted a dinner in the same room whereWSC and Clementine first became properly acquainted. The guests-of-honour were Lady Soames and her cousin Clarissa, Sir Winston’s niece, the Countess of Avon, widow of Anthony Eden.

The menu was carefully constructed to follow the Edwardian formula; i.e., a large number of courses (six on this occasion), each exquisite and, fortunately, quite small. Christian Pol-Roger was present, and handsomely
ensured that there was no shortage of Winston's favourite champagne. Mr. Coffer's guests included Randolph Churchill, Laurence Geller, Allen Packwood, David Boler and Anne Sebba; also two well-known public figures, Lord Lamont of Lerwick (a former Chancellor of the Exchequer) and Lord Bragg (a prominent broadcaster and writer on the Arts).

Laurence Geller and Anne Sebba each gave a short introduction to the centenary celebration. Sir Martin Gilbert then spoke about the marriage and its course; he was followed by Deborah Nutter, fresh from her triumph on this subject at the previous week's Boston International Churchill Conference, who, after detailed research and personal reconnaissance, spoke about the wedding day itself and how the events had unfolded.

Deborah proposed a toast to the memory of Winston and Clementine Churchill. David Boler presented a reproduction on canvas (hand-finished with coloured acrylics to give the appearance of the original oil) of Sir Winston's only wartime painting, "The Tower of the Katoubia Mosque," the original of which WSC gave to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in memory of their joint visit to Marrakesh in 1943. Lady Soames brought the proceedings to a close by proposing a toast to David Coffer in thanks for his hospitality.

To have been able to mark the centenary at the exact place where so much significant history had occurred was indeed a rare privilege for the twenty-eight people lucky enough to have been there. We are deeply grateful to David Coffer both for his hospitality and for his sense of history.
WSC AND FRANCE
PARIS, JUNE 7TH— An academic conference on Churchill and France, organized by Professor John Ramsden, Vice Chairman of the Churchill Centre Board of Academic Advisers and co-sponsored by The Churchill Centre and Queen Mary University of London, was held today at the premises of the University of London in Paris.

The conference featured papers by James W. Muller on Churchill’s treatment of French history in A History of the English-Speaking Peoples, Dr. Nicholas Black on Churchill and Anglo-French naval cooperation between 1911 and 1915, Professor Antoine Capet on Churchill’s experience as poilu on the Western front in 1915-16, Professor Ramsden on Churchill’s role in joint planning with France in 1940, James Lancaster on Churchill’s command of the French language, and Professor Agnèse Tachin on French perspectives on Churchill’s death and funeral.

This event was a first for The Churchill Centre in being conducted in two languages. The conference was attended by a select audience of visitors from Britain, France, and the United States and punctuated by a delectable luncheon nearby, which gave them a chance to converse in situ about the full range of Churchill’s lifelong interest in France. Professor Ramsden’s intention is to gather the papers, and those of other professors who were unable to participate in the conference, into a book on Churchill and France, to be published next year both in French and in English. —JWM

GEORGIA
ATLANTA, SEPTEMBER 13TH— The Winston Churchill Society of Georgia held a luncheon today with guest speakers Carl Beck and Hap Chandler, both veterans of Montgomery’s daring attempt to capture “A Bridge Too Far” on the River Rhine.

NEW ENGLAND
BOSTON, AUGUST 31ST— The annual Churchill panel at the American Political Science Association convention was held today at the Hynes Convention Center. The subject was “Churchill on the Executive Power and Civil Liberty.”

Winston Churchill was at once a proponent and exemplar of a vigorous executive power and a defender of civil liberty. Scholars considered how far he was able to balance the requirements of these two imperatives. William Morrissey of Hillsdale College spoke on “Churchill as Executive in the Second World War.” Justin Lyons of Ashland University chose as his topic “Executive Power in the Age of Marlborough.” Daniel Myers chaired the discussion.

Two days earlier, The Churchill Centre held a dinner at Maggiano’s Little Italy to honor Professor John Maurer, who spoke on “Churchill and the Outbreak of the Great War: Lessons for Today.” Professor Maurer serves as the chairman of the Strategy and Policy Department at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is a graduate of Yale University and holds a M.A.L.D. and Ph.D. in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. Before joining the faculty of the Naval War College, he served as executive editor of Orbis, a journal of world affairs, and held the position of senior research fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. He is the author or editor of books examining the outbreak of the First World War, military interventions in the developing world, naval arms control between the two world wars, and a recently published study about Winston Churchill’s views on British foreign policy and strategy. At present he is writing a study about Churchill and Britain’s decline as a world power.

NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE, NOVEMBER 15TH— The Churchill Society of North Carolina held its First Annual Winston Churchill Birthday Dinner tonight at the newly remodeled but still historic Charlotte Country Club. Lynne Olson, author of Troublesome Young Men, was the speaker and Thad Adams presented a short program on “The Original Troublesome Young Man.” The black-tie dinner event provided a couple of surprises for the attendees.

—D. CRAIG HORN

SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, OCTOBER 7TH— Celia Sandys was the guest at the Bernard Baruch Chapter of The Churchill Centre, which hosted her lecture at the historic Town Theatre, preceded by a reception in which Ms. Sandys met with local Churchillians and signed copies of her book, We Shall Not Fail: The Inspiring Leadership of Winston Churchill.

Celia spoke to a full house of 350 attendees, most of whom were members and guests, underscoring Churchill’s idiosyncratic personality, his renown as an orator and a statesman, and her experiences when traveling with him as a teenager. Following her talk, Celia took questions from the audience that ranged from inquiries about the number of words in Churchill’s vocabulary to the Prime Minister’s often frosty relations with Eleanor Roosevelt.

—KEN CHILDS

WASHINGTON
AUGUST 3RD— For our annual summer picnic event, Judy Dean entertained forty Washington, D.C. area Churchillians with her theory that A.A. Milne’s beloved children’s book Winnie-the-Pooh and its successors may have been a veiled satire on Winston Churchill. She told how she’d stumbled onto the possibility of a connection.
more than a decade ago. Since then, she's scoured many resources and found an amazing number of seeming parallels between the fictional toy bear and the real Chancellor of the Exchequer (as Churchill was at age 51, in 1925, when the first Milne title appeared."

What was the connection between Milne and Churchill? Dean believes it was Eddie Marsh, Churchill's trusted private secretary, who knew Milne and like him was a theatre aficionado. Marsh also loved gossip and may have provided some of the Churchillian details that Dean detects in the several Milne books of the mid-1920s. She feels that Marsh himself might have been the model for Christopher Robin, but that Churchill—or aspects of Churchill—were also the source of some of the characteristics of Eyore, Tigger, Rabbit, and Piglet. Dean spoke for about a half hour and answered questions for another twenty minutes from an appreciative audience.

**COMING UP AT THE CHURCHILL MUSEUM**

**LONDON, OCTOBER 21ST —** Today saw the launch of the 2008-09 Churchill Lecture Series, six new and exciting lectures on a broad range of subjects, beginning with Hugh Lunnigh's observations of “The Big Three: Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt.” (See also *Finest Hour* 135, Summer 2007.)


Tickets cost £15 or £12 for concessions (groups). Doors open from 6.30pm with lectures beginning promptly at 7pm. Tickets will be available to book online and by telephone. For online booking please visit http://xrl.us/or5ew.

These lectures promises to add new dimensions to our knowledge of Churchill. For more information contact the Churchill Museum, Cabinet War Rooms Clive Steps, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AQ. Or telephone +44 (0)20 7930-6961.

**CHURCHILL AS POOH:** There is no direct evidence that Winnie-the-Pooh was cast in WSC’s image, but cartoonists like “Poy” (Percy Hutton Fenton) quickly noticed the physical resemblance and cast Churchill as Pooh. Here in *The Evening News* 1927, Poy lampoons the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s putting the squeeze on taxpayers by proposing to extend Clause 29, which obliged State-run monopolies to secure revenue (from taxpayers) “to meet their combined outgoings.”

**LONDON’S TOP SIX**

**WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 26TH—** Rudy Maxa, consumer travel broadcasters and host of “The Savvy Traveler” on Public Radio, counts among his leading London venues the Churchill Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms (Clive Steps, King Charles Street, Westminster)—the underground headquarters where Churchill’s War Cabinet orchestrated Britain’s fighting of World War II and world headquarters of the Churchill Centre.

“The communications room, Churchill’s quarters, and maps and charts of military defeats and victories bring that era alive to visitors of all ages,” Maxa writes. “The admission is steep, about $23 for adults, but it’s worth every pound and the price includes an audio headset.”

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**John Frost 1920-2008**

NEW BARNET, HERTS., OCTOBER 16TH—D-Day veteran John Frost, creator of the world-famous John Frost Historical Newspaper Collection and *Finest Hour*’s news editor for nearly forty years, died today aged 88. He was rushed to hospital in late August with kidney cancer and waged a brave battle for almost two months while, in the words of his sons, “maintaining his sense of humour, stiff upper lip and bulldog spirit.” In his last days he was quoting his hero: “I am prepared to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.”

In June 2007, John celebrated his golden wedding anniversary with his inseparable German-born wife >>
JOHN FROST...

Annerose, who survives him along with their two sons, Peter and Andrew.

John was hale and hearty all his life. Having driven a truck with the 11th Armoured Division after landing on Juno Beach in Normandy, and pushing on into Germany, he was well versed in driving. But after being demobilised when the war ended and living in London, he didn't feel the necessity to buy a car and had never driven or owned one since. Walking everywhere and using public transportation had kept him fit, so the decline in his health was all the more unexpected.

After Normandy, John participated in Operation Market Garden alongside British and American airborne divisions, crossing the now-famous John Frost Bridge at Arnhem. Although the bridge was named after the British Lieutenant-Colonel commanding troops there, John was always proud to be associated with it.

On a nostalgic return to the bridge with some old comrades a few years ago, proudly wearing his medals, he was surprised by tourists who asked to have their picture taken with him when they discovered he shared its name! A member of his local Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) chapter, he regularly attended meetings and parades until illness intervened.

Almost from its first issue, John sent Finest Hour current and historical news cuttings from his vast newspaper collection, which were often chiefly responsible for entries in our popular “Datelines” column. His proudest moment was showing his collection, on view at the British Library, to HM the Queen in 2006. John was greatly cheered in September when he learned that he was the 2008 recipient of the Churchill Centre Blenheim Award, for distinguished services to The Churchill Centre and the memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

Peter Frost wrote that news of the award would be “quite a shock albeit a very pleasant one! I can only imagine how proud and thrilled he will be.” We regret that John did not live to receive the award itself.

The last number of Finest Hour John saw was 139, which Peter said was “by his bedside and alleviating the boredom of his confinement.” John
was “buoyed by kind messages from his many friends and colleagues in the Churchill fraternity, and moved by Celia Sands’ email offering her grandfather’s advice to: ‘Never give in,’ which touched him deeply.”

The funeral, at New Southgate Cemetery in North London, was attended by Phil Reed representing The Churchill Centre and John Hirst for Churchill Centre-UK. Condolences may be sent to Peter or Andrew Frost:

vwpete@tiscali.co.uk
andrew@johnfrostnewspapers.com

We will never forget John’s giant contributions, both to Finest Hour and to the history of journalism. Our loss, though not as great as his family’s, is deeply felt. —RML

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**“KATOUBIA MOSQUE”: OWN YOUR OWN COPY**

A framed, limited edition canvas reproduction of one of Churchill’s most renowned and colorful paintings can be yours in exchange for a donation to The Churchill Centre.

Winston Churchill was captivated on his first visit to Morocco, and described Marrakesh as “the loveliest spot in the world.” He painted more pictures of Morocco than any other country except France, loving the vivid light, the warm climate and the vibrant colours.

Following the Casablanca Conference in 1943, Churchill told President Roosevelt, “You cannot come all this way to North Africa without seeing Marrakech….I must be with you when you see the sun set on the Atlas Mountains.” They drove together through the desert to see the magnificent sight.

In 1943 Churchill created “The Tower at Katoubia Mosque” (Coombs C381; also on the cover of Finest Hour 124, left). It was his only painting during World War II, when he was otherwise totally absorbed. It was painted from the tower of the Villa Taylor in Marrakech, where Churchill and Roosevelt had viewed the scene. He gave this painting to FDR.

Minnie Churchill and the Churchill Heritage Trust have quite exceptionally and most graciously given The Churchill Centre permission to make a small number of photographic reproductions on canvas of this original oil painting. Each is hand-finished with coloured acrylics to give the appearance of the original oil. It is offered to benefit The Churchill Centre with a strict limit of thirty numbered reproductions. Elegantly framed, it measures 24 x 18 inches, complete with the initials “WSC” in the lower righthand corner, and comes with a numbered certificate of authenticity signed by the Hon. Celia Sandys and Minnie Churchill, delivered to your home or office by secure airfreight from Britain.

For complete details on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please contact either David Boler in England (david@boleronline.com), telephone (01732) 770168; or Craig Horn in North America (dcraighorn@carolina.rr.com), telephone (704) 844-9960.

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**NEW YORK CITY**

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, OCTOBER 22ND—Longtime Finest Hour Indian correspondent Inder Dan Ratnu spoke to students at this prestigious school today, through the kind efforts of Rita Kramer and Martha Curtis. “He was charming,” Martha writes. “After a small lunch, he spoke on ‘Churchill and Freedom’: the overwhelming odds against Britain in 1940, and how Churchill’s words held the country together and won Roosevelt’s support. He spoke of Churchill’s Nobel prize and recited the “Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat” speech. I was quite moved. He also told the amazing story of how he discovered Churchill—in 1974, buying peanuts wrapped in pages of a book, he noticed the next book in line for execution was Great War Speeches.”

Inder’s work is on our website:


Or click on “search” on our home page and enter “Inder Dan Ratnu.”

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**IMAGINE UNPACKING YOURS!**

David Boler unwraps David Coffer’s limited edition of “The Tower at Katoubia Mosque” at Portland Place, London (see page 2). Only thirty Churchillians will be able to own this hand-finished acrylics-on-canvas reproduction authorized by Churchill Heritage Ltd. A substantial part of the cost is a tax-deductible contribution to The Churchill Centre for American or Canadian citizens.
A Major Success: The Second Churchill Institute for High School Teachers

Cambridge and London Cannot be Bettered for Firsthand Acquaintance with Churchill and Direct Archival Research

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), The Churchill Centre brought twenty-four American high school teachers to England to explore "Winston Churchill and the Anglo-American Relationship." From 13 July through 2 August at the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge and in London, Professor James W. Muller directed a full academic program of research, seminars and visits to Churchill sites. Muller, with assistance from Suzanne Sigman, Dan Myers and Richard Langworth, wrote the successful grant application in early 2007. Sigman, the Centre's Education Programs Coordinator, assisted Professor Muller and teachers at the Institute during their three-week stay.

Allen Packwood, Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, with his professional, kind and gracious staff, was integral to the research phase of the program, where teachers examined primary source material and devised ways of using it in their classroom. All participants are especially grateful to Winston Churchill for allowing them to use a select number of documents in lesson plans for their classrooms. Thanks also to The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Soames MP, for arranging a tour of Parliament, and to Phil Reed, Samantha Heywood and Jocelyn Hunt for providing unique opportunities at The Churchill Museum, Cabinet War Rooms, Jack Darrah, with his Churchill Collection at Bletchley Park, was as always a keen supporter and special friend of the Churchill Centre. Churchill scholars John Ramsden, Piers Brendon, David Dilks and Paul Addison facilitated the intellectual inquiry through assigned readings, lectures and extensive discussion, both formal and informal. Jim Lancaster offered a taste of the recent "Churchill and France" colloquium in Paris (page 4).

The teachers were from thirteen states and teach primarily in public high schools. Their teaching experience ranges from one to twenty-five years. Attendees comprised nine males and fifteen females, curiously a reverse of the gender balance in our 2006 NEH Institute held in Ohio. By NEH selection rules, each teacher submitted a cover sheet, CV, essay and two references. A committee of three evaluated the applications.

Almost all the teachers have a long history of seeking professional development opportunities at home and abroad. Four teachers had previously attended a Churchill Centre Saturday teacher seminar, and two had attended local seminars in Alaska, where James Muller was instrumental in the program.

Fifteen teachers had Masters Degrees: Education (7), History (5), Political Science (1), English (1) and Public Policy (1). Many had interesting previous or concurrent careers: business, historical interpreter, fireman, associate editor for a Wall Street publication, political/economic analyst of the Central Intelligence Agency. Six had taught undergraduates as adjunct instructors or lecturers. Perhaps most impressive was their wide participation in professional activities: presenting at local, state and national conferences for educators, serving on curriculum committees and as national (AP) exam readers. Of course we hope teachers will return home and share what they've learned about Churchill.

At the Institute’s conclusion, the NEH requires anonymous evaluations from each participant. Here are some:

• "Rigorous engagement with facts and ideas. Fills a hole in my own education, which did not include Churchill outside World War II. This will enable me to teach better, reflecting Churchill’s involvement in events over his decades-long public life. I will use texts with...
students that were used with me, and have obtained an excellent resource base by delving into the Churchill Archives.

• “Exposure to experts in their fields represented a unique and substantial opportunity….Discussions allowed free inquiry into Churchill’s historical role and relevance and admitted differences of opinion about him.”

• “I would attend any seminar directed by Dr. Muller—excellent.”

• “Almost humbling in making me realize how much there was to be learned about a historical figure about whom I thought I was well read. It will have considerable influence on my classroom as well as staff professional development.”

• “Allen Packwood went out of his way to be helpful and found documents and sources for everyone. He was engaging in conversations and really knew his subject.”

• “Educators were well-chosen for insightful contributions to discussions. The guest lecturers were impressive, with firmly established credentials. Lectures were polished and interesting. Research at the Archives was gratifying. I was impressed by the groundwork laid beforehand to make our research so smooth and rewarding. Field trips were appropriate, of correct duration, and enhanced the institute’s purpose.”

• “I cannot adequately express how superlative the efforts of Jim Muller and Suzanne Sigman were. For a three-week institute with the complexities of this one to be executed so flawlessly reflects on their tremendous amount of planning and effort.”

• “I expected to learn about Churchill, but I also came away with a deeper understanding of the British Parliamentary system, and of Britain and the world in the 20th Century.”

• “The perfect balance of group discussion, archival research (an incredible experience!), lectures and visits to fascinating and relevant venues. Professor Muller was knowledgeable and very approachable; he truly wanted to provide the most effective experience possible.”

• “I am certainly a better informed person in the areas of historical knowledge and research. My students will be better educated and better researchers as a result. I also plan to study many topics raised during the institute in more depth, so the experience is not over even at the end of the three weeks!”

• “The opportunity to conduct primary source research at the Archives was inspirational. Handling Churchill’s private papers to create a Document Based Question (DBQ) for my classes was exciting. The insight I received into the British Parliamentary system was life-changing. I now view our U.S. Constitution in a very different light.”

• “In teaching U.S. History I have a more complete perspective. Churchill is now more than a few quick references in the history of WW2 and a nod to the Cold War and his Iron Curtain speech.”

• “The program was well thought out and meticulously organized by Suzanne Sigman. Professor Muller knows nearly everything possible about Churchill and colonial history.”

For a full description of the NEH-funded Churchill Centre program, see http://xrl.us/oug2j.

UK News

“Pleasure in the Task of Writing”

“I soon experienced a real pleasure in the task of writing.”

—WSC, My Early Life, 1930, Chapter 12

A research and writing award for English students inspired by the life of Winston Spencer Churchill

The Churchill Centre was founded in 1968 to educate new generations on the leadership, statesmanship, vision and courage of Winston Spencer Churchill. It is with this aim that The Churchill Centre - UK is offering an award for a piece of writing by an English student aged 16-19, about any aspect of Churchill’s life. The title of the award quotes Churchill’s recollection of writing his first book, The Story of the Malakand Field Force, at the age of 23.

The completed submission should be about 5000 words long, and must demonstrate that the student has undertaken research, collected evidence and selected information using appropriate methodology; has interpreted evidence and drawn well-supported conclusions; and has written a finished piece of work.

One prize of £250 will be awarded to the student whose work is deemed by the judging panel to be the best submitted. The School or College will be awarded books by or about Winston Churchill for its library. Further prizes of £50, together with books for the library, will be awarded to runners-up.

All entrants will receive certificates. Certificates and Prizes will be presented at one of the Churchill Lecture Series at the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms. A year’s membership in The Churchill Centre will be presented to schools and colleges whose students enter for the award. This includes four issues of Finest Hour, “the Journal of Winston Churchill,” and information about events and publications. Members are also entitled to reduced price admission to the Churchill Lecture Series at the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms.

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**ENGLAND WRITING CONTEST...**

**Contacts**
Email: churchillaward@googlemail.com.  
Post: The Churchill Centre - UK: Education, Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, Clive Steps, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AA. For further details, please contact Jo Hunt at the email or address above.

**Eligibility**
Any student in full time 16-19 education in England may submit work for the Award. Schools and colleges should register their probable entries at any time but in any case by the beginning of October 2009. Submissions must be received by 5 November 2009 at the latest, but can be received earlier, for example at the time of submission to the Examination Board.* Schools and Colleges will be notified of the safe arrival of the submissions. Each entry must be accompanied by a student statement of originality. The Award will be made without reference to the grade assigned by the Examination Board, and has no validity in terms of UCAS points (see below).

**Judging**
Entries will be read and assessed by Churchill scholars. Results will be communicated to all participating schools by March 2010, and presentations will be made in the weeks that follow, at a date to be confirmed. With the consent of the students, entries may be made available for the interest of readers worldwide at The Centre website: www.winstonchurchill.com.

**Examination Boards**
England has three Examination Boards supplying nationwide examinations at the ends of the 11th, 12th and 13th years of education: the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), the Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) and Edexcel. (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own agencies.) Schools and colleges may opt for any exams set by any Board. BACC is AQA’s version of the International Baccalaureate (IB) educational programme.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) may form part of the newly introduced vocational “Diploma” at the higher level, or it can be a free-standing qualification. While it is awarded for writing, an artifact or a performance on any topic, The Churchill Centre - UK is only looking at pieces of writing. Universities offer places on the basis of points scored at “A level”: the EPQ will be worth half an A level in the points (“UCAS points”) which is why we stipulate that our award has nothing to do with the official grading of the work by the Examination Board.

Students who are entering for the Extended Project Qualification, or for the BACC, may submit their completed work as an entry for the award. Students studying for the IB may, similarly, submit a version of their Extended Essay. They should ensure that all their references and sources are accurately recorded, but need not submit work logs and diaries.

The Churchill Society of North Carolina

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**Chasing Churchill on PBS**

Craig Horn reviews Celia Sandys’ Search for her Grandfather

This summer, American Public Television aired a three-part series entitled “Chasing Churchill,” hosted by Churchill Centre Trustee Celia Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill. Spectacularly filmed and presented, it tells the story of Churchill’s travels in his formative years, the adventures that shaped his character and the people that influenced his development. Rather than just another potted history, it was a very human look at the greatest personality of the twentieth century.

At our 1995 Boston conference William F. Buckley, Jr. considered why it was necessary to follow the injunction, “Let us now praise famous men.” He concluded that it is prudent, unless one’s profession is in historical clinics, to accept that which was legendary as legend; that which was mythogenic as myth; fortifying myth, ennobling myth.” This program does just that.

A story is told of a young American exchange student who in 1953 asked Winston Churchill, “What is the secret to your success?” Churchill replied, “Study history, study history. In history lie all the secrets of statecraft.” Celia Sandys artfully puts voice to the study and heart to the tale of her grandfather when young. Adventurer, soldier, journalist and leader, these qualities of Churchill are richly told, brilliantly pictured and warmly presented.

For the past two years, sponsored by The Churchill Centre, Celia Sandys has spoken at numerous meetings of our local chapters on “Memories of Grandpapa.” She had traveled with her grandfather in his later life, at a time when he was one of the most recognized people in the world. She sailed with him aboard the Onassis yacht Christina between Monte Carlo and Istanbul; she cried with him as they watched televised reports from Dallas in November 1963 when President Kennedy was assassinated; she held his hand as he returned to England in an ambulance plane from the south of France; she was at his bedside as he slipped away in 1965. Each audience rose to thank her for these memories. Now we can relive them through the PBS film production.

It is Churchill’s relevance that attracts so many: this man with the lion’s heart, gave also the roar when the lion was at bay. What is the relevance? One example is September 1943 at Harvard University where Churchill warned Americans: “The price of greatness is responsibility. One cannot rise to be in many ways the leading community in the civilized world without being involved in its problems, without being convulsed by its agonies and inspired by its causes.”

Two years before at Harrow came this most important lesson for us all, young and old: “Never give in, never give in, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.”

Churchill’s life uplifts our hearts and fills us with fresh revelation of the scale and reach of human achievement. “Chasing Churchill” helps us to see why we should “praise famous men.”

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Mr. Horn, of Weddington, N.C., is chairman of The Churchill Society of North Carolina (www.churchillsocietyofnorthcarolina.org)
First Annual Winston Churchill Polo Cup

Churchill was said to play polo “like heavy cavalry getting into position for the assault. [He] trots about keenly watchful, biding his time, a master of tactics and strategy.” Polo was an important part of Churchill’s life and perhaps contributed to his character.

The Greenwich Polo Club was the venue for the first annual Winston Churchill International Polo Day, September 14th. Conceived and implemented by the New York Churchillians and Churchill Centre, it was co-sponsored by Graff Diamonds. The aim was to establish a new avenue for fund raising to promote the Centre’s mission of preserving Churchill’s memory and legacy. More specifically, Polo Day raised seed money which will be used to create a North American traveling exhibit of the award-winning collections found in the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms.

Polo Day was a fitting tribute to the memory of the avid Polo player Sir Winston was. He was introduced to the game while a cadet at Sandhurst in the early 1890s and quickly became proficient (see Barbara Langworth, “Churchill and Polo,” Finest Hour 72, 1991). He wrote his mother in April 1895 when his Fourth Hussars were at Aldershot: “Everyone here is beginning to play as the season is just commencing. I have practiced on other people’s ponies for 10 days and am improving very fast.” Churchill added in May: “It is the finest game in the world and I should almost be content to give up any ambition to play it well and often.”

Churchill continued to play at Aldershot and afterward, at various locations in India where the Fourth Hussars were stationed. He left the Army in April 1899 but kept up the game. Even in later life he kept a string of polo ponies at Chartwell, which he purchased in 1922. Churchill played his last match in January 1927 at 52 years of age.

The Greenwich Polo Club is the only venue for high-goal polo in the Northeast. The field is 300 yards long and 160 yards wide, the largest in organized sports. The goal posts at each end are 24 feet apart. The match pitted the four-rider White Birch team against the similar strength Heathcote team. Although the duration of a match can vary among venues, the Winston Churchill International Polo Day consisted of four periods, or chukkas, of 7½ minutes each. White Birch won the competitive match 7-6.

Prior to the match Phil Reed, Executive Vice President of The Churchill Centre, welcomed our guests and sponsors. He spoke of the Centre’s mission and gave further details of the proposed traveling exhibit. Reed was followed by the present Winston Churchill, Sir Winston’s grandson, who spoke of his grandfather’s love of the game. Others present included Sir Winston’s great grandson Randolph and Laura Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt’s granddaughter.

The Centre’s guests were also treated to a reading from “Churchill at Bay,” a new play by Robin Glendinning and produced by Bob Crothers, which focuses on the War Cabinet debates in May 1940 and on the courage of Winston Churchill who, at this pivotal moment, was instrumental in keeping Britain in the war against Nazism. The reading served as a pointed reminder of the importance of the Centre’s mission.

After the match, Winston Churchill awarded a trophy to the most valuable player and presented other awards to team captains and players, all of which were generously donated by Baccarat.

The New York Churchillians and Churchill Centre would like to thank Randall Baker, Co-President of the chapter, for his tremendous efforts, and all of its friends and supporters for making the first annual Winston Churchill International Polo Day the wonderful success it was.
Applying Churchill: A Personal Experience

James T. Slattery explains why Winston Churchill’s wisdom and experience were never more relevant than they are today. Accordingly, “Churchill for Today” is the theme at the 26th International Churchill Conference at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco on 10-13 September 2009.

The Churchill Centre's primary challenge is to make history relevant to younger generations. Today's youth has grown up in a multimedia environment where they are often detached from reality. Emphasis on “self” spills over into their academic life, and they perceive history as a story of distant events having little to do with them. To interest the “Me Generation” in history and the lessons it teaches, it is helpful to show how the past has affected their own lives.

I know firsthand the relevance of history because of the tragic consequences to my family from a war strategy advocated in part—with the best of intentions of course—by Sir Winston. My uncle, Donald Slattery, graduated from St. John’s High School in Plattsburgh, New York, in 1940. He attended Plattsburgh Business Institute and was working at the Binghamton, New York State Hospital when he volunteered for the U.S. Army in June 1942. An enthusiastic recruit, he was sent overseas the following October. His destiny was sealed by the Allied decision to attack Europe through what Churchill called its “soft underbelly,” following their success in North Africa, by invading Sicily and the Italian mainland.

Churchill was an improviser; he knew that a landing in France was not immediately possible, and saw an opportunity to establish the “second front” that Stalin had been demanding since Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. But in his memoirs, Churchill admitted that “this great enterprise, known by the code name ‘Husky,’ presented new and formidable problems.”

General Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces, felt certain that if the intent was to invade and defeat Italy, occupying Sardinia and Corsica on Italy’s flank “would force a very much greater dispersion of enemy strength” than occupying Sicily. Churchill disagreed, successfully arguing that Corsica and Sardinia were far less appropriate stepping stones, famously remarking, “I absolutely refused to be fobbed off with a sardine.”

My Uncle Donald received training as an Army medic and was assigned to the Third Infantry Division. During the invasion he received the Silver Star for combat heroics at San Fratello, Sicily. Pfc. Slattery, his citation states, “repeatedly went out into intense enemy mortar and machine gun fire to administer first aid to the wounded…[he] crossed 200-600 yards of open terrain, covered with anti-personal mines, and swept by fire from four enemy machine guns and 40 rifleman, and intense mortar fire.”

Seven months later on 1 March 1944, Donald’s unit was heavily engaged on the desperate Anzio beachhead, on which Churchill telegraphed President Roosevelt: “I am always deeply moved to think of our men fighting side by side in so many fierce battles and of the inspiring additions to our history which these famous episodes will make. Of course I have been very anxious about the beachhead, where we have so little ground to give. The stakes are very high on both sides now, and the suspense is long-drawn.”

On his last mission Donald had run out on the battlefield to rescue two wounded soldiers, and was preparing to evacuate them, when an artillery shell landed close by, killing all three. The blast was so intense that his body was placed in a closed casket. He was only twenty-four years old.

Mr. Slattery (slattery@saxx.rr.com) is the founder of the Churchill Centre South Texas chapter in San Antonio.
Lives in the future.

Tragic and inexcusable waste of precious Churchill taught us, may prevent the applying its lessons, and what Winston many millions he never knew.

For and why—and how this inspired so and such date than in what he stood for and why—and how this inspired so many millions he never knew.

History must remain relevant lest the worst of the past repeat itself. Applying its lessons, and what Winston Churchill taught us, may prevent the tragic and inexcusable waste of precious lives in the future.

Endnotes


Churchill Today: 2009 Churchill Conference

Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, 10-13 September 2009 “Wise words, Sir, stand the test of time.” —WSC, 12 May 1901

In his 1932 book Thoughts and Adventures, Winston Churchill published what scholars consider his “Big Four” futurist essays, contemplating trends he could already see, which would effect the evolution of democracy, the state of government, and the nature of man. “Shall We All Commit Suicide?”, “Mass Effects in Modern Life,” “Consistency in Politics” and “Fifty Years Hence” were not only prescient, but offer powerful and moving consideration of ever-present challenges, as in need of solution now as they were eighty years ago.

Deploying outstanding thinkers and scholars, and a banner cast of gala dinner speakers, we will consider modern applicability of Churchill’s thought in essays which read as though they were written yesterday: the trend toward mass-thought and mass-behavior, the cult of celebrity, the decline of the individual, the slackening of personal responsibility, the difficulty we have separating principle from tactics, the replacement of religious morals with a kind of vague internationalism, the refusal to act until “self-preservation strikes its jarring gong,” until the terror of imminent extinction flickers.

Today’s challenges are not the same as those of Churchill’s time. It is foolish, writes one of our discussants, Professor Paul Alkon, to believe our times are simply a replay of his. Churchill’s lasting value lies in his approach to challenges, as James Slattery writes here—not what he did in 1915 or 1940, but the broad principles he stood for.

Another of our discussants, President Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College, reminds us that forty-three years since his death, Churchill is in transition as the World War II generation passes away. From a figure people remember, he is becoming a figure for the ages. Arnn ranks him with Washington and Lincoln in the United States, “provided we understand him fully—which is difficult, because he left such a huge record that it’s difficult to get our hands around him.” Here is our opportunity.

Your advice and suggestions are warmly welcome by our conference volunteers: Judy Kambestad, Chairman, (jammepott@aol.com); Dan Myers, Finance (dmyers@winstonchurchill.org); Cynthia Faulkner, Underwriting (cynthiafaulkner@aol.com); Richard Langworth, Panelists (malakand@langworth.name). Copies of the “Big Four” Churchill Essays are available by email from Dan Myers.
Churchill Centre Regional and Local Organizations

Chapters: Please send all news reports to the Chartwell Bulletin: malakand@langworth.name

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- #88 WSC’s Durban speech after escape, Chartwell, new website, Britain’s VE-Day, James Muller, array of Churchilliana. Cover: Churchill in Dublin aged 4, the earliest known painting of WSC.

Curt Zoller’s Annotated Bibliography of Works About Sir Winston S. Churchill, 2004, 410 pages. The most comprehensive bibliography on works about Churchill includes frank, forthright reviews—on 700 books specifically about Winston Churchill. Also listed: works substantially about Churchill, articles, lectures, reviews, dissertations and theses. Farrow Award winner in 2004. Selling for up to $189 on the web, indispensable for the serious Churchill library. SPECIAL! We will include Curt’s 2005-08 *Addendum* (specify whether you want this by email or hard copy): $65 postpaid in USA.

**#114 WSC on George VI, Gilbert on Churchill’s Women, Bletchley Park, Queen Mum obituary, Churchill on Daylight Savings Time, Queen Mary Fellows program, Myths: He let Coventry burn. Cover: Oil painting of WSC by Martin Driessicll commissioned for the Queen Mary WSC suite.


**#123 Manchester Vol 3 excerpt, Churchill and the Second Front, WSC and America, Speech on the outbreak of war. Cover: fabulous full wrap cover painting by WSC of Katoubia Mosque, Marrakech (Churchill’s only WW2 painting).

Notification of local chapter and affiliate events is sent individually to local members by mail or email. Education events contact: Suzanne Sigman (suzanne@churchillclassroom.org), telephone (617) 696-1833.

22-25 January, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
Churchill Centre Undergraduate Honors Seminar, Hotel Del Coronado, courtesy of Laurence Geller. Professors James W. Muller and Paul Rahe and students from western colleges and universities.

28 February, PHOENIX, ARIZ.
Teacher seminar cosponsored by the Arizona State University Department of History. Professors Roger Adelson and Barry Gough.

7 March, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

12-14 March, BOSTON, MASS.
National Council for History Education Conference, “Churchill on Revolution” by John Ramsden. Theme: Revolutions in History with Professor John Ramsden. Our proposal (to be acted upon in November) is that Churchill’s life as a statesman and historian was closely related to revolution: he first experienced gunfire in the Cuban revolution, lived through the Russian Revolution, and became a key figure in the Cold War it provoked. As one of the most widely-read historians of his day throughout the English-Speaking World, he was a key figure in shaping Liberal opinion. His History of the English-Speaking Peoples discussed the English, American and French Revolutions. His only novel was set amidst a Ruritanian revolutionary crisis. This session will review Churchill’s ideas about revolutionary change and their impact on readers.

2-4 April, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Graduate Student Seminar, Intercontinental Hotel, by courtesy of Laurence Geller. Professors James W. Muller and Paul Rahe.

16-18 April, HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN.
High School Teacher Seminar, Hillsdale College, co-sponsored by the Hoogland Center for Teacher Excellence.

9-21 May: CHURCHILL TOUR XVII.
Gallipoli, Yalta and Crimea. Hosted by Nigel Knocker OBE. UK contact: Old Country Tours (oldcount@aol.com) tel. (01747) 828719. North America contact: The Churchill Centre (info@winstonchurchill.org), tel. toll-free (888) WSC-1874.

15-26 June: CHURCHILL TOUR XVIII.
Churchill’s South Africa, hosted by Celia Sandys. Cape Town, winelands, Spion Kop, battlefields, Johannesburg, Pretoria; safari at Phinda Game Reserve. Contact Admiralty Travel (888) 722-3401 or http://xrl.us/bjo8i.

10-13 September: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
“Churchill for Today” 26th International Churchill Conference. Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco. Contact: The Churchill Centre, info@winstonchurchill.org, tel. toll-free (888) WSC-1874.

Autumn: PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.
High School Teacher Seminar.

Autumn: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.
Teacher Seminar (also possible in Spring 2010).

ADVANCE DATES
2010, 29 Sept. – 2 Oct.: LONDON, UK.
27th International Conference.

2011: WASHINGTON, D.C.
28th International Conference.

2012: OTTAWA, ONTARIO
29th International Conference.