



Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 3 No. 1

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Longfellow House and the National Park Service

June 1999

“Save America’s Treasures” Gifts Announced

Standing in the Longfellow House library at a podium decorated with a festive “Save America’s Treasures” banner, Hillary Rodham Clinton announced gifts totaling \$305,000 to preserve the House’s collections. These generous donations came from both corporations and private individuals in response to “Save America’s Treasures,” a national public-private initiative which directs funds to our nation’s most urgent preservation cases.

In response to President Clinton’s 1999 budget proposal, Congress appropriated \$30 million for a Millennium Fund to “Save America’s Treasures,” which would be administered by the National Park Service and allocated for preservation projects of national significance.

“Save America’s Treasures” aims also to stimulate parallel private efforts to preserve our heritage. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is leading the effort by inviting individuals, foundations, and corporations to participate by serving on the Millennium Committee to Save America’s Treasures, chaired by Hillary Clinton.

The first lady announced that the Fidelity Foundation of Fidelity Investments gave \$75,000 to the Longfellow House for collections processing and another \$150,000 as a challenge match for conservation. Rising to the challenge grant and collectively donating \$80,000 were Peter and Carolyn Lynch, Ann and Graham Gund, Steve and Barbara Grossman, David Rockefeller, and Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

Since the December 5th announcement, the Longfellow House has received an additional \$10,000 from the Friends of the Longfellow House and hopes to meet the full challenge in the near future.

Hillary Clinton Pays Historic Visit to the House

Not since Martha Washington has a first lady (or future first lady) crossed the threshold of the Longfellow House, but on December 5, 1998 Hillary Rodham Clinton came as part of a national tour to “Save America’s Treasures,” an effort to publicize and raise funds for historic sites in need of restoration.

The tour also included stops in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Queens, New York. At each site, the first lady announced private-sector contributions to help with the restoration projects. The Longfellow House was the first of four stops in the Boston area that day.

During her two-hour visit to the House, Mrs. Clinton took a private tour, addressed an audience of about fifty in the Longfellow library, and enjoyed the recitation by fifteen fifth-graders of “Paul Revere’s Ride.”

As the first lady entered the House, she remarked to Site Manager Jim Shea that she had visited the Longfellow House as a Wellesley student and felt particular pleasure in returning to Cambridge and the his-



toric house she had known years ago. Mrs. Clinton was intrigued to learn that although Martha Washington had spent four months at the House during the Revolutionary War, she was the first sitting first lady to visit the House.

Accompanied by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Robert Stanton, the recently appointed first African-American Director of the National Park Service, and Susan Eisenhower, historian and head of the Millennium Project, Mrs. Clinton toured the House with Jim Shea as guide. In Longfellow’s study, Mrs. Clinton spontaneously paused to stand in front of and place her hands on Longfellow’s desk in order to contemplate the poet’s experience. In the dining room she viewed a letter from George Washington written from the House in 1776, drawings by the Longfellow children, a daguerreotype of the poet and his family, and other objects especially displayed for her.

Despite the protests of the secret service, Mrs. Clinton insisted on seeing the archives stored in the basement, although this was not part of the scheduled tour. Senator Kennedy urged the first lady to see not only the extensive treasures and the



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site's potential as a research center, but also the dangerous proximity of these treasures to the furnace.

After the tour the first lady addressed a rapt audience in the library and lauded Senator Kennedy's commitment to the Longfellow House and his role in getting her there. She also acknowledged his leading role in obtaining \$1.6 million in federal funding for the House. "He didn't just talk about offsets and line items," she said. "Instead, he recited 'Paul Revere's Ride' by memory."

Mrs. Clinton referred to a number of things she had learned from the tour of the House, and she commented on the commitment and knowledge of the Longfellow House's staff. Joking about Jim Shea's enthusiasm for the site, she said, "I thought Jim Shea was going to levitate."

In her speech culminating in the announcement of donations, Mrs. Clinton noted the authenticity and importance of the site. "With Washington's coming here, with Martha Washington's actually living here for six months, this truly is one of the most important original sites that shows what it means to be an American and what it took to create the United States of America."

Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate of the United States, spoke of the importance of the arts, but instead of reading a poem himself, he turned the program over to a group of fifth-graders from the New School in Cambridgeport. They presented a dramatic reading with solos and choruses of Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride," which they had studied in depth.

"We all clapped," said Frances Ackerly, Friends of the Longfellow House board member, "but Hillary Clinton got up and moved across the room to be near the children. She clapped and really looked at them. She was so focused on the children."

Afterwards the students presented the first lady with a book

of "Paul Revere's Ride" they had made and illustrated. And Mrs. Clinton asked that her photograph be taken with all the children.

Other parts of the program in the library included remarks by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Robert Stanton, and National Park Service Site Superintendent Rolf Diamant. "This is the most important moment in the history of the Longfellow House in this century," Diamant noted in his introduction of the first lady.

After the Longfellow House visit, the first lady headed for the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill. As Mrs. Clinton and Senator Kennedy left the House, television video cameras caught the first lady emoting to the senator, "It was so much fun."

Reflecting on the visit, Jim Shea was struck by the first lady's genuine enthusiasm for the House. "She exclaimed over the 1844 wallpaper and said several times this was 'the most authentic place.' Also, she was very interested in Longfellow's grandson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, who was the first unofficial curator here from 1917 to 1950, and his interest in Russian theater, culture, and politics. But most of all, she really understood the context and high integrity of this place and how unique this house is."

"She absorbed an amazing amount in a brief tour," Shea said. "She didn't give a prepared speech, and she was able to include immediately so much of what she had learned. She expanded upon her observations during the tour and the significance of what she had been shown." He paused for a moment. "You know, I think the place that excited her most was the basement."



Jim Shea and Mrs. Clinton at the poet's desk



Interview with the New Superintendent... Myra Harrison

by Ruth Butler

In January the National Park Service appointed Myra Harrison the new superintendent of the Olmsted, Longfellow, and Kennedy National Historic Sites, succeeding Rolf Diamant who has become superintendent of the new Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park in Woodstock, Vermont. In her introductory remarks at a February 23rd reception honoring both Harrison and Diamant, Harrison quipped she was glad she had big feet since everyone had mentioned she must fill the large shoes of her predecessor.

A few days after the reception, I interviewed Myra Harrison.

Ruth Butler. It's been hard to get together, so I know how busy you are. What goes into assuming the position of superintendent of these three sites?

Myra Harrison. Well, I have been in a steep learning curve. My previous park experience was as acting superintendent at the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, and these three sites seem even busier. Of course, the scale is much smaller so I'm closer to the front line troops, to the

ebb and flow of daily events. But some other things are at play here. For one, previous park management—particularly Rolf but also his deputy John Maounis—had a push-the-envelope mentality in the way they looked for opportunities and recognized what others might not have seen. That was very impressive—I see its effects particularly at Olmsted but also throughout.

Another part of the challenge is getting to know three extremely different places with their own themes, partners, and interpretive programs. They're managed as a collection largely because their individual budgets could not sustain the kind of infrastructure they need to flourish. As an organizational structure, it makes sense, but at first there's a lot to absorb. Finally, the staff are all high achievers, which is great, but they set a heady pace! Fortunately, these places are served by people who are constantly thinking about what they might do and rarely about what they would rather not do.

R.B. How well did you know this site before you came?

M.H. Since I was director of the North East Cultural Resources Center in Lowell, I was nearby and I had visited Longfellow, but also several members of my staff in Lowell—archeologists, collections conservators, and historic architects—had worked

at Longfellow, Olmsted, and Kennedy. I had been well introduced to the first two sites, but really didn't know much about Kennedy.

R.B. How long were you in Lowell, and how did you come to make the change? In the National Park Service, do you hear about open positions and then apply?

M.H. I was in Lowell for seven years when the regional director asked me to take this job. I was absolutely delighted! I could not imagine turning it down. It is a sparkling opportunity in a setting that is unmatched. I've had several management jobs and experience in managing people who are



Myra Harrison with Rolf Diamant at a reception honoring them

dispersed. My most recent jobs have not had much public face, but the jobs I've enjoyed most have had a large component of interaction with people outside the Park Service.

My work at the Cultural Resources Center deepened my understanding of historic fabric, archeology, and collections conservation. Before that I had done a great deal of work with buildings and archeology—always from a management point of view. But what I want to stress is that I've been in historic preservation for a very long time. I went into the field in 1970 because it combined all the things I loved most—it was visual, and it allowed me to think as a historian and to be engaged in public policy. Now I have the opportunity to engage at a different, deeper level, with a "collection" of sites and their collections—it has almost a sense of connoisseurship after working with large programs that extend their reach over many states and parks.

R.B. How long have you been with the Park Service, and how did you decide to make a career with this agency?

M.H. I've been with them since 1981. I was part of another agency that was absorbed into the Park Service. I started with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington. Then I was with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Ser-

vice, an agency that had a brief life under Carter until it was dismantled under Reagan. We managed several large- and small-scale programs that extended over many states.

R.B. So your career has gone from being one of engagement in large systems to now working with very specific places and issues.

M.H. Well, I've worked on many specific issues before but never at the same site over a long period of time. I've been in some difficult preservation fights, winning some and losing others. I've seen my name on documents I wish I had never signed.

R.B. Interesting. Give me some examples of preservation fights won or lost.

M.H. I lost a fight to save a building designed by Ernest Flagg at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, but I did win a big one in Newburyport against HUD and an urban renewal plan that would have ruined the urban fabric of that city.

R.B. What was your formal training?

M.H. For my B.A. I concentrated in American Cultural History at Vassar and then went to Brown to do my graduate work. While there, I worked with the Providence Preservation Society after which I got an N.E.H. Fellowship at the National Trust.

R.B. What are the special challenges you see as superintendent here?

M.H. The three sites are at very different stages in their individual evolutions. At this point I want to understand all that has happened and figure out how each can best move along. At Longfellow we need a clear vision of what programs and staff should be in place when the House reopens. We need to take advantage of the new facilities and enhance the services we've traditionally offered. You know, it wasn't so long ago that all three sites, including Longfellow, were on a list of NPS places viewed as ripe for closure because they weren't attracting enough activity. Budget cutters were thinking about who might take over their stewardship. This was a wake-up call. We never want these sites on such a list again, and that's a challenge.

R.B. Has this been a big move for you to come to Boston?

M.H. Actually, no. My husband teaches history at M.I.T., and we have been house masters there at Baker House for the past ten years. So I feel very connected to the area and especially to Cambridge.... I was just wondering if Longfellow knew any of the founders of M.I.T. in the 1860s? I should check the archives for that!

Collaborating on History and New Trails

Fanny Longfellow, Henry W. Longfellow's wife, in a letter to her brother Thomas Gold Appleton, August 30, 1843

We have decided to let father purchase this grand old mansion if he will. Our interest in it has been quickened by our present guest, Mr. Greene of Rome, a great friend of Henry's and a very amiable, agreeable person. He has excited an historical association, or rather reminded us how noble an inheritance this is—where Washington dwelt in every room. . . . We are full of plans and projects with no desire, however, to change a feature of the old countenance which Washington has rendered sacred.

Longfellow House in Print

Channels 5 and 7, the New England Cable Network, the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, and the *Cambridge Tab* extensively covered Hillary Clinton's visit to the House on December 5th. A *Boston Globe* editorial by Michael Kenney encouraged people to donate to the Fidelity challenge grant.

In a children's book by Susan Goldman Rubin with illustrations by Elsa Warnick, *Toilets, Toasters, and Telephones: The How and Why of Everyday Objects*, the House is noted for having indoor plumbing (shower and toilet) installed by the Longfellows in the 1840s—very early plumbing in the U.S.

A fictionalized account of George Washington during the American Revolution, *Citizen Washington* by William Martin, describes the general's activities and headquarters at the House. Channel 5 interviewed Martin on March 10 and showed recent footage of the House.

In March 1999 *Art Education* magazine published an article by Diana Korzenik entitled "Becoming an Art Teacher c. 1800" about Fanny Longfellow's predecessors who practiced and promoted art education in Boston in the early nineteenth century.

Filmed on location at the House and in Longfellow Park, *Longfellow Bridge*, a fictionalized account of a curator trying to get funding, aired on CBS on May 9. This made-for-TV movie was written by Jeff Arch, the author of *Sleepless in Seattle*.

The Longfellow House is currently involved in two exciting collaborations with other groups interested in local history that will improve the experience of tourists visiting greater Boston and at the same time enhance the visibility of our site.

The Boston History Collaborative was established in 1997 as a not-for-profit alliance of academic and public historians, visitor bureaus, and downtown businesses such as Liberty Mutual and Bank Boston. Their mission is to make Boston, both nationally and internationally, the destination for people interested in compelling and educational historic sites. By creating a series of trails, they will link historic sites through major themes such as maritime history, immigration, abolition and civil rights, innovation, and literary history. The first of these theme trails is called the Literary Trail of Greater Boston.

The Literary Trail opened officially in March with a celebration and gala dinner at the Parker House, the well-known gathering place of the Saturday Club during the nineteenth century. Speakers at the dinner, including David Hackett Fischer, John Kenneth Galbraith, and David McCullough, praised the tour as an exciting and important endeavor that can help connect people to the stories of the past.

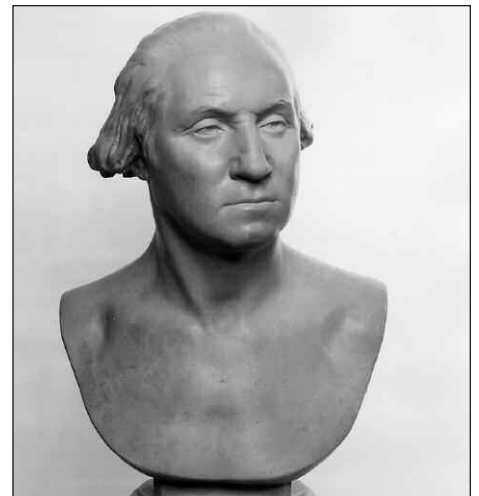
Currently, the Literary Trail is offered as a half-day guided trolley tour exploring historic sites in Boston, Cambridge, and Concord. Tour guides allow visitors time to explore the interiors of some of the sites. Because the Longfellow House is closed for rehabilitation, the trolley pauses in front of it while the guide speaks of the poet, his family, and work. People can also follow the Literary Trail by using a self-guided tour book that is available in area bookstores.

The temporary closing of the Longfellow House has given the interpretive staff an opportunity to develop public programs for the Cambridge community. As they began planning classroom education programs and walking tours, they considered how these programs could complement existing his-

tory-based tours and programs in Cambridge. In November the Cambridge Historic Commission, the Cambridge Historical Society, Cambridge Office for Tourism, Mt. Auburn Cemetery, and Friends of the Longfellow House all met together. As people at the meeting shared information on Cambridge history, program ideas, and common concerns, they decided to form a new alliance and named it the Historic Cambridge Collaborative. The Collaborative has expanded to include Harvard University and meets monthly to discuss ways to enhance opportunities for the public to learn about Cambridge history and to collaborate on public programs.

During the first year the group will concentrate on three projects: organizing tours during Preservation Week (May 10-17), producing a brochure of summer tour offerings, and planning for the 225th Anniversary of the War for Independence in 1999. Kelly Fellner, Nancy Jones, Paul Blandford, all from the National Park Service, and Frances Ackerly of the Friends of Longfellow House are the representatives of the Longfellow House participating in the Historic Cambridge Collaborative.

For more information on the Historic Cambridge Collaborative or its events, contact Kelly Fellner at the Longfellow House (617-876-4491.)



Copy of Houdon's 1785 bust of George Washington from the front hall of the Longfellow House

George and Martha Washington's Period at the Longfellow House

Henry and Fanny Longfellow delighted in knowing that the nation's first president had previously lived in their house. Frances Ackerly, Friends of the Longfellow House board member, was also fascinated by the Washingtons' months in Cambridge but felt there was little information and no collection of images from this period. She researched life in the House during this time, its residents and visitors, and simultaneously gathered visual material to make this period



Longfellow House as it looked in 1775, drawing by Edie Bowers for Frances Ackerly's slide show

more vivid. After much research based on numerous sources including the Longfellow archives, she recently completed a slide lecture on this subject.

George Washington lived in the House—at that time called the Vassall House—from July 1775 to April 1776, a critical period for this nation at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Only months before Washington's arrival on July 2, 1775, the House had been abandoned when its first owner, the Tory John Vassall, and his family had fled the Patriot troops.

Mrs. Ackerly speculates that the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army may have chosen the Vassall House because of its proximity to the river and also its large size. The Provincial Congress had originally proclaimed

Martha Washington in a letter written at the Longfellow House to Betty Ramsay of Alexandria, Winter 1775

Some days we have a number of cannon and shells from Boston and Bunkers Hill, but it does not seem to surprise anyone but me; I confess I shudder every time I hear the sound of a gun. I have been to dinner with two of the generals, Lee and Putnam, and I just took a look at poor Boston and Charlestown from Prospect Hill. Charlestown has only a few chimneys standing in it; there seems to be a number of very fine buildings in Boston, but God knows how long they will stand; they are pulling up all the wharfs for firewood.

that the Wadsworth House (the original residence of Harvard's president) should be made ready for Washington and that he would be sharing it with other people. But he needed space for his generals to meet, for secretaries, and for people to dine and socialize.

As it turned out, it was a very wise decision that George Washington move into the more ample Vassall House. He wrote to his wife Martha at Mt. Vernon, where they had lived for their entire mar-

riage, and asked that she spend the winter with him in Cambridge. Traveling north of Alexandria for the first time, she arrived at the House in December 1775 with her son from a previous marriage, Jack Custis, and his wife Eleanor.

George Washington used what later became Longfellow's study as his office and dining room, and slept in the room above. His secretaries used the room directly behind it, now the library. Mrs. Washington received guests in the present parlor. We do not know what was in the House when the General moved in, but records show that the Provincial Congress provided some furniture, and Washington purchased upholstery fabric, linens, and household items.

When the Washingtons arrived, they were in their forties. Frances Ackerly has acquired slides of rare portraits of both George and Martha Washington as they looked during their Cambridge days. Other images show important visitors to the House during these months, such as Abigail Adams, General Artemas Ward, General Charles Lee, Henry Knox, and Mercy Otis Warren. On January 6, 1776, the Washingtons celebrated their sixteenth anniversary in the House, after the General was persuaded that it would be seemly to celebrate under the circumstances.

Mrs. Ackerly commissioned Edie Bowers, an artist and Longfellow descendant, to create an illustration of the House as it looked before Andrew Craigie added the side porticos. She also gathered images of Cambridge in the early 1770s when it was a village of about 1600 people.

Mrs. Ackerly also documents the many



Engraving of Martha Washington, after a painting by John Wollaston, in Alice's bedroom at the House

important decisions that were made in the House or during Washington's residency there. For example, during the winter of 1775-76, when the British were besieged in Boston and Charlestown, the Commander-in-Chief met with his generals and decided that Henry Knox would go to Fort Ticonderoga to bring back the cannon they desperately needed. They subsequently planned to surprise the British at Dorchester Heights.

To include the voices of women, Mrs. Ackerly quotes from letters evaluating new arrivals and commenting on the sounds of siege and battle written during this period by Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, and Mercy Otis Warren.

These and other fascinating details can be heard in Frances Ackerly's slide lecture this coming fall.

The Longfellow House is closed for renovations, but you can still visit it at... www.nps.gov/long

On our Web site you can stay up-to-date on the progress of the rehabilitation. Our mail order brochure posted there will allow you to purchase many items previously found in our bookstore. And if you would like to contact us for any reason during this time, simply E-mail us at: fila_longfellow@nps.gov

Stanley Paterson's Research on Longfellow's Letters and Journals

For the past five years in the House archives and Harvard's Houghton Library, Stanley Paterson, an original member of the Friends of the Longfellow House, read journals and correspondence of the Longfellow family and studied Longfellow's own journals and letters written to him. When Stanley died this March, he had finished preparing two volumes of letters and journals for publication and was working on the concluding volume which would have gone up to Longfellow's death in 1882.

The following is Stanley Paterson's most recent essay on his research:

Letters

Over his lifetime Longfellow was known to have written nearly 15,000 letters. Only 5,000 have been recovered. These have been published in that wonderful work of six volumes edited by Andrew Hilen in 1982. They were gathered from many sources but particularly from the collection made in the 1930s and 1940s by Longfellow's grandson Dana. Here in letters to his close friends Charles Sumner, George W. Greene, and Sam Ward, Longfellow frequently poured out his inner feelings, particularly in the seven-year period when he was unsuccessfully courting Fanny Appleton.

The incoming letters Longfellow carefully preserved and bound in books. His correspondence was voluminous—over 6,000 correspondents all over the world. He complained that he was chronically behind in his letter writing. Sometimes over sixty letters piled up on his desk, and ultimately they all got answered. He frequently complained in his journals and letters about the extent of his correspondence and the time it took each day to answer. As his fame

increased, so did the volume of his mail.

In *The Letters of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* Andrew Hilen wrote, "The daily mail contained an infinite variety of requests for information and appeals for help. His correspondents asked for autographs, photographs, and money; they begged for topical poems for public occasions and memorial verses for dead children and sweethearts; they demanded criticisms of enclosed manuscripts, and when it was not forthcoming they sometimes charged him with ingratitude. . . . To each of these letters Longfellow responded patiently and diplomatically, giving up much of his time to accommodate strangers who were often as interested in obtaining his signature as they were in receiving answers to their questions."

Journals

Longfellow kept a journal from age nineteen until his death at age seventy-five. Thirty-seven volumes, 4,848 pages in all. There are gaps of a few days here and there to one period of four years. The long gap was occasioned by eye trouble which nearly blinded him in 1843. For at least one of these years, his wife Fanny kept the journal for him.

Wednesday December 14, 1853. *How brief this chronicle is, even on my outward life. And of my inner life, not a word. If one were only sure that one's journal would never be seen by anyone, and never get into print, how different the case would be! But death picks the locks of all portfolios, and throws the con-*



tents into the street for the public to scramble for.

Much of the journal is mundane:

Saturday March 1, 1851. *Read a few pages of Browning's "Christmas Eve" over again. . . . Dined in town, and said "good bye" to Papa and Jewett, who depart for the West Indies on Tuesday next.*

Sometimes there were long descriptions of parties, dinner guests, famous people he knew, some he liked and some he disliked and he was not bashful in saying so. But where was Henry Longfellow in all this? Hardly to be seen. Occasionally his emotion does come through in periods of great stress like the death of his daughter:

Monday October 11,

1848. *Lower and lower. Through the silent desolate rooms the clocks tick loud; they seem laboring on to the fatal hour. At half-past four this*

afternoon she died. Fanny and Mary sat with me by her bedside. Her breathing grew fainter, fainter, then ceased without a sigh, without a flutter—perfectly painless. The sweetest expression was on her face.

*The room was full of angels where she lay;
And when they had departed she was gone!
This deep wound that bleeds and aches;
This long pain—a sleepless pain!*

Sometimes his sense of fun shows through:

Tuesday October 17, 1848. *I made an epigram on the introduction of water into Boston, and the incapacity I feel of writing an ode for the occasion as requested.*

Cochituate water, it is said,

(continued on next page)

Memorial Address for Stanley Paterson by Lynne Spencer, March 27, 1999

Stanley had many gifts, but it is his gift for friendship that draws us together today. He cultivated his connections as assiduously as he drafted his books or crafted his pipe hangers in his days as engineer and entrepreneur. He knew that god is in the details, that the small touch—a quick phone call, lunch, tea, an evening at the theater—were all the grist of life. Best of all, he liked doing things that led to the next thing and the next, hopefully ending in a party. There was no end in itself, but all was continual process. Perhaps that is why his Longfellow project was so apt. Like many of his interests, it all began in Nabant. . . .

When Stanley was working on the Nabant book, I was struck by the feeling and care in the chapters on Longfellow. Why? I wondered. Well, I think it had to

do with the wholeness of Longfellow's character. Genial, loving; friend to all, and all to his friends.

Stanley's last great project was on Longfellow. The deep feeling of admiration for Longfellow and the circle of friends inspired Stanley to take on the Herculean task of transcribing the diaries from the original manuscripts. Stanley knew they had been heavily edited, and he wanted to recover the original nuances—he also wanted to see if any gossip had been excised. Drawing on his extensive knowledge of the period, he left Longfellow's own words and annotated the people and events discussed.

Stanley's Longfellow diary project led him, of course, to the Longfellow House in Cambridge. Here he was warmly embraced by the staff and by Diana

Korzenik, who was working in the archives. Sympathetic chemistry and recognition of a need led to the forming of the Friends of the Longfellow House. The Friends in their four years of existence have been instrumental in raising funds and for advocacy which inspired Congress to increase the annual operating budget. Recently Stanley missed the opportunity to meet Mrs. Clinton when she visited the House. But he had another engagement.

Some here today joined us at the annual celebrations of Longfellow's birthday on February 27th. Last year Stanley prepared excerpts from Longfellow's dairies on his courtship of Fanny Appleton. This year he prepared a piece on their marriage. He asked me

(continued on next page)

Research (continued from previous page)

*Tho' introduces in pipes of lead,
Will not prove deleterious;
But if the stream of Helicon
Thro' leaden pipes be made to run,
The effect is very serious!*

Or the note he left on the Raven hotel register in Switzerland:

*Beware of the Raven at Zurich,
'Tis a bird of omen ill;
A noisy and unclean bird,
With a very, very long bill.*

The progress of most of his literary works can be traced through his journals. Sometimes they came hard with many days or months of effort. At other times, an idea would come in the middle of the night to be recorded the next morning—or sometimes in the middle of the night. In all, the journals serve as a wonderful autobiography of Longfellow if one has the patience to wade through the trivia of his life.

Stanley Paterson Fellowship

The Friends of the Longfellow House announce the establishment of the Stanley Paterson Fellowship, in the amount of \$1000, to honor his memory and to encourage the use of the Longfellow House archives. Donations will be graciously accepted. The fellowship will provide funds for a researcher to work at the House archives or a related facility. The fellow is required to be in residence at least ten working days. Applications are due June 1, 1999.

Memorial (continued from previous page)

to join him as a reader. Together we worked through the material. I remember asking Stanley if Longfellow's life was so very perfect. Their marriage seemed so blissful, without the cares that seem to plague normal people. Stanley seemed nonplused with the question. Yes, his diaries leave little doubt—his life, his marriage were perfect. I pressed. Surely there were unhappinesses. But no, even with the death of a beloved child, the harmony of their lives seemed untouched. And so I remember posing a similar question to Stanley a year ago when we were traveling together. I remember pressing him about his own life. How had it been for him, I wondered. My life is perfect, he stated with resolute finality. There is nothing I would change. I, in turn, was nonplused. There is nothing you would change? Nothing.

Upcoming Events

Fridays in June, Thursdays & Saturdays in July through October, 10 AM & 2 PM:
Neighborhood Walking Tours. Themes will include:

Footprints on the Sands of Time: Longfellow's 19th Century Cambridge
Brattle Street Architecture through the Centuries
To the River Charles: The Evolution of a River Landscape
Washington's Headquarters in Cambridge 1775-1776

July 11: Annual Mt. Auburn Cemetery Walking Tour: A Troop of Shadows:
The Longfellows' Circle of Friends

July 17: Longfellow Summer Festival of Music and Poetry in Longfellow Park
Activities include:

Poetry readings and workshops; Children's activity area with historic games & painting;
Evening concert—the Brandenburg Concertos by the Apple Hill Chamber Players

Call (617) 876-4491 for times and meeting places or visit our Web site at: www.nps.gov/long

House Artifacts Exhibited at Major Museums

While the Longfellow House is closed to the public for rehabilitation, some important objects from its collection can be seen on exhibition at a number of prestigious museums in this country and overseas.

The Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., is displaying, through the fall, several rare historic photographs of Japan's Ainu people for their exhibit entitled "Ainu: Spirit of a Northern People." These photographs are part of the collection Charley Longfellow commissioned and brought back from his travels in Japan in the 1870s.

Another Smithsonian museum, the National Museum of American Art, is including in their "Picturing Old New England: Image and Memory" show an unusual miniature replica of the Longfellow House from the House archives. The replica is in the form of a wooden stationery box with a movable top and a chimney to hold stamps. Affixed to the wood and detailing the exte-

rior of the House is a chromolithograph by the renowned Boston printer, Louis Prang.

The Brooklyn Museum of Art retrospective of Eastman Johnson (from October 1999 through February 2000) will feature four 1846 oval portraits of Henry W. Longfellow, Ralph W. Emerson, Charles Sumner, and Nathaniel Hawthorne which usually hang in the Longfellow study. These are some of Johnson's earliest works. Nine more of his portraits remain at the House.

The Maine History Gallery in Portland, the city where Longfellow grew up, is showing an 1849 daguerreotype of Longfellow, his wife Fanny and their two sons in an exhibition called "First Light: The Dawn of Photography in Maine."

The Edo-Tokyo Museum in Japan has requested the loan of a photograph of Charley Longfellow's tattooed back and his journal from his second trip to Japan in 1885. This show is organized in collaboration with the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem.

Recent Discoveries in the House

As part of the packing process, the huge mirror on the front wall of the parlor was removed. It revealed the 1790s wallpaper installed by the Craigies. Apparently, in 1844 the Longfellows had papered around the mirror and had inadvertently left exposed between the two front windows a large expanse of the previous owner's Chinese-style wallpaper with bamboo, bird, and butterfly designs.

A Simmons College intern researching the Dana Correspondence Collection found letters from young women family members describing their experiences at boarding school and their reactions to the Civil War. Unusual perspectives!

Under a pile of books in Alice Longfellow's study was a pamphlet called "The Art of Tying a Cravat" signed by her teen-age brother Charles Longfellow in 1861.

Adopt-an-Object Program

Help us tend to our most critical priorities by donating specifically to objects in need—seven delicate and colorful Japanese screens sent home by Charley Longfellow, the poet's older son, after his twenty-month sojourn in Japan from 1871 to 1873.

In 1874 in a letter to his son, Henry W. Longfellow expressed his delight upon the arrival of the screens:

We are now opening the other cases, and taking the beautiful things out to keep them from the damp. . . . Last night the Library was gay, with screens.

These rare screens in the Longfellow House are distinctive and reflect Charley Longfellow's eclectic and personal tastes. Some bear fine, formal landscapes while others feature cartoon-like sketches of Japanese gardens. Unfortunately, all the screens are heavily damaged and in great need of care. Their large size and fragile nature make them susceptible to tears, broken frames, and deteriorating cores. Priceless gold leaf is flaking off, and hand-blocked papers hang in tatters.

The cost of conserving this collection is extremely high. Won't you help preserve and repair these significant examples of nineteenth-century Asian art and a tangible representation of early Japanese-American relations?



Join us as a Friend and help support an international collection of Fine & Decorative Arts, Rare Books, Letters, and Historic Photographs representing three centuries of American History. . .

- | | | | |
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