

The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States



MEMO



**“THE MEMORIAL
NEEDS YOU!”**

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A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Fall/ Winter 2004 edition of *The Memo*. The appearance of *The Memo* has been somewhat irregular in recent years but I am pleased to say that it will now be published, without fail, twice a year with one edition in the Fall/ Winter and another in Spring/ Summer. It is my intention also that, when resources permit, we will return to the original quarterly publication schedule. I believe that *The Memo* should move beyond its function as a newsletter only and aspire to greater things, like the Churchill Memorial itself! While it will still be overwhelmingly about bringing you news from the Memorial and Library I hope to publish at least one article, per issue, that either expands our readers' knowledge and understanding of Winston Churchill's life or provides a new perspective on him and his impact on the contemporary world. This edition has, appropriately enough, something of a distinct Anglo-American feel to it with two contributions that explore the way in which Churchill is viewed by the British themselves, as well as how the British understand the American perspective on Sir Winston.

Currently at the Memorial our main focus is raising money both for our fantastic new exhibition and for everyday running costs. The plans for the new Churchill Leadership gallery have been revised (and are explored more fully in the accompanying article). Raising the money for this project is central to our activities and we are currently soliciting likely donors and casting our net as widely as possible. If you know of any individual or corporation that might be interested in helping us with this project please contact me at (573) 592-0812. In addition to this capital campaign we are, simultaneously, working on operational funding. The costs of running the Churchill Memorial are high and in order to move forward with new programs and initiatives we, quite simply, need to bring in more money. We recently launched a major campaign to recruit new Friends in the St. Louis area and, learning from the success of this campaign, will do so in other likely areas also in the future. This is one sphere in which you, our loyal Friends, can really help and what the colorful cover is really speaking to. If all our existing Friends introduced one new Friend our membership would look far healthier and we would go a long way toward raising money for operational purposes. For all our efforts, nothing is more convincing than personal testimony and your help in persuading people of the benefits, and importance, of becoming a Friend of the Memorial would be invaluable. As our cover illustration suggests, the Churchill Memorial needs its loyal supporters as never before.



I have now completed three months as Director of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library and am thoroughly enjoying the experience. The job is challenging and demanding but thoroughly rewarding. I am always conscious of the fact that being the Director of the Memorial is not just another job. The preservation of the memory of Sir Winston's life and legacy is a great responsibility and I am very fortunate to have great staff and tremendously dedicated volunteers to help me. I thank you all for your support so far!

I hope you enjoy the new *Memo* and welcome your comments and suggestions as well as ideas for future editions. Please email, memo@westminster-mo.edu or send a letter, The Winston Churchill Museum and Library, 501 Westminster Avenue, Fulton, MO 65251.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Havers'.

Dr. Rob Havers
Executive Director of the Winston Churchill Museum and Library



A Message from the Senior Fellow

We all know how fortunate it was for Westminster College to have been chosen as the site of Winston Churchill's famous March 1946 "Sinews of Peace" address. In the 1960's, under the leadership of then Westminster President, Larry Davidson, our beloved Churchill Memorial was born.

All through the 80's, former President Harvey Saunders and his wife Eve, helped immensely by Jack Marshall, carried the Churchill banner and put the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library on the map both nationally and internationally.

In 2000 Westminster College looked to West Point for its next leader. Dr. Fletcher Lamkin was retiring as Academic Dean, and was ready for a new challenge. Dr. Lamkin became our President, and under his leadership Westminster successfully completed the first phase of its Capital Campaign. Dr. Lamkin sees the Churchill Memorial as central for a drive to place Westminster among the Top 100 Liberal Arts colleges.

In the tradition of this leadership excellence, we are delighted to announce that we have a new and energetic Executive Director for the Churchill Memorial. Dr. Robin Havers assumed this position in August, and is already putting his mark on the Memorial. Dr. Havers' degrees include: Ph.D., Pembroke College, University of Cambridge; Masters Degree, University of London; and Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honors) in History and Politics, Queen Mary College, University of London. Before coming to Fulton, Rob was Senior Lecturer in the Department of War Studies, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. As you are probably aware, Winston Churchill was a Calvary Cadet at Sandhurst in his youth.

As you can see, Rob Havers is well prepared to lead the Churchill Memorial to fulfill its mission of honoring the life of the world's foremost 20th Century leader. He has started to reinvigorate the Friends' organization, and recently initiated a membership drive. (Please encourage your friends to join the Memorial Friends.) This issue of the Memo will be the first in a new format, promising to educate the reader about Churchill, as well as keep you up-to-date on Memorial events.

Our most important undertaking remains the renovation of the Memorial interior and exhibits. A nationally known design firm is working on renovation plans, and the goal is to start work next fall. We have been fortunate to receive a \$1.5 million challenge grant to kick off our fund raising for this renovation, and have raised another \$ 500,000 from other friends. However, we must raise an additional \$1.5 million before we can get started. This work is vital to the future success of the Churchill Memorial, and we hope that you will help generously when you are asked. Naming opportunities are still available.

Thank you very much. We look forward to a revitalized, enhanced Churchill Memorial in the very near future.

Suzanne Richardson
Senior Fellow



Credits

On the cover: The portrait of "Uncle Sam" by James Montgomery Flagg was originally published as the cover for the July 6, 1916, issue of *Leslie's Weekly*. Over four million copies were printed (as posters) between 1917 and 1918, as the United States entered World War I. The idea



for "I Want You" was derived from Alfred Leete's British recruiting poster, also from the First World War, depicting Lord Kitchener, "Your Country Needs You." Flagg did not deny or admit to the similarity, but felt the question was irrelevant. For an artist who freely dispensed ideas, he did not hesitate to borrow either.



The look of the original Kitchener poster continues to be borrowed from today.

Contributing Authors:

Dr. Rob Havers, *Executive Director of the Winston Churchill Museum and Library*
John Hensley, *Curator-Archivist*
Dr. Judith Schwartz, *Past President Mid-Missouri Friends of the Memorial*

Submit suggestions and comments to:
memo@westminster-mo.edu or

The Winston Churchill Museum and Library
501 Westminster Avenue
Fulton, MO 65251

Visit our website at
www.churchillmemorial.org

For more information on the Churchill Memorial and Library please call (573) 592-5369.

“A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn’t happen.”

– Winston Churchill

Churchill: In Command of History



On Tuesday, August 24, 2004 the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) filmed at various locations on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton in preparation for a 90-minute television documentary program that will focus on Winston Churchill's career after World War II. The documentary, titled *Churchill: In Command of History* explores the period of Churchill's life between 1945 and 1951. It was during this period following World War II that Churchill underscored and reinforced his image as a visionary world statesman. Churchill's famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in 1946 occurred during this postwar, important period in Churchill's career. According to Producer/Director Russell Barnes, "Westminster College and the Winston Churchill Memorial are central to telling that story."



The documentary was written and will be presented by Professor David Reynolds, from Christ's College at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, who has written a forthcoming book about Churchill with the same title as the documentary film. The book was

released in November 2004 in the U.K., and will be released in the U.S. during the fall of 2005. When complete, the documentary will first air in the U.K. in early 2005. David Reynolds was on location with the film crew in Fulton, shooting footage on and around the Westminster College campus. Some of those campus locations included the Westminster Historic Gym where Churchill delivered his famous speech in 1946, and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Reynolds interviewed Fulton resident Helen Danuser, who attended Churchill's famous speech at Westminster in 1946.

"We certainly have an extremely broad depth and breadth of Churchill history and insights to share with the world," said Dr. Rob Havers, Executive Director of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library. "Many people here in mid-Missouri, and indeed throughout the Midwest and the United States, often forget the world-wide significance of our Churchill history here, and what a wonderfully unique treasure we have in our own community."

Curator/Archivist John Hensley said the writers and producers of the documentary--and the book on which it is based--have been working on the projects for several years. "Dr. Reynolds spent quite a bit of time here at the Memorial, doing research for his book," said Hensley. "In fact, Reynolds was the recipient of the Memorial's Tyler Fellowship in 2002, which helped him take advantage of our archives and our extensive collection of books by--and about--Churchill. He also gave a lecture here in 2002, providing greater details and insights about Churchill's famous speech and his war memoirs." The Tyler Fellowship is an academic stipend awarded by the Churchill Memorial to researchers who study and write about Churchill.



Dr. David Reynolds (right) of Cambridge University in the U.K. prepares his on-camera commentary in Westminster's Historic Gymnasium, as part of a Churchill documentary that will first air on the BBC in early 2005.

Photo by Colin E. Suchland, *The Fulton Sun*

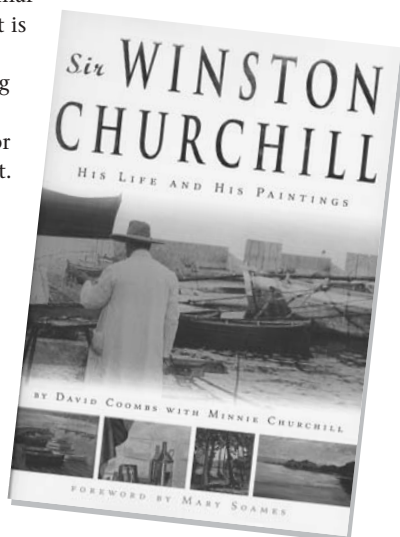
Book Note

Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings

David Coombs with Minnie Churchill,
Foreword by Mary Soames
Running Press: Philadelphia/London, 2004

Written by the renowned art critic who catalogued all of Churchill's paintings shortly after his death, along with Churchill's granddaughter-in-law, this opulent art book contains the images of most of the over 500 known works painted by Churchill. It also includes text by the authors, a foreword by Mary Soames, reprints of Churchill's essays "Painting as a Pastime" and "Hobbies," and 40 color and black and white photographs, many of which the publishers contend have never been published before.

Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings is fundamentally a major update of David Coombs' 1967 book on Churchill's paintings, *Churchill: His Painting*. Readers familiar with this work will meet much that is familiar in his new offering, and much that is new. The most striking improvement is that almost all of the illustrations are in color, and for the most part these are very vibrant. Another significant revision is the inclusion of several works, some that have recently surfaced (in Coombs' words, both "genuine and problematic"), that did not appear in *Churchill: His Paintings*. The voluminous literature written on Churchill's life since 1967 allowed the authors to better date and identify the subjects of many paintings, which is also a useful contribution to our understanding of Churchill's oeuvres in paint on canvas.



One Bite of the Apple: A Portrait of the Artist Edwina Sandys

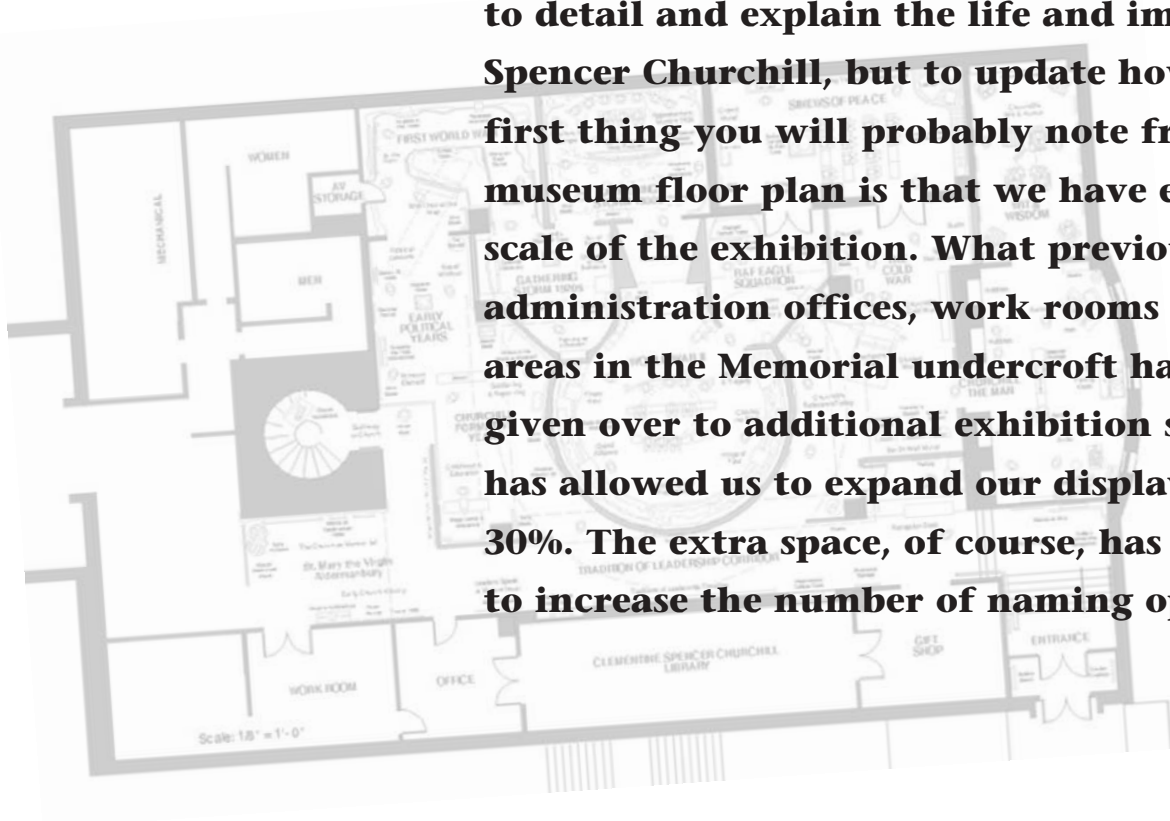
This new film presents the clever, insightful, and stimulating work of artist

Edwina Sandys, the multi-faceted and gifted granddaughter of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Ms. Sandys' work graces United Nations buildings, corporate headquarters, museums and cathedrals, and has been commissioned by numerous private collectors. Her art resists straightforward categorization, varying from surrealism and vivid cartooning to grand bronze and marble pieces. Ms. Sandys' work "Breakthrough," constructed of segments of the Berlin Wall, stands at the Winston Churchill Memorial at Westminster College and she has permanent collections displayed at the Tate Gallery, the Brooklyn Museum and the Ronald Reagan Library. Over the last 20 years the United Nations has installed five monumental sculptures by Ms. Sandys at their centers around the world. "One Bite of the Apple" portrays Edwina Sandys' personal journey and explores the nature of her unique contributions to contemporary art. The film is a production of InCA Productions in association with South Carolina ETV and is available on VHS for \$29.95; the DVD is available for \$34.95. Shipping and handling is an additional \$4.99.

To order, please call (800) 553-7752, visit www.etvstore.org or send a check to: ETV Marketing, Box 11000, Columbia, SC 29211.

Churchill Leadership Gallery Renovations

The plans to renovate the main exhibition at the Winston Churchill Memorial have reached the final design phase. The sketches and renderings you see here, provided by Design Craftsmen in Michigan, are what the new Churchill leadership gallery will look like. As you can see from the accompanying illustrations, the new design is an extremely impressive blend of traditional museum form with innovative, interactive elements. The aim with the new exhibition is to continue to tell the same story, to detail and explain the life and impact of Winston Spencer Churchill, but to update how we do it. The first thing you will probably note from the new museum floor plan is that we have expanded the scale of the exhibition. What previously were administration offices, work rooms and storage areas in the Memorial undercroft have now been given over to additional exhibition space. This move has allowed us to expand our display area by nearly 30%. The extra space, of course, has also allowed us to increase the number of naming opportunities!



In addition to updating the style of the Churchill exhibition one of the key aims of the renovation is to ensure that the displays will appeal to as many people as possible. The new exhibition will work on many intellectual levels and appeal to differing levels of knowledge about Churchill specifically and modern history in general. For example, while it is our intent that the seasoned and well informed Churchill aficionado will come away having learned something new about his/her subject it is important also not to exclude those whose knowledge may be less extensive. For some considerable time at the Churchill Memorial much thought has been expended on how best to interest and engage new generations in the study of Churchill, young people for whom Churchill does not possess the same historical resonance as his memory does for older generations. With this constituency in mind the new exhibitions will employ state-of-the-art museum technology and innovative methods of presentation to convey Churchill's life and experiences in as thoughtful and interesting fashion as possible. Churchill, of course, led a very long life as well as an eventful one and we aim also to convey his influence upon the modern world through an examination of some of his lesser known exploits in creating the modern state of Iraq and in establishing the 'two Irelands' that exist today. In doing this we hope that the Churchill Memorial can underscore the continuing relevance of Churchill in the 21st Century.

Below: Artist renderings for *The Gathering Storm* room.

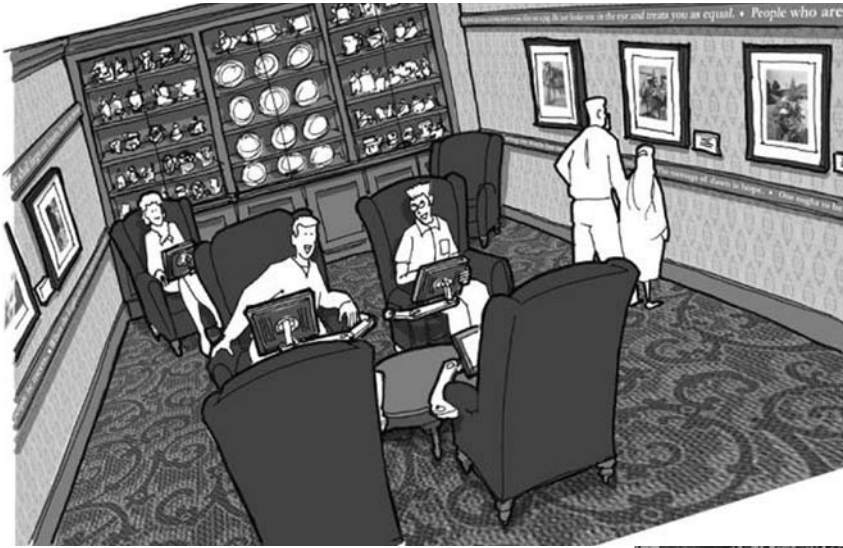


The Gathering Storm

One of the most interesting new features is the rooms entitled *The Gathering Storm*. At the left you can see from the design drawing, the space is dominated by what appear to be 'trees'. At the other end of the room is a relatively innocuous picture of Adolf Hitler looking, as many people in the 1930s saw him, as a respectable German politician. The visitor to the new Churchill Leadership gallery can see this picture and then stand on a marked spot on the floor to see what Churchill saw in the 1930s. This places the visitor in line with the five tree-like structures that are actually multi-media projectors showing a tape of Hitler at a political rally - dressed in full NSDAP* regalia and conforming to the popular image of the man. The point of this exhibition is to demonstrate clearly and simply that Churchill in the 1930s saw Hitler very differently to many of his contemporaries. To many British politicians, and to others in Europe, Hitler was no bad thing, he had got Germany back to work through methods that were similar to those employed so successfully by Roosevelt in the 'New Deal' and a strong Germany offered an important bulwark to what many in the 1930s considered to be the real menace: Communism.

This room will show that Churchill thought differently about unfolding events prior to 1939. The aim is that this type of innovation will engage visitors, will whet their appetites, and they will then be able to read in more detail, from more traditional types of museum signage, exactly how and why Churchill was to prove so prescient and why so few people were particularly interested in much of what he had to say. Even if visitors experience the museum at the level of these interactive exhibits, and don't take advantage of the more detailed, in-depth material, they will still come away with a good grounding in modern history and a useful working knowledge of Churchill's life and times.

* Die Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei
(The National Socialist German Labour Party)



Left: An artist's rendering for the *Wit and Wisdom* room.

Below: The current room housing a collection of Churchill memorabilia.

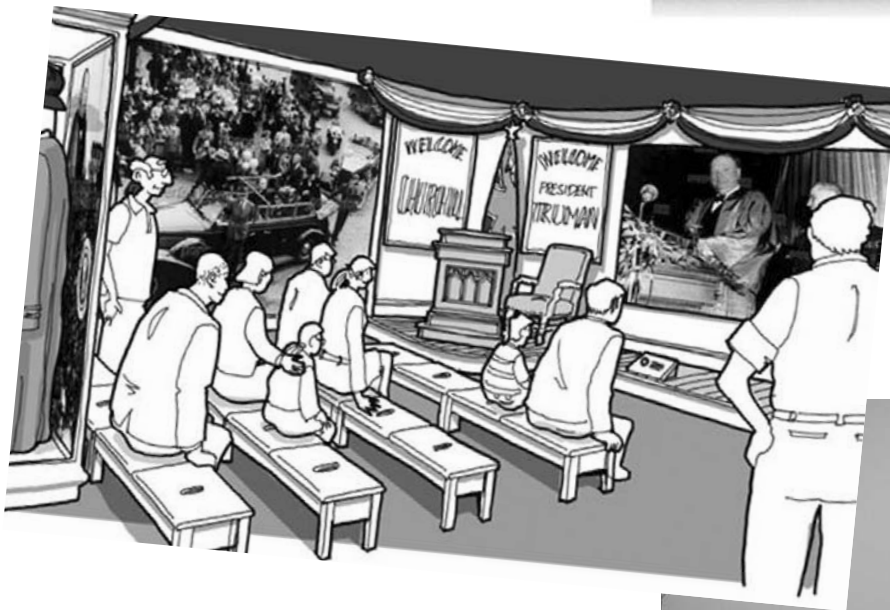


Wit and Wisdom

As well as an innovative approach to the Churchill story, the new exhibition also attempts to explore other dimensions to Churchill's life. Additional highlights in the new design include the *Wit and Wisdom* room where visitors can learn about what exactly Winston Churchill had to say on a vast range of topics (as well as finding out exactly what he didn't say). This room brings together, in an accessible form, many of the verbal and written quotations and quips for which Churchill is so well known. These range from the inspiring and amusing to the pleasingly and devastatingly acerbic. The room will feature comfortable chairs where people can search a database of Churchill quotations arranged according to subject or 'keyword'. The interactive element to the exhibition is apparent in all the various rooms with visitors encouraged to open 'envelopes' containing correspondence to and from Churchill and his wife, Clementine. All in all, the new Churchill Leadership gallery will be a first rate exhibition featuring state-of-the art museum technology and highly innovative modes of display. This, we are confident, will enable us to continue to fulfill our mission of promoting the life and achievements of Winston Churchill and, now, to underscore even more convincingly his relevance to, and influence on, the modern contemporary world.



Above: The current entry lobby of the Churchill Memorial.
 Right: An artist's rendering for the new entry lobby.



Left: An artist's rendering for the *Sinews of Peace* room.

Below: The current area of the Memorial where guests can watch an informational video on Winston Churchill.

In the *Sinews of Peace* room the visitor is prompted to push a start button located on the stage, triggering the lights at this end of the gallery to dim. Without video the visitor hears President Truman introduce Churchill. The screen comes to life with footage of the famous speech interspersed with comments from noted Churchill experts and others. Once again, the thinking behind this room is to build on what was done before but to employ new technology to do it more effectively.



Memoirs of a (former) Fulbright-Robertson Professor



Dr. John Ramsden

My year in Fulton, the academic year 1995-1996, had a tremendous impact on my life and outlook and on my career. Until then, my field of work as a historian had centered for a quarter of a century on the political history, structure and ethos of the British Conservative Party. Naturally that is a subject that can only be researched in Britain itself where all the relevant archives are located, and it is a topic of only limited appeal to readers in the rest of the world. The internal politics of any country are really not products designed for export, and nobody thinks of promoting these books abroad or translating them into other languages. So, while I was perfectly content with this work, I was a touch envious of colleagues whose work took them to more interesting places and whose books were read and reviewed on several continents. Academically, if not quite in a rut, I was overdue for a change.

I had never previously visited the United States, and though I had travelled widely in Europe and North Africa I had not lived and worked in any country except Britain. When in Autumn 1994 a friend urged me to apply for the Robertson Chair at Fulton, I therefore had uncertain feelings, not least because I had only been back for a few weeks from a full year of sabbatical leave and I was not at all sure how my colleagues at Queen Mary College, London would respond to my immediately planning to go away for another year. I should not have worried: a very supportive Head of Department firmly told me that I should go for it and that it would be her problem rather than mine to sort out how the History department would get on in my absence. So I applied, had an interesting interview at the Fulbright Commission--I am myself now one of those who does that interviewing for Fulbright in London--and I discovered shortly before Easter 1995 that I would be going to Fulton for ten months. Teaching American students did not worry me in the least, since my very first teaching in Britain had been for a study-abroad group of students sent to Britain from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, I had done quite a bit of lecturing in London for Colgate University, and at Queen Mary every year we have in the History Department about two hundred Americans on the same junior year abroad programmes, who come from states all across the Union. However, I did not know much about teaching methods and courses as actually practiced at Westminster College, so I briefed myself by visiting Fulton for a weekend. I met many of the people who would be my new colleagues and began to understand a bit about Fulton itself. I had, as I would continue to have, a warm and friendly reception.

“I met many of the people who would be my new colleagues and began to understand a bit about Fulton itself.”



In the year I spent in America I had a simply wonderful time. I was on my own in the first half of the year but my wife was able to join me for the Spring semester. We had two extensive driving holidays, one at each end of the academic year, and so we were able to see the Rockies during the first summer and the Grand Canyon in the second, with much of the country in between these attractions. For the first time during that first summer--actually while driving for most of a day across the full length of the State of Kansas--I grasped that the United States is a continent as well as a country. This was something that I knew intellectually but had never before understood in its full significance. It is hard for people brought up in such a small country as Britain to take in the sheer size of the United States of America, just as American airmen in wartime Britain could never see why Britain was 'Great' when you could fly over its entire length in half an hour. It is equally as hard for those of us brought up in a country with a unified, centralized system of government to instinctively understand the diversity and decentralization of American public life--everything from license plate regulations onwards, and where it is or is not legal to turn right on red. Linked to other academic commitments such as conferences and invited lectures at other universities, and with a few weekend breaks, I was able to see Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, New York, Washington DC, Chicago, New Orleans, and even venture further north to Toronto and Vancouver. An invitation to address a dinner of former Fulbright Fellows at 'Ole Miss', the University of Mississippi, gave my wife and I a good reason to visit Memphis, Jackson and Natchez; we also saw the battlefields of Vicksburg and Gettysburg, Hearst Castle, the White House, the USS Texas, and the Empire State Building. I spoke at universities as varied as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Utah State and the

University of Texas at Austin. I worked at the Johnson, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy Presidential Libraries, and read Hubert Humphrey's papers in St. Paul, a visit that also took in a recording session for PBS's *A Prairie Home Companion* (would that I could have managed Click and Clack's Car Talk too). I managed to see opera not only in St. Louis but also in Chicago, LA, New York, Seattle and Flagstaff AZ. I felt that now I could certainly claim to have an awareness of the size and diversity of the United States by the end of my Fulbright year, and I had also developed a deep love for the country. This love has brought me back at least once in every year since.

“There is, of course, no such place as ‘the real America’, but if there were it would probably be somewhere like Fulton...”

Despite all of this travel, I naturally spent most of the time in Fulton. I shopped at Wal-Mart, worshiped at the Court Street Methodist church, and dined at the Chinese restaurant just down the street. There is, of course, no such place as 'the real America', but if there were it would probably be somewhere like Fulton, a small town in the Midwest, where all of the sectors of US geography meet. Living in a country other than your own is quite different from being a tourist, not only because you stay there longer, but you have to do things that fourteen-day vacationers can leave until after their return like getting your hair cut. You have to cope with a foreign cable company which has a totally unexpected range of options (my wife and I just loved the Weather Channel), you must learn the banking and postal systems, you drive on the wrong--that is to say the right--side of the road, and you must get your telephone connected at the start, disconnected at the end, and the bill paid even though you may by then have no local bank account (for me the most impenetrable problem). You have to get used to American governmental systems like the INS (surely the rudest welcome offered to travellers anywhere in the world?) and the taxmen (by common consent the most opaque in the world in making and explaining their demands). Taxation and diversity combined to create my worst gaffe of the year, when I

innocently asked at a gas station in Montana how much tax would be added to the gas bill. 'There is no tax in Montana', I was indignantly told, in a tone that suggested that I had impugned the honor of that fair state and should immediately be fed to the cattle. Speaking of cattle, I did get somewhat bored with cattle and positively yearned for the sight of a sheep, a wish eventually granted in New Mexico after ten sheep-less months.

For the British in America, there is the additional issue of the language, for we are, as George Bernard Shaw said, 'divided by a common language'. The British 'note' is an American 'bill', the British 'bill' an American 'check', and the other type of American check a British 'cheque'. In New Orleans, my host, a distinguished surgeon who is the father of one of my London colleagues, warned me darkly to not go near a 'project' on the edge of the French Quarter. This advice I naturally followed even though I had no idea what it meant. My worst moment of linguistic perplexity came when I first shopped in a Fulton supermarket. At the check-out, I was politely asked, 'Plastic or Paper?' It was a question I had never heard before. Guessing that he wanted to know how I intended to pay, I offered him dollar bills rather than my new Westminster Memorial credit card. I quickly learned that it was not the correct response.

“Living in any foreign country is therefore a life-enhancing experience that teaches you a great deal about your own.”

Changeable weather is something else that seems like a common heritage between Britain and Fulton, but turns out to be quite the opposite. In Britain we famously change our weather rather often in each week, but we never actually have it either very hot or very cold. Fulton however can go from freezing to burning in a blink, and I discovered that a direct December flight from Chicago (frostbite warnings in the streets, Lake Michigan freezing over) to Austin, Texas (81 degrees) can do hitherto, unexperienced things to the sinuses.

Living in any foreign country is therefore a life-enhancing experience that teaches you a great deal about your own. There are some things that you value more than you ever thought possible when you see how much worse life is without them, some you value less when you discover that there are better ways to do it. I was quite staggered to read that a 1995 referendum in Columbia, Missouri (which is after all to a large extent a university city) had refused to change the licensing laws so that students could legally drink alcohol or to remove the brownbag rule that restricted its transportation in the streets. I just cannot conceive of British citizens accepting such restrictions at any time after about 1920 (the time when the US was of course just banning even adults from drinking legally). On the other hand, I discovered at Westminster College the ‘brownbag’ approach to lunchtime academic meetings, and as a result my department in London now has a very successful programme of brownbag staff seminars.

The two-way learning process is, however, heavily conditional on whether you actually feel ‘at home’ in the country of your temporary residence, and how you are treated by the natives. In my case this was never a problem, for I encountered a huge amount of personal kindness and hospitality--starting with a helpful basket of garden-produced vegetables from an academic colleague on the day I moved into my home on West 6th Street. Winston Churchill once said that the American people were ‘extremely competitive, for if you treat them well, they always insist on treating you better’, and that was certainly my experience. I didn’t even much mind the repeated “I just love your accent’, which was better anyway than ‘I just so admire your Margaret Thatcher’, and I truly did feel ‘at home’ throughout my stay. Many British people really do instinctively respond to America in that way, Margaret Thatcher among them, who fell in love with all things American on her first visit and has never changed her mind since. There are exceptions of course: a few on the British left and among pro-Europeanists who see America as the anti-Christ, and a few Americans who imagine that Britain is still manipulating the USA into unnecessary foreign entanglements. The first group has gotten rather larger in recent years (but then the same people hate the British government too), while since 9/11 the second group has apparently faded from sight altogether. In an interview with the *New York Times*, the 19th century German statesman Bismarck famously predicted that the fact that the British and the Americans speak the same language would be the most important political fact of the 20th Century. A shrewd piece of foresight, and it would be a brave man who said that it would not still be true in the 21st. Raymond Seitz recently pointed out in *Over Here* that the British and the Americans exchange more letters, telephone calls, faxes and emails with each other, and visit each other’s country more often and in larger numbers, than either does with any other country. If so, and Seitz, as a former American

ambassador to London certainly ought to know, then it is a pattern of personal behavior that would have given great pleasure to Winston Churchill. He would be equally pleased to know that the overwhelming majority of the people who receive Winston Churchill Scholarships for travel from Britain, Australia and New Zealand use them within the English-Speaking world, and that Churchill scholarships in the United States still bring American students to Britain every year.

I had planned to use my spare time when in Fulton to complete my final book on the British Conservatives, but as it turned out that was not finished until my return to London. Instead, browsing amongst the hundreds of Churchill books in the Churchill Memorial at Westminster College, I became fascinated by the question of Churchill’s fame. How did he come to be seen as the greatest man of the 20th Century, and what was his own contribution to the process? What exactly did people all around the world mean when they erected statues in his honor, named streets, hospitals, pubs and cigar shops after him, or raised huge sums of money for memorial scholarships? I was especially fortunate that my year in Fulton included the fiftieth anniversary of his ‘Sinews of Peace’ speech at Westminster, which brought him even more clearly to American consciousness. As a result, I was interviewed by Tom Brokaw for nationwide news on the actual anniversary, took part in a more extended discussion on CNN, addressed a number of meetings of Rotary and the Kiwanis, and spoke about Churchill during conferences at Jefferson City, at the Smithsonian in DC, and at Truman State University. I also went to the International Churchill Society conference in Boston, where the speakers included Arthur Schlesinger and William Buckley, Professor Warren Kimball and Coach Johnny Parker, their collective presence as Churchill admirers



suggestively encompassing the American political and social spectrum. In the course of these commemorations, I made many new friends and contacts. I have been at every International Churchill Society conference since Boston (however else would I have managed to add Alaska to my tally of states visited?) and spoken at most of them as my own work on Churchill developed, while many friends from ICS, from US universities and from Fulton have been welcome visitors in London. My personal network of academic friends and contacts was effectively globalized when I came to Fulton.

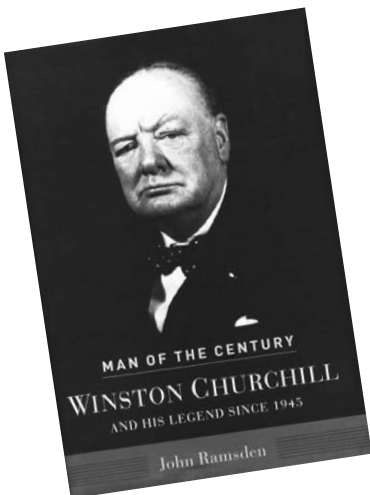
I delivered a public lecture on Churchill soon after my return to London in 1996, which was the germ from which a book developed. Since I wanted to investigate Churchill's post-war reputation worldwide, or at least among the English-Speaking peoples, this was of necessity an extended piece of research, and involved more travel to Australia, New Zealand and North America. The book duly appeared as *Man of the Century: Winston Churchill and his Legend since 1945*, from Harper Collins in 2002, and in the USA from Columbia University Press in 2003. I recently added a series of lectures on Churchill which was published on CD and cassette by Recorded Books. I find that I am not only asked to speak fairly frequently on Churchill--far more often than I was ever invited to speak about the British Tories--but also in a far wider range of places. This year these have included a couple of local schools in London, the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, the launch conference of London's Institute for the Study of the Americas, an old age pensioners' club in Yorkshire, and a leadership seminar for forty Pepsi Cola executives

from all over the world. In each, despite the wide diversity of the audiences, the advantage of having at my disposal Churchill's diverse career and the inexhaustible fund of stories about that remarkable personality ensured that I was listened to with attention. I am currently on sabbatical to finish my next book, a study of the way in which British people viewed Germany and the Germans in the 20th Century, something that really evolved from my work on Churchill. It is not a study of diplomatic exchanges but of popular culture--films, novels, newspapers and sports crowds: when German soccer teams visit London they are still regaled with war songs, and when other European teams visit they tend to hear a chorus of 'If it wasn't for the English you'd be Krauts...'. Churchill would have known--if not perhaps admitted--that the Americans and the Russians had quite a lot to do with this too, though when he was in 2002 voted by BBC viewers the 'Greatest Briton' of all time, the satirical magazine *Private Eye* commented that this was the only way the contest had remained credible, for 'without him we would all be speaking German'.

Thanks to Churchill and the Robertson Professorship at Westminster College, cultural history has moved from the periphery to the centre of what I do with my time. I try to do this research and writing into cultural history in a much more international context than I was ever able to aim at while being just a British domestic historian. Since Churchill personally reinvented himself several times over sixty years in public life and was always a man who saw Winston Spencer Churchill as a citizen of the whole world (or at least the English-Speaking part of it), I rather think he'd have approved of that too.



***Man of the Century: Winston Churchill and His Legend Since 1945* is available for purchase in the Memorial Gift Shop.**



Biography of the Author

Dr. John Ramsden is Professor of Modern History & Director of the Humanities Graduate School at Queen Mary, University of London. Professor Ramsden has been at Queen Mary since 1972 where he has been Head of History in 1988-90 and 1998-2000 and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, 1990-1993. He has been Visiting Professor of History at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, 1995-96; a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow in New Zealand, 1999; and a Distinguished Academic Visitor at La Trobe University, Melbourne in 2001. He is a former Literary Director of the Royal Historical Society, and chairman of the InterUniversity History Film Consortium, and was from 1984 to 1990 a director of The Historian's Press. He currently serves on the Academic Board of the Churchill Center of the United States. He has written all three Twentieth-Century volumes of the *Longman History of the Conservative Party*, edited the political diaries of Sir Robert Sanders, Lord Bayford, 1910-35, and published with Harper Collins in 1998 *An Appetite for Power*, a single-volume history of the Conservatives since 1832. He was General Editor of the *Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century British Politics* (OUP, 2002), and co-author with Glyn Williams of *Ruling Britannia, a textbook history of Britain since 1688*. He recently completed *The Dam Busters* (I.B.Tauris, 2002), a book on the British film of 1955, and *Man of the Century: Winston Churchill and His Legend Since 1945* (Harper Collins, 2002), a book on the post-war image and reputation of Winston Churchill among the English-Speaking Peoples. Since 1980, he has been chairman of Queen Mary Players, a staff-student drama group for which he directs and sometimes treads the boards--occasionally even in historical fancy-dress.

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'Coming to America'



Until this Fall Semester, Churchill was a vague hero to me, revered and ignored, like the Queen. This fact might seem surprising given the fact that I was born twenty minutes from London and had long had an appetite for learning, particularly in the arts; but they were true--I had very little knowledge of these two important people in British History. My degree course, however, required a year in America, and this, surprisingly, initiated my current interest. In four years of History courses, at GCSE and A-Level (ages 14 to 18) I had studied only two out of twelve modules on English history, and neither of these covered Churchill. Prior to that I had studied the Tudors and Stuarts, but nothing as contemporary as the twentieth century. In the second year of my degree there was finally some mention of the man; in a module entitled "Uncle Sam and John Bull: A History of Anglo-American Relations" that was provided by the American Studies department. Despite

this abysmal lack of education I was not indifferent towards Churchill because I did know that he led my country to victory against the Germans, a victory which we have clung to in the face of decolonization. Britain may no longer be 'Great' but we definitely were once, heroically so, because we stood alone against the Nazis.

In England I am currently studying towards an American Literature with Creative Writing degree. This, as I said, entails a year in the U.S. This is a common requirement at my university (the University of East Anglia): all students enrolled on an American Studies-type course are expected to go, with some exceptions made for lack of funds, low grades, or occasionally for sheer terror. The idea behind this scheme is that it is always good to get first-hand experience of what you are studying, and with America as the prime power in the modern world a study of the United States is particularly important, no matter what your course. It is ironic, therefore, that this trip to a foreign country has helped me learn about my own.

In making a decision I was open to anything. Westminster College was good value, and, significantly, the only one that made an effort to attract me. The leaflet they distributed showed a picturesque campus that had a small student body--another attraction, coming from a much larger university where teachers do not usually know your name. I was also excited at having the opportunity of going to the Midwest, a part of America that television and films covered far less than the big cities and the Northeast.

Once I knew I had got my choice of Westminster College, I began looking into my future home and discovered a strange reverence for a church, the Church of St. Mary, the Virgin, Aldermanbury, and for Winston Churchill. Perhaps living in a country full of churches makes them less special, just as living daily with a monarchy diminishes its interest; the same is true for Churchill. Living in St. Albans, a city with a cathedral that included some Roman parts, and many other old churches, I never had far to look for them. If you walk past something daily you stop noticing it. The Queen's head is on coins and notes, and she makes speeches from time to time, but she has no impact on my life. Winston Churchill, not even a living figure, was particularly unimportant. Television shows would appear at regular intervals that celebrated his role in the war. When I was younger I would sleep in front of them. As I got older, other shows such as *Friends* were more interesting and besides, there would always be another one on later.



“It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come, the British and American people will for their own safety and for the good of all walk together in majesty, in justice, and in peace.”

– Winston Churchill

I now found a new perspective. Learning of this American reverence brought out an interest of my own. What was so special about Winston Churchill? I also felt that as a British citizen I should at least know something about him – it would be incongruous to be completely outdone on knowledge of a British hero by Americans. My parents and I, therefore, visited Chartwell as part of my 21st birthday celebrations on a beautiful day that added to my enjoyment of the experience. I discovered that Churchill was a painter, and the historical displays gave substance to my assuming him a hero. Once at Westminster, when I heard of the opportunity to intern at the Churchill Memorial, I jumped at the chance.

Taking this Churchill Memorial Internship then led me to the writing of this article. Thinking and talking about my personal views of Churchill made me wonder how representative I was of my age group, so I conducted an email survey. I thought Churchill was a hero, but I did not know why; I had little knowledge on which to base this feeling. Were my attitude and my lack of knowledge typical of my generation? Unfortunately I found they were. I split my survey responses into those from England (ages ranging from 18-25, and the majority middle-class university students), and my new Westminster College friends. Of the English, there was 100% recognition of Churchill, and of the Americans virtually so. This was despite the fact that almost all respondents from either country said that they had been taught very little about him in school.

The Churchill Memorial, therefore, has an important role to play in increasing name recognition of Churchill and offering information on him; I think it was one reason why there was such a high recognition of Churchill among the Westminster students. For example, within my first two weeks of class I had already had one lesson in the Church of St. Mary. The effect of the Churchill Memorial was shown in another question: I asked people to judge, on a scale of 0-10 (0 being no knowledge), how much they knew about Churchill. Among the British students the average was 3.33, whereas among the Westminster students it was 3.71. While this may not seem a significant increase, and it could reflect a cultural difference in levels of confidence, I would argue that as America was not Churchill's home country, this result is significant.

The Winston Churchill Memorial has also provided me with a topic for my dissertation. I am hoping to write on the portrayal of Churchill in American culture, a topic suggested by John Hensley, Curator-Archivist of the Memorial. The massive resources that the memorial has for this theme make this a particularly exciting topic.

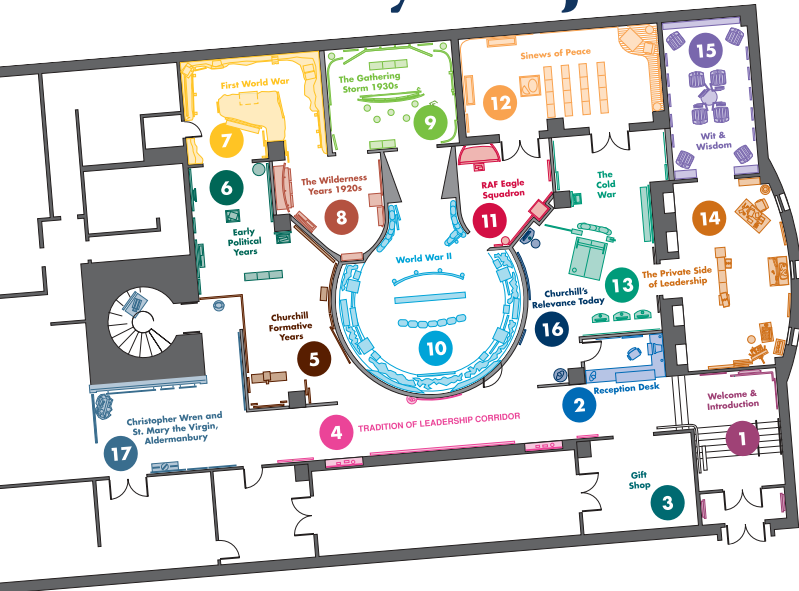
Exchange programs affect both the visitor and the visited: it is a two-way exchange. I never imagined the number of questions I would have about my home country. It should be stated, however, that the process is actually fourfold. As cultural anthropologists will tell you, when two cultures meet, both are thrown into sharp relief. It is hard to be aware of your culture when you are surrounded by it, whereas when you travel to a foreign country you realize your differences. These differences are some of the aspects of your culture; things that are not universal to mankind, but which you have been taught by your country. My presence, however, does not just show my culture to myself, it also shows the American students that theirs is not the only way. The contrasts between the American students and myself highlight the American culture too: here at Westminster I am teaching Americans about themselves and myself, and they are reciprocating.



Biography of the Author

Ms. Jacqui Burgoyne is currently an exchange student at Westminster College. She is in her 3rd year of studies at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England where she is studying American Literature and Creative Writing. Her primary hobby is reading; she especially enjoys classic literature.

Winston S. Churchill – A Life of Leadership Gallery Project Naming Opportunities



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