



# MEMO



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## *A Message from the Executive Director.*



Greetings once again from the Churchill Memorial and a very happy New Year to you all. The Memorial has been busy over the last few months firstly with getting our new educational programming up and running (see page 6 for more details) and hosting teacher seminars and school groups. We have also begun a comprehensive cataloguing of our archives and started the process of providing finding tools on-line. This should allow researchers and scholars to make better use of our archival holdings and ensure that any visit to the Clementine room is as productive as possible. While working amongst our archival holdings we unearthed several interesting artifacts that had not seen the light of day for some time. These included a signed (by Sir Winston himself!) program from 5th March 1946 as well as a signed photograph of Benito Mussolini. More details of these interesting pieces can be seen on page 12.

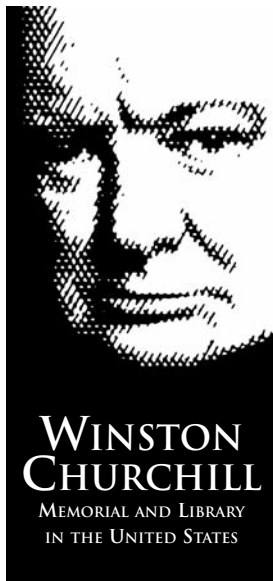
This coming spring we are pleased to announce that Sir John Major will be the guest of honor at a fundraising dinner for the Memorial. This will take place in St Louis on the evening of 6th May 2008 and be held at the St Louis Woman's club. This venue is a tremendously interesting one for a host of reasons and particularly noteworthy is the fact that Churchill himself spoke there in 1932. Sir John has spoken to a Memorial audience in the past and we are delighted to welcome him back to St Louis, this time in front of a much larger audience. You will all receive more details of the event in due course but please mark your calendar for that date.

In this edition of *The Memo* our central article is by Patrick Wright and explores the concept of an 'iron curtain' tracing both the historical antecedents of the term as well as its use, post- Churchill's employment of it. Our collaborative project with the Churchill College Archives at Cambridge will also come to fruition in the next few months with the opening of our temporary exhibition exploring the 'Sinews of Peace' address in more detail. We aim to open this on the evening of 11th April with a wine and cheese event and intend to send this exhibition to other museums and libraries following its stay here in Fulton. We have also taken the opportunity to re-print the piece on the tremendous 'Break free' sculpture at Hyde Park.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Memo* and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the John Major event in May.



Rob Havers  
Executive Director



## Fundraising Update

As ever the task of raising money continues to be a time-consuming one! In the past few months however we have recorded three notable successes. Firstly, one of our Governors, Jean Paul Montupet, Executive Vice President of Emerson in St Louis made a substantial gift toward the ongoing campaign to raise our endowment. The gift is matched by Emerson.

We are pleased also to announce that the Miller Nichols Charitable foundation has made us a gift toward establishing teacher training seminars in the Kansas City metropolitan area. This is most welcome as we seek to expand our educational focus more widely and we look forward to providing details of these events in forthcoming editions of *The Memo*.

Additionally, I am very happy to announce that shortly before Christmas we secured a match for the marketing gift, advanced by one our supporters and mentioned in the summer edition of *The Memo*. Both of the donors, the initial donor and the matcher, wish to remain anonymous but their generosity and that of all our supporters is very much appreciated. These gifts will allow us to continue to publicize our activities.



Jean Paul Montupet, Executive Vice President of Emerson in St Louis and a Governor of the Churchill Memorial

## Credits

**On the Cover:** Leslie Gilbert's cartoon of Churchill peeping under the 'Iron Curtain.' This cartoon appeared in the Daily Mail on March 6, 1946, the day after Churchill gave his famous speech at Westminster College. National Library of Wales/Solo Syndication.

**Special thanks to:**

John Hensley, *Archivist/Curator,*  
*Churchill Memorial*

Amanda Crump, *Educational Coordinator,*  
*Churchill Memorial*

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

The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library  
in the United States  
501 Westminster Avenue  
Fulton, MO 65251

Visit our website at  
**www.churchillmemorial.org**

For more information on the Churchill  
Memorial and Library in the United States  
please call **(573) 592-5324**.

The Board of Governors of the Winston Churchill  
Memorial and Library in the United States

Invite you to join them in celebrating “A Grand Alliance”  
the special relationship between the UK and the USA  
and in honoring

## **Sir John Major, KG, CH**

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1990 – 1997)



*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

*Cocktails at 6:30 pm, Dinner and Program to follow*

at The Saint Louis Woman's Club  
4600 Lindell Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63108

For more information please contact Rob Havers at (573) 592-5234  
or [rob.havers@churchillmemorial.org](mailto:rob.havers@churchillmemorial.org) or visit our website  
at [www.churchillmemorial.org](http://www.churchillmemorial.org).



# Beyond the Memorial



Churchill Archives Centre  
Churchill College

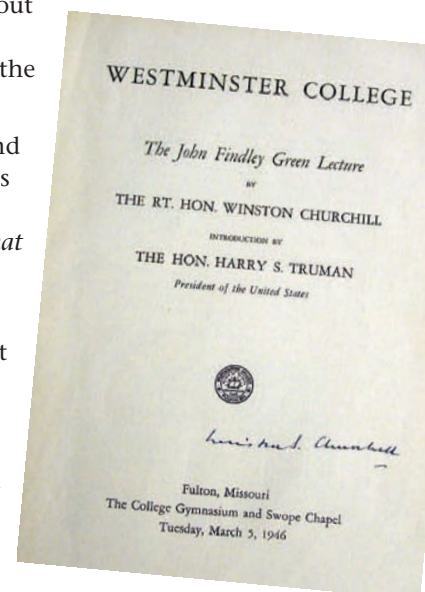
- The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States frequently collaborates with national and international organizations and individuals on projects that explore and interpret Winston Churchill and his life and times. A major example of this kind of collaboration is the development of a new temporary exhibit by the Memorial and the Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge University.

This exhibit covers the period between Churchill's two terms of office as Prime Minister, although certain seminal events before he was turned out of office in 1945 also will be covered. This exhibit will highlight documents, artifacts, and photographs from the collections of both institutions.

- Another recent collaboration between the Memorial and another cultural institution is the use of the Memorial's video program "Sinews of Peace" in the major exhibition, *Be-Bomb: the Transatlantic War of Images and all that Jazz, 1946-1956*, at the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA).

This exhibition analyses the dialogue between different spheres of post-war political and cultural life in the United States and France, documenting a particular period between 1946 and 1956 and encompassing from the euphoria of the liberation and reconstruction following the World War II to the shadows and fear of the Cold War. The exhibit compares and contrasts the art produced in France and the United States during those years, in which New York replaced Paris as the nerve center of modern art. The aim is to understand how and why some works were successful and became media icons while others were never even seen—or even discussed.

The exhibition, organized chronologically, introduces different levels of discourse: films, newspapers, fashion, archives, and interviews that will be confronted with the artworks. The curators of *Be-Bomb* approached the memorial with a request for recordings of the speech, and were so appreciative of the production that they requested to use the program in its entirety. See more about this exhibit at: [www.macba.es/controller.php](http://www.macba.es/controller.php).



- Recently, a television production team from Russia's TV Center visited the Memorial to shoot footage for a forthcoming series on the Cold War. The team was lead by Russian writer, historian, and television presenter Leonid Mlechin. Among Mlechin's many books are *KGB Chiefs: Unclassified Lives, Service in Foreign Intelligence, The Most Famous Operations of Soviet Intelligence, Andropov*, and *Ministers of Foreign Affairs: the Kremlin's Secret Diplomacy*.

Left: Rob Havers, Executive Director of the Churchill Memorial and Library, presenting Leonid Mlechin with a DVD of footage to be used in his upcoming Russian television program on the Cold War.

## Updates

Welcome back! Since our last issue, I have been busy marketing the education program. We mailed CDs to public and private schools in our eight county target area plus the Kansas City area as well as the district coordinators and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education curriculum coordinators. A few of our largest events in the past few months have been the 2007 MSTA convention, a wine and cheese tasting, and a visit from Gentry Middle School in Columbia, MO.

### • Missouri State Teachers Association 2007 Convention

Our first year of attending the MSTA convention went well. With an attendance of over 800 educators, this was a prime location to promote our educational opportunities. Thirty or so educators filled out contact cards to receive a copy of the *Exploring Churchill and his Century* CD. Many more stopped and picked up general information. Next year I hope to not only exhibit our information but present our program as well.



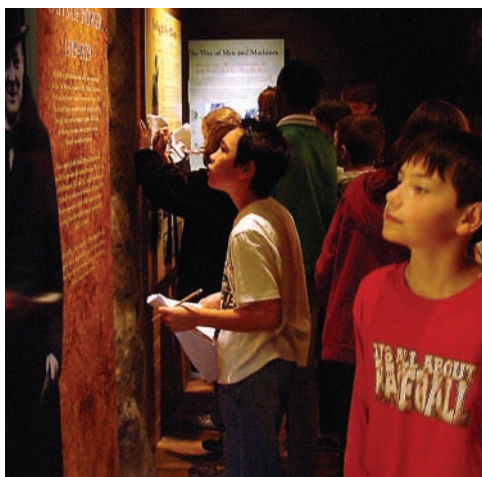
Above: Teachers sample our variety of cheeses at the wine and cheese tasting.

Below: John Hensley, in uniform, presents a breakdown of our education program.



### • Wine and Cheese Tasting

The Memorial hosted a wine and cheese-tasting for Mid-Missouri educators November 19. The purpose of this was to introduce formally our new education program. We sent invitations to educators in Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Cole, and Montgomery counties. Stone Hill Winery was gracious enough to provide the wine while our Victorian Christmas display provided a festive backdrop for the tasting. The event went smoothly. The educators that attended were interested and enthusiastic about our program. Several mentioned they will bring their kids here in the spring. Overall, I deem it a success! That said I would like to make this an annual event and plan similar activities for the St. Louis and Kansas City areas.



Above: Students investigate an exhibit with their activity teams.

### • Gentry Middle School Visit

Gentry Middle School in Columbia, MO came to visit November 19 as well. One hundred and three sixth grade students used our middle school onsite curriculum during their visit. It was a bit of a challenge logistically but everything went smoothly and the kids had a great time. They were the first school to use our curriculum in the Memorial. To see them using the material and actively participating in finding the information was an exciting time. We received feedback from the school that afternoon. It seems the kids enjoyed the curriculum both in the classroom and at the Memorial. I received thank-you letters from the kids a few days later. I have posted a few in the Memorial's bulletin board. We have also included a few in this issue for your entertainment.

Currently, I am working with John Hensley, Curator/Archivist, on a teacher workshop. We recently received a grant from the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation to develop a workshop for up to 20 Kansas City area teachers. The workshop will focus on a few of the curricula programs already in place. Ones we are thinking of are *Winston Churchill: Wit and Wisdom*, *Winston Churchill: Leadership*, *The World of Winston*, and *Winston Churchill's Changing World: from the Horse to Nuclear Weapons*. Participants of this workshop will receive continuing education credit, stipends, meals/lodging, the education curricula, and other materials needed. We are very excited for this opportunity. The prospected date is summer 2008.

**Upcoming Events****December 2007**

- **Westminster College education class**

Teaching Reading, bring their 4th grade pen pals to Memorial for a visit. They use our 4th grade curriculum activity.

**January 2008**

- Characterplus workshop: "An Ethic of Excellence"  
Presentation and provide lunch to area Social Studies coordinators and district leaders
- Midwest Regional Leadership Conference (NEA), Minneapolis, MN  
Will apply to present material on our education program
- JFK High School, Manchester, MO visit to Memorial  
50+ students visit on their way to Jefferson City

**February 2008**

- Home school group, FieldTrips, visit to Memorial  
50+ students
- Missouri Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) Conference, St. Joseph, MO  
Presentation and exhibit booth
- Parkway South High School, Ballwin, MO visit to Memorial  
50+ students

**March 2008**

- Westminster College Alumni luncheon  
Presentation
- Catholic Homeschool Conference, TBA  
Will investigate and, if useful, apply to present/exhibit

Dear Ms. Crump,  
Thank you for letting us visit through Churchill Memorial. It was so beautiful! It was so cool how some rooms, there would be things there, that made you feel like you were really there! Like there would be a spotlight in some rooms or people talking. My favorite thing was the church. I had a lot of fun!

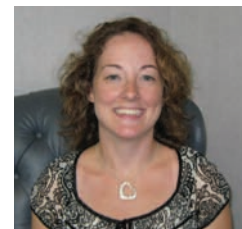
Sincerely,  
Savannah  
Johnson

Dear Ms. Crump,  
Thank you for allowing us to come to your museum to learn about Winston Churchill. I liked how you had a lot of televisions to help us learn better. I liked that you could show some of the displays. You have a great museum and thank you.

Sincerely,  
Austin Tobias

**April 2008**

- National Council for History Education (NCHE) conference, Louisville, KY  
Presentation and exhibit booth
- Greater St. Louis Area Home Educators Expo, St. Louis, MO  
Will investigate and, if useful, apply to present/exhibit
- Pattonville High School, Maryland Heights, MO visit to Memorial  
50+ students



~ Mandy

# The Iron Curtain Before and After Fulton

by Patrick Wright



On 5 March 1946, and as readers of this publication know very well, Winston Churchill and President Truman drove into the small Missouri town of Fulton. Having enjoyed a lunch of hickory-smoked country ham, they and their grateful hosts proceeded to Westminster College's gymnasium where Churchill delivered a lecture entitled 'The Sinews of Peace'. Though he used the occasion to advocate a 'Special Relationship' between Britain and America, his widely broadcast Fulton 'oration' would be remembered for a different coinage. It was here that Churchill launched one of his century's most powerful political metaphors, declaiming 'From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the continent...'

It quickly came to suit leaders on both sides of the new division to believe that the Fulton speech marked the beginning of the (quickly capitalised) Iron Curtain. This conviction enabled Stalin to blame Churchill for the declaration of the Cold War, just as it allowed the western powers to attribute the new crisis to Stalin's activities in East Europe and elsewhere. As nuclear anxieties gripped the world, those who tried to insist that the 'iron curtain' actually had a longer history came to seem like antiquarian pedants with no serious claim on reality. Churchill himself was happy to be known as the originator of the phrase – although in 1951, when asked about earlier usages by the persistent editor of a new American college dictionary, he did concede that 'everybody has heard of the iron curtain that descends in the theatre'.

Such were the urgencies of the Cold War, that this theatrical background would be largely forgotten over the decades to come. It is, however, well worth recovering now that Churchill's Iron Curtain itself seems to be receding into the past.

The original iron curtains were installed as anti-fire barriers in late eighteenth century theatres, including Richard Sheridan's enormous new Theatre Royal in London's Drury Lane. These novel contrivances were proudly displayed to reassure audiences for whom theatre fires were an all too common horror. Their prophylactic powers were extolled in inaugural odes recited by popular actresses.

Though good for morale, they appear to have been little more effective in the event of a blaze than the conspicuously helmeted actor who could sometimes be found standing about in the aisles as a 'Fire Officer'. Indeed, by 1809 when Sheridan's Drury Lane Theatre burned to the ground, its iron curtain had already been removed as cumbersome and practically useless. Nobody died in that particular conflagration, but it still confirmed the prejudices of Ann Alexander, an evangelical Englishwoman who, in a pamphlet published in 1812, ridiculed the iron curtain as an impious and futile contraption that would never prevent God from incinerating sinners who should be studying the Bible at home.



These unwieldy devices were greatly improved in the Victorian period, when new fire regulations insisted they be fitted into solid proscenium arches and securely framed at the sides rather than just suspended from above. By the late nineteenth century, the re-engineered iron curtain was considerably more than a theatrical prop for calming fearful audiences. Hydraulically powered in many cases and made of asbestos as well as iron, the new versions were so effective that actors and other who worked backstage began to worry that, while the audience might indeed now be saved in the event of a fire, they themselves risked being trapped and burned alive. Like a dissenting East European a century later, one such late Victorian objector wrote anonymously to *The Times* arguing against such one-sided thinking and urging consideration for those on the 'other side'.

By 1904, when H.G. Wells, in his novel *The Food of the Gods*, placed an iron curtain between an oblivious scientist and the 'outer world' disturbed by his manipulations, it was an eerily complete barrier through which no communication could pass. By this time, Europe was divided into rivalrous national empires, and the iron curtain was ready to find a new stage in the world of international relations.

This relocation took place some five months into the First World War. It happened on Christmas Eve 1914 at the Temple Church, in London's Inns of Court. The precipitating event was a performance of Bach's Christmas music: itself a somewhat resistant gesture, since the propaganda war was then at sufficient pitch to ensure that German music had, with the approval of *The Times* as well as the *Daily Mail*, been excluded from the Promenade Concerts earlier that year.

The congregation that day was joined by a woman in her late fifties who went by the name of Vernon Lee. A well known writer, suffragist and cosmopolitan, Lee had grown up in continental Europe. She normally lived in Florence, but had found herself stranded in England by the sudden outbreak of war in August 1914. Writing about the service in *Jus Suffragii*, the journal of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, she surveyed the congregation, noting the apprehensive women, young and old, and also the sprinkling of anxiously accompanied 'soldier-lads' about to march off to war. As 'the first rasping notes of the organ' tore through 'the veil of silent prayer' she was struck by the realization that 'There also, There beyond the sea and the war chasm, in hundreds of churches of Bach's own country... There, at this very moment, were crowds like this one at the Temple, listening to this self-same Christmas Music'.



Vernon Lee at Sestri 1914.

Remembering the German Christmases of her own infancy, she went on to insist that, despite the rising tide of patriotic hatred on both sides, the war actually made the opposed peoples more rather than less alike in their threatened humanity. They had been 'played into unanimity' not just by Bach, with his 'tunes and counterpoints', but by the 'ruthless hands' of a calamity that was actually held in common: 'Never have we and they been closer together, more alike and akin, than at this moment when War's cruelties and recriminations, War's monstrous iron curtain, cut us off so utterly from one another'.

Nowadays, Lee's article 'On Bach's Christmas Music in England and in Germany' can safely be described as one of the more neglected texts of World War One. And yet her 'iron curtain' cannot be dismissed as a mere fluke of language, a momentary phrase plucked from the air at a moment of appalled inspiration and just as quickly forgotten.

The division Lee described would remain central to her analysis of the war, elaborated over a full five years to come. As she saw it, the conflict was less a matter of trenches, shells and dreadnoughts, than a campaign waged on the home front, where the belligerent nation state battled to dominate the mind of its citizens. Its weapons were official censorship, polarising propaganda, primitive chauvinistic tub thumping, news manipulation and a repressive demonisation of dissent. Aided by the super-patriotic press and pulpit, it ruled by planting a 'psychological deadlock' and a fear of enemy 'otherness' in the minds of its suffering people. As it locked its people into the war, it would succeed in turning even such virtues as discipline, endurance and pity itself into war material.

If the war was an 'iron curtain' brought down between hostile nations and kept in position by the conflict-swollen States on either side, it was also a guillotine falling on the horizontally extended hopes of all who had previously associated the prospect of peace with an increased internationalism. Lee pursued her unpopular analysis as a long-standing member of the anti-war movement of her time. In the years before 1914 she had written articles aimed at reducing Anglo-German tension. She was affiliated with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and also the Union of Democratic Control, which quickly emerged as the leading anti-war campaign in Britain under the leadership of E.D. Morel. Members of this circle were arguing for a conciliatory 'League of

Nations' from the first months of the war, and they were appalled by the attitudes of Winston Churchill, a once reform-minded Liberal who had gone over to driving the pre-war arms race.

Lee's 'iron curtain' was well remembered in these circles. In 1920, indeed, the 'iron curtain' that she had seen fall between Britain and Germany was found a new location by Ethel Snowden and Charles Roden Buxton, who travelled to Red Russia as members of a British Labour Delegation despatched to assess the Bolsheviks and their policies. They used the phrase to condemn the blockade, or cordon sanitaire, with which Winston Churchill and other Allied leaders were trying to isolate and extinguish the Communist regime. Buxton, who had known Lee as a fellow member of the Union of Democratic Control, would quote her phrase once again when relations between Britain and the USSR took another turn for the worse in 1927.

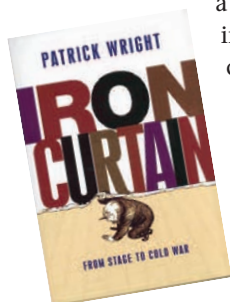
By that time Britain's first ambassador in defeated Berlin, Lord D'Abernon, had also invoked the 'iron curtain', reimagining it as a mutually agreed demilitarised zone, a calming device that might be placed between Germany and France, or even between Britain and France in the form of the English Channel. It would also be invoked by the Bolshevik leader Bukharin as he pressed home Stalin's 1927 victory over Trotsky and the left opposition in the Russian Communist Party: by this time the iron curtain resembled a 'dry guillotine' falling on those about to be banished to the outer darkness.

If, as historians increasingly assert, there was a 'first Cold War' in those years when the west squared off against Bolshevism after the armistice of November 1918, there was also a 'first iron curtain'. For the British anti-war campaigners, its enforcers included Winston Churchill, who entered World War One as Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty and emerged from it as the War Cabinet's most vehement champion of military intervention against Soviet Russia and a leading purveyor of anti-Bolshevik rhetoric. There can be little doubt that Churchill was aware of this earlier usage, even if he did not consciously raise it from the back of his mind when he stood in that college gymnasium in Fulton in 1946. He knew Lord D'Abernon and had shared the Liberal Party with some members of the anti-war circle before the war. He had even sent Charles Roden Buxton on a political mission to the Balkans in September 1914, and commended his patriotism when he came home wounded, with a Turkish assassin's bullet lodged in his lung

This earlier history invites us to reconsider the Cold War conviction that the Iron Curtain was launched into the world in 1946. It might also prompt us to wonder about the equally widespread belief that this symbolic division has wholly vanished from the world, having been overthrown by triumphant displays of 'people power' in 1989. If we think of the iron curtain only in terms of its story since 1946, we are likely to identify it closely with the Berlin Wall and other stretches of the armed frontier that divided the blocs in central Europe. That division is indeed gone, yet to view the iron curtain in its longer history is to recognise that it was never just a frontier, a wall, or an armed line on a map.

This first iron curtain placed around Russia was a blockade and a line of bordering countries organised into a cordon sanitaire. It was a war of contrary propagandas and it also had a strongly theatrical aspect. Deprived of information and unhealthily reliant on their own ideological conviction and what they were told by their hosts, the first western visitors who stepped through the iron curtain around Soviet Russia found themselves in a confusing 'wonder land'. They were indulged, exhibited at mass rallies, and transported around in special trains and cars that had once belonged to the Tsars. It was said, from the beginning, that they were deceived by a deliberate 'camouflage' of realities and that the 'New Russia' they saw actually consisted of 'Potemkin villages' specially rigged up in order to confuse them. Deceptions of this sort would indeed become central to the Soviet 'techniques of hospitality' and they helped to make idiots of many credulous western visitors from the late twenties right up into the nineteen eighties.

If the early iron curtain was a 'psychological deadlock' accompanied by a forceful theatricalisation of international relations, it also polarised the world into morally defined enclosures conceived as entirely Good (us) or utterly Evil (them). The events that have defined the world since 1989 suggest that neither these habits of thought nor the manipulations maintaining them in people's minds, actually disappeared with the armed European frontier that was most powerfully represented by the Berlin Wall. My point is not only that Vladimir Putin has shown plentiful signs of craving the old paranoia-inducing barrier against the west in order to strengthen his own domestic regime. Nor is it just that various western States have been building new walls to separate themselves from others – Israel's 'separation' fence, for example, or the closure proposed for the border between Mexico and Texas. The iron curtain has also lived on in a State-driven manipulation of public perceptions. In this respect, its recent incarnation is to be found in such manipulations as Tony Blair's 'dodgy dossier' concerning alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and other more spectacular examples of perception rigging.



Patrick Wright's *Iron Curtain: From Stage to Cold War* is published by Oxford University Press (October 2007). For further information see [www.patrickwright.net](http://www.patrickwright.net).

## Book Review

Reviewed for *H-German* by Sam Goodfellow, Department of History, Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri. Published by [H-German@h-net.msu.edu](mailto:H-German@h-net.msu.edu) (2007)

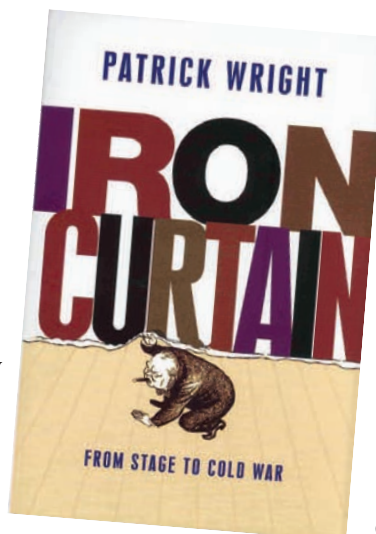
On March 5, 1946 Winston Churchill visited Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri and delivered what has come to be known as the “Iron Curtain” speech. Actually titled “Sinews of Peace,” Churchill’s speech provided strong support for the newly created United Nations and, what for him was the nub of the matter, the “joint inheritance of the English-speaking peoples.” The line that stole the show, however, was apparently added at the last minute. “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent,” Churchill declared.[1] Ever since, the phrase “iron curtain” has been the durable and predictive metaphor for the Cold War.

Churchill may have provided the roar in his inimitable way, but it turns out that the phrase “iron curtain” has an extensive history dating back to at least the end of the 18th century. As Patrick Wright ably demonstrates, Churchill did not create it out of whole cloth. Originally, the term referred to a stage device designed to prevent fire on a stage from spreading to the audience. At the first sign of fire, commonly caused by lighting in pre-electrified theaters, an iron curtain would descend, ostensibly ensuring that the theater patrons could evacuate with relative equanimity. Perhaps the early failures of the theatrical iron curtains foreshadowed the uneven consequences of Churchill’s iron curtain.

The phrase came from the stage, but the term developed a life of its own, especially during the 20th century. Beginning in World War I, writers recognized that the metaphor of an impenetrable safety wall separating actors and audience was a powerful rhetorical device. The pivotal figure for Wright was a female writer and pacifist named Vernon Lee, who in 1915 bitterly lamented that “War’s monstrous iron curtain, cut us off so utterly from one another”(p. 80). Pacifists such as Lee used the term to condemn the various governments’ unwillingness to acknowledge the humanity of their opponents. The trenches in World War I did indeed become like an iron curtain, sealing off any contact between the Allies and the Axis powers, the famous Christmas truce of 1914 between British and German soldiers notwithstanding. The Germans actually built a wall in Belgium to try to separate the Belgians from the Dutch. Although not built of iron, it was electrified with guardhouses placed at intervals.

The emergence of communism as a result of the Russian revolution, however, accelerated the use of the term and it began to take on a new and more consistent meaning that reached full fruition in Churchill’s speech in 1946. The stage term was meant to be somewhat reassuring, symbolizing not separation but safety. Increasingly, the phrase as applied to international politics came to be negative, implying an intentionally harmful division inflicted by the other side. The curtain always sealed us off from them, and its creation was attributed to them. The irony, of course, is that such usage virtually guaranteed separation, and, as in 1946, intensified the division.

Wright’s history of the term follows a winding and oddly riveting path through the century. At first, the term applied to a cultural frustration at the impenetrability of the Russian propaganda machine and to Allied self-criticism of the economic iron curtain imposed on post-1918 Germany. Sympathetic early visitors to the Soviet Union sought to penetrate the propaganda iron curtain, and the western world attempted to freeze the Soviet Union out. British observers conceived of the iron curtain in the Soviet Union primarily as a Potemkin obstacle thrown up by the Soviets to prevent them from seeing



the real conditions for Russians. Repeatedly, British and western observers characterized life, culture, and ideology in the Soviet Union as deceptive, divided, and alienated. By the time Churchill made the phrase famous, it had long been levied against the Soviets. Even Joseph Goebbels used it, arguing on March 15, 1945 that “as soon as the Soviets have occupied a country, they let fall an iron curtain so that they can carry on their fearful bloody work behind it” (p. 351).

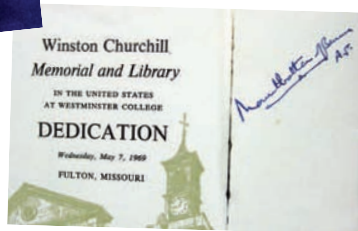
The cumulative effect of the examples in the book drives home the persistence and pervasiveness of the cultural divide between communism and capitalism. The book is a testament to the power of political language and its ability to shape not only popular opinion, but also the views of decision-makers. Once transformed from a technical term to a political metaphor, the notion of an iron curtain sustained the West’s imaginative enmity towards the Soviet Union. Perhaps Churchill’s speech in 1946 was too effective, and the “iron curtain’s” notoriety as the defining term of the post-war era will, in the end, limit its future use. But the idea of a linguistic and cultural metaphor splitting the international world into opposing camps is far from dead.

### Note

[1]. Winston Churchill, “Sinews of Peace (Iron Curtain),” <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=429>.

# Behind the Scenes at the Memorial

The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States houses many interesting and important artifacts and collections of documents. For example, included in the Memorial's photograph collection is a portrait of Benito Mussolini, autographed by "Il Duce." Another interesting artifact is a 6,000-year-old earthenware vase, given to the Memorial by General Abraham Yoffee when he delivered the 31st John Findlay Green Foundation Lecture in 1972. This vase previously belonged to Moshe Dyan, who unearthed it in Israel. Yet another valuable and important collection item is an official program for the Memorial dedication ceremony on May 7, 1969, signed by Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl of Mountbatten of Burma, who was the principal speaker at the ceremony. These are three of the thousands of artifacts and documents preserved at the Memorial. This article focuses on three of the dozens of major archival collections housed at the Memorial, and on the involvement of two Westminster College students and one member of the local community in the "behind the scenes" work done at the Memorial. You can learn more about the Memorial's collections on our web site, [www.churchillmemorial.org](http://www.churchillmemorial.org), on the "Churchill Resources" page. Look for other articles and features on the collections in upcoming issues of the Memo.



– John R. Hensley, Curator-Archivist



## The Betty Swallow Collection

My name is Amy Fluker and I am a senior history major from Jefferson City, Missouri. Although my chief interest is 19th century American history, I really enjoy working at the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library. The Memorial has given me great insight into the field of public history. I have learned a great deal about the day-to-day business of the tour desk and the behind-the-scenes operations of museum management.

The Betty Swallow collection is comprised of over fifty letters written by Londoner Betty Swallow to Helen Bradley of Kansas City, Missouri. Swallow's letters were composed between 1937 and 1950, and the majority of them were written during the WWII period. In vivid and precise detail, Swallow's letters describe her remarkable experiences during the Battle of Britain. Swallow endured constant bombing raids and near starvation while battling a chronic case of tuberculosis. Though Swallow often wrote about popular films and fashion, her letters also contain remarkable insight into the politics of the time, frequently commenting on Winston Churchill and Britain's relationship with the United States. Swallow's letters are frank and comprehensive, making them an engaging and significant contribution to the understanding of WWII.

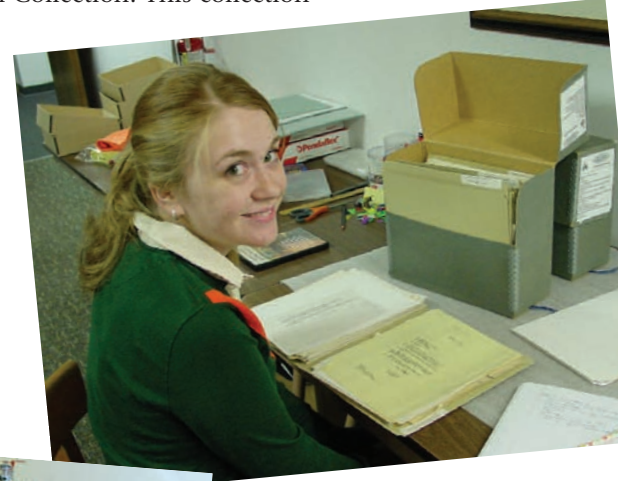


Archival activities at the Memorial are made possible in part by a grant from the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

## The Harry Vaughn Collection

I am Tiffany Eggleston. I am a senior at Westminster College from Hannibal, MO. I have always been interested in history, but it was not until my senior year of high school that I decided I would pursue it in college. Once at Westminster working on my history major, it took a while for me to decide what to do with it. My sophomore year I had the opportunity to work with Waheedah Bilal in the Westminster Library Archives and I felt that I had found my calling. Since then, I have interned with the Mark Twain Museum, helping them to create a promotional DVD, and I am now interning in the archives of the Churchill Memorial. I am planning to apply to Dominican University in Illinois where I hope to receive a Library Science Masters with a concentration in archiving.

One of the collections I have been working with at the Memorial is the Harry Vaughn Collection. This collection consists of personal correspondence, news items, and biographical information. Most of the documents are concentrated between the mid 1940s and the early 1950s. This collection is something of a miscellany of items of personal interest to General Vaughn. Some of the items are personal correspondence; some are news items on Vaughn or information relating to the historical context around Vaughn's time in office. There is also a list of promotions and official letters informing Vaughn of his new positions. Along with promotions is included a folder containing information regarding medals that Vaughn received both in the United States and abroad. The collection offers a view into Vaughn's personal life as well as an idea of the national and international issues that interested Vaughn during his time in office.



## The Mary Swann Collection

Hello! I am Susan Hart and a native of Callaway County. I grew up on the family farm and continue to live here. I received a B.A. in History from Central Methodist University in 1995 with a minor in English. I have always been fascinated with the history of central Missouri from geological exploration to the role central Missouri played in the Civil War. Volunteering for the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the archives has given me the chance to explore more historical relevance Missouri and our Kingdom of Callaway had on World Politics. I also love to investigate the anthropological side of life during conflicts throughout Missouri History.



The Swann Collection is a compilation of letters written by Mary Swann. She lived in Ryde, on the Island of Wight, in Great Britain during the Second World War. Most of her letters are addressed to her aunt May Stevens, who lived on Long Island, New York. Her letters describe in vivid detail the hardships endured by those living in Great Britain during the war and after.

Mary was a staunch and hearty woman with an extraordinary determination to help her country in any way she could, including actively volunteering with the Red Cross, the Women's Volunteer Service for the Civil Defense, and the Night Fire Watch. She was a true leader in her era by helping those less fortunate than she was by keeping her neighbors prepared for invasion by the Nazis. Throughout the war, she continued to have faith that God would not let evil (Nazi Germany) triumph over good (Britain and the allied forces). Mary also continually asked her aunt of news from relatives that were living in Poland and France during the occupation. She was always concerned for those she knew were in more dire straits than she was. I do not believe Mary left any free time for herself, however, for when she was not actively serving her country; she was devoted to the Cub Pack Scouts (England's equivalent of the Boy Scouts of America) as a Cub Pack Leader.

The letters were not all written to her aunt. Some are addressed to her cousin Fran who also lived in New York. She also had an Aunt Mabel who lived in France during WWII and helped with the local orphanage. The compilation of Mary Swann letters range from the beginning of 1939 to the 1950's. She included her own views of the politics and directions that the war took, including some statements about American entry into the war. She very eloquently wrote a great deal about life during those harsh times in England at the beginning of the Cold War.

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## Breakfree at the FDR Museum!

On Friday 15 June 2007 the FDR Presidential Library and Museum unveiled a new addition to their collection, a magnificent Churchill Bust. The occasion was a double celebration as it also marked a re-dedication of the wonderful Breakfree sculpture, the work of one of Governors, Edwina Sandys. Breakfree is, of course, the sister piece to our own Breakthrough and its center piece features the two cut-out figures of a man and a woman taken from Breakthrough. The occasion was followed by a dinner and was attended by Edwina Sandys and her husband Richard Kaplan as well as Aurelia Nemon- the daughter of the late, great sculptor, Oscar Nemon, as well as Dan Myers from the Churchill centre and Alan Collins the British Consul General from New York amongst others. I would encourage you all to make the trip to Hyde Park, when in NY State and to see both the bust and Breakfree as well as the Presidential Library and museum there.



Above: Rob Havers, Edwina Sandys, Cynthia Koch; Director of the FDR Library, Christopher Breiseth; President and CEO of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute),



Left: Hans Janitschek, Edwina Sandys and Richard Kaplan in front the Breakfree sculpture

# “Never Give In!”

–Sir Winston Churchill



Ron Kostich, class of '63, may never have met Winston Churchill, but he learned of the impact of his leadership throughout history from Westminster's treasured Churchill Memorial.

Today, Kostich calls himself retired even though he leads an extremely busy life. He retired as Senior Hospital Specialist with Abbott Labs of North Chicago in 2001 and currently lives in a California condominium.

One of Kostich's outside interests is the future of The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library at Westminster College. When he worked with his attorney to provide for his own financial security and the financial security of his family, he also planned for the financial security of The Churchill Memorial. After setting aside enough for his own needs and the college education of his two grandchildren, Kostich updated his personal trust to direct a portion of his estate to The Memorial in the form of a testamentary endowed fund.

The Ronald J. Kostich Endowed Fund will provide assistance to the new educational outreach programs at the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States. The

Memorial has launched a series of outreach and on-site educational programming for elementary, middle school, and high school students that will stimulate an interest in the foundations of Churchill's leadership.

The Churchill Memorial gift will be a great benefit in bringing Churchill and his model of leadership alive to schoolchildren across Missouri. Preserving the history of Churchill's legacy fits well with Ron's other passion of Civil War history. Kostich belongs to a travel club called HistoryAmerica Tours that makes it possible for him to visit famous Civil War battlefields such as Gettysburg and immerse himself in the lives of the people, the strategies, and decisions that shaped this critical time in our nation's history.

Ron Kostich's generosity and vision will certainly have an impact on The Winston Churchill Memorial; The Memorial will in turn leave its mark on generations of students to come.

For further information on how to create your endowed fund or to discuss gift options, please contact the Development Office at (573) 592-5370.

*All inquiries are treated in complete confidence. Anyone considering a gift from appreciated assets should consult their legal or financial advisor.*

# Winston S. Churchill – A Life of Leadership

## *A Legacy That Must Endure*



The newly renovated Winston Churchill Memorial and Library is dedicated to one of the most remarkable statesmen in recent history.

Winston S. Churchill was a man of vision... predicting both the rise of Nazi Germany and the Soviet threat demonstrated by "The Iron Curtain" descending across the European continent

Winston S. Churchill was a man of character, never sacrificing his vision for the sake of politics

Winston S. Churchill was a man whose ideals, values and character are as relevant today as they were 60 years ago...

You can ensure that Churchill's legacy will continue to inspire future generations of American youth. The Churchill Memorial, working with some of the best museum educational programmers in the country, is creating an educational outreach program that will bring Churchill's world alive to our young people.

You can be a part of this exciting opportunity by investing in America's future through a donation to the Winston Churchill Memorial educational outreach program. We would be honored to recognize your generous donation by associating your name with one of the greatest statesmen of our time. Qualified donors may chose to place their name within a number of exhibits within the Churchill Leadership Gallery.

**For more information please contact Dan Diedriech at  
(573) 592-5370 or [DiedriD@westminster-mo.edu](mailto:DiedriD@westminster-mo.edu)**

**Ask about our Churchill Legacy program...  
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