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INAUGURATION FEVER: WHAT DOLLEY REALLY WORE ON HER HUSBAND'S BIG DAY (and WHY)

Plymouth, MI—With the rapid approach of Barack Obama's inauguration on January 20th as well as the bi-centennial of James Madison's presidency, it is fun to compare how time has transformed the inaugurals that ceremoniously consecrate a person as the President. A traveling exhibit that has made its way to this city's Historical Museum has made that point with a look at what Presidential wives have worn on their Husband's Big Day.

To many the most obvious change is the date itself. While both Obama and Madison were elected in November elections,

Madison was not actually inaugurated until March 4, 1809. In fact it wasn't until the Twentieth Amendment, when FDR was inaugurated on January 4, 1937, that any President was inaugurated in January since the President's term in office was originally set to begin on March 4th because traveling was initially not as simple as it had become by 1937.

Of course, at the time of Madison's inauguration the Nation was new and its ceremonies and customs were not ingrained in a long and inflexible tradition that would lead to any departure to cause the Public to argue that a key pre-requisite was being omitted in the ceremonial assent to the Nation's highest office. James Madison, however, was married to Dolley Payne Todd who was clearly no Bess Truman or Rosalynn Carter. Dolley brought her own oversized personality to the inauguration and—being 17 years younger than James—that included a major dose of her not only her charm and wit but youth and vitality.

The First Inaugural Ball: Thank you Dolley!

In fact, it was Dolley who initiated the first Inaugural Ball and with it a tradition that has enabled many Presidents to establish an immediate tone for their Administrations. Exercising this prerogative, Carter—expressing a need for austerity—only had a party and not a ball. In contrast, Clinton not only held multiple balls with his wife wearing multiple gowns, but also—as part of his 1993 inauguration—an open-house at the White House much like Jackson had done.

So what did Dolley wear? To the first Inaugural Ball Dolley wore a gown made of yellow slipper-satin with more than 1,500 flowers embroidered on 15 yards of material. Reflecting the Inauguration's March date, the dress had a matching coat and an amazingly stylish turban.



Dolley's Inaugural gown is at the Smithsonian Institution but an exhibit of Inaugural gowns is currently touring the Nation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ...WITH 111th HR 3640 GAINS RENEWED MOMENTUM

Washington, D.C.—Key legislators supporting the legacy of James Madison have been re-elected to Congress.

Representatives Baron Hill (D, IN-9th) and Brian Baird (D, WA-3) both quickly swept ahead of their opposition on November 4th enabling them to continue their efforts for Madison in the 111th Congress.

While prognosticators project little to be accomplished during

the current post-election, "lame duck" session of the 110th Congress, with a single party in control of the 111th Congress, action on a key element in the forthcoming bi-centennial salute to the Madison Presidency of 1809-1817 can be expected to gain significant momentum. During the 110th Congress both Hill and Baird sponsored HR 3640 that seeks creation of a James Madison Memorial Commission. Through the legislative support of Hill, Baird and other members of the 111th Congress, legislation for a James Madison Memorial Commission is expected to receive even more Congressional commitment. Notably, **Representative Eric Cantor (R, VA-07)**, current Republican Whip and holder of the House seat once held by Madison, appears positioned to add his bipartisan support to the Madison bi-centennial effort.

Alert your Washington, D.C. representatives of your interest in saluting the bi-centennial of Madison's Presidency. Visit our site to transmit emails to Congress—

<http://www.rallycongress.com/americansformadison>



MADISON SCULPTURE PREVIEWED

New York, NY—The veil is being lifted on December 11th to reveal a major new life-sized sculpture that is being created of James Madison and his wife Dolley.

Initially sculpted by a team of experts at **StudioEIS** in the trendy "Dumbo" section of New York City's borough of Brooklyn, the work is being created for Montpelier where—as a bronze cast—the statue will be displayed in the back lawn just outside of the recently reopened great house.

Based upon dual portraits created by Gilbert Stuart in 1804 when James was 53 and Dolley was 36, artistically, the sculpture seeks to reveal the couple's personalities as well as aspects of their deep personal relationship. Reflecting his involvement in ideas and books, Madison is depicted raising a book to discuss a particular passage with Dolley as she stands firmly behind him.

StudioEIS was started by Elliot and Ivan Schwartz in 1977 just as museums cut overhead by eliminating sculptors from staff positions and sought alternatives to mannequins.



A major new statue of Madison and his wife Dolley is being unveiled in NYC as it is prepared for installation at Montpelier on May 20, 2009.

Sponsored by Robert H. Smith, the bronze will be dedicated as part of the annual birthday celebration held at Montpelier for Dolley on May 20, 2009, which has traditionally featured birthday cake for everyone.

Smith, a successful builder and developer, has been an ardent supporter of Madison and in 2007 was awarded the Madison Family Cup in recognition of that support. In addition to sponsoring the sculpture's creation, Smith has been instrumental in sponsoring the creation of the Montpelier's Center for the Constitution. Independent of Madison and Montpelier, Smith is also well known for his service as President of the National Gallery of Art and his philanthropic role at the University of Maryland where the Business School is named in his honor. Smith has been closely associated with the art of bronze as one of the world's leading collectors of Renaissance bronzes.



Bronze collector and Madison supporter Robert H. Smith

