

A
GIFT
to
CHERISH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 - FEBRUARY 26, 2016

As the highest representatives of the people and government, the President and First Lady accept gifts on behalf of the United States of America. Each year they receive thousands of gifts from every state in the nation and every country in the world. As part of diplomatic tradition and protocol, they also exchange gifts with heads of state. The ceremonial gifts given to foreign leaders bear symbolic meaning as tokens of peaceful coexistence between peoples of different cultures.

Unlike diplomatic gifts, presents given to an individual, friend or organization by the First Lady are often more humble and heartfelt, patriotic and personal. They are not given out of tradition or obligation. These types of gifts are more sentimental mementos of personal friendship or an acknowledgement of support. Each keepsake, no



**Ida McKinley crochet slippers
c. 1901**

*National First Ladies' Library
Collection, Gift of the George Hoagland
family of Glen Rock, NJ
In memory of their great grandparents,
George & Emma Gittens*

Ida McKinley gave these slippers to Mrs. Gittens in appreciation for the many years her husband had supplied the lamb wool soles for her slippers. Mrs. McKinley's gift was announced in the local Patterson, New Jersey papers.



**Betty Ford black velvet
fascinator hat
c. 1970**

*National First Ladies' Library
Collection, gift of Mrs. Betty Ford*

In support of opening the Education and Research Center in 2003, and an honorary chair of the organization, Mrs. Ford donated this black hat along with a pair of black gloves.

matter the worth, is a reminder of the First Lady's personal esteem for the recipients.

Gifts are ways of making everyone feel special. It is flattering to be given a present; it is a memento of recognition and a keepsake of a specific memory. A gift is a stand-in for a meaningful experience long after the encounter is over. First Ladies understand the importance of personal gifts and they show their thoughtfulness in choosing an appropriate offering. A Gift to Cherish is an exhibit of tokens and treasures that were given by a First Lady (and sometimes the President too) to a deserving person or cause that touched her life. A personal gift from a First Lady serves as a cherished experience and a tangible reminder of the past.



**“Women & the Constitution: A Bicentennial Perspective” plate
(back side view)**

1988

Mr. & Mrs. Set Charles Momjian

The symposium held at the Carter Center in February 1988, was co-organized by former First Ladies Rosalynn Carter, Betty Ford, Pat Nixon and Lady Bird Johnson. All who attended received this commemorative plate.



Grace Coolidge button hook

c. 1920

*National First Ladies' Library
Collection*

Grace Coolidge gave this button hook as a gift to White House First Maid Maggie Rogers. Mrs. Rogers assisted the First Lady in her private quarters at the White House and the two became good friends

The National First Ladies' Library's exhibition of A Gift to Cherish was made possible by the following additional organizations and individuals:

Anonymous

Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, Indianapolis, IN
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, D.C.

Marshall B. Belden Sr. Family

Ms. Lucinda J. Frailly

MaryAnn Leak

Mr. & Mrs. Set Charles Momjian

TOURS

All tours are guided and include both the changing exhibits at the Education & Research Center and the Saxton McKinley House, the restored Victorian home of President William and First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley. Tours last approximately 1 1/2 hours.

Tour Hours: Tuesday - Saturday at 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m., plus Sundays in June, July & August at 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. **Tours begin at the Education & Research Center, 205 Market Avenue S.**

Reservations are required for groups of six or more;
highly recommended for all others.

\$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 children under 18 - includes both buildings; \$3
Education and Research Center only - Free Parking, Buses Welcome!



**FIRST LADIES
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

Education & Research Center
205 Market Avenue S.

Saxton McKinley House
331 Market Avenue S.
Canton, Ohio 44702

(330) 452-0876

www.firstladies.org