

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
DEDICATION OF  
THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY  
JUNE 30, 1941

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The dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith.

To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things.

It must believe in the past.

It must believe in the future.

It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.

Among democracies the building of libraries and museums for the use of all the people flourishes. That is especially true in our own land, for we believe that people should work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by self-constituted leaders.

It is in keeping with the well considered trend in these difficult days that we are distributing historical collections more widely than ever before throughout our land. From the point of view of the safety -- the physical safety -- of our records, it is wiser that they be not too greatly concentrated. From the point of view of accessibility, modern methods make dissemination practicable.

This is but one of many new libraries. As President I accept this newest house in which the people's record is preserved -- public papers and collections which refer to one period in our history.

This latest addition to the archives of America is dedicated at a moment when government of the people by themselves is everywhere attacked.

It is, therefore, proof -- if any proof is needed -- that our confidence in the future of democracy has not diminished in this nation and will not diminish.

Into this Library has gone, and will continue to go, the loving care of many people. Most of you who are here today are old friends and neighbors of mine throughout the years. All of you are in a sense Trustees of the Library in the future.

We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the land will be glad that what we do today makes available to future Americans the story of what we have lived and are living.

I am grateful to all of you for all that you have done.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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*Orig. reading copy*

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY,  
HYDE PARK, N. Y.,  
JUNE 30, 1941

MR. WALKER, DR. CONNOR:

It seems to me that the dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith, to bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men (living in the future,) and women in the future. A (a) nation must believe in -- in three things.

It must believe in the past.

It must believe in the future.

It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its own people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment (for the creation of the ) in creating their own future.

Among democracies, I think through all the recorded history of the world, the building of permanent institutions like libraries and museums for the use of all the people (flourishes), it has been among democracies that such building has flourished. And that is especially true in our own land, (for) because we believe that people (should) ought to work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than (accept such) to take another kind of course, rather than to accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by certain types of self-constituted leaders who decide what is best for them.

And so it is in keeping with the well considered trend (in) of these difficult days that we are distributing our own historical



Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicated words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

collections more widely than ever before throughout the length and breadth of our land. From the point of view of (the) their safety -- the physical safety of our records, it is (wiser that they be not), it seems to us in later times to be wiser that these records should not be too greatly concentrated. And from the point of view of accessibility of these records, greatly concentrated in any one place in the United States, modern methods (make) that we are accustomed to now make study and dissemination (practicable) of these records in many places possible for the modern historian.

This particular Library is but one of many new libraries. And so, because it happens to be a national one, I as (As) President have the privilege of accepting (I accept) this newest house in which (the) peoples records (is) are preserved -- public papers and collections (which) that refer to our own (one) period (in our) of history.

And this (This) latest addition to the archives of America is dedicated at a moment when government of the people by themselves is (everywhere) being attacked everywhere.

It is, therefore, proof -- if any proof is needed -- that our confidence in the future of democracy has not diminished in this nation and will not diminish. (Applause)

As all of you know into this Library there has gone, and will continue to go, the interest and loving care of a great many people. Most of you who are here today are old friends and neighbors of mine -- friends and neighbors throughout the years. And so all (All) of you, my friends and neighbors, are in a sense Trustees of (the) this Library (in the future) through the years to come.

We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the

land will be glad that what we do today makes available to future Americans the story of what we have lived and are living in our lives, and what we are living today, and what we will continue to live during the rest of our lives.

And so I am grateful to all of you for all that you have done.

I think that the ceremonies are now over, except for one very important addition that relates to the future. Under an Act of the Congress of the United States, there was appointed -- authorized to be appointed a Board of Trustees, who will be responsible for this Library from midnight tonight, through the years to come.

I am glad that you have come today, because as I suggested at lunch to some of the Trustees, this is the last chance you have got to see this Library free of charge. (laughter) At midnight tonight the Government of the United States takes over, and they take over through this Board of Trustees, of which Dr. Connor, the Archivist -- the National Archivist of the United States -- is to be the Chairman, and on which will serve ex officio our own neighbor from this County, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (applause)

And incidentally, I have appointed a number of very old friends of mine to serve as additional Trustees: My old law partner, Basil O'Connor from New York (applause); and Frank Walker, who in addition to being a very old friend is also the man who carries your mail (laughter and applause); and Dr. Morison, an old sea-faring friend of mine. (laughter and applause) And now let us see, who else is there? Oh, I asked him (Harry Hopkins) but he couldn't get here today. He was terribly sorry, but he said, quite frankly, that Long Island was cooler than Hyde Park. (laughter) Another old friend, whom you have seen here many times with me -- Harry Hopkins. (applause)

And so -- and so I am asking the first Federal Judge to be appointed from Dutchess County for I don't know how many generations, our old friend Eddie Conger of Poughkeepsie, (the President laughs) to step forward when I give out these -- I won't call them diplomas, but they look like diplomas -- to these new Trustees. I am going to ask Federal District Judge Conger to administer the Oath of Office.

(the Oath of Office was then administered to Basil O'Connor, Dr. Morison, and Frank C. Walker)

(the Benediction followed)

Now I hope you will all feel very welcome to come in and see the building and what is in it.

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## STATEMENTS FILE

ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE STANLEY C. WALKER, TREASURER OF THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, INC., PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AT THE DEDICATION OF THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, 1200 PARK, NEW YORK, 4:00 P. M., D. S. T., MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1941:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are assembled here today to dedicate the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, not to any individual, not to any group, but rather we are dedicating this splendid historic edifice to the American people.

Here, in the shadows of the birthplace and home of our President now stands, fully completed, a fine building of dignity and importance that will serve as the store-house for the records of a period that has no parallel in the history of America, and of the world. Within these walls shall be found, in the days to come, a collection of rare documents that will well and truly record much of our part in World War I. Here will be found papers that will faithfully tell the intimate story of the ambitions and aspirations, the suffering and sorrows, and the final triumph of the American people of the New Deal Era - here, conceivably, may come a collection of documents that may provide more accurate source material delineating the world's greatest catastrophe, World War II, than may be found in any one collection of papers of an individual in the world.

This unusual occasion is made possible by the fine understanding and appreciation of our President who did that which is unique when he presented to the people of America

his private records that tell a story of a most interesting and important era in world history. I am wondering, where else in the world would a Chief Executive be so truly cognizant of the need for close relationship between the statesman and the historian and make such generous disposition of such priceless material.

This, too, is an unusual occasion in another sense, because this grand repository was conceived and came to pass by reason of the generosity of fine Americans, 22,000 in number, from every walk of life, representing every State in the Union and the several Possessions.

To you fine representative Americans who helped so nobly to make this possible, I say, we are sincerely thankful.

To you, Mr. President, may I say, we are most grateful.



HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

JUNE 30, 1941

C A P T I O N :- The following Invocation, to be pronounced by the Reverend Patrick J. Mac, Rector of the Church of Regina Coeli, Hyde Park, New York, at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, must be held in confidence until released.

N O T E :- Released to editors of all newspapers appearing on the streets not earlier than 3.00 P.M., E.S.T., June 30, 1941. The same release of the text of the Invocation also applies to radio announcers and news commentators. Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT

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Oh Almighty and Eternal God, Father of Mercies, in Whom we live,  
move, and have our being, graciously look down upon us here assembled.

Enlighten our minds with the light of Thy Holy Spirit so that we  
may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations.

Grant to us that peace which can come into our minds only through  
the fulfillment of Thy Commandments.

Direct, we pray Thee, all our actions by Thy Holy Inspirations,  
and further them by Thy continual assistance, so that every prayer and  
work of ours may begin with Thee, and by Thee be happily ended, through  
the merits of Jesus Christ Our Saviour.

Amen.

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1  
Invocation

The Roosevelt Library Dedication

Monday June 30. 1941  
4 P.M.

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Father of Mercies, in Whom we live,  
move, and have our being  
graciously look down upon us  
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Direct, we pray Thee, all our  
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work of ours may begin with  
Thee and by Thee be happily  
ended through the merits of  
Jesus Christ our Saviour.

- Amen -

TELEPHONE, HYDE PARK 34

CHURCH OF REGINA COELI  
HYDE PARK, N. Y.

2

# STATEMENTS FILE

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JUNE 30, 1941

C A U T I O N :- The following address of the Hon. Frank G. Walker, Treasurer of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., Presiding Officer at the Dedication of the Library, Hyde Park, New York, must be held in confidence until released.

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WILLIAM D. HASSETT

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Here, in the shadows of the birthplace and home of our President now stands, fully completed, a fine building of dignity and importance that will serve as the store-house for the records of a period that has no parallel in the history of America, and of the world. Within these walls shall be found, in the days to come, a collection of rare documents that will well and truly record much of our part in World War I. Here will be found papers that will faithfully tell the intimate story of the ambitions and aspirations, the suffering and sorrows, and the final triumph of the American people of the New Deal Era - here, conceivably, may come a collection of documents that may provide more accurate source material delineating the world's greatest catastrophe, World War II, than may be found in any one collection of papers of an individual in the world.

This unusual occasion is made possible by the fine understanding and appreciation of our President who did that which is unique when he presented to the people of America his private records that tell a story of a most interesting and important era in world history. I am wondering, where else in the world would a Chief Executive be so truly cognizant of the need for close relationship between the statesman and the historian and make such generous disposition of such priceless material.

This, too, is an unusual occasion in another sense, because this grand repository was conceived and came to pass by reason of the generosity of fine Americans, 28,000 in number, from every walk of life, representing every State in the Union and the several Possessions.

To you fine representative Americans who helped so nobly to make this possible, I say, we are sincerely thankful.

To you, Mr. President, may I say, we are most grateful.

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ST/ FILE

JUNE 30, 1941

C A U T I O N :- The following address of Dr. R. D. W. Connor, Archivist of the United States, at the dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, must be held in confidence until released.

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WILLIAM D. HASSETT

In normal times the average person thinks little and cares less about the past; he is quite content to let the dead past bury its dead; for him the living present is sufficient. But when times are out of joint, when new ideologies appear to challenge traditional ideologies, every champion of either the new or the old looks to the past for help, and feels himself at liberty to use or abuse the helpless Muse of History as suits his purpose.

We ourselves are living in such a time. Everywhere new and strange isms are engaged in a life and death struggle with old and familiar isms. In our own land, according to our American custom, the struggle is being waged within the framework of constitutional principles and practices. Other lands and other peoples have not been so fortunate. From Europe, from Africa, from Asia, come reverberations of war and revolution. But whether waged with ballots or with bullets, the conflicts everywhere, in one respect at least, follow the same historic pattern. In the present as in the past, protagonists of the new and defenders of the old are busily thumbing the pages of history in search of arguments to support their own particular brands of isms. No one who wades patiently through the "Public Pulse" columns of our daily papers can fail to admire the zeal if not the knowledge of these champions.

The interests which make such uses of history are as numerous and varied as the interests of humanity itself. Ambition to live in history has always been a powerful influence in the conduct of men. From earliest times, conquerors and rulers have had the records of their actions preserved, falsified, or destroyed, as the case might require, in the hope that history might speak well of them; leaders of lost causes have appealed for vindication from the verdict of their contemporaries to the verdict of history; and martyrs of every philosophy have found consolation in handing over their persecutors to history's avenging pen. But respect for the judgments of history is not confined to individuals; society itself, in every form, has acknowledged its power. The Exchange, the Church, the State, have feared its condemnation and courted its praise.

In a national crisis, men instinctively seek to find in the spirit of the past inspiration to strengthen the morale of the present. Not long ago the President appealed to the American people for national unity in the present crisis. Only through national unity, he told us, "can we successfully defend our national heritage" and pass it on "not only intact, but stronger than ever, to all generations yet to come." But what is our "national heritage" if it is not our national history? And how can we pass it on intact and stronger than ever if we do not respect its truth and defend its integrity? The product of false history is a spurious patriotism and a spurious patriotism is no more to be desired in a democracy than in an autocracy.

The raw materials of history are the records of past human affairs, and only when such records have been preserved and made available to him can the historian truly reconstruct and interpret the past. It must have been some such thought that inspired the idea that finds concrete expression in this library which we dedicate today. No thoughtful person will seriously question the fact that the political, economic, and social development of both the domestic and foreign affairs of the United States during the past two decades marks this period as a distinctive era in our national history; nor can it be doubted that this period will be the subject of intensive study by the historians, political scientists, economists, and sociologists of the future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the historian, was quite as well aware of this fact as was Franklin D. Roosevelt, the statesman, when, on December 10, 1938, he announced to the country his plan for the establishment of this library. After describing the rich and varied materials in his collections, he said: "It is my desire that they be kept as a whole and intact in their original condition, available to scholars of the future in one definite locality..... It is, therefore, my thought that funds can be raised for the erection of a separate, modern, fireproof building ... so designed that it would hold all of my own collections and also such other source material relating to this period in our history as might be donated to the collection in future by other members of the present Administration." Thus there would be "set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source material collection relating to a specific period in our history."/

That plan has now been carried into effect, and we have met here today to dedicate the building and its contents to the service of the American people. We do this in confident expectation that for generations to come, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library will be the Mecca for scholars and statesmen who would learn how in the midst of a world conflict between autocracy and democracy a free people preserved their freedom and strengthened their democratic institutions.



DR.

ADDRESS OF SAMUEL E. MORISON, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, ON THE DEDICATION OF THE  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, JUNE 30, 1941.

STATEMENTS FILE

One of my favorite quotations to announce an historical  
address, however short -- <sup>Especially</sup> ~~I suppose~~ when a poet is present -- is  
from Don Quixote. "It is one thing to write as a poet, another as  
an historian. The poet is able to say or sing things, not as they  
were, but as they ought to be. The historian has to write of them,  
not as they should have been, but as they were, without adding to  
them or subtracting from the truth in any way."

Now, Mr. President, it will be possible to write ~~about~~ the  
truth, <sup>whole</sup> the historical truth, about your Administrations, on account  
of this wonderful collection that you are bringing together in this  
building. <sup>Yours will be better documented than</sup> ~~I think it will be more so than~~ any earlier Presi-  
dential administrations in history. ~~I like to~~ Think, for instance,  
~~with despair~~ of the number of unnecessary, futile, misleading  
books about <sup>the great</sup> Abraham Lincoln that we might have been spared, had  
their heirs brought <sup>together</sup> ~~about~~ such a collection of papers as this. But,

Mr. President, if you ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> going to ~~give us~~ <sup>keep a</sup> Snug Harbor for all your  
~~collection~~ <sup>from the whole town</sup> and your papers, ~~I will~~ <sup>I shall</sup> have to warn you ~~that you will have~~  
<sup>"Oddities"</sup> to give some of those ~~auditors~~ <sup>will overflow and</sup> the deep six ~~or they~~ <sup>there</sup>  
~~take up the space needed for documents.~~ <sup>I can't you are</sup>  
~~looked up to watch you speaking)~~ <sup>the nation's no. 1 collector, but collecting can be tedious, even</sup>  
<sup>by no. 1.</sup> I want to say to the President's neighbors from Dutchess

<sup>feel an impulse</sup>  
 County here assembled, if you ~~have~~ <sup>feel an impulse</sup> anything to give the President ~~like~~  
<sup>has</sup> in the attic, or <sup>horse buggy,</sup>  
 that old trunk ~~or mahar couch,~~ don't do it! (laughter)

Not that I am one of those who regard all historical mater-  
 ial as being on paper or in ink. Far from it. I should like to see,  
 for instance, in this Library and Museum, -- well, a straw from that  
 Literary Digest ~~straw~~ <sup>Vote</sup>. I should like to see some of those ~~blades~~  
 of ~~grass~~ <sup>grass</sup> that ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> grow in the ~~streets~~ <sup>streets</sup> of our ~~cities~~ <sup>cities</sup>. I would like  
 to see a plank out of that famous ~~Walk~~ <sup>Walk</sup> that led out from the White  
<sup>and has now happily</sup> come full circle, back again  
 House, ~~---~~ <sup>(here I looked up to watch you speaking again)</sup>

And when I go below here, Mr. President, down into the hold  
<sup>cannot help approving</sup> of this building I ~~love~~ <sup>cannot help approving</sup> those ice-boats and carriages, <sup>even if they do take</sup>  
<sup>up a lot of space. They are going to be very interesting</sup> ~~as they are go-~~  
~~ing to appear to the~~ historians in the future.

Mr. President, you and I went to sea first at about the same

time, and in the same waters, along the coast of the Bay of Fundy, where there is an awful lot of fog, and I know that learning to sail through the fog has been extremely useful to me, and I shouldn't wonder if it hadn't been sometimes useful to you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

It was down in those regions <sup>a</sup> ~~that the summer~~ <sup>"yotter"</sup> ~~yachter~~ <sup>at 'Jit' Manner</sup> ~~when he~~ asked a native lobsterman what the lighthouse looked like, the lobsterman said, "Well, sir, I am afraid I don't know. I

have been living down here and lobstering for fifty years, but I <sup>you know as well as I do that seamen don't like sailing thru' fog, nor do historians.</sup> ain't seen it yet." Now, Mr. President, owing to the wise and

generous provisions that have been made, there will be no historical fog over the history of your Administrations. (laughter and applause)

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time, and in the same waters, along the coast of the Bay of Fundy, where there is an awful lot of fog, and I know that learning to sail through the fog has been extremely useful to me, and I shouldn't wonder if it hadn't been sometimes useful to you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

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have been living down here and lobstering for fifty years, but I <sup>you know as well as I do that seamen don't like cutting thro' fog, nor do historians.</sup> ain't seen it yet." Now, Mr. President, owing to the wise and

generous provisions that have been made, there will be no historical fog over the history of your Administrations. (laughter and applause)

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JUNE 30, 1941

C A U T I O N :- The following address of the President, at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, must be held in strict confidence until released.

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WILLIAM D. HASSETT

-----STATEMENTS-----FILE-----

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It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.

Among democracies the building of libraries and museums for the use of all the people flourishes. That is especially true in our own land, for we believe that people should work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by self-constituted leaders.

It is in keeping with the well considered trend in these difficult days that we are distributing historical collections more widely than ever before throughout our land. From the point of view of the safety -- the physical safety -- of our records, it is wiser that they be not too greatly concentrated. From the point of view of accessibility, modern methods make dissemination practicable.

This is but one of many new libraries. As President I accept this newest house in which the people's record is preserved -- public papers and collections which refer to one period in our history.

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Page 2 -- President's address (continued)

library in the future.

We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the land will be glad that what we do today makes available to future Americans the story of what we have lived and are living.

I am grateful to all of you for all that you have done.

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JUNE 30, 1941

SUPPLEMENTING HIS PREPARED ADDRESS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE HYDE PARK LIBRARY,  
THE PRESIDENT SPOKE AS FOLLOWS:

I think that the ceremonies are now over, except for one very important addition that relates to the future. Under an Act of the Congress of the United States, there was appointed -- authorized to be appointed a Board of Trustees who will be responsible for this Library from Midnight tonight, through the years to come.

I am glad that you have come today, because as I suggested at lunch to some of the Trustees, this is the last chance you have got to see this Library free of charge. At Midnight tonight the Government of the United States takes over, and they take over through this Board of Trustees, of which Dr. Connor, the Archivist -- the National Archivist of the United States -- is to be the Chairman, and on which will serve, as also will our neighbor from this County, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States -- Harry Morgenthau, Jr.

And incidentally, I have appointed a number of very old friends of mine to serve as additional Trustees. My old law partner, Basil O'Connor from New York, and Frank Walker, who in addition to being a very old friend is also the man who carries your mail. And Dr. Morison, an old sea-faring friend of mine. And now let us see, who else is there? Oh, I asked him, but he couldn't get here today. He was terribly sorry, but he said, quite frankly, that Long Island was cooler than Hyde Park. Another old friend, whom you have seen here many times with me -- Harry Hopkins.

And so -- and so I must ask the first Federal Judge to be appointed from Dutchess County for I don't know how many generations, our old friend Eddie Conger of Poughkeepsie, to step forward when I give out these -- I won't call them diplomas, but they look like diplomas -- to these new Trustees. I am going to ask Federal District Judge Conger to administer the Oath of Office, and afterwards I hope you will all feel very welcome to come in and see the building and what's in it.

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6

SECRET

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

JUNE 30, 1941

C A U T I O N :- The following Benediction, <sup>was also</sup> ~~to be~~ pronounced at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, by the Reverend Frank R. Wilson, Rector, St. James' Church, Hyde Park, must be held in confidence until released.

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WILLIAM D. HASSETT

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May the blessing of God Almighty, the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest  
upon our people and upon all our work done in  
His Name. May He give us light to guide us,  
courage to support us, and love to unite us,  
now and for evermore.

Amen.

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## St. James's Church

HYDE PARK, N. Y.

REV. FRANK R. WILSON  
RECTOR

ARTHUR S. HALPIN  
TREASURER

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

Benediction for Monday at Library.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon our people  
and upon all our work done in His Name. May He give  
us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love  
to unite us, now and for evermore. Amen.

3900

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A D D R E S S E S  
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GIVEN AT

THE DEDICATION OF THE

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

HYDE PARK, NEW YORK

---

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30, 1941

FOUR O'CLOCK

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I N D E X

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Invocation -----      | Page 1  |
| Rev. Patrick J. Mee   |         |
| Address -----         | Page 2  |
| Hon. Frank C. Walker  |         |
| Address -----         | Page 4  |
| Dr. R. D. W. Connor   |         |
| Address -----         | Page 8  |
| Dr. Samuel E. Morison |         |
| Address -----         | Page 10 |
| The President         |         |
| Benediction -----     | Page 14 |
| Rev. Frank R. Wilson  |         |



INVOCATION  
by the  
Reverend Patriek J. Mee,  
Rector of the Church of Regina Coeli,  
Hyde Park, New York

Oh Almighty and Eternal God, Father of Mercies, in  
Whom we live, move, and have our being, graciously look down  
upon us here assembled.

Enlighten our minds with the light of Thy Holy  
Spirit so that we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His con-  
solations.

Grant to us that peace which can come into our  
minds only through the fulfillment of Thy Commandments.

Direct, we pray Thee, all our actions by Thy Holy  
Inspirations, and further them by Thy continual assistance,  
so that every prayer and work of ours may begin with Thee,  
and by Thee be happily ended, through the merits of Jesus  
Christ Our Saviour.

Amen.

---

ADDRESS OF THE HON. FRANK C. WALKER,  
TREASURER OF THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, INC.,  
PRESIDING OFFICER AT THE DEDICATION OF THE LIBRARY

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are assembled here today to dedicate the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, not to any individual, not to any group, but rather we are dedicating this splendid historic edifice to the American people.

Here, in the shadows of the birthplace and home of our President now stands, fully completed, a fine building of dignity and importance that will serve as the store-house for the records of a period that has no parallel in the history of America, and of the world. Within these walls shall be found, in the days to come, a collection of rare documents that will well and truly record much of our part in World War I. Here will be found papers that will faithfully tell the intimate story of the ambitions and aspirations, the suffering and sorrows, and the final triumph of the American people of the New Deal Era - here, conceivably, may come a collection of documents that may provide more accurate source material delineating the world's greatest catastrophe, World War II, than may be found in any one collection of papers of an individual in the world.

This unusual occasion is made possible by the fine understanding and appreciation of our President who did that which is unique when he presented to the people of America his private records that tell a story of a most interesting and important era in world history. I am wondering, where else in

the world would a Chief Executive be so truly cognizant of the need for close relationship between the statesman and the historian and make such generous disposition of such priceless material.

This, too, is an unusual occasion in another sense, because this grand repository was conceived and came to pass by reason of the generosity of fine Americans, 28,000 in number, from every walk of life, representing every State in the Union and the several Possessions.

To you fine representative Americans who helped so nobly to make this possible, I say, we are sincerely thankful.

To you, Mr. President, may I say, we are most grateful.

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ADDRESS OF DR. R. D. W. CONNOR,  
ARCHIVIST  
OF THE UNITED STATES

In normal times the average person thinks little and cares less about the past; he is quite content to let the dead past bury its dead; for him the living present is sufficient. But when times are out of joint, when new ideologies appear to challenge traditional ideologies, every champion of either the new or the old looks to the past for help, and feels himself at liberty to use or abuse the helpless Muse of History as suits his purpose.

We ourselves are living in such a time. Everywhere new and strange isms are engaged in a life and death struggle with old and familiar isms. In our own land, according to our American custom, the struggle is being waged within the framework of constitutional principles and practices. Other lands and other peoples have not been so fortunate. From Europe, from Africa, from Asia, come reverberations of war and revolution. But whether waged with ballots or with bullets, the conflicts everywhere, in one respect at least, follow the same historic pattern. In the present as in the past, protagonists of the new and defenders of the old are busily thumbing the pages of history in search of arguments to support their own particular brands of isms. No one who wades patiently through the "Public Pulse" columns of our daily papers can fail to admire the zeal if not the knowledge of these champions.

The interests which make such uses of history are as

numerous and varied as the interests of humanity itself. Ambition to live in history has always been a powerful influence in the conduct of men. From earliest times, conquerors and rulers have had the records of their actions preserved, falsified, or destroyed, as the case might require, in the hope that history might speak well of them; leaders of lost causes have appealed for vindication from the verdict of their contemporaries to the verdict of history; and martyrs of every philosophy have found consolation in handing over their persecutors to history's avenging pen. But respect for the judgments of history is not confined to individuals; society itself, in every form, has acknowledged its power. The Exchange, the Church, the State, have feared its condemnation and courted its praise.

In a national crisis, men instinctively seek to find the spirit of the past inspiration to strengthen the morale of the present. Not long ago the President appealed to the American people for national unity in the present crisis. Only through national unity, he told us, "can we successfully defend our national heritage" and pass it on "not only intact, but stronger than ever, to all generations yet to come." But what is our "national heritage" if it is not our national history? And how can we pass it on intact and stronger than ever if we do not respect its truth and defend its integrity? The product of false history is a spurious patriotism and a spurious patriotism is no more to be desired in a democracy than in an autocracy.

The raw materials of history are the records of past human affairs, and only when such records have been preserved

and made available to him can the historian truly reconstruct and interpret the past. It must have been some such thought that inspired the idea that finds concrete expression in this library which we dedicate today. No thoughtful person will seriously question the fact that the political, economic, and social development of both the domestic and foreign affairs of the United States during the past two decades marks this period as a distinctive era in our national history; nor can it be doubted that this period will be the subject of intensive study by the historians, political scientists, economists, and sociologists of the future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the historian, was quite as well aware of this fact as was Franklin D. Roosevelt, the statesman, when, on December 10, 1938, he announced to the country his plan for the establishment of this library. After describing the rich and varied materials in his collections, he said: "It is my desire that they be kept as a whole and intact in their original condition, available to scholars of the future in one definite locality ..... It is, therefore, my thought that funds can be raised for the erection of a separate, modern, fireproof building ... so designed that it would hold all of my own collections and also such other source material relating to this period in our history as might be donated to the collection in future by other members of the present Administration." Thus there would be "set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source material collection relating to a specific period in our history."



That plan has now been carried into effect, and we have met here today to dedicate the building and its contents to the service of the American people. We do this in confident expectation that for generations to come, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library will be the Mecca for scholars and statesmen who would learn how in the midst of a world conflict between autocracy and democracy a free people preserved their freedom and strengthened their democratic institutions.

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1

ADDRESS OF DR. SAMUEL E. MORISON,  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

One of my favorite quotations to announce an historical address, however short -- especially when a poet is present -- is from Don Quixote. "It is one thing to write as a poet, another as an historian. The poet is able to say or sing things, not as they were, but as they ought to be. The historian has to write of them, not as they should have been, but as they were, without adding to them or subtracting from the truth in any way."

Now, Mr. President, it will be possible to write the truth, the whole historical truth, about your Administrations, on account of this wonderful collection that you are bringing together in this building. Yours will be better documented than any earlier Presidential administrations in history. Think, for instance, of the number of unnecessary, futile, misleading books about the great Abraham Lincoln that we might have been spared, had their heirs brought together such a collection of papers as this. But, Mr. President, if you are going to keep a Snug Harbor for all your collections and your papers from the White House, I shall have to warn you to give some of those "Oddities" the 'deep six' or they will overflow and take up the space needed for documents. I know you are the nation's No. 1 collector, but collecting can be overdone, even by No. 1.

I want to say to the President's neighbors from Dutchess County here assembled, if you feel an impulse to give the President that old hair trunk in the attic, or horse buggy, don't do it!  
(laughter)

Not that I am one of those who regard all historical material as being on paper or in ink. Far from it. I should like to see, for instance, in this Library and Museum, -- well, a straw from that Literary Digest Straw Vote. I should like to see some of those Blades of Grass that didn't grow in the Streets of our Cities. I would like to see a Plank out of that famous Walk that led out from the White House, and has now happily come full circle, back again.

And when I go below here, Mr. President, down into the hold of this building I cannot help approving those ice-boats and carriages, even if they do take up a lot of space. They are going to be very interesting to historians in the future.

Mr. President, you and I went to sea first at about the same time, and in the same waters, along the coast of the Bay of Fundy, where there is an awful lot of fog, and I know that learning to sail through the fog has been extremely useful to me, and I shouldn't wonder if it hadn't been sometimes useful to you, Mr. President. (laughter)

It was down in those regions a summer "yotter" asked a native lobsterman what the lighthouse at 'Tit Manan looked like. The lobsterman said, "Well, sir, I am afraid I don't know. I have been living down here and lobstering for fifty years, but I ain't seen it yet." Now, Mr. President, you know as well as I do that seamen don't like sailing through fog, nor do historians. But owing to the wise and generous provisions that have been made, there will be no historical fog over the history of your Administrations. (laughter and applause)

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY,  
HYDE PARK, N. Y.,  
JUNE 30, 1941

MR. WALKER, DR. CONNOR:

It seems to me that the dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith, to bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future. A nation must believe in -- in three things.

It must believe in the past.

It must believe in the future.

It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its own people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment in creating their own future.

Among democracies, I think through all the recorded history of the world, the building of permanent institutions like libraries and museums for the use of all the people, it has been among democracies that such building has flourished. And that is especially true in our own land, because we believe that people ought to work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than to take another kind of course, rather than to accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by certain types of self-constituted leaders who decide what is best for them.

And so it is in keeping with the well considered trend of these difficult days that we are distributing our own historical

collections more widely than ever before throughout the length and breadth of our land. From the point of view of their safety -- the physical safety of our records, it is, it seems to us in later times to be wiser that these records should not be too greatly concentrated. And from the point of view of accessibility of these records, greatly concentrated in any one place in the United States, modern methods that we are accustomed to now make study and dissemination of these records in many places possible for the modern historian.

This particular Library is but one of many new libraries. And so, because it happens to be a national one, I as President have the privilege of accepting this newest house in which peoples records are preserved -- public papers and collections that refer to our own period of history.

And this latest addition to the archives of America is dedicated at a moment when government of the people by themselves is being attacked everywhere.

It is, therefore, proof -- if any proof is needed -- that our confidence in the future of democracy has not diminished in this nation and will not diminish. (Applause)

As all of you know into this Library there has gone, and will continue to go, the interest and loving care of a great many people. Most of you who are here today are old friends and neighbors of mine -- friends and neighbors throughout the years. And so all of you, my friends and neighbors, are in a sense Trustees of this Library through the years to come.

We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the

collections more widely than ever before throughout the length and breadth of our land. From the point of view of their safety -- the physical safety of our records, it is, it seems to us in later times to be wiser that these records should not be too greatly concentrated. And from the point of view of accessibility of these records, greatly concentrated in any one place in the United States, modern methods that we are accustomed to now make study and dissemination of these records in many places possible for the modern historian.

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We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the



land will be glad that what we do today makes available to future Americans the story of what we have lived and are living in our lives, and what we are living today, and what we will continue to live during the rest of our lives.

And so I am grateful to all of you for all that you have done.

I think that the ceremonies are now over, except for one very important addition that relates to the future. Under an Act of the Congress of the United States, there was appointed -- authorized to be appointed a Board of Trustees, who will be responsible for this Library from midnight tonight, through the years to come.

I am glad that you have come today, because as I suggested at lunch to some of the Trustees, this is the last chance you have got to see this Library free of charge. (laughter) At midnight tonight the Government of the United States takes over, and they take over through this Board of Trustees, of which Dr. Connor, the Archivist -- the National Archivist of the United States -- is to be the Chairman, and on which will serve ex officio our own neighbor from this County, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (applause)

And incidentally, I have appointed a number of very old friends of mine to serve as additional Trustees: My old law partner, Basil O'Connor from New York (applause); and Frank Walker, who in addition to being a very old friend is also the man who carries your mail (laughter and applause); and Dr. Morison, an old sea-faring friend of mine. (laughter and applause) And now

let us see, who else is there? Oh, I asked him but he couldn't get here today. He was terribly sorry, but he said, quite frankly, that Long Island was cooler than Hyde Park. (laughter) Another old friend, whom you have seen here many times with me -- Harry Hopkins. (applause)

And so -- and so I am asking the first Federal Judge to be appointed from Dutchess County for I don't know how many generations, our old friend Eddie Conger of Poughkeepsie, to step forward when I give out these -- I won't call them diplomas, but they look like diplomas -- to these new Trustees. I am going to ask Federal District Judge Conger to administer the Oath of Office.

(the Oath of Office was then administered to Basil O'Connor, Dr. Morison, and Frank C. Walker)

(the following Benediction was then pronounced by the Reverend Frank R. Wilson, Rector, St. James' Church, Hyde Park, New York)

THE PRESIDENT: Now I hope you will all feel very welcome to come in and see the building and what is in it.

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BENEDICTION  
BY THE REVEREND FRANK R. WILSON,  
RECTOR, ST. JAMES' CHURCH,  
HYDE PARK, N. Y.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest  
upon our people and upon all our work done  
in His Name. May He give us light to guide  
us, courage to support us, and love to unite  
us, now and for evermore.

Amen.

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**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
DEDICATION OF  
THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY  
JUNE 30, 1941**

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The dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith.

To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things.

It must believe in the past.

It must believe in the future.

It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.

Among democracies the building of libraries and museums for the use of all the people flourishes. That is especially true in our own land, for we believe that people should work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by self-constituted leaders.

It is in keeping with the well considered trend in these difficult days that we are distributing historical collections more widely than ever before throughout our land. From the point of view of the safety -- the physical safety -- of our records, it is wiser that they be not too greatly concentrated. From the point of view of accessibility, modern methods make dissemination practicable.

This is but one of many new libraries. As President I accept this newest house in which the people's record is preserved -- public papers and collections which refer to one period in our history.

-3-

This latest addition to the archives of America is dedicated at a moment when government of the people by themselves is everywhere attacked.

It is, therefore, proof -- if any proof is needed -- that our confidence in the future of democracy has not diminished in this nation and will not diminish.

Into this Library has gone, and will continue to go, the loving care of many people. Most of you who are here today are old friends and neighbors of mine throughout the years. All of you are in a sense Trustees of the Library in the future.

We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the land will be glad that what we <sup>do</sup> today makes available to future Americans the story of what we have lived and are living.

I am grateful to all of you for all that you have done.

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b

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

Washington, D. C.

June 25, 1941

Dear Missey:

Mr. Hassett called up while I was on the west coast to ask if I would put down a few ideas for a brief address by the President at the dedication of the Library at Hyde Park. I have tried my hand at it and here it is. I don't know quite how long a speech the President proposes to make and I don't know what he wants to say about the Hyde Park Library itself. I have, therefore, made my draft brief (about seven minutes) and have confined myself to questions affecting libraries as such at the present moment.

I think I should tell you that I have made oblique references to remarks of Hitler's about propaganda. The sentences which I have somewhat remotely paraphrased are: "The masses, however, with their inertia,....will devote their memories only to the thousandfold repetition of the most simple ideas". "The receptive ability of the great masses is only very limited, their understanding is small; on the other hand, their forgetfulness is great". "In the size of the lie there is always contained a certain factor of creditability, since the great masses of a people may be more corrupt in the bottom of their hearts than consciously and intentionally bad. Therefore, with the primitive simplicity of their minds, they will more easily fall victims to a great lie than to a small one...".

I am rushing this down by messenger. If the President is able to glance at it and has any suggestions as to additional ways, or other ways, in which I can be useful, I would be obliged if you would let me know. It's been far too long since I last saw you. I hope you are taking care of yourself.

*always affectionately*  
~~Faithfully yours,~~

*Archibald*

Archibald MacLeish

Enclosure

Miss Marguerite LeHand  
Personal Secretary to the President  
The White House

+  
160

164  
157  
117  
54  
602

Too, near

A. Macch.  
6/25/41

The dedication of a library is an act of faith, <sup>in itself</sup> ~~if there~~  
~~ever was an act of faith.~~ # To bring together the records of

the past and to house them in buildings where they will be  
preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation  
must believe in three things. # It must believe in the past.

# It must believe in the future. # (4) ~~It must, above all, be~~  
~~(capacity of its people to study the past and so~~  
~~believe in the~~ ~~future for themselves.~~  
~~create the future for themselves.~~

It is for this reason that the great builders of libraries  
have been the democratic peoples and, above all, this democratic  
people. For this democratic people has been the greatest build-  
er of libraries in the history of the world. Peoples ruled by  
the will of others, by the will of a ruler, may believe in the  
past as their ruler gives them to see the past. They may  
believe in the future as their ruler directs them to imagine the

future. But they cannot believe in themselves, in the generations of men, as the inheritors of the past and as the creators of the future, for they know that the future is not theirs to make.

Men under such forms of government are not men but "the masses" and are so described in the books which proclaim the theories of these forms of governments. The past belongs not to them but to their rulers and the future also. They have no need therefore of the record of the past. Their only duty is to believe and to obey. The books dealing with this modern theory of despotism are given over in great part to the methods by which the belief of "the masses" is to be created and their obedience secured. "The masses" are not to be informed. They are not to be given access to the facts of record. They are not to be permitted to determine their best interest for themselves.

Instead they are to be told over and over what their rulers wish them to believe. If their rulers wish them to believe half the truth they will be told half the truth. If their rulers wish them to believe lies they will be told lies. But whether lies or half-lies, half-truths or truths, the record laid before them will be the record their rulers wish them to accept.

The dedication of a library by the people of a free nation is an expression of a faith in every sense opposed to such a theory of government and such a ~~mass~~<sup>concept</sup> of mankind. The theories of modern despotism are theories based upon contempt for common men: theories based upon the conviction that the understanding of "the masses" is small and their forgetfulness great: that they are capable of receiving only the simplest ideas and only

these when they are repeated again and again like the words of command taught to dogs and horses. Democracy is the great repudiation of this ancient and contemptuous conception of the common man. Democracy is, indeed, a form of government founded upon the opposite conception: founded upon a firm belief in the essential dignity of ordinary men, in their responsibility as citizens and in the ultimate wisdom of their judgment. It is a form of government which time, upon this continent, has abundantly justified, and which nothing written or done by those who hate democracy, and who now attack it both by words and deeds, has shaken.

It is therefore with a sense of rededication and reaffirmation that we, who are members of a free people, accept this newest library: this newest house in which the people's record is preserved. Here a part of the public papers of one period

of our history is made available to the future. We who believe in that future because we believe in the generations of men and in their ability to create their own lives and the life of this nation for themselves, see in this building a declaration of our common faith. Here, as in the other libraries of this country and in the archives and the public buildings, the people's record is made available for the people's use. The existence of these buildings is the most convincing evidence of our confidence as a people in the people's capacity to learn, to judge and to decide. This latest addition to their number, built and dedicated at a moment when government of the people by themselves is everywhere attacked, is proof, if any proof is needed, that our confidence in the capacity of the people to decide has not diminished in this nation and will not diminish.



The President's Speech

6/30/1941

J. P. Morgan

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, HYDE PARK, N.Y.  
ON JUNE 30, 1941

JUNE 30, 1941

C A U T I O N :- The following address of the President, at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, must be held in strict confidence until released.

N O T E :- Released to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets not earlier than 3.00 P.M., E.S.T., June 30, 1941. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators. Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

## STATEMENTS FILE

WILLIAM D. FASSETT

MR. WALKER, DR. CONNOR:

The dedication of a library is in itself an act of faith,

To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future.

-- in

A nation must believe in three things.

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It must believe in the future.

It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment, in creating their own permanent institutions like

Among democracies, the building of libraries and museums for the use of all the people has been among democracies that such building has flourished of all the people's flourishes. And that is especially true in our own land, for

because we believe that people ought to work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by self-constituted leaders who decide what is best for them.

And so it is in keeping with the well considered trend in these difficult days that we are distributing our own historical collections more widely than ever

the length and breadth of our land. From the point of view of the safety -- the physical safety of our records, it is wiser in later times that these records be concentrated. And from the point of view of accessibility, modern methods make of these records in many places possible for the more widespread dissemination of these records.

This is but one of many new libraries. President Roosevelt accept this

newest house in which the people's records are preserved -- public papers and collections which refer to our own period in our history.

And this latest addition to the archives of America is dedicated at a moment when government of the people by themselves is being everywhere attacked.

It is, therefore, proof -- if any proof is needed -- that our confidence in the future of democracy has not diminished in this nation and will not diminish. (Applause)

As all of you know into this Library has gone, and will continue to go, the loving care of many people. Most of you who are here today are old friends and neighbors of mine throughout the years. And so all my friends and neighbors this

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that we are accustomed to now, make study and

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And so because it happens to be a national one, I

library ~~in the future~~ through the years to come.

We hope that millions of our citizens from every part of the land will be glad that what we do today makes available to future Americans the story of what we have lived and are living. (b) - insert

And so I am grateful to all of you for all that you have done.

NOW ADD INSERT (c) - (ALL EXTEMPORANEOUS)

*Edison*

(b) in our lives, and what we are living today, and what we will continue to live during the rest of our lives.

I N S E R T (C)

I think that the ceremonies are now over, except for one very important addition that relates to the future. Under an Act of the Congress of the United States, there was appointed -- authorized to be appointed a Board of Trustees, who will be responsible for this Library from Midnight tonight, through the years to come.

I am glad that you have come today, because as I suggested at lunch to some of the Trustees, this is the last chance you have got to see this Library free of charge. (laughter) At midnight tonight the Government of the United States takes over, and they take over through this Board of Trustees, of which Dr. Connor, the Archivist -- the National Archivist of the United States -- is to be the Chairman, and on which will serve ex officio our own neighbor from this County, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (applause)

And incidentally, I have appointed a number of very old friends of mine to serve as additional Trustees. My old law partner, Basil O'Connor from New York, (applause) And Frank Walker, who in addition to being a very old friend is also the man who carries your mail, (laughter and applause) And Dr. Morison, an old sea-faring friend of mine, (laughter and applause) And now let us see, who else is there? Oh, I asked him (Harry Hopkins) but he couldn't get here today. He was terribly sorry, but he said, quite frankly, that Long Island was colder than Hyde Park. (laughter) Another old friend, whom you have seen here many times with me -- Harry Hopkins. (applause)

And so -- and so I am asking the first Federal Judge to be appointed from Dutchess County for I don't know how many generations, our old friend Eddie Conger of Poughkeepsie, (the President laughs) to step forward when I give out these -- I won't call them diplomas, but they look like diplomas -- to these new Trustees. I am going to ask Federal District Judge Conger to administer the Oath of Office.

(the Oath of Office was then administered to Basil O'Connor, Dr.

Morison, and Frank C. Walker)

(the Benediction followed)

2

THE PRESIDENT: Now I hope you will all feel very welcome to come in and see the building and what is in it.

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**The National Archives**

Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE ARCHIVIST

June 24, 1941.

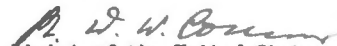
Mr. Stephen Early,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Early:

Enclosed is a copy of the  
remarks which I plan to make at the dedi-  
cation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Library on June 30th.

Enclosed also is an uncor-  
rected proof of the program of the exercises.

Sincerely yours,

  
Archivist of the United States.



REMARKS

of

R. D. W. CONNOR

ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

at the dedication of

THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

at Hyde Park, New York

June 30, 1941.

REMARKS

of

R. D. W. CONNOR

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at Hyde Park, New York

June 30, 1941.

In normal times the average person thinks little and cares less about the past; he is quite content to let the dead past bury its dead; for him the living present is sufficient. But when times are out of joint, when new ideologies appear to challenge traditional ideologies, every champion of either the new or the old looks to the past for help, and feels himself at liberty to use or abuse the helpless Muse of History as suits his purpose.

We ourselves are living in such a time. Everywhere new and strange isms are engaged in a life and death struggle with old and familiar isms. In our own land, according to our American custom, the struggle is being waged within the framework of constitutional principles and practices. Other lands and other peoples have not been so fortunate. From Europe, from Africa, from Asia, come reverberations of war and revolution. But whether waged with ballots or with bullets, the conflicts everywhere, in one respect at least, follow the same historic pattern. In the present as in the past, protagonists of the new and defenders of the old are busily thumbing the pages of history in search of arguments to support their own particular brands of isms. No one who wades patiently through the "Public Pulse" columns of our daily papers can fail to admire the zeal if not the knowledge of these champions.

The interests which make such uses of history are as numerous and varied as the interests of humanity itself. Ambition to live in history has always been a powerful influence in the conduct of men. From earliest times, conquerors and rulers have had the records of their actions preserved, falsified, or destroyed, as the case might require, in the hope that history might speak well of them; leaders of lost causes have appealed for vindication from the verdict of their contemporaries to the verdict of history; and martyrs of every philosophy have found consolation in handing over their persecutors to history's avenging pen. But respect for the judgments of history is not confined to individuals; society itself, in every form, has acknowledged its power. The Exchange, the Church, the State, have feared its condemnation and courted its praise.

In a national crisis, men instinctively seek to find in the spirit of the past inspiration to strengthen the morale of the present. Not long ago the President appealed to the American people for national unity in the present national crisis. Only through national unity, he told us, "can we successfully defend our national heritage" and pass it on "not only intact, but stronger than ever, to all generations yet to come." But what is our "national heritage" if it is not our national history? And how can we pass it on intact and stronger than ever if we do not respect its truth and defend its integrity? The product of false history is a spurious patriotism and a spurious patriotism is no more to be desired in a democracy than in an autocracy.

The raw materials of history are the records of past human

affairs, and only when such records have been preserved and made available to him can the historian truly reconstruct and interpret the past. It must have been some such thought that inspired the idea that finds concrete expression in this library which we dedicate today. No thoughtful person will seriously question the fact that the political, economic, and social development of both the domestic and foreign affairs of the United States during the past two decades marks this period as a distinctive era in our national history; nor can it be doubted that this period will be the subject of intensive study by the historians, political scientists, economists, and sociologists of the future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the historian, was quite as well aware of this fact as was Franklin D. Roosevelt, the statesman, when, on December 10, 1938 he announced to the country his plan for the establishment of this library. After describing the rich and varied materials in his collections, he said: "It is my desire that they be kept as a whole and intact in their original condition, available to scholars of the future in one definite locality. ... It is, therefore, my thought that funds can be raised for the erection of a separate, modern, fireproof building ... so designed that it would hold all of my own collections and also such other source material relating to this period in our history as might be donated to the collection in future by other members of the present Administration." Thus there would be "set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source material collection relating to a specific period in our history."

That plan has now been carried into effect, and we have met here today to dedicate the building and its contents to the service of the American people. We do this in confident expectation that for generations to come, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library will be the Mecca for scholars and statesmen who would learn how in the midst of a world conflict between autocracy and democracy a free people preserved their freedom and strengthened their democratic institutions.



The Architect of the United States

Washington, D. C.

THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

July 7, 1941.

Mr. Stephen Early,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Early:

Sam Morison writes me  
that an official White House stenographer  
made a stenographic report of his remarks  
at the dedication of the Franklin D.  
Roosevelt Library on June 30th. I shall  
greatly appreciate it if you will have a  
copy sent to me for my files.

Sincerely yours,

*A. D. W. Connor*  
Archivist of the United States.

*Copies Sent*

*ASO: President ✓*  
*Librarian ✓*  
*Justice Frankfurter ✓*  
*Frank C. Walker ✓*  
*Sam Dilly ✓*  
*Dr. Morison ✓*  
*Paul O'Connor ✓*  
*A. D. W. CONNOR ✓*

t

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 17, 1941

MEMO FOR MISS TULLY:

This copy is for the President, if you think he would like to have it.

Shall I send similar set to the Library?

J. Romagna

*Yes  
I would like to  
have a copy sent  
to the Library*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

JULY 21, 1941

COPIES SENT TO:

1. The President (original)
2. The F.D.R. Library (care Shipman)
3. Hon. Frank C. Walker.
4. Hon. Felix Frankfurter.
5. Hon. R. D. W. Connor.
6. Dr. Sam Morison.
7. Miss Grace Tully.
8. Mr. Basil O'Connor.

(Not to Harry Hopkins yet)

→ Sent him  
8/19/41

FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Frank Walker ✓  
Basil O'Connor ✓  
Dr. Connor ✓  
Prof Sam Harrison ✓?  
Harry Hopkins

TRUSTEES

July 21, 1941

Mr. Basil O'Connor  
120 Broadway  
New York City

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

We are enclosing for your use a copy of the Addresses  
given at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library  
on June 30, 1941.

Sincerely yours,

J. Romagna  
Official Reporter

July 21, 1941

Hon. Felix Frankfurter  
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Frankfurter:

We are enclosing herewith for your own use, a copy  
of the Addresses given at the Dedication of the Franklin  
D. Roosevelt Library on June 30, 1941.

Should you wish any more copies, we will be glad  
to send them to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Romagna  
Official Reporter



July 21, 1941

Dr. Sam Morison  
Professor of History  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Morison:

Thank you very much for sending us the corrected  
speech.

We are enclosing a copy of the Addresses given at  
the Dedication of the Franklin B. Roosevelt Library, on  
June 30, 1941, and yours is included.

Sincerely yours,

J. Romagna  
Official Reporter

July 21, 1941

Hon. Frank C. Walker  
The Postmaster General  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Walker:

We are enclosing a copy of the Addresses that were given at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library on June 30, 1941.

This is for your own use. A bound copy has been sent up to the Library, care of Mr. Shipman, and extra copies are being sent to the Trustees. Should you wish extra sets, we will be glad to send them to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Romagna  
Official Reporter

July 21, 1941

Hon. E. D. W. Connor  
Archivist of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Connor:

We are enclosing a copy of the Addresses given at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, on June 30, 1941.

This is in accordance with your request of July 7 marked for the attention of Mr. Stephen Early.

Sincerely yours,

J. Romagna  
Official Reporter

July 21, 1941

Mr. Fred W. Shipman, Director  
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library  
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mr. Shipman:

We are enclosing a bound copy of the Addresses  
given at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Library on June 30, 1941.

This bound copy is for the Library's record,  
the original of which has been given to the President.

We are sending extra copies to all the Trustees  
and if you should want more, just let us know.

Sincerely yours,

J. Romagna  
Official Reporter

The National Archives  
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library  
Hyde Park, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 28, 1941

Mr. J. Romagna  
Official Reporter  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Romagna:

I am pleased to receive for the Library's record a bound copy of the Addresses given at the Dedication on June 30, 1941.

You suggest that you could supply additional copies. I should appreciate having a duplicate copy for the Library and a copy for myself. If they are plentiful there are several members of the staff who would likewise be interested in having copies.

Sincerely yours,

*Fred W. Shipman*

Fred W. Shipman  
Director

August 18, 1941

Mr. Fred W. Shipman, Director  
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library  
Hyde Park, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Shipman:

In accordance with your letter of July 28, 1941,  
we are glad to enclose five additional copies of the Ded-  
ication Addresses June 30th.

Sincerely yours,

J. Rouagna  
Official Reporter



# Exercises

AT THE DEDICATION OF THE

Franklin D. Roosevelt

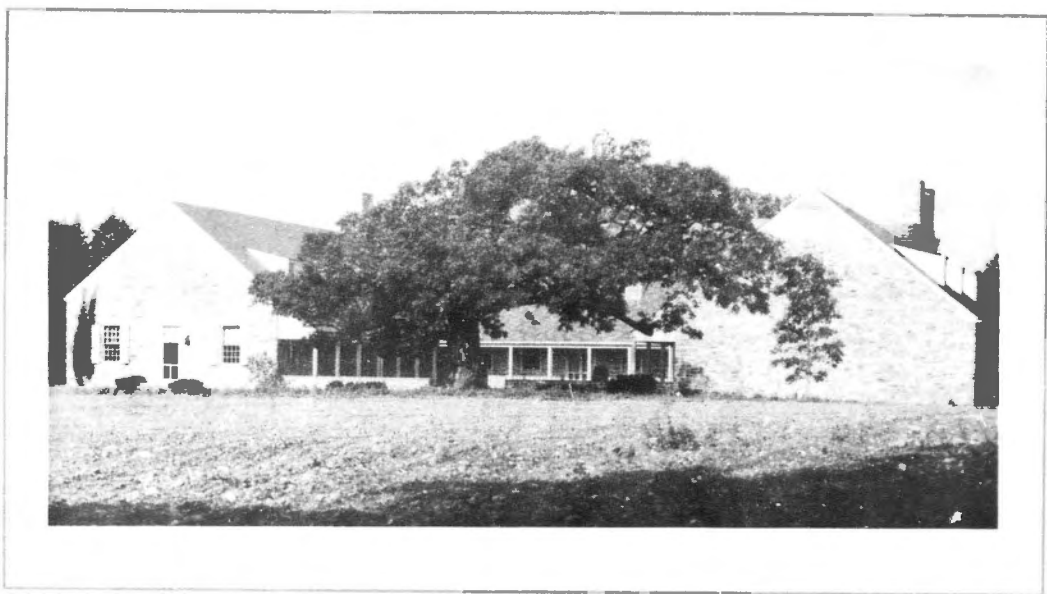
Library ♦ *Hyde Park, New York*

MONDAY AFTERNOON JUNE THIRTIETH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ FOUR O'CLOCK ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

*Unconnected proof*



# Program

The Honorable Frank C. Walker, Presiding Officer

## INVOCATION

The Reverend Patrick J. Mee, Rector, The Church of  
Regina Coli, Hyde Park, New York

## ADDRESSES

R. D. W. Connor, Archivist of the United States

Samuel Eliot Morison, Professor of History, Harvard  
University

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

## BENEDICTION

The Reverend Frank R. Wilson, Rector, Saint James'  
Church, Hyde Park, New York

# Program

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OF AMERICA

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The Reverend Frank R. Wilson, Rector, Saint James'  
Church, Hyde Park, New York



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1944-00



Nelson House,  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

July 1, 1941

Dr. Samuel E. Morison,  
Professor of History  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Morison:

The attached, incomplete transcript of the bright and interesting talk you gave yesterday at the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, is sent to you in the hope that you will find time to look it over and make the necessary insertions, and corrections if needed.

Mr. Frank C. Walker found out I had made a record of your talk, and would very much like to have it for the permanent record of the exercises yesterday.

I am sorry it's incomplete, but I took it more or less just for the fun of it, having been given no definite instructions. I report only what the President says, unless otherwise directed.

Sincerely yours,

J. Remagna  
White House Conference  
Reporter

We expect to be in Poughkeepsie through Friday, if you care to return the speech before then.



ADDRESS OF SAMUEL E. MORISON, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, ON THE DEDICATION OF THE  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, JUNE 30, 1941.

One of my favorite quotations to announce an historical address, however short -- I suppose when a poet is present -- is from Don Quixote. It is one thing to write as a poet, another as an historian. The poet is able to say or sing things, not as they were, but as they ought to be. The historian has to write of them, not as they should have been, but as they were, without adding to them or subtracting from the truth in any way.

Now, Mr. President, it will be possible to write about the truth -- the historical truth about your Administration, on account of this wonderful collection that you are bringing together in this building. I think it will be more so than about any earlier Presidential administration in history. I like to think, for instance, -- with despair -- of the number of unnecessary, futile, misleading books about Abraham Lincoln that we might have been spared, had their heirs brought about such a collection of papers as this. But,

Mr. President, if you were going to give us Snug Harbor for all your collection and your papers, I will have to warn you that you will have to give some of these auditors the deep sixes or they --- (here I looked up to watch you speaking)

I want to say to the President's neighbors from Dutchess County here assembled, if you have anything to give the President like that old trunk or mohair couch, don't do it. (laughter)

Not that I am one of those who regard all historical material as being on paper or in ink. Far from it. I should like to see, for instance, in this Library and Museum, -- well, a straw from that Literary Digest straw vote. I should like to see some of those blades of grass that didn't grow in the streets of our cities. I would like to see a plank out of that famous walk that led out from the White House --- (here I looked up to watch you speaking again)

And when I go below here, Mr. President, down into the hold of this building I view these ice-boats and carriages as they are going to appear to the historians in the future.

Mr. President, you and I went to sea first at about the same

time, and in the same waters, along the coast of the Bay of Fundy, where there is an awful lot of fog, and I know that learning to sail through the fog has been extremely useful to me, and I shouldn't wonder if it hadn't been sometimes useful to you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

It was down in those regions that the summer yachter when asked -- when he asked a native lobsterman what the lighthouse looked like, the lobsterman said, "Well, sir, I am afraid I don't know. I have been living down here and lobstering for fifty years, but I ain't seen it yet." Now, Mr. President, owing to the wise and generous provisions that have been made, there will be no historical fog over the history of your Administrations. (laughter and applause)

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Klar:

Lighthouse name: 'Tit Manan

J. Romagna  
7-7-41