



Contact: Lisa L. Hansen
Waterfront Technologies for Woodrow Wilson House/NTHP
410-342-2088 or cell: 410-404-3438
lhansen@woodrowwilsonhouse.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PRESIDENTIAL DISH AT WOODROW WILSON HOUSE

Washington, DC—Celebrating the 90th anniversary of First Lady Edith Bolling Wilson’s creation of the White House China Room – a symbol of national patriotism during World War I that has a potent relevance in 2007 – The Woodrow Wilson House, a National Trust Historic Site, is recreating this famous interior in its exhibition, “**The Presidential Dish: Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and the White House China Room**,” on view through August 4, 2008. For information about this unique exhibition and Washington’s only presidential museum, please visit www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org.

The Wilsons were the first to commission American-manufactured State Dinner service. “**The Presidential Dish: Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and the White House China Room**” offers a rare opportunity to revisit the original ‘Presidential Collection Room,’ as President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson knew it. Over 130 pieces of rare presidential porcelains in carefully replicated casework capped with plaques -- “CHINA USED BY THE PRESIDENTS” -- will recreate the collection as displayed in the White House in 1917.

“What makes this exhibition so unique is its exploration of both the evolution of decorative taste and the importance of symbolism to the American political stage. The range is broad, with plates representing George Washington, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson,” notes Frank J. Aucella, executive director of the museum. Presidential porcelains on loan from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Set Charles Momjian will duplicate the inventory record of china displayed 90 years ago at the Wilson White House.

Exhibition curator James Abbott added that the significance of the China Room itself should not be overlooked: “Mrs. Wilson’s sponsorship of the creation of this now famous room symbolized the United States’ validation as a true world power. Though a rather simple idea, the gallery succinctly packaged the nation’s history, providing a valuable addition to the patriotic backdrop of the Presidency – particularly important during a time of international conflict.”

-more-

THE PRESIDENTIAL DISH AT WOODROW WILSON HOUSE (Page Two)

In the center of the exhibition gallery will be a focus installation allowing visitors to experience the process of choosing a State Dinner Service. This display case will include never before exhibited designs submitted for the Wilsons' consideration by the New Jersey manufacturer, Lenox. In the center will be the chosen pattern, produced in 1918. Visitors will be invited to see if they agree with and perhaps recognize the presidential criteria of the choice of the 28th President and his wife.

For Edith Bolling Wilson, the 'Presidential Collection Room' would be her lasting contribution to the White House. Still located next to the Diplomatic Reception Room, where foreign dignitaries often enter the mansion, the White House China Room is counted among the most recognized rooms within America's most famous residence.

The Presidential Dish is made possible, in part, by, The Richard C. Von Hess Foundation. Its accompanying color-illustrated publication is made possible by contributions from Richard Bolling Fuller, Cary Clark Fuller, and William and Frederica Kolker Saxon.

About the Woodrow Wilson House

The Woodrow Wilson House, a National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) site, was the 28th U.S. President's last home and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964, and is the only presidential museum in Washington. First Lady Edith Bolling Wilson's early preservationist efforts and gift of the house and its contents to the NTHP showcase the life, internationalism, leadership and public service of President Woodrow Wilson. The Woodrow Wilson House tells a complex story of our cultural heritage and the rich legacy of a visionary leader in the surrounds of exquisite gifts of State.

The Woodrow Wilson House holds an authentic and historically significant collection of over 8,000 objects: period architecture; landscape design; fine, decorative, and industrial arts; textiles; and related ephemera. Furnished as it was in Wilson's time, the fashionable 1915 house just off Embassy Row is a living textbook of modern life in the 1920s—from sound recordings to silent films, from flapper dresses to zinc sinks.

Visitor Information

Open to the public, Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. All visitors enjoy Guided tours with admission. \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors, \$3.00 for students and free for those under the age of seven. Group rates available by advance reservation at www.WoodrowWilsonHouse.org.

Located two miles northwest of the White House, near the intersection of S and 24th streets in Kalorama; a 15-minute walk from the Dupont Metro station. The address is 2340 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008. For general information, visitors may call 202-387-4062 or visit www.WoodrowWilsonhouse.org.

###