



DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES MINT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

February 23, 2012

Mr. Gary B. Marks
Chairman
Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee
501 Pine View Lane
Bellevue, ID 83313

Dear Mr. Marks:

Enclosed for review and comment by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee at its meeting on February 28, 2012, are the reverse design activities and interests for the 2013 First Spouse Gold Coin and Medal Program.

In accordance with the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 (Act) (Public Law 109-145), the United States Mint will mint and issue \$10 gold coins with designs emblematic of the spouse of each President. The obverse of each First Spouse Gold Coin will bear an image of the first spouse with the reverse depicting a design emblematic of her life and work. The Act also authorizes the Secretary to strike and sell bronze medals that bear the likeness of these coins. In accordance with the Act's provisions as described above, in 2013, Ida Saxton McKinley, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, Helen Herron Taft, Ellen Axon Wilson, and Edith Bolling Gault Wilson will be honored with First Spouse Gold Coins.

We appreciate your review of the enclosed design activities and interests at your meeting on February 28, 2012. A representative of the United States Mint will present the narratives at this meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Peterson
Deputy Director
United States Mint

Enclosure:

Design activities and interests for the 2013 First Spouse Gold Coin and Medal Program

2013 First Spouse - Activities and Interests

Ida Saxton McKinley (1897-1901)

- Suffered several physical disabilities, but still wanted to serve as hostess as the First Lady of Ohio and the First Lady of the United States. She received guests at formal occasions seated in a blue velvet chair, holding a fragrant bouquet to suggest she would not shake hands. (Klapthor & Black, 2006).ⁱ
- Crocheted thousands of slippers for charity. These were auctioned off, raising a substantial amount of money for charity (Smithsonian Institute National Museum of American History & Ohio Memory).ⁱⁱ
- Was first presidential candidate wife to have campaign public relations material printed about her. (National First Ladies Library).ⁱⁱⁱ
- Served lemonade during her husband's "front porch" campaign in Canton Ohio. The home was used as a campaign "prop" (Vassar College).^{iv}

Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt (1901-1909)

- Began the renovation of the West Wing of the White House which included: separating the living quarters from the offices, enlarging and modernizing the public rooms, redecorating the interior and re-doing the landscaping (Miller Center).^v
- Created the China Room at the White House showcasing past administrations china service. Ordered Wedgwood service for 120 people for a dinner party (Miller Center).^{vi}
- Established the First Ladies Portrait Gallery on the ground floor of the White House (Miller Center).^{vii}
- Was the first First Lady to hire a paid social secretary. The secretary's name was Isabella "Belle" Hagner (Dickerson State University).^{viii}
- Was best known for the two social occasions listed below:
 1. Reception for Prince Henry of Prussia, the brother of the Kaiser (National First Ladies Library).^{ix}
 2. The White House wedding of her stepdaughter, Alice, to Ohio Congressman Nicholas Longworth (Miller Center).^x

Helen Herron Taft (1909 – 1913)

- Arranged for the planting of the Japanese Cherry Trees to beautify the Tidal Basin. (National Park Services).^{xi}
- Trained as a pianist and loved music. She had a bandstand built at the area of the Tidal Basin so the Marine Band could play there on Sundays. Mrs. Taft as well as others attended picnic concerts in the city of Washington. Her love of music resulted in beautiful music being brought to the White House (Gould, 2010).^{xii}
- Was one of several founders of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.^{xiii}
- Was the first First Lady to ride with her husband in a carriage back to the White House after the inauguration. The previous custom was to have the outgoing President accompany the newly inaugurated president on the carriage ride back to the White House (Senate website).^{xiv}
- Organized a huge celebration for their silver wedding anniversary in 1911 (White House).^{xv}
- Supported the establishment of the First Ladies Collection at the Smithsonian and donated her inaugural gown, thus starting the tradition of First Spouses donating their inaugural gowns to the museum. When asked to contribute a dress to the exhibition, she chose the gown she wore to her husband's 1909 inauguration (Smithsonian Institute).^{xvi}

Ellen Axon Wilson (1913 – 1914)

- Was an accomplished artist who sketched and painted landscapes and portraits in watercolors and oils. She had a studio in the White House. Her artwork was displayed in shows while she served as First Lady (First Ladies Library).^{xvii}
- Had a special interest in the working conditions of federal government workers and insisted on the installation of women's restrooms at public buildings and offices (Mill Center).^{xviii}
- Called attention to a variety of causes which included the need for child labor laws, enforcement of school attendance, and use of schools as recreational centers (National First Ladies Library).^{xix}
- Advocated for a bill to create better housing for the poor in Washington, especially for the Black citizens at that time. On March 22, 1913, she met with the head of the Women's Dept. of the National Civic Federation who related the plight of Black citizens in Washington (White House).^{xx}

- Introduced Appalachian Hills artwork in the White House (National First Ladies Library).^{xxi}
- Initiated and oversaw the creation of the Rose Garden (National First Ladies Library).^{xxii}

Edith Bolling Gault Wilson (1915 – 1921)

- Married sitting President Woodrow Wilson during a ceremony held in her Washington home on Dec. 18, 1915 (Gould, 2010).^{xxiii}
- Stewardship: After the President's stroke left him partly paralyzed in 1919, Mrs. Wilson became his constant attendant and took on many routine duties and details of government but did not try to control the executive branch. Instead she selected matters for her husband's attention and let everything else either go to the heads of departments or remain in abeyance. (White House Website & Gould, 2010).^{xxiv}
- Volunteered for the Red Cross during WWI. She knitted at the White House with other invited women to make woolen garments that the Red Cross sent to the nation's fighting soldiers and setup a room in the White House for a unit of the Red Cross. This room was used for the express purpose of sewing garments and folding bandages (Miller Center).^{xxv}
- Signed a pledge for the Food and Drug Administration for food conservation - the first woman to do so - which resulted in wheatless, meatless, heatless, and gasless days being observed at the White House (Miller Center).^{xxvi}
- Known as "The Shepherdess" because she brought a flock of sheep to the White House as a cost saving measure during the war. The sheep kept the grass trimmed and reduced the need for a gardener to do that task. The sheep also provided wool for garments for soldiers (Smithsonian Institution).^{xxvii}

References

ⁱ Klapthor, Margaret B. & Black, Allida M. (2006). The first ladies of the United States of America. *White House Historical Association*. (pp. 54-55).

ⁱⁱ Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Retrieved January 19, 2012, from http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/small_exhibition.cfm?key=1267&exkey=863&pagekey=893;

Ohio Memory Collection. Retrieved January 19, 2012, from http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p267401coll36&CISOPTR=10945&CISOBOX=1&REC=9.

Ohio Memory website.

http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p267401coll36&CISOPTR=10945&CISOBOX=1&REC=5.

ⁱⁱⁱ National First Ladies Library. Retrieved January 19, 2012, from <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=25>.

^{iv} Vassar College. 1896: The republican party. (2000). Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://projects.vassar.edu/1896/republicans.html>.

^v Miller Center University of Virginia. American president a reference resource: Edith Roosevelt. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://millercenter.org/president/roosevelt/essays/firstlady>.

Theodore Roosevelt Center. Dickerson University. <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/Themes/Family-and-Friends/Edith-Kermit-Carow-Roosevelt.aspx>.

^{vi} Miller Center University of Virginia. American president a reference resource: Edith Roosevelt. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://millercenter.org/president/roosevelt/essays/firstlady>. White House Historical Association. http://www.whha.org/whha_timelines/timelines_decorative-arts-03.html

^{vii} Dickerson State University. Theodore Roosevelt Center. Roosevelt, Edith Carow. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/Themes/Family-and-Friends/Edith-Kermit-Carow-Roosevelt.aspx>.

^{viii} Dickerson State University. Theodore Roosevelt Center. Roosevelt, Edith Carow. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/Themes/Family-and-Friends/Edith-Kermit-Carow-Roosevelt.aspx>.

^{ix} National First Ladies Library. Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=26>.

^x Miller Center University of Virginia. Edith Roosevelt. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://millercenter.org/president/roosevelt/essays/firstlady>.

^{xi} National Park Service. History of cherry trees. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.nps.gov/cherry/cherry-blossom-history.htm>; National Cherry Blossom Festival. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/about/history/>.

^{xii} Gould, Lewis L. (2010). *Helen Taft: Our musical first lady*. Kansas: University Press.

^{xiii} Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra website. <http://cincinnati-symphony.org/Content.php?id=11>

-
- ^{xiv} United States Senate. Inaugural Chronology: President William Howard Taft, 1909. Retrieved from <http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/chronology/whtaft1909.cfm>.
- ^{xv} White House. Helen Herron Taft biography. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/history/firstladies/ht27.html>.
- ^{xvi} Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of American History. The first ladies at the Smithsonian: The tradition of gowns. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/small_exhibition.cfm?key=1267&exkey=863&pagekey=898.
- ^{xvii} First Ladies Library. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=28>.
- ^{xviii} Miller Center University of Virginia. American president a reference resource: Ellen Wilson. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://millercenter.org/president/wilson/essays/firstlady/ellen>.
- ^{xix} National First Ladies Library. Biography. Ellen Wilson. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=28>.
- ^{xx} White House. Ellen Axson Wilson biography. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies/ellenwilson>.
- ^{xxi} National First Ladies Library. Biography. Ellen Wilson. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=29>.
- ^{xxii} National First Ladies Library. Biography. Ellen Wilson. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=29>.
- ^{xxiii} Gould, Lewis L. (2010). Helen Taft: Our musical first lady. Kansas: University Press.
- ^{xxiv} White House Website. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies/edithwilson>.
Gould, Lewis L. (2010). Helen Taft: Our musical first lady. Kansas: University Press.
- ^{xxv} Miller Center University of Virginia. American president a reference resource: Edith Bolling Wilson. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://millercenter.org/president/wilson/essays/firstlady>.
- ^{xxvi} Miller Center University of Virginia. American president a reference resource: Edith Bolling Wilson. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://millercenter.org/president/wilson/essays/firstlady>.
- ^{xxvii} Smithsonian Institution Research Information Systems. President Wilson's sheep at the white house. Retrieved on January 19, 2012, from <http://siris-archives.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?uri=full=3100001~!29178110#focus>.