

November 4, 1991

To: Jim Kelly
From: Sandy Belan
Subject: Winston Churchill's Visit

Per your request attached is some information regarding the "Williamsburg Award."

Mr. Churchill visited Williamsburg on March 6, 1946 along with Mr. Eisenhower.

Mr. Churchill was presented the Williamsburg Award in London on December 7, 1955.

Unfortunately our audiovisual library does not have any photos of the event. The photos we do have belong to Karsh Photographers and we cannot release them without their permission.

If I can be of any further assistance please let me know. I hope this information will be beneficial.

S. S. B.



Attachments

August 18, 1969 Daily Press

A Williamsburg Award Suggestion

A number of years ago Colonial Williamsburg established the Williamsburg Award "as part of its program to bring new strength in our time to the belief in human liberty and the dignity of the individual which made Williamsburg and its leaders a moving force in 18th century America." It was specified that "clear and eminent achievement shall be the only criterion for eligibility."

The first—and, so far, only—Williamsburg Award was presented to Sir Winston Churchill.

It had been hoped that Sir Winston would come to Williamsburg to receive the honor—a silver town crier's bell and a \$10,000 honorarium. But Sir Winston wasn't able to come, and the award was given at an impressive formal din-



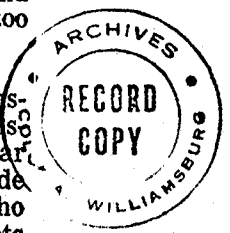
ner Dec. 7, 1955, in Drapers' Hall, London.

The presentation of the Williamsburg Award to Sir Winston, of course, set an unusually high standard—and rightly so. There have been few—far too few—persons of Sir Winston's rank.

It had never been Colonial Williamsburg's intention to make the Williamsburg Award annually or at any regular time. The award is one to be made "as occasion warrants to a person who in the course of contemporary events has made an outstanding contribution to the historic struggle of men to live free and self-respecting in a just society" and to serve "as an encouragement to men and women everywhere to seek liberty and justice for themselves and all men."

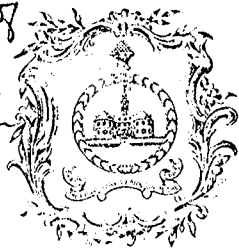
It occurs to us that perhaps Neil Armstrong, the first man who went in peace to walk on the moon, might be considered eligible for the Williamsburg Award. His achievement—a personal one of daring and competence—is symbolic of the accomplishments of a free and just society. Armstrong's giant step for mankind brought new strength in our time to the belief in American liberty and the dignity of the individual.

Surely Neil Armstrong's voyage represents for the American people a "clear and eminent achievement." It serves, as does the Williamsburg Award, as "a continual reminder that there are today, as there were yesterday, vigorous, courageous and eloquent leaders."



4,000 copies
printed +
25 prints of
film sent
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Commission

1960



The *Williamsburg Award*

13 minutes 16 mm - Black and White

America's first Williamsburg Award in recognition of "outstanding achievement in advancing the basic principles of liberty and justice" was presented in December 1955 to Sir Winston Churchill. The presentation within the marbled splendor of famed Drapers Hall was described by *Life* magazine as "one of the most imposing gatherings London has seen since the coronation . . . field marshalls, admirals, statesmen, ambassadors and just plain old friends were on hand to applaud Churchill."

It is this event — inspiring for its evidence of Anglo-American friendship, unforgettable for its affectionate tribute to a beloved world leader — that Colonial Williamsburg has carefully filmed for posterity. In it are memorable scenes of Churchill, in his 81st year, responding to Winthrop Rockefeller's presentation of the Award with words compelling in their simplicity, charm, and wisdom. He speaks with telling seriousness of "the most important thing in the world" — the unity of thought and sentiment between our two countries, "foundations strong and ever growing stronger . . . never to be broken by force or the threat of force."

The Williamsburg Award consists of an honorarium of \$10,000 and, as a symbol of the people's vigil in defense of their liberties, a full-scale replica of a colonial town crier's bell, beautifully hand-wrought by Williamsburg's Master

Silversmith. In the eighteenth century the town crier would ring his bell summoning citizenry to play their part in the fateful decisions and actions that won for them and succeeding generations a free and independent existence. Williamsburg, being then the capital of the largest of the British colonies in America, was one of the most important training grounds for the leaders of American independence. Today it stands as a permanent reminder of the faith for which these men spoke so eloquently and fought so bravely.

Much of historic Williamsburg is shown in the film — the public buildings, the hostelrys, the gardens and greens, the thoughtfully preserved evidences of another way of life. And as Winston Churchill speaks the words, "I saw for myself nine years ago the wonderful memorial which Mr. Rockefeller's father has raised to the history of the United States, and the link that he has provided with the past . . .," the film takes you back to the day when he and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, leaders of the victorious Allies, came to America's Williamsburg and reaffirmed the unity of thought and principle which binds free nations.

This is a film which, like Williamsburg itself, has that important sense of history about it. It is a document for our times — a testimonial to a man of this century whose efforts to perpetuate a philosophy of freedom parallel the efforts of men two centuries before who conceived it.

"The Williamsburg Award" is available on free loan for showing under the same conditions noted on Page 2 of the accompanying film catalog of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Public Relations and Advertising, 914 Capitol Street, Richmond 19, Virginia. It is not available for showing by television stations.

Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, distributes rental films on life in eighteenth-century America. For information and free descriptive material, write:

T. G. McCaskey, Goodwin Building
Williamsburg, Virginia

Press Bureau
Colonial Williamsburg
Williamsburg, Virginia
Phone: #330, Night #500

HOLD FOR RELEASE:
Monday morning, October 17, 1955

J. P. MacBean, Director

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - The creation of the Williamsburg Award for outstanding achievement in advancing basic principles of liberty and justice was announced today by the Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg.

At the same time it was announced that Sir Winston Churchill will be the first recipient of the award, which consists of an honorarium of \$10,000 and a symbolical town crier's bell.

The award will be made at a ceremony to be held in London, probably in December.

Winthrop Rockefeller, Chairman of the Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg, said that the award will be made periodically to "a person who has influenced the course of national or world events significantly by expressing in sustained action or eloquent and persuasive statement a dedication to liberty and justice for all men.

"The Williamsburg Award has been created as part of Colonial Williamsburg's program to bring new strength in our time to the belief in human liberty and the dignity of the individual which made Williamsburg and its leaders a moving force in colonial America.

"It is our belief", Mr. Rockefeller said, "that these great doctrines of two centuries ago are living convictions today and still have their champions. We feel that this fact should be underscored in our time as a reminder to the living that they are the inheritors of a great faith.

"Sir Winston Churchill, we believe, better exemplifies the principles for which the award stands than any other living person."

In his letter of acceptance, Sir Winston said that it "would be a very great honor for me to become the first recipient of the

2 - The Williamsburg Award

Williamsburg Award."

Kenneth Chorley, President of Colonial Williamsburg, explained that the award will be made "only on a basis of clear and eminent achievement. Recipients may be natives of any land, work at any occupation or be members of any race." He added, "the ideas for which Williamsburg stands are unrestricted. Whoever defends liberty anywhere defends it everywhere".

While the Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg will have final responsibility for selecting the recipients, they will have the advice and counsel of distinguished leaders here and abroad.

Future awards will not be made on an annual basis, but at intervals dictated by the course of national and world events and the emergence of individual champions of liberty and justice.

A full scale replica of a colonial town crier's bell will be the emblem of the Award and will accompany the \$10,000 honorarium.

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BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

The Williamsburg Award

Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia

OCTOBER, 1955

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg was one of the most important intellectual training grounds for the leaders of American independence. For 81 history-making years (1699-1780) it was the capital of the Virginia Colony and a cultural and political center ranking with Boston, Newport, Philadelphia, Charleston and New York. Here George Washington, Patrick Henry, George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason and other patriots helped shape the foundations of our government. It was the scene of Patrick Henry's memorable "Caesar-Brutus" speech and his defiant Resolutions protesting the Stamp Act; George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights; the May 15th, 1776 Resolution for Independence, which led directly to the historic July 4th decision; the pioneering Virginia Constitution, which served as a model for most other states; and the introduction of Jefferson's magnificent Statute for Religious Freedom.

In 1926 Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. became interested in the restoration of 18th-century Williamsburg. All funds for this restoration project have been his personal gifts.

"THAT THE FUTURE MAY LEARN FROM THE PAST"

The Williamsburg Award

"The miracle of Williamsburg is that a few brave and inspired men here helped to conceive a philosophy of freedom, to the fulfillment of which they were willing to give their lives. What they thought, wrote, said and did changed the face of the world. The impact is today visible, not only in America but . . . in the Constitution of every new Republic born of the recent war."

— ARTHUR GOODFRIEND

The Award

The Williamsburg Award, of which Sir Winston Churchill will be the first recipient, has been established by the Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg as a living memorial to the "brave and inspired men" of whom Mr. Goodfriend speaks above.

Nowhere has the faith we call Democracy been more triumphant or more eloquently reflected in the words of men than in Williamsburg before and during the American Revolution. Precisely because Williamsburg will always be a symbol in the endless struggle for freedom and self-government, it is the hope of the Trustees that the Williamsburg Award will serve as a permanent reminder of the "faith for which the great men of eighteenth-century Williamsburg spoke so eloquently and fought so bravely."

The award has been established only after extensive study and deliberation. In the words of the Trustees, it was agreed that the recipient should be "a person who has influenced the course of national or world events significantly by ex-

pressing in sustained action or eloquent and persuasive statement a belief in the liberty of the human spirit, in the rights of man, and in the value of the individual." It was further agreed that the only limitation upon eligibility should be clear and eminent achievement in advancing or defending this faith and its principles, and that the recipient could be a resident of any land, be a member of any race, work at any profession.

It is not intended that The Williamsburg Award, which carries an honorarium of \$10,000 and the emblem of a silver Town Crier's Bell, will become a set and periodic ceremony. The award will be given only when the Trustees, after consultation with distinguished advisors in the United States and elsewhere, agree unanimously that the proposed recipient meets in every aspect the criteria set forth. The award will not be restricted to citizens of the United States because the ideas for which Williamsburg stands have spread throughout the world, and whoever defends liberty anywhere defends it everywhere.

The Recipient

Once these criteria were established, Sir Winston Churchill became the unanimous choice of the Trustees to receive the first award.

In the opinion of the trustees, the reasons for their unanimous selection of Sir Winston are admirably summed up in the words of his biographer, E. D. O'Brien, who wrote in the *London*

Illustrated News: "So the long procession of Winston Churchill marches past. There is the active and superbly brave soldier . . . There is the statesman who has held every important office of State. . . . There is the great promoter of Anglo-American unity — the most valuable link between two great

countries who has ever existed, enabled by his American blood, and by the flash and fire of his inspiration, to enforce respect and compel affection . . . next marches the historian — of his ancestor, the great Duke of Marlborough, and of the greater events of our time. There is the master of the spoken word, whose speeches, sometimes like Atlantic rollers, awing by their greatness, their roll and their majesty, sometimes compelling and moving by their startling monosyllabic simplicity. There is Sir Winston the traveler, ranging the world from youth to old age, but always eager, always descriptive. There is Winston the conversationalist, whom young men, who will then be old men, will

endeavor to describe to their grandchildren, and most assuredly fail.

“There is the ‘Former Naval Person,’ cherishing the tradition of the Royal Navy, but ever and actively-minded seeking for it the most modern improvements. There is Winston the human being, as exacting to his subordinates as he is to himself, loyal to his friends and generous to former opponents — both almost to a fault. In this greatest of men, majesty of conception goes hand-in-hand with humanity; vast breadth of outlook with puckish whim, and we are left to say with truth to those who come after us: ‘we shall not look upon his like again.’”

The Symbol

The Town Crier's bell was chosen as the symbol of The Williamsburg Award because in the eighteenth-century the Town Crier summoned the citizenry to play their part in making and carrying out decisions destined to form the framework of government by the people.

In many of the colonies the Town Crier's bell summoned the people to hear Patrick Henry's great resolutions. It summoned them to hear of and to discuss and take action on subsequent fateful happenings: the Virginia Declaration of

Rights, later to become the basis of the Federal Bill of Rights; the introduction of Thomas Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom which, in Madison's words, “extinguished forever the ambitious hope of making laws for human minds”; and the adoption of the Virginia State Constitution, the model for most state Constitutions in the United States.

The Town Crier's Bell is the symbol of the people's vigil in defense of their liberties.

The Meaning of Colonial Williamsburg

It is the goal of Colonial Williamsburg, in the words of the Trustees, to “re-create accurately the environment of men and women of 18th-century Williamsburg and to bring about such an understanding of their lives and times that present and future generations may more vividly appreciate the contribution of these early Americans to the ideals and culture of our country.”

To achieve that aim, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. has provided funds in the amount of approximately \$60,000,000 for the project. Colonial Williamsburg has restored or reconstructed some 450 eighteenth-century buildings, including the Governor's Palace, the Colonial Capitol, and the other exhibition buildings—furnishing them authentically and re-creating the gardens and pleasure grounds surrounding them; removing

more than 600 modern buildings from the historic area; and, equally important, establishing a program of research, presentation and interpretation which will bring alive this “scene and witness of human adventures and events” to the hundreds of thousands of people who now visit Williamsburg in the course of a year.

The Williamsburg Award is a way of giving currency and meaning to the principles to which Colonial Williamsburg gives expression. It is hoped that the Award, by reminding the living of the distinguished company of those who today advance the same faith, will make the events of two centuries ago take on new meaning and perspective in the light of their applicability to the world of today, and of tomorrow.