



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOMS

GIFTS OF OBJECTS

January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

**OVAL MEDALLION OF
WILLIAM H. SEWARD**
by Walter G. Robinson

A very high bas-relief portrait of The Honorable William H. Seward, Secretary of State 1861-1869, under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He was attacked in his home by the same band of assassins on the night Lincoln was shot. Seward survived, though his family suffered greatly. In 1867 he negotiated and signed the treaty with Russia for the cession of Alaska to the United States. The artist Walter G. Robinson was a monument cutter in Auburn, NY, for most of his career until he gained the status of sculptor through his various forms of William Seward portraiture and other fine art productions throughout New England.

Plaster

22"h x 19"l x 4 1/4"w

1871

The Walter Thurston Gentleman's Lounge

Gift of Ms. Judith F. Hernstadt
New York, NY

In honor of Gail F. Serfaty and
Patricia L. Heflin





MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT, SECRETARY OF STATE

1997-2001

by Steven Polson

“All former Secretaries of State have their portraits hung in the Department of State. When it came my turn to select an artist, I pored through many books and kept coming back to one painter, Steven Polson. ... If I may be a bit immodest, I love the portrait he painted of me. He beautifully portrayed the folds in my suit and the eagle pin I wore when sworn in as Secretary. He also captured my eyes, my hands, my stance, and a little smile I have been known to display when I’m in a somewhat mischievous mood. It is my great honor to have had my portrait painted by him.” - Madeline Albright

Oil on canvas

62 ¼" x 42" framed

2007

The Treaty Room Suite, East Reception Hall

**Official State Portrait
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC**



INDIANS IN A MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE
by Thomas Cole (1801-1848)

In the summer of 1825, Thomas Cole traveled along the Hudson River through the newly-opened Erie Canal, where he produced studies that would serve as the basis for later landscape paintings. At age twenty-four, the self-taught artist returned to New York City, where his early works were acquired by the eminent artist, John Trumbull: "This youth has done at once, and without instruction, what I can not do after 50 years of practice" (New York Evening Post, November 22, 1825). With success assured, Thomas Cole became founder of the Hudson River School with Frederic E. Church and Benjamin McConkey among his students. This landscape now in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms shows mankind in harmony with his natural surrounds as well as abundance and industry provided by providence.

Oil on walnut panel with the original frame
17 ¾ " x 21 ½" framed

The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room

Gift of Mrs. Deen Day Sanders
Norcross, GA

PAIR OF BUTTERFLY STUDIES

by Albert Bierstadt

This important pair of Butterfly Studies is signed by Albert Bierstadt. An eminent figure of the later period of the Hudson River School, Bierstadt rose from humble beginnings as a self-taught immigrant artist, who secured funds for study abroad by offering art courses. Upon his return, Bierstadt traveled to the Rocky Mountains, where his monumental landscape paintings chronicled industrial progress and manifest destiny. By mid-century, Bierstadt's works commanded the highest prices ever recorded for an American artist. Eager audiences in the nation and abroad paid \$25,000 a piece. In 1880, Bierstadt created the first of his Butterfly Studies, which he presented as small tokens to his extended friends at social gatherings, and in doing so created a craze when his studies were displayed at the White House during the Hayes' Administration.

Gouache and oil on paper

4 1/4" x 7"

c. 1896

The Martha Washington Ladies' Lounge

Gift of Mrs. Deen Day Sanders

Norcross, GA



CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN SUGAR BOWL

A rare survival, the American eagle is gilt-heightened in monochromatic brown and bounded by delicate Neoclassical iron-red cable bands made for the American market.

Qianlong-Jiaqing Period (1736-1820)

c. 1795

The James Monroe Reception Room

Gift of Mr. Robert Kogod Goldman

Washington, DC

In memory of Ruth Kogod Goldman



CHIPPENDALE WALNUT ARMCHAIR

The armchair has a carved ball-and-claw foot, serpentine crest rail with scroll carved ears, rope and tassel carving flanking a carved cartouche with peanut motifs. It was used in President Carter's first *Fireside Address* from the White House Library, Feb 2, 1977, while on loan to the White House from 1971-1987. It was then loaned to the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. This chair is related to a group of seating furniture with a George Washington history.

Philadelphia
c. 1770

The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room

**Gift of Mrs. Samuel W. Morris
Pottstown, PA**



Franklin before the Lords in Council, Whitehall Chapel London, 1774

Hand-colored engraving by Robert Whitechurch after the 1873 painting by Christian Schuessle captures the abusive hour-long verbal attack on Franklin by British Solicitor-General Alexander Wedderburn before the British Privy Council in 1774.
1859

Secretary's Elevator Hall, 7th floor

Funds donated by Helen Kleberg Groves

San Antonio, Texas

In memory of The Honorable Anne Armstrong, First Lady US Ambassador to Great Britain

NORMAN HEZEKIAH DAVIS

Acting Secretary of State, 1921

by Samuel J. Woolf

Norman Davis served as Acting Secretary of State in 1921. This drawing (P-145) accompanied the article titled, "HEADLINER-NORMAN DAVIS - : Unofficial American Minister to Europe," appearing in Newsweek Magazine on June 9, 1934, page 15.

Samuel Woolf distinguished himself as the finest and most successful portrait draftsman in America from the 1920s to his death in 1948.

Charcoal and white chalk

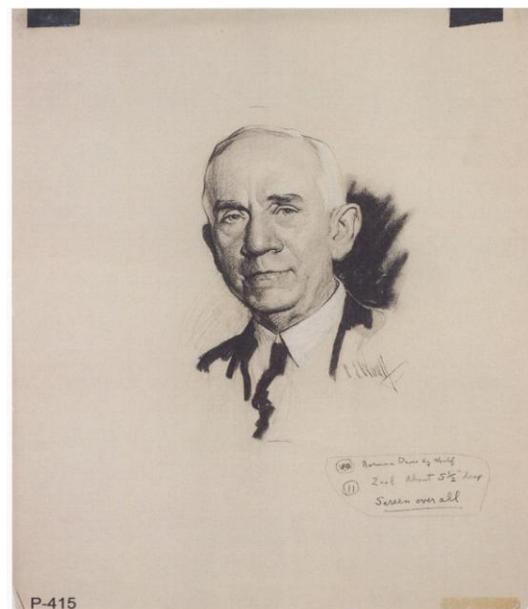
26" x 20"

1934

Deputy Secretary's Conference Room, 7th Floor

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart P. Feld

New York, NY





**NEW YORK CLASSICAL MAHOGANY CANDLESTAND
attributed to Duncan Phyfe**

The original suite of Duncan Phyfe Classical furniture loaned by Architect Edward Vason Jones (1909-1980) was acquired for the permanent collection through the years. However, this candle stand remained the final and last item remaining from this suite. This candle stand, as with the suite of furniture, beautifully combines inlaid and carved elements and speaks to the enduring quality of craftsmanship associated with New York cabinetmaking in the early 19th century.

New York, NY

c. 1810

The Dolley Madison Powder Room

**Funds donated by Mrs. George Revitz
San Antonio, TX**



CHIPPENDALE DRESSING TABLE

This Dressing table is a beautiful mahogany with cabriole legs and trifid feet.
Delaware River Valley
c. 1755

Walter Thurston Gentleman's Lounge

**Funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Milburn
Vienna, VA**



PAIR OF GEORGE II JAMB HOOKS and AN AMERICAN HEARTHSTONE

With urn-shaped finials, the brass jamb hooks are in use on either side of the Monroe Room fireplace.
c. 1790
The grooved hearthstone is white marble.
6 ½" x 6 ½"
c. 1800

The James Monroe Reception Room

**Funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Milburn
Vienna, VA**



PAIR OF HEARTHSTONES

Both white marble hearthstones are grooved in a pattern of squares and diamonds.
8" square
c. 1800

The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room

**Funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Milburn
Vienna, VA**



MRS. DANIEL WEBSTER

By George P.A. Healy

In 1829 Caroline Le Roy (1797-1882) became the second wife of Daniel Webster (1782-1852), the famous orator and Secretary of State (1841-1843 under Presidents Harrison and Tyler, and 1850-1852 under President Fillmore). This portrait descended in the family of Caroline Webster from her niece. It has been privately published in 1942 as the frontispiece on the diary of the Webster's 1839 trip abroad titled, "Mr. W. & I."

Oil on canvas
41" x 36" framed
c. 1845

The James Madison Dining Room

**Funds donated by Betty Rhoads Wright
Alexandria, VA**