



*Where History's Treasures
Welcome the World.*

Diplomatic Reception Rooms

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

*These are the rooms of a thousand stories,
where history's treasures inspire and welcome the world.*

*Within this magnificent and versatile venue,
the Secretary of State, Vice President,
and Cabinet Members receive America's visitors,
establish friendships, and exchange ideas.*

*Here you will delight in a diverse
collection of exquisite works from the era of
America's conception and youth.
From fine art that marks the growth of our
nation to decorative art objects that are among
the nation's finest examples of early craftsmanship,
these extraordinary 15th and 19th century
treasures speak to America's enduring
spirit and patriotic heritage.*



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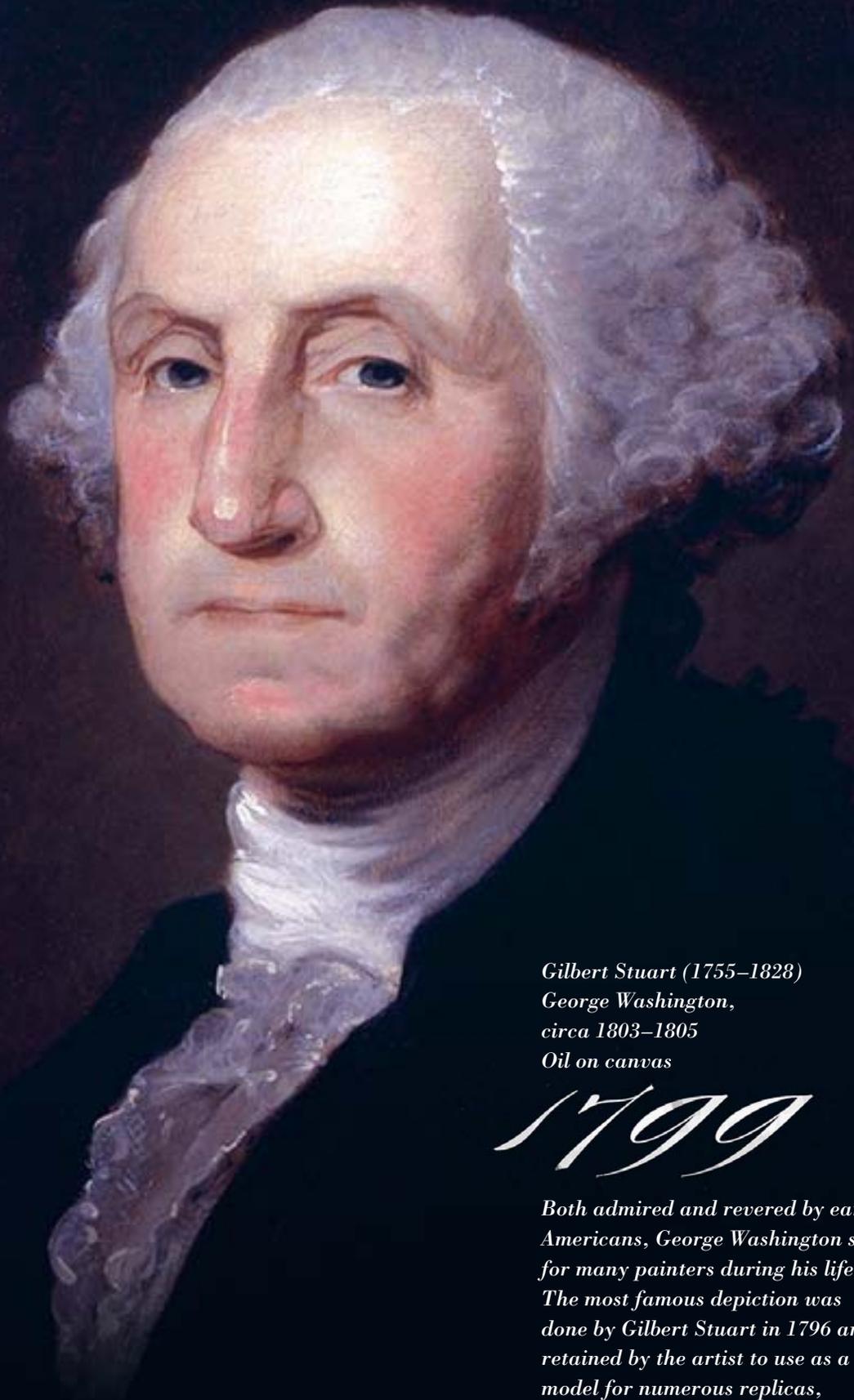
The Diplomatic Reception Rooms began in 1961 under the visionary leadership of Clement E. Conger (1911–2004). The first impression visitors have of the rooms is the Edward Vason Jones Memorial Hall, dedicated to the talented architect who transformed the reception rooms into the rare, classically balanced, and dignified rooms seen today. The Gallery, with its gracious Palladian windows, serves as a gallery for portraits, landscapes, and American Queen Anne and Chippendale furniture.

The John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room, where the Secretary of State receives distinguished guests, contains furnishings that are early American masterpieces selected for their historical associations with the founding of the republic.

The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room reflects architectural elements inspired from Jefferson's residence at Monticello. American Chippendale furniture appears with paintings of early views of America to create an intimately elegant room for official luncheons and dinners.

The largest room is named for the father of the American Foreign Service, Benjamin Franklin. Designed by architect John Blatteau, the room celebrates the long-standing role of the Secretary of State as custodian of The Great Seal. This elegantly gilded, state dining room is the primary room used to entertain guests. These rooms, and the \$100 million collection contained within, are America's gift to the nation.





*Gilbert Stuart (1755–1828)
George Washington,
circa 1803–1805
Oil on canvas*

1799

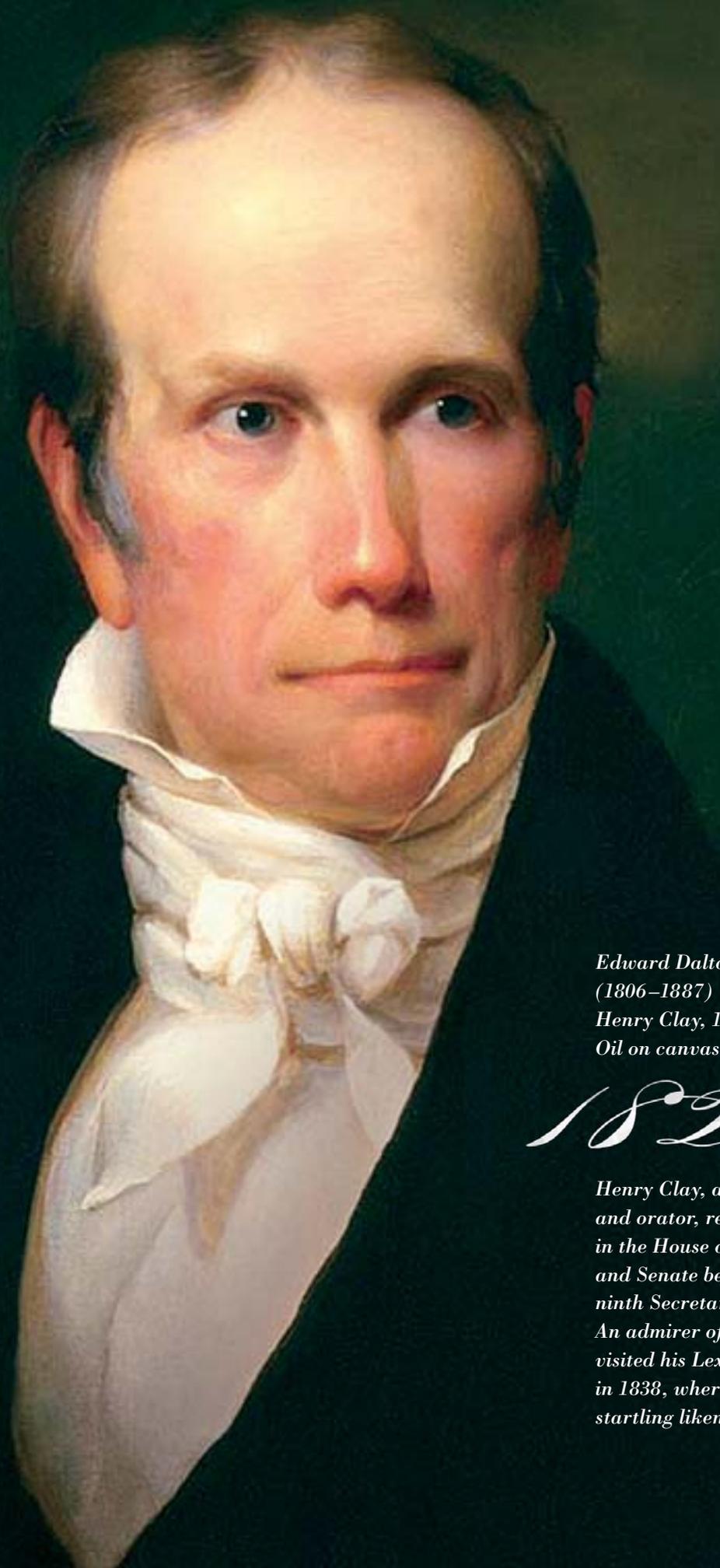
Both admired and revered by early Americans, George Washington sat for many painters during his lifetime. The most famous depiction was done by Gilbert Stuart in 1796 and retained by the artist to use as a model for numerous replicas, including this fine example completed after Washington's death in 1799.



*Charles Robert Leslie (1794–1859)
Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams,
1816
Oil on canvas*

1817

Louisa Catherine Adams traveled extensively throughout war-torn Europe with her children during the Napoleonic Wars, joining John Quincy Adams as he served as minister to England, Russia, and Prussia. In 1817, Mrs. Adams returned to the states, where John Quincy Adams would serve as the eighth Secretary of State (1817–1825).



*Edward Dalton Marchant
(1806–1887)
Henry Clay, 1838
Oil on canvas*

1825

Henry Clay, a leading statesman and orator, represented Kentucky in the House of Representatives and Senate before becoming the ninth Secretary of State (1825–1829). An admirer of Clay, Marchant visited his Lexington residence in 1838, where he captured this startling likeness.

1754



Benjamin Franklin is considered the father of the American Foreign Service. In 1754 during the French and Indian War (1754–1763), he proposed the Albany Plan for intercolonial cooperation against military threats. Painted from life in 1758, this portrait by Benjamin Wilson highlights Franklin's scientific achievements.

Benjamin Franklin
State Dining Room

1783



The American War of Independence ended in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on this English writing table, which stood in the apartments of British Commissioner David Hartley. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay represented the United States.

John Quincy Adams
State Drawing Room

1800



John Adams acquired articles of silver for entertaining including this Neoclassical coffeepot by the patriot silversmith, Paul Revere, Jr., circa 1800. In this year, President Adams, a Federalist, sought re-election and lost to Thomas Jefferson, a Republican. The peaceful transition of executive power is sometimes referred to as the "Revolution of 1800."

John Quincy Adams
State Drawing Room

1776



Thomas Jefferson, using the ideas expressed by John Locke in the Glorious Revolution of 1688–1689, drafted the Declaration of Independence, identifying the colonies' reasons for separation. It is believed this architect's table, commissioned for Jefferson in England, was used by him in drafting the Declaration of Independence.

John Quincy Adams
State Drawing Room

1784



Marking the beginning of independent trade, the "Empress of China" was the first American ship to enter the Port of Canton in 1784. This Chinese porcelain plate, used by George and Martha Washington, bears the emblem of the Society of the Cincinnati, commemorating friendships among American and French officers.

John Quincy Adams
State Drawing Room

1812



In the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key witnessed the stunning naval bombardment on Fort McHenry in the Battle of Baltimore. Nineteen British ships launched more than 1,500 cannonballs, inspiring Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner." This side chair descended in the family of Francis Scott Key.

Entrance Hall

1814



James Madison
Dining Room

Known as the father of the Constitution and author of the Bill of Rights, President James Madison also led the nation through the War of 1812, which concluded with the 1814 Treaty of Ghent. This alabaster portrait bust of James Madison by Giuseppe Ceracchi was a gift from the artist to Dolley Madison.

1826



John Quincy Adams
State Drawing Room

As U.S. trade connections strengthened, porcelain manufactories produced wares for the American market commemorating national events. This Chinese porcelain bowl marked the 50th anniversary of independence, 1776–1826, commemorating the Battle of Saratoga, a turning point in the War of Independence.

1823



John Quincy Adams
State Drawing Room

One year after Charles Robert Leslie created this lavish portrait, John Quincy Adams was appointed Secretary of State (1817–1825) by President James Monroe. Adams negotiated several territorial treaties and created the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, which became the cornerstone of 19th-century U.S. foreign policy.

1916



Walter Thurston
Gentlemen's Lounge

Cyrus Dallin's contact with Native Americans during his childhood inspired this masterpiece, "Appeal to the Great Spirit." The symbolism of honoring past traditions, as seen in this warrior-chieftain, resonated with Americans as the 19th century gave way to modernity, technology, and change in the 20th.

1872



Benjamin Franklin
State Dining Room

As the nineteenth century progressed, a pioneering spirit drove the expansion westward. Thomas Moran joined the U.S. Geological Expedition to Yellowstone in 1871, a journey that took Moran through the Green River area of Wyoming. His works inspired the congressional decision to create Yellowstone National Park in 1872.



*The Diplomatic Reception Rooms
are contributor supported.*

*These beautiful rooms exist today
thanks in large part to the generosity
of public-spirited citizens—no tax
revenue is used. Contributions
continue to be needed to maintain
and preserve these rooms,
which reflect the best of America's
early cultural accomplishments.
If you wish to receive information
on making a tax-deductible gift to
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please contact us.*

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*The rooms are open to the public
for tours daily.*

<https://receptiontours.state.gov>

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