A Message from the Executive Director!

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2005 edition of The Memo and welcome to a very exciting moment in the history of the Churchill Memorial. In March 2006 we will open the new Churchill Leadership exhibition over the course of a weekend (the 3rd/4th/5th March) that coincides and also celebrates Sir Winston’s ‘Iron Curtain’ address. We have already confirmed the participation of Lady Soames as the official ‘ribbon cutter’ on the new museum and the prescience of Edwina Sandys and we will shortly announce a Green lecturer as well. I hope of course to see and meet as many of you, our loyal supporters as possible at this time. While your invitations will follow in due course there is in this edition of the Memo a schedule of events and a copy of the invitation as well!

I am always conscious that we have a weighty charge on our shoulders, here at the Churchill Memorial. Those who made this wonderful institution possible back in the early 1960s had courage, determination and vision- bringing a Christopher Wren Church across the Atlantic ocean and re-assembling it in Fulton, Missouri is quite an achievement! The Churchill Memorial in fact has a very good track record of pushing the boundaries of what exactly is possible and doing what might, to many people, seem the impossible- perhaps rather like Sir Winston himself in many ways! I believe that this new exhibition and the associate educational outreach programs we plan to accompany it (together with the new and exciting partnerships with other Churchill organizations) will bring Churchill alive in the 21st century and bring him to new generations. However, I always like to think that while we are embracing the future we are also remembering the past in many, many ways. We remember daily Churchill’s life and legacy but we always strive to remember those who made this fantastic institution possible in years gone by- their contribution is not forgotten. This new exhibition is not a replacement of the past but a tribute to it, an acknowledgment that whatever we may do in the future, however much we look ahead, however much we strive to build, everything we do now is thanks to the efforts of so many who went before us- on both sides of the Atlantic, from all walks of life who shared and realized a tremendous vision and whose legacy is as strong today as it ever was. In March 2006 we will take a tremendous step forward, a step into the future. I hope you are all as excited and enthused by its possibilities as I am.

The theme of this issue, appropriately enough, is that speech- appropriately enough! Professor Jim Williams examines the “Sinews of Peace” address and looks at its contemporary significance while Amy Barclay explores the impact of Churchill on her life as Westminster student. This issue also contains remembrance pieces on two men, John David Marshall and Noel Mander who served the Memorial and its cause faithfully for many years and who passed away very recently. Their tireless devotion is an example to us all.

I very much look forward to seeing all in March 2006!

As always, please feel free to telephone: (573) 592-5233 or email me: havers@westminster-mo.edu with any comments and/or thoughts on this edition of The Memo or with any suggestions for future Memos.

Best wishes,

Dr Rob Havers
Executive Director, Winston Churchill Memorial & Library in the United States
A Message from the Senior Fellow

This past November, Westminster College’s Winston Churchill Medal for Leadership and Service was awarded to John Bachmann, senior partner of Edward Jones, a leading financial-services company. The awards dinner was held at the historic Coronado Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Under Mr. Bachmann’s leadership Edward Jones grew from 200 offices in 28 states to more than 9000 offices throughout the United States as well as affiliates in Canada and the United Kingdom. Mr. Bachmann is a great admirer of Winston Churchill, and personifies the qualities of leadership and service for which this award was created.

Also present was Dr. William Danforth, the retired chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis and the first recipient of the award. Dr. Danforth’s leadership is credited with placing Washington University in the top ten of major universities in the United States. He too has been a tireless civic leader, and is a great admirer of Winston Churchill. Only last year’s awardee, Walter Cronkite was unable to attend.

Westminster College’s Chamber singers did a magnificent job of entertaining us after dinner. As the program began, the stage was set with the original lectern that Sir Winston used in his 1946 “Sinews of Peace” speech. Robert Virgil, former Dean of the Washington University School of Business and a Principal of Edward Jones did an excellent job as master of ceremonies.

The most wonderful and heartfelt introduction to John Bachman was given by Kimmy Brauer, the wife of Westminster graduate and former Ambassador to Belgium, Stephen Brauer. Kimmy talked of having dyslexia and how hard school was for her as a child, just like Sir Winston. She too has gone on to be one of St. Louis’ most respected civic leaders.

Both Mrs. Brauer and Mr. Virgil made use of relevant and timely Churchill quotes. In the audience sat Richard Mahoney and his wife Barbara. Dick is the former Chairman of the Board of Monsanto Co., who has been a godsend to our Churchill Memorial. His new book, “The Quotable Winston Churchill”, has been recently released and we can hardly keep it in the Memorial’s gift shop. (Mr. Mahoney is very generously donating all proceeds from the sale of his book to the Churchill Memorial. It is a wonderful resource for all Churchill-lovers, and can be obtained through Amazon.com as well as the Memorial.)

Mr. Bachmann’s thoughtful remarks used Churchill’s own words contained in the “Sinews of Peace” speech, and applied them to important issues facing our nation today.

As I looked out over this group of civic leaders, I saw their sincere admiration of Winston Churchill. It makes one think that it is just amazing that a man born over 130 years ago can still have such a lasting impact on people today. And Churchill’s words are still inspiring people to leadership in their chosen fields. How lucky we are at the Winston Churchill Memorial to be able to showcase the life and legacy of this great man.

As you probably know, the Memorial is currently closed while it is undergoing a complete renovation. It is scheduled to reopen on March 6th, the 60th anniversary of Churchill’s prophetic speech at Westminster College. Elsewhere on these pages you will learn of the plans for the grand reopening celebration. It promises to be memorable, and I hope to see you all there.

Suzanne Richardson
Senior Fellow

Credits

Special thanks to:
The Mid-Missouri Friends of the Memorial for their generous donation which helped fund this edition.

Dr. Jim Williams, Professor of History, Middle Tennessee State University and 1986 Westminster College graduate
Amy Barclay, Memorial Intern
Dr. Judith Schwartz, Past President Mid-Missouri Friends of the Memorial

Submit suggestions and comments to: memo@westminster-mo.edu or

The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library
501 Westminster Avenue
Fulton, MO 65251

Visit our website at www.churchillmemorial.org

For more information on the Churchill Memorial and Library please call (573) 592-5369.
Book Review

Churchill: The Book of the Museum

Paperback, 160 Pages
Publisher: Imperial War Museum (February 10, 2005)
ISBN: 1904897223

Celia Sandys' Churchill was written to accompany a recent ITV/PBS television documentary. Since then it has been used as the official book of the new Churchill museum in London that adjoins the war “bunker” in King Charles Street, a part of the Imperial War Museum. The Cabinet War Rooms—as they are officially titled—bear Churchill's stamp at every turn, so it is only appropriate to locate this personal museum there as well.

The book is rich in photographs; many are not among the more common images associated with the author's grandfather, and the text has been praised by professional historians for both its accessibility for general readers (including younger readers) and its awareness of the subtler details of Churchill's experience and avoidance of clichés and canards concerning that experience.

One of the special treats of this new museum is the presence of WSC's painting “Plugstreet Under Shell-Fire,” previously housed at Chartwell. When WSC commanded a Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers in WWI he painted the action occurring at Ploegsteert* (termed Plugstreet by the Tommies), a village just over the French border in Belgium, less than a mile away from the front line. His nightly military operations disturbed the local farmers (Earl Mountbatten of Burma quotes Churchill as ordering his gun battery each night to “Stir up the Huns, fire a few shots at the Germans”), so Churchill helped relocate the farmers beyond the battle zone. As they departed Churchill declared, “C'est la guerre, c'est la guerre.” They promptly responded, “Non, c'est le Churchill, c'est le Churchill.” This new book represents le Churchill well.

-- Judith A. Schwartz, Ph.D., Past-President
Mid-Missouri Friends of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library

*A magnificent war memorial stands today in Ploegsteert commemorating more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave.
New Acquisition!

_Felt Top Hat Signed by Winston S. Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin_

Winston S. Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin signed this top hat at the Yalta Conference in 1945. The hat was a gift for Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham and was given to him by Churchill and Roosevelt.

The purchase of this hat for the Winston Churchill Memorial’s collection was made possible by generous donations from:

- Mr. Ronald J. Kostich
- Mr. D. Michael Linihan
- McFamily Charitable Foundation
- Mr. John R. McFarland
- Mr. Harold B. Oakley
- Mr. and Mrs. David J. Richardson
- Mr. Lloyd B. Taylor

This important and interesting artifact will be featured in the Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership exhibit.

Campaign for Memorial Presses On

Those who believe in the enduring nature of Winston Churchill’s legacy continue to support the project for the renovation of the Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States. To date, dozens of individuals and businesses have contributed a total of $2.2 million toward the $3.5 million project.

Donations range from a few dollars to gifts in excess of $100,000. Major contributors are honored to have their names associated with one of the many naming opportunities in the Memorial.

Numerous naming opportunities remain. If you would like to associate your name with the greatest statesman in modern history, please contact Dr. Havers at (573) 592-5233 or email haversr@westminster-mo.edu for additional information.

Quote Churchill with authority... buy your copy of “The Quotable Winston Churchill” today!

The best of Winston Churchill’s wisdom and wit at your fingertips!

Only $14.95 + $4.50 S&H (Special Bulk rates apply to orders over 10.)

All proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library.

ISBN 0-9767843-0-0

Questions or want to place an order? Please call (573) 592-5234.

You can also place your order online at www.churchillmemorial.org

www.churchillmemorial.org
The Rebirth Continues!

As you can see, the old exhibit is no more and reconstruction continues on schedule!

The two photographs shown here illustrate the centerpiece ‘World War II Finest Hour’ element of the new exhibition. Amongst the drywall, dust and nails the new museum is taking shape.

The Third Annual Winston Churchill Medal for Leadership and Service Award Dinner

This wonderful event was held at the Coronado Ball Room in St. Louis, MO on November 4, 2005. The evening’s honoree was Mr. John Bachmann (at right), senior partner at Edward Jones.

See page 3 for the Senior Fellow’s letter and more details.
In Remembrance

Noel Mander (1912-2005)

On December 29, 1940, during the London Blitz, Noel Mander was serving as a volunteer fire marshal. That night he watched as several of the historic London churches designed by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of 1666 exploded in flames. He would recall hearing the organ of Wren’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury burn “because the hot air blowing through the organ pipes almost sounded as if the poor old organ was shrieking in agony in its destruction.”

A quarter-century later, Noel Mander played a central role in the restoration of this same church on the Westminster College campus as the Winston Churchill Memorial. His principal contribution was the period tracker organ, built in the Church during the reconstruction by his world-renowned firm, Mander Organs. Through the years this magnificent instrument, carefully installed and lovingly maintained under Noel’s supervision, has inspired thousands of visitors.

As the Churchill Memorial’s official representative in the United Kingdom, Noel served as an intermediary in obtaining gifts that enhance the beauty and authenticity of the Church, beginning with a priceless double set of 17th century communion silver from another Wren Church and culminating in a reconstructed Wren-era pulpit. Other gifts for which he was principally responsible include candlesticks from Westminster Cathedral in London; the 18th century organ case, topped by a gilded crown and Bishop’s mitres; a communion table constructed in the Wren-era style in the Mander Organs workshop; and the Lord Mayor’s sword rest, a hallmark of every London City church. Because of Noel’s vision and tireless efforts, St. Mary, Aldermanbury, stands not only as a memorial to the greatest British statesman of the 20th Century, but as an enduring witness to the genius of one of the most gifted architects of any era.

Over the years Noel became a close friend to many members of the Westminster College community. He particularly enjoyed giving visitors to London behind-the-scenes tours of Wren’s St. Paul’s Cathedral and the acclaimed organ his firm built there. Noel and his wife Enid were always gracious hosts, whether entertaining Westminster guests at their London apartment or retirement home in the village of Earl Soham, Suffolk, where Noel remained until his death on September 18, 2005, at the age of 93. With a twinkle in his eye, he would tell each new group of Westminster visitors the story of a young fire marshal who saw the Church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, fall in flames, and who lived to see the Church rise from the ashes of war to become a testimony to the Temple of Peace envisioned by Sir Winston Churchill in his famous “Iron Curtain” speech. In recognition of his dedicated service to the Churchill Memorial, Noel was awarded an honorary doctorate by the College’s Board of Trustees.

In the crypt of St. Paul’s Cathedral, a plaque marking the resting place of Sir Christopher Wren reads, “If you seek his monument, look around.” Similarly, let it be said in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, which he loved and to which he gave so much, if you seek a memorial to Noel Mander, you need but look and listen.

By Dr. William Young, Professor of Religious Studies, Westminster College

Remembering Noel Mander 1912-2005

Noel Mander was a special individual who held the Memorial close to his heart. In his memory we will place a plaque in the Church of St Mary that will remember and honour him. Jack Marshall has generously provided the lead donation for this and if you wish to contribute to Noel’s memory please send your donation to the Memorial marked: Noel Mander Plaque.

www.churchillmemorial.org
We are all (hopefully!) very familiar with the most famous line from Winston Churchill’s 1946 ‘Sinews of Peace’ address- ‘From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic and iron curtain has descended across Europe. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia’. Churchill was speaking before the post-war division of Europe became either formalized or permanent. What or perhaps where, did Winston Churchill mean by that line? There was, at the time he delivered the speech, no ‘Berlin wall’ (not until 1961) and actual physical division of Germany until 1949. In fact if you draw a line from Stettin to Trieste you will discover that Berlin far from lying behind that line i.e. to the East is in fact to the west! Paradoxically, Vienna is also listed as being behind the ‘iron curtain’ yet, as the setting for many of John Le Carre’s spy cold war novels it was in fact firmly in west (albeit as the capital of a resolutely neutral Austria). In fact if you can find Stettin on a map of Europe today you will have done a tremendous job as it no longer exists having been part of a huge swathe of eastern Germany ceded to Poland and the USSR as part of the Yalta and Potsdam conferences. This short article is intended, via a series of maps, to illuminate some of the confusions that still exist about where, precisely, this ‘iron curtain’ was and also the extent to which Germany has moved around the map of Europe.

Germany, as a single political entity dates only from 1871 when Prussia unified the country under its leadership and established a national capital in the Prussian city of Berlin.

In addition to 2 million war dead Germany paid a hefty price for losing the First World War (1914-18). The Treaty of Versailles (1919) blamed Germany for starting the war and imposed a raft of punitive measures including the loss of major tranches of territory and population, mainly to the new state of Poland. East Prussia was now effectively separated from the rest of Germany and many thousands of Germans found themselves citizens of new countries. These territorial adjustments, and the vocal German minorities in Poland and Czechoslovakia, would help Hitler in his efforts to reverse the judgment of Versailles. In 1938 Hitler, with the support of many Austrians, occupied his native Austria in what became known as the Anschluss. This effectively made Austria an integral part of Nazi Germany and only with Germany’s defeat in 1945 did Austria regain its independence.
After World War Two, and courtesy of the conferences at Yalta and Potsdam, Germany ceded yet more territory to Poland (and some to Russia) and Poland moved ‘as if on wheels’ some 200 miles westward giving up major territory to the USSR and claiming, in return, sizeable areas of Germany.

So in 1946 when Churchill spoke, Germany’s new eastern border was roughly the line of the Oder-Neisse rivers- with the German city of Stettin (on the western bank) also finding itself being incorporated into Poland and eventually being given a new name: Szczecin (hence the problem of finding it on a map!). Incidentally, adjacent to Stettin is Swinemunde (now called Swinoujscie) site of Germany’s V1 and v2 rocket testing centre.

In 1949 the temporary division of Germany become permanent with the ‘Russian Zone’ becoming the German Democratic republic (GDR) or East Germany with its capital at Berlin and the three western Zones becoming the Federal republic of Germany (FRG) or ‘west’ Germany with its capital at Bonn.

Now, with the formation of a communist German state Churchill’s prophetic ‘iron curtain’ comments came true with a vengeance except this iron curtain was some several hundred miles to the west of his original one! Berlin however, nestled in the middle of east was similarly divided into zones but not until 1961 did a steel and concrete barrier go up to stem the tide of east Germans trying to head west (into west Berlin from where they could fly to west Germany). This, the most visible symbol of the ‘iron curtain, ironically was one the last elements to be constructed.

Another city that Churchill mentions in his address, Vienna, was at the time very much within the Soviet sphere in 1946- divided like Berlin into Allied occupation ‘zones’ and with the country of Austria also split. This division was not to be permanent along the lines of Germany, however. A united Austria was not the potential threat that a reunited, resurgent Germany would have been and neither the USSR nor the western powers had much objection to Austrian reunification and subsequent neutral status. For 40 years Germany was divided into two separate nations one, West Germany became one of the most prosperous nations in the world and a stalwart of NATO and the west. The other, East Germany, was stripped of industrial plant and resources to pay reparations to the USSR. Eventually, East Germany became a central component of the Warsaw pact- and remained occupied by the Red Army until the early 1990s.

By 1989 the economic impact of the cold war had weakened the USSR and both the will and the means to retain control over the Warsaw Pact states meant that the East German government no longer had an ally to help maintain it in power. Popular protest brought down first the wall and then the government. In 1990 Germany was reunited unitary German state we find today.

Much reduced in size from 1870.
When Rob Havers, the Executive Director of the Winston Churchill Memorial & Library, asked me to write a short essay about Winston Churchill’s “Sinews of Peace” lecture at Westminster College, he knew that I had become interested in the behind-the-scenes stories that seem to abound in connection to Churchill’s visit to Fulton. Though a historian, I am not a scholar of international relations or, even, twentieth-century U.S. or British history. However, as a student at Westminster I worked at the Memorial and wrote a history of the Memorial project in the 1960s as my history senior thesis. Since then I have remained interested in the history of the Memorial and, somewhat by default, the speech it memorializes.

In the last few years I have been compiling the complete correspondence between Churchill and Harry S. Truman, the research for which has necessitated trips to the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, Cambridge; the Public Record Office in London; and the Truman Library in Independence. I could not resist on these visits taking a look at and making notes from the inevitable “Fulton speech” files in both men’s office files. As a result, I have accumulated quite a few juicy—to me at least—details about the events leading up to and following the “Sinews of Peace” lecture.

To social historians like myself, “juicy” does not necessarily mean racy or scandalous. One example will have to suffice for the moment. It is often noted in accounts of Churchill’s visit to Fulton that he refused an honorarium from the college. If an explanation is offered, it is usually that he was being magnanimous or was simply not concerned with money on such an occasion involving President Truman. It was a surprise to me, therefore, to find in the College records a request from Churchill for a Thomas Hart Benton painting in lieu of an honorarium. And not just any Benton painting: he wanted a smallish one that would not be a burden to tote around the U.S. during the rest of his speaking tour in the weeks following the Fulton speech.
On the one hand, it should not be surprising that Churchill was interested in painting. What struck me as remarkable was that he knew enough about American art and Missouri to make such a specific request. He must have liked Benton’s work, or why would he ask for it? The College spent $150 on the painting, though what the subject was and where the painting is now awaits further research. All in all, I suspect both sides felt pleased with the arrangement, and it seems fanciful today to think that buying a Benton painting rather than paying an honorarium was a bargain at the time.

Details such as these bring Churchill’s visit to life for me, and sometimes they shed new light on the people involved. (We can now connect Churchill as a painter to his visit to Fulton.) Perhaps I will have an occasion to assemble these tidbits into an extended essay in the future, but for the moment I will continue with the matter at hand. As an alumnus of the College, Churchill Fellow, and historian of the Memorial, I wish to ask, “What does ‘The Sinews of Peace’ mean to the College sixty years later?”

Ten years ago at the conference celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the speech, Professor John Ramsden delivered a paper titled “Mr. Churchill Goes to Fulton,” since published in Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” Speech Fifty Years Later (Columbia, Mo., 1999). Ramsden is the historian of politics and international relations that I am not, and in this essay he offers the definitive word on many questions surrounding “The Sinews of Peace,” such as how much the British government and the Truman administration knew in advance and actually collaborated with Churchill in the message he brought to the world stage in the Westminster gymnasium on March 5, 1946.

My own reading of the Churchill-Truman correspondence confirms Ramsden’s observation that the train trip from Washington to Fulton became a pivotal moment in the relationship between the two men, signified by their use of first names in correspondence thereafter and in their frequent comments to one another about what a pleasant trip it had been. The single word “Fulton” merely needed to be mentioned to evoke warm memories and the beginning of their friendship forged over poker games on the presidential train.

It is clear, then, what the trip to Westminster College meant for the two principal players, and it may seem obvious that the sixth John Findley Green Foundation Lecture “put Fulton on the map,” as cartoonists and commentators were fond of saying in 1946. What remains less clear to me is how “The Sinews of Peace” continues to affect the College, or if it should. Has Churchill’s prophecy been fulfilled? If so, what remains of “The Sinews of Peace” to justify a memorial, a refurbished multi-million dollar museum, and periodic anniversary events?

The chambers of commerce and tourist officials involved in bringing visitors to Fulton and the Memorial would certainly argue for the relevance of the Church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, and the museum beneath it. As an alumnus I can attest to the beauty of the church and the service it provides for the religious and ceremonial life of the College. But how does a tourist attraction and a college chapel, no matter how riveting and beautiful, relate to Churchill’s “The Sinews of Peace”? 
As a student at Westminster I also worked as a tour guide and was present when the New York Friends of the Memorial financed a new orientation slide program about the Memorial. The creator of the program chose, for reasons that I have puzzled about ever since, to include among the quoted bits of the speech Churchill’s reference to a “Temple of Peace.” The obvious reference is the first one, the one not quoted in the slide program, when Churchill’s speaks hopefully that the newly established United Nations Organization would become “a true temple of peace in which the shields of many nations can some day be hung up, and not merely a cockpit in a Tower of Babel.” Later, two paragraphs before the famous “iron curtain” part of the speech, Churchill returns to the Temple of Peace after mentioning the UN again. It is this part that visitors to the Memorial hear in the orientation program. Churchill is heard to say “Temple of Peace,” then “Workmen from all countries must build that temple.” I have often wondered if, in some way, the Churchill Memorial through its parent Westminster College has become, or could become, or should become, in its own way, a “temple of peace” along the lines Churchill envisioned sixty years ago.

Perhaps this section speaks so loudly to me because of my work on the history of the Memorial project that has exposed me to many of the main participants in Britain and the U.S. Perhaps I can be excused for transposing Churchill’s reference to the UN and Anglo-American friendship in 1946 to the experience of those visionaries in the 1960s. After all, Churchill explained, “Workmen from all countries must build that temple. If two of the workmen know each other particularly well and are old friends, if their families are intermingled, if they have ‘faith in each other’s purpose, hope in each other’s future and charity towards each other’s shortcomings’—to quote some good words I read here the other day—why cannot they work together at the common task as friends and partners? Why can they not share their tools and thus increase each other’s working powers?” And then the slide program quoted again, “Indeed they must do so or else the temple may not be built...”

I cannot read these words without thinking of the intermingled families and transatlantic friendships that resulted from the Memorial enterprise: the Manders, the Stinsons, the Woods, the Davidsons, Patrick Horsbrugh, Jack Marshall, and many others who, if not old friends at the outset certainly became so and remain so. The Memorial, it seems to me, has become a Temple of Peace in microcosm.

Whatever one thinks of the UN sixty years on, or of other global diplomatic bodies and structures, what seems clear to me is that “The Sinews of Peace” must connect people across the world not only through macropolitical means—the types of activities that Churchill and Truman relied upon in their day—but through smaller networks of human relationships on the personal level as well. “World Peace” was the speech title that Churchill conveyed to the College before he came to Fulton. If we are ever to achieve this peace, we need more temples of peace like the Churchill Memorial at Westminster College.

The Memorial itself, as a historical building that attracts visitors from all over the world, could itself serve this peacemaking function. But its impact is more far reaching and permanent through its association with Westminster College. It should not be forgotten that the original concept for the Memorial included a substantial program of exchange professorships and student scholarships between the College and British universities. Sadly, for reasons practical and philosophical, the original plan was never fully realized.
More recently, however, the College has made great strides to become a truly international institution of higher education. When I was a student two decades ago, there were practically no foreign students at Westminster, but there were a few opportunities for Westminster students to study in England. Now Westminster has the Robertson Professorship, and I am particularly pleased to read that Westminster boasts a significant percentage of foreign students representing more than forty countries, including many that used to be behind the line “from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic.”

How different a Westminster education must be today than back when the “iron curtain” still existed! How delighted Churchill would be to come back to Westminster today and find students from Iraq (in which he had no small interest) and from Cuba (which he visited before coming to Fulton)! How pleased we should all be that the College and the Memorial are increasingly integrated and are able to attract so many good students from behind the collapsed iron curtain and even from the last remnant of the Cold War, Castro’s Cuba. (The College, by the way, has gone to great lengths to obtain the necessary visas for these students.)

The Churchill Memorial at Westminster College is a “temple of peace,” perhaps not precisely the way Churchill foresaw in 1946, but one that suits the new realities of the post-Cold War world that increasingly relies on non-governmental organizations and cultural exchanges to provide the workers to build our temples of peace and to fashion our “sinews of peace.”
Winston Churchill and “The Siege of Sidney Street”
Something was definitely afoot on 16 December 1910 in London’s East End. Having heard suspicious digging sounds emanating from a building in Houndsditch, neighbors notified the police. The police arrived and discovered a gang of would-be thieves tunneling toward a neighboring jeweler’s shop. When confronted by the police, the burglars decided to shoot their way to freedom, killing three officers.

After fighting their way free the erstwhile tunneling robbers escaped dragging fellow felon George Gardstein, shot by one of his own gang in the fracas with the unarmed police, through the streets of Whitechapel. When they arrived at their lodgings in Grove Street, the gang (none-too-wisely) sent for a doctor to care for the severely wounded Gardstein. The doctor arrived and advised that Gardstein needed immediate hospital treatment. When his confederates refused to take Gardstein to the hospital, the suspicious physician left and contacted the police.

When the police arrived in Grove Street, they found Gardstein dead in a room filled with guns, ammunition and anarchist revolutionary literature. They arrested a woman they found in the room, and a man who (very unwisely) knocked on the door while the police were there and asked to see “Fritz.” From these two and other informants, the police quickly learned that the gang had attempted the Houndsditch robbery to obtain funds for a group of Russian and Latvian anarchists planning to foment revolution in Russia. By Christmas, the police had arrested five more of the gang. However, they failed to find any proof that these five had fired the fatal shots in Houndsditch. Moreover, the key figures in the robbery had eluded them: Fritz Svaars and Joseph Marx, along with the sinister Peter Piatkow (also known as “Peter the Painter”) were still at large and hiding somewhere in the East End.

On 2 January 1911 the police got a tip that Svaars and Marx, and perhaps “Peter the Painter,” were hiding in a building in Sidney Street. Knowing that the wanted men were probably armed and decidedly dangerous, the police were given shotguns, .22 caliber single-shot rifles, and short-barreled revolvers. This turned out to be a deadly miscalculation; the police were out-gunned by the revolutionaries who had armed themselves with high velocity, rapid-fire, easy to reload Mauser semiautomatic pistols. In a show of evenhandedness -- which subsequent events proved another grim mistake -- the police sent Sergeant Ben Leeson to throw pebbles at the windows of the building to attract the anarchists’ attention and ask them to surrender. Instead of surrendering the revolutionaries opened up with their Mauser pistols, hitting Leeson twice. After this the police realized that they were seriously outgunned, and called in twenty Scots Guards armed with rifles from the Tower of London. Notwithstanding the increased fire- and man-power provided by the Scots Guards, the situation remained a frenzied standoff – later called “the Siege of Sidney Street.”

Home Secretary Winston Churchill, having learned of what was transpiring in Sidney Street and determining that it was his duty to investigate in person, quickly made his way to Sidney Street. He later described what he witnessed as “a striking scene in a London street… firing from every window, bullets chipping the brickwork… police and Scots Guards armed with loaded weapons, artillery brought up etc.” (At one point in the siege a Maxim machine gun was brought up, followed by a troop of Royal Horse Artillery, but these were not brought into action.)

Not long after Churchill showed up in Sidney Street flames and smoke were seen to be coming from the building. The Fire Brigade responded to the scene, but was instructed to stand down and allow the building burn. When queried by a fire brigade officer as to the veracity of this order, Churchill told him the order was correct and informed him that he accepted full responsibility. After the fire died down, two bodies were discovered inside the house, one had been shot, and the other had apparently asphyxiated in the fire. These were assumed to be Svaars and Marx. If “Peter the Painter” had been in the building that day, he escaped both bullets and flames.

The Sidney Street incident was a defining moment for Winston Churchill as Home Secretary and brought him much publicity and criticism in the English press; he was later accused by some, most vociferously members of the Conservative Party, of inappropriately taking charge and directing the siege. Many thought Churchill’s on-site involvement in the raid was risky and unnecessary; others saw Winston Churchill as a man of action and courage – albeit a rash one at times. Both representations could be “read” in newsreel film taken at the time of the siege and shown in theaters night after night. This footage showed Churchill peering out from behind a wall, apparently giving orders, at what was quickly dubbed “The Battle of Stepney.”

This exciting and rarely seen footage is featured in the new Winston S. Churchill: a Life of Leadership exhibit in the section that explores Churchill’s early political career. Incorporating the footage with music, photographs and inter-titles (silent film captions), the “Siege of Sidney Street” program provides a historical context for the footage, and enables visitors to understand better the events – and the outcome -- of the siege in the broader context of its influence on Winston Churchill’s career.

†This wasn’t the only time the siege, or something like it was seen in theaters. Alfred Hitchcock used the historical events of 2 January 1911 in Sydney Street two decades later for the basis of the climax of his 1934 film The Man Who Knew Too Much, starring a very sinister Peter Lorre, but not in the film of the same name he later made with Jimmy Stewart. In the 1960 film The Siege of Sydney Street (released in the U.S. as Siege on Hell Street), the police and troops on the East End streets are remarkably similar to photographs of the siege.
Before I began my internship at the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library, all that the name Winston Churchill brought to my mind were vague images of the “Iron Curtain” speech, a leaky old gym, and the statue of him overlooking West 7th Street in Fulton where an elderly couple once stopped me to take a picture of them with a cardboard boy, a prop that was traveling around the country as an educational tool for their grandson’s fourth grade class. When I realized how little I actually knew about Churchill, I turned to my father, a high school history teacher and the son of a World War II veteran, to fill me in. He was surprised at my lack of knowledge, but an informal survey showed this to be true of many other Westminster College students as well; we all know Winston Churchill, but we know him through the sleepy haze of an early morning world history lecture. To quote an average student, he’s “that British guy who did something in the war.”
I believe that we, as young people and future leaders, need something to bridge this gap; we students today do not have the firsthand knowledge of Churchill’s leadership that our grandparents had, or indeed much knowledge of him at all, it seems. This is why I am so excited by the ambitious Exploring the Foundations of Churchill's Leadership program, which was launched by the Churchill Memorial in August 2005. This program is an effort to provide life-long learning opportunities for people of all ages, with a special focus on students and to make Churchill live again for a new generation. The implementation of this program involves four phases over two years. The first phase consists of the research, planning, and assessment of the educational opportunities that will supply the framework to support the program. Surveys are currently being distributed to the faculty and staff of Westminster College and numerous secondary and elementary schools in Mid-Missouri. The information obtained through these surveys will be evaluated to determine existing needs and how best to fill them. The Memorial is currently planning the second phase of this project, in which they will develop an outreach program to increase knowledge and awareness of Churchill by placing lessons based on his leadership into the curriculum of Westminster College and area schools. The third part of this project, to begin in February 2006, will see the completion of the new interactive Winston Churchill Leadership Gallery. The gallery will provide learning experiences for both students and teachers and will compliment the outreach program as well as providing a fantastic experience for the casual visitor. The final phase of the project will consist of the implementation and evaluation of the program beginning in August 2006. All of these educational programs were made possible by a grant of $137,540 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant was obtained via a competitive process and success in such a fierce competition is an achievement in its own right and sends very important messages about the Memorial and its vision.

This program will lay the foundation for a working knowledge of Churchill’s achievements among students of all ages, but perhaps most importantly among the young. With the completion of the Winston Churchill Leadership Gallery and the addition of lessons in Churchill’s leadership to our curriculum, we will have the opportunity to understand Churchill and gain the respect for him that our grandparents had. Soon the statue overlooking 7th Street will mean more to students than a photo opportunity and an occasional excuse for being late to class; we will be able to accord Churchill the respect that he most certainly deserves.

Amy Barclay ’07
Westminster College Junior

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The Churchill Memorial has lost three of its most enthusiastic supporters in recent times. I was fortunate enough to visit each one of them in their homes and to become friends, and in two cases to record oral history interviews with them for the Memorial. Of the three—Bill Gaines, Noel Mander, and John David Marshall—I knew John David the best because I spent many days over the span of several years driving back and forth with him between Middle Tennessee and Fulton.

In fact, we first met when I was a senior at Westminster in 1986 and I was asked by the Memorial to pick up one of the Churchill Fellows (I do not know if he was yet a Governor then) who was flying in for fellows weekend. About the most I recall of our drive back from Lambert Airport that day was my embarrassment for the heat in my un-air conditioned car, the need to stop for gas in Williamsburg, and Mr. Marshall’s southern gentlemanliness. I did not know then, but a pattern had been set for the future.

Our paths crossed again ten years later at the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill’s speech, when I heard John David’s retelling of how he had procured a ticket as a teenager for the “Sinews of Peace” speech at Westminster. Anyone who met him knew how deeply significant this event proved to be in his life. Out of it emerged a life-long interest in Churchill and Churchilliana, especially books by and about Churchill, and eventually a devotion to the Churchill Memorial at Westminster. It was never entirely clear to John David how his attempt to procure a ticket succeeded, even though he knew that a U.S. Senator from his home state of Tennessee had intervened with the White House and the college. All that he knew was that the ticket arrived a few days before the big event, and his parents drove him to Fulton from the small town of McKenzie, Tennessee, then waited and listened outside while he entered the gymnasium for the lecture. That day he must have felt something like Charlie entering Willie Wonka’s factory with a prized, and equally scarce, golden ticket. One of John David’s more charming customs was to relive that day by listening to a recording of Churchill’s address every March 5.

John David went on to become a professional librarian and rose to the position of director of the library at Middle Tennessee State University, where by a strange twist of fate I landed a tenure track job in the fall of 1996. It was then that our acquaintance developed into a friendship, partly based on our mutual association with MTSU but mostly through our interest in the Churchill Memorial. After he retired in 1999, John David no longer made the annual trek to Fulton for fellows weekend or the Kemper Lecture or to St. Louis for meetings of the Board of Governors. He did not like to drive that distance, and he thought it foolish to spend the money to fly and be a bother to others who would fetch him and drive him to and fro. It was typical of him to downplay his usefulness to the Memorial—except as a collector of books—and he frequently remarked that the Memorial would get more benefit from him donating the cost of airline tickets than his actual attendance at meetings of the governors or fellows.

I suppose the pattern that we settled into began the year I was made a Churchill Fellow (in no small part at the urging of Marshall and Bill Gaines), for then I had more of a reason to make the trip in the midst of the school year to Fulton for the Kemper Lectures and associated festivities. I probably would not have made those trips alone, but having John David happily ride along, knowing as I did how much he enjoyed being at the Memorial and meeting the Kemper Lecturers, somehow made the trips doubly satisfying. He insisted on paying for gas and proved remarkably good company for the accumulation of a dozen or so days we spent over the years in my car (which now has air conditioning). We spoke about MTSU past and present, but mostly we debated the future of the Memorial and discussed its history, from our different perspectives. I tended to be less forgiving than John David, who always hesitated to criticize even the most egregious behavior. He remained the reserved southern gentleman to my “show-me” Missouri stubbornness and outspokenness.

It goes without saying that John David loved books, and not just Churchill ones. He was also an expert on the Lizzie Borden case. He never seemed more content than when he was in the Clementine Churchill Reading Room surrounded by the core of his book collection that he had donated to the Memorial over the years. Should you wish a monument to John David, always hesitated to criticize even the most egregious behavior. He remained the reserved southern gentleman to my “show-me” Missouri stubbornness and outspokenness.

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