


PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS FILM OF THE CHURCHILL PORTRAIT MUST  
NOT BE SHOWN BEFORE 00.30 HOURS ON TUESDAY 30th NOVEMBER

  
ALL-PARTY PRESENTATION TO  
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY,  
NOVEMBER 30TH., 1954

Early this year Mr. Frank McLeavy, M.P., Chairman of the Executive of the Members Parliamentary Committee, asked his Executive to consider a suggestion that they should organise a presentation to the Prime Minister on his 80th. birthday, November 30th, 1954.

The Executive agreed and decided to present him with his portrait in oils. Henry Price, M.P., Joint Secretary of the Committee, suggested, as an alternative, an Illuminated Book, to contain an appropriately worded tribute and to be signed by every Member of the House of Commons.

The Executive decided to adhere to the idea of a portrait as a gift from both Houses of Parliament but to adopt Mr. Price's idea as an additional item to be given on behalf of the Commons only.

With the Prime Minister's approval Graham Sutherland was commissioned to paint the portrait and Charles Doughty, M.P., a member of the Executive was asked to accept responsibility for handling all negotiations with the artist. Work was begun in August and the portrait was completed by November 20th.

Mr. Henry Price was responsible not only for the general conception of the Commemorative Book but also for the wording of the Tribute page and the choice of the moving quotation from Bunyan with which the tribute concludes.

He was assisted by Mr. Maurice Orbach in his negotiations with the College of Arms who produced the Book under the direction of James A. Frere, Esq., Bluemantle Pursuivant. The artist was Gerald Cobb and the scrivener, William Lovegrove - both of the College of Arms.

The secretarial work has been in the hands of Mr. Henry Price who also produced the Order of Ceremony and, together with the Chairman, Mr. F. McLeavy, has worked out the detailed arrangements for the ceremony.

Throughout the whole of this complicated task the Executive has had splendid co-operation from the Ministry of Works and from all the authorities within the Palace of Westminster and is very grateful to them.

Other members of the Executive who have played important parts in the work are Miss Jennie Lee, M.P., Mr. Robson Brown, M.P., and the Treasurer, Mr. Roderic Bowen, Q.C., M.P., who has handled his delicate task with efficiency and tact.



## THE CEREMONY

The ceremony is timed to begin at 12.0 noon, and will be in Westminster Hall. Access to the Hall will be by the East Door - which will be open from 11.0 a.m. - except that members of the three Platform parties will be able to enter via St. Stephen's Hall if they prefer.

It is planned to keep the North Door closed until the end of the ceremony but this can be opened should the East Door prove to be inadequate. The East Door will be opened earlier than 11.0 a.m. - at the discretion of the officer in charge - should it prove advisable.

The three Platform parties, of which separate lists have been made available, will consist of

- (1) Platform Centre - Members of the Executive, those taking part in the ceremony, the artist, Sir Anthony Eden, Mr. Clement Davies, and their ladies,
- (2) Platform Right - Members of the Cabinet, and Departmental Ministers, and their ladies,
- (3) Platform Left - Leaders of the Labour and Liberal Parties and their ladies.

Seats have been reserved in the front row of Block C for members of the Prime Minister's family.

The total number of people present is expected to be about 2,500, (1,600 seated and 900 standing).


The Prime Minister is due at St. Stephen's Entrance at 12.0 noon, where he will be met by the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Minister of Works, Mr. Frank McLeavy, M.P., and Mrs. McLeavy. He will be accompanied by Lady Churchill to whom Mrs. McLeavy will present a bouquet.

The party will ascend the steps to below the War Memorial window. During these few moments the flood lighting will be switched on and the drums of the Grenadier Guards Orchestra will tap out the "V" sign in morse.

When Sir Winston appears the orchestra will begin to play (very softly) Pomp and Circumstance No. 4.

Sir Winston and Lady Churchill will then be presented to the other members of the Executive and their ladies before going down the stairs to the presentation platform. Mr. Frank McLeavy will accompany Sir Winston and Mr. Robson Brown will escort Lady Churchill.





At the presentation platform the Prime Minister will be received by the Speaker of the House of Commons, and by the Lord Chancellor.

The Speaker will open the ceremony at about 12.10 p.m. and will introduce the Rt. Hon. C. R. Attlee, who will make a speech of about 15 minutes (perhaps a little less) and will present the portrait. At the end of his speech the portrait will be illuminated and unveiled by remote control.

At 12.30 (approx) Mr. Speaker will introduce the Rt. Hon. David Grenfell, M.P., (Father of the House of Commons), who will speak for about 5 minutes and will present the Commemorative Book. This will be handed to him by Mr. Henry Price, M.P., who will receive it back from Sir Winston in order for it to be put on view alongside the portrait.

At about 12.35 p.m. the Prime Minister will respond in a speech of about 15 minutes (or a little less).

The Rt. Hon. the Marquess of Salisbury will make the concluding speech, after which Sir Winston and Lady Churchill will leave by the North Door. They will be preceded by the Speaker and the Lord Chancellor and followed by Mr. Attlee and the Marquess of Salisbury and the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Minister of Works.

During the outward procession the Orchestra will play Purcell's (or Jeremiah Clarke's) "Trumpet Voluntary".

The ceremony is timed to end at 1.0 p.m. or just a little before. After the ceremony the portrait and the Book will remain on view until about 2.30 p.m. when they will be removed to No. 10, Downing Street.

TO BE CHECKED AGAINST DELIVERY

MR. ATTLEE'S SPEECH AT THE PRESENTATION TO  
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, WESTMINSTER HALL, NOVEMBER 30TH, 1954

PRIME MINISTER

I have been charged by my colleagues on this your eightieth birthday with the pleasant duty of offering you, on behalf of the Members of both Houses of Parliament, congratulations and good wishes for many happy returns of the day. I am further to present to you your portrait painted by Mr. Graham Sutherland.

You will, I know, be having on this happy occasion a family gathering, but this, too, is in a sense a domestic event for the House of Commons is a family and we are paying a tribute of esteem and affection to the most distinguished member of the Parliamentary family. This is a unique occasion when, in an interval of the Parliamentary battle, friends and foes lay aside their weapons and unite in honouring one of their number.

Fifty-four years have gone by since you first entered this House but, despite your youth, you had already seen several warlike campaigns and had made notable contributions to literature. You soon became prominent as a vigorous, even obstreperous, Back-bencher, taking the risk of crossing the floor. Old hands soon recognised in you a chip of the old block, the son of Lord Randolph Churchill, whom you commemorated with filial piety in one of the finest biographies ever written. You overcame the handicap of being the son of a distinguished father. In 1906 you left the back benches and, as an Under-Secretary, introduced into the House the great act of statesmanship which resulted in the creation of the Union of South Africa. It was not long before you were promoted to the Cabinet and ever since, save for a few absences due to the chances of our electoral system, have been a leading figure in the Parliamentary arena.

It is not for me this morning to recount in detail your career. I come not to bury Caesar but to praise him. Caesar indeed - for you have not only carried on war, but have written your own commentary. It is enough to say that you held many high offices and in every one you brought your own distinctive touch. I recall your reforms of the prison system. You took your full share of the liberal social reforms of the Lloyd George era and your winged words inspired the attacks on the other place in 1910.

Then came the War of 1914 and from Admiralty House you gave the order to mobilise the Fleet, a Fleet ready and concentrated in the right place. You had the conception of the Dardenelles campaign, the only imaginative strategic idea of the War. I wish that you had had full power to carry it to success. You urged the adoption of the Tank, the only new tactical weapon of first importance in that War.

When the Coalition Government of Lloyd George broke up and you lost your seat in 1922 there were those who thought that your career had already passed its climacteric. They little knew what Fate had in store, but indeed you had already done enough to earn a place in history. For twenty-two years you had been a leading figure in the political life of this country. That period has now passed into history. There are only three Members of the House still serving who took part in it. In 1924 you returned. You are now playing your second innings and have scored thirty not out. I remember very well when you were Chancellor of the Exchequer wrestling with those adjectival dots that puzzled your father.



Then came your disagreement with your Party. You did not go to the Back Benches but dug in on the Front Bench below the Gangway, prepared for offence and defence against all opponents. Once again, the wiseacres said, "Churchill is finished", but they had not reckoned on your powers of resilience. You did not choose to play the role of Achilles sulking in his tent; you appeared instead as Cassandra and, like her, your warnings were not believed.

In 1940 the hour of destiny struck and you became the leader of the nation in the most critical days that it had ever faced. Prime Minister, you have always been a figure of controversy. You are one who kindly gives and takes hard knocks. It can only be a very youthful Member of Parliament who has not disagreed with you and most of us have, at one time or another, been violently opposed to you. Yet, it was found in 1940 in the hour of peril that Members of all Parties were glad to serve under you and recognised you as the daring pilot in extremity through the storm that had struck Britain required. Those days are fresh in our memory. We who had the privilege of serving under you during those long days of war know well what the country owes to you and how you were able to inject into the national efforts urgency, force and enthusiasm.

We recall those stirring speeches in the House in which in a few sentences you expressed the will not only of Parliament but of the whole nation. You offered us only blood and sweat and tears and we gladly took your offer. I recall how often you said in those days that in difficult times we should draw support from the House of Commons. That battered arch called after your name through which Members enter the House will remind future generations of this.

After the War you played a new and unaccustomed role in the House - that of Leader of the Opposition. We of the Government endeavoured to sustain your attacks with equanimity, whether they were delivered with the gravity of the elder statesman, or, as sometimes happened, with the impetuosity of the cavalry subaltern of long ago.

Then we come to the present time when we greet you on your birthday - Prime Minister at eighty. Only Palmerston and Gladstone among your predecessors exceed this record but neither of them had to bear such strains as you have undergone.

We greet you today especially as a great Parliamentarian, the last of the great orators who can touch the heights. You are, however, equally happy in the cut and thrust of controversy and at Question Time when you seem at times, in the lighter moments of the House, to recapture the mischievous spirit of the boy.

I have spoken of your career as a statesman and of your work in Parliament, but I must spare a word for what, I might call, your extra mural activities. If, like Caesar, you have written in imperishable verse, your account of two great world wars and several small ones, you have I believe, like Balbus, built with your own hands a wall. You have written the life of your ancestor, the great Duke of Marlborough. You have been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. You are a painter of pictures honoured by the Royal Academy. In your youth you were a polo player of note and in your later years you have been a successful owner of race horses.

Today, in offering our congratulations to you, we hope that you may have many more years of happiness with the gracious lady your wife who has so well sustained you through good and evil times.

You will realise that I should be in breach of my duty as Leader of the Opposition were I to wish you long continuance in your present office, but may I hope that you will live to see the beginnings of an era of peace in the world after the storms which it has been your lot to encounter. "Old age hath yet his honour and his toil .... some work of noble note may yet be done".

On behalf of both Houses of Parliament, I ask you to accept this portrait.

Birthday Presentations to Sir Winston Churchill in  
Westminster Hall, 30th November, 1954

Order of Proceedings

- 12 noon
- The Prime Minister and Lady Churchill will arrive at St. Stephen's Entrance and will be received by the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Minister of Works, The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. Frank McLeavy) and Mrs. McLeavy.
  - The Prime Minister and Lady Churchill, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. McLeavy, will ascend the steps to the space below the War Memorial window, where they will have presented to them the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee of the Members' Parliamentary Committee and ladies.
- 12.7 p.m.
- The Prime Minister, accompanied by Mr. McLeavy, and Lady Churchill, accompanied by Mr. Robson-Brown, followed by other members of the reception party, will proceed in procession down the steps to the platform.
- Mr. Speaker and the Lord Chancellor will receive the Prime Minister and Lady Churchill on behalf of both Houses of Parliament.
- 12.10 p.m.
- Mr. Speaker will open the proceedings and call upon Mr. Attlee to present the Portrait.
- 12.15 p.m.
- Mr. Attlee will address the assembly.
- Unveiling  
of  
Portrait
- The Portrait will be unveiled and illuminated at the end of Mr. Attlee's speech.
- 12.30 p.m.
- Mr. Speaker will invite Mr. Grenfell (Father of the House of Commons) to present the Illuminated Book.
- 12.35 p.m.
- The Prime Minister will speak.
- 12.50 p.m.
- Mr. Speaker will invite Lord Salisbury to address the assembly.
- 12.55 p.m.
- The Prime Minister and Lady Churchill will walk down the centre of the Hall to the North Door preceded by the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Speaker and followed by Mr. Attlee and Lord Salisbury.



CENTRE PLATFORM PARTY

Front Row

Miss Lee  
Mr. R. Bowen  
Mr. C. Davies  
Mrs. H. Price  
Sir Anthony Eden  
Mr. McLeavy  
Mrs. Attlee  
Lord Chancellor

The Prime Minister  
Mr. Speaker  
Lady Churchill

Mr. Attlee  
Lord Salisbury  
Mr. Robson-Brown  
Mr. Orbach  
Lord Great Chamberlain  
Mr. Grenfell  
Mr. Doughty  
Minister of Works

Second Row

Right (East) end of rows

Mrs. Orbach  
Mrs. Reeves  
Mr. Reeves  
Mrs. C. Davies  
Lady Kilmuir  
Mrs. McLeavy  
Mrs. Morrison  
Mr. Price

Lady Salisbury  
Lady Eden  
Mrs. Robson-Brown  
Mr. Wade  
Lady Cholmondeley  
Mrs. Hill  
Mr. Bevan  
Mrs. Doughty

Third Row

Whip  
Mrs. Grenfell  
Mrs. Sutherland  
Mr. Sutherland

Mrs. Birch  
Mrs. Wade  
Whip

Left (West) end of rows

PLATFORM PARTY - RIGHT (EAST)

	<u>Seat Nos.</u>	<u>Name</u>
Row 1 (Front Row)	1 & 2 3 & 4 5 & 6 7 & 8 9 & 10	Mr. R.A. Butler and guest Lord Woolton and guest Captain H.F.C. Crookshank and guest Mr. Harold Macmillan and guest Major the Hon. Gwilym Lloyd-George and guest
Row 2	11 & 12 13 & 14 15 & 16 17 & 18 19 & 20 21 & 32	Lord Swinton and guest The Hon. James Stuart and guest Mr. A.T. Lennox-Boyd and guest Sir Walter Monckton and guest Mr. Duncan Sandys and guest Mr. Peter Thorneycroft and guest
Row 3	22 & 23 24 & 25 26 & 27 28 29 & 30 31	Mr. D. Heathcoat Amory and guest Mr. Osbert Peake and guest Sir David Eccles and guest Mr. J.P.L. Thomas Mr. Anthony Head and guest Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd
Row 4 (Back Row)	33 & 34 35 & 36 37 & 38 39 & 40 41 & 42	Lord De L'Isle and Dudley and guest Mr. Selwyn Lloyd and guest Mr. Iain Macleod and guest Lord De La Warr and guest Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter and guest



PLATFORM PARTY - LEFT (WEST)

No specific seats allocated

Mr. Herbert Morrison and guest  
Mr. William Whiteley  
Mr. L.J. Callaghan and guest  
Mr. Hugh Dalton and guest  
Mr. J. Chuter Ede and guest  
Mr. H.T.N. Gaitskell and guest  
Mr. J. Griffiths and guest  
Mr. W. Glenvil Hall and guest  
Mr. P. J. Noel-Baker and guest  
Mr. A. Robens and guest  
Mr. E. Shinwell  
Sir Frank Soskice and guest  
Mr. Harold Wilson and guest  
Lord Shepherd and guest  
Lord Henderson  
Dr. Edith Summerskill  
Mr. Carol Johnson and guest  
Mr. Frank Barlow  
Miss P.E. Jones  
Mr. Harry Mitchell  
Mrs. Joan Mehlman  
Mrs. Pamela Terrey

To sit in the three seats at south end of both  
first and second rows

Lord and Lady Rea  
Lord Samuel  
Lord and Lady Thurso  
Mrs. Grimond