

The epilogue not chosen from *For Whom the Bell Tolls* ... a series of love letters written from the front during the last months of WWII courting his fourth wife while married to his third ... letters sent and received from more than 300 people including Marlene Dietrich, Ingrid Bergman, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Joan Miro, and Maxwell Perkins ... Nobel Prize congratulatory telegrams from around the world ... letters to his beloved sons ... instructions in Spanish to the cook regarding preparation of favorite dishes and the day of the week he preferred to eat them ... photographs of dinner parties, fishing trips, African safaris, and family celebrations ... 9,000 book personal library.

These documents reflect just a fraction of the treasures that exists at Hemingway's home, Finca Vigía, in Cuba. Some papers are almost 100 years old. The most recent are from 1960.

Background. Finca Vigía (Lookout Farm), located on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba was Ernest Hemingway's home from 1939-1960. It was there that he wrote standing at his typewriter, entertained, married twice, accepted his Nobel Prize for Literature, and pitched endless innings of baseball with the neighborhood children. Finca Vigía was the only one of his homes where the author put down roots, gathering the objects that he valued. He left in 1960 for medical treatment in the United States; in 1961 he committed suicide in Idaho. At the same time the Cuban government nationalized all property and Hemingway's home was turned into a museum.

Over the next 50 years, the Finca and its unique collection fell into disrepair. More than 4,500 photographs, original manuscripts and galley proofs of his stories and novels, his correspondence and his journals, and a personal library of almost nine thousand volumes – many with his writing in the margins – were in danger of destruction from heat, humidity, pests, mold, and the sheer passage of time. The Cubans cared for the museum admirably, but they did not have the resources to conserve their treasure.

The Beginning of the Finca Vigía Foundation. In 2002 Jenny Phillips, the granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway's editor, Maxwell Perkins, became aware of the thousands of irreplaceable documents languishing in the tropical climate. With the assistance of Congressman James McGovern and the Cuban Ministry of Culture, Dr. Phillips established a US based non-profit organization in 2004, the Finca Vigía Foundation, whose mission is to preserve Ernest Hemingway's legacy in Cuba.

Past Success. Despite a contentious political climate, the Foundation has successfully navigated the shoals of US/Cuban relations to create a bi-national project that has:

- Built trust and won the support of both the United States and the Cuban governments;
- Consulted on the restoration of Hemingway's home and yacht partnering with the Cuban Ministry of Culture and National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Conserved more than 6,000 letters, telegrams, and manuscripts, by sending renowned paper conservators from Northeast Document Conservation Center to Havana to train Cuban specialists in conservation techniques;
- Preserved 5 rare scrapbooks created by the author;

- Taught best practices in meta data, photo shop, and other digital imaging techniques;
- Constructed a museum quality on-site restoration center with archival storage and wet and dry conservation laboratories. to ensure the longevity of the irreplaceable Hemingway collection. The building was complete in March 2019 and inaugurated during an international celebration. It was immediately put to use with document conservation workshops sponsored by the Foundation.
- Skilled workforce development and mentoring are critical components to all work.

Future Goals. Continued document conservation workshops and trainings will begin in the spring of 2023. Ongoing maintenance of Hemingway's home is required annually. Our long-term goal is the total architectural preservation of the home.

About The Finca Vigía Foundation

The Foundation is a U S 501 (c) (3) organization non-profit. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. The Foundation operates under a general license from the Department of Treasury, with oversight from the State Department. We meet regularly with the Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy in Havana. In Cuba, we work in partnership with the Ministry of Culture.

Leadership. The Foundation is governed by a 15-member board of directors, co-chaired by Frank Phillips (founder) and Bob Vila of *This Old House*. The board is comprised of professionals from preservation, diplomatic, journalistic, corporate, and academic worlds. Four members are Cuban-American. Board members are not compensated. Our legal team from Jones Day, Washington, DC office provides their counsel *pro bono*. Congressman James P. McGovern (D-MA) chairs the Advisory Council. The Foundation employs one staff member. Mary-Jo Adams has been the executive director since the non-profit began in 2004.

Budget. The annual budget is \$200,000. We receive thousands of in-kind contributions from many of our consultants. This budget does not include programmatic expenses.

Awards / Distinctions.

- 2005 The National Trust for Historic Preservation's "11 Most Endangered List"
- 2006 World Monument Fund "List of 100 Most Endangered Site"
- 2008 Consejo Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural de Cuba "Premio de Preservacion" First prize for Architectural Preservation of Ernest Hemingway's home.
- 2010 US ICOMOS International Heritage Award for Excellence, Washington, DC 2011 Coloquio Hemingway, Premio de Distincion awarded to Jenny Phillips and Congressman Jim McGovern, Havana, Cuba
- 2014 Finca Vigía Premio de Distinction from the Ministry of Culture, awarded to Mary-Jo Adams, Havana, Cuba
- 2016 Finca Vigía Premio de Distinction awarded to William Dupont, Leader of the United States Technical Team, Havana Cuba
- 2019 Completion of the Restoration Center and Commemoration Ceremony
- 2023 Awarded a Cultural Grant for Document Preservation by the US State Department

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**FINCA VIGÍA
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Preserving Ernest Hemingway's Legacy in Cuba

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