



Inaugural Luncheon

*Statuary Hall
at the National Capitol*

*January twentieth
Nineteen hundred eighty-nine*


*The Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural
1789-1989*

LUNCHEON AND PORTRAIT HISTORY

The Inaugural Luncheon has been a tradition since William McKinley's first inauguration in 1897, and represents the formal Congressional welcome of the new President and Vice President.

A more recent tradition dating from 1981 is the use of Statuary Hall for the luncheon. From 1965 until 1981, Room S-207 in the Capitol, now known as the "Mansfield Room," was the site of the luncheon. Prior to that time, the Old Senate Chamber was the favored room, hosting the presidential luncheons of Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, among others.

In commemoration of the Bicentennial Inauguration, Rembrandt Peale's "porthole" portrait of the nation's first President, George Washington, will be displayed above the head table. Peale originally painted Washington from life in the fall of 1795 when he accompanied his father, Charles Wilson Peale, to Mount Vernon. However, the younger Peale was not satisfied with the resulting portrait and set out to create one that would show Washington's "mild, thoughtful and dignified, yet firm and energetic countenance." In 1823, after numerous attempts, Rembrandt Peale made one final effort. Confining himself in his studio for three months, he created what has become known as the "porthole" portrait, so named for his placement of Washington in a stonework porthole, surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves.

The United States Senate, by resolution on July 2, 1832, authorized the purchase of Peale's original portrait of Washington for the Senate Chamber. After being displayed in two other locations within the Capitol, the portrait was returned to its original location upon restoration of the Old Senate Chamber in 1976.

MUSICAL PROGRAM

On April 21, 1789, George Washington arrived at Trenton, New Jersey, while traveling to New York for his inauguration as the first President of the United States. He was greeted by "a white-robed choir who met him with the congratulatory song" before a triumphal arch. Washington handsomely thanked the "matrons and young ladies" for their musical offering.

It is well-known that Washington liked good company, and in his day, company of any sort made opportunity for musical accompaniment. Two hundred years later, we offer to our new President a range of music for celebration, including "Washington's Toast," "Washington's March," and other simple airs and songs which convey a nation's good cheer from its earliest days to and through the Bicentennial Inauguration.

THE SMITHSONIAN CHAMBER PLAYERS

KENNETH SLOWIK, *Director*

JAMES CALDWELL, *Oboe*

STANLEY KING, *Oboe*

STEPHEN MARVIN, *Violin*

KENNETH SLOWIK, *Cello*

JAMES WEAVER, *Harpsichord*

PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Congress and the American people, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies is presenting to the President and Vice President of the United States hand-blown crystal bowls from the Lenox Crystal Company, Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The bowls were designed by Ms. Barbara Handyside and engraved by Mr. Jan Lewczenko.

The President's bowl is nine inches in diameter and rests on a hand-cut crystal plinth. The plinth is engraved with his name, the words "The Bicentennial Inauguration," and "January 20, 1989." The Vice President's bowl is six inches in diameter and its plinth bears a similar inscription.

The bowls represent an intriguing design technique. A detailed hand engraving of the Capitol on the far side of each bowl is gracefully framed by an arbor of flowering cherry trees on the bowl's near side, creating a three-dimensional effect.

Each luncheon guest will receive a Lenox China box as a memento of the Bicentennial Inauguration. The cover of the box features a 24 karat gold replica of the First Great Seal of the United States, framed by bands of cobalt blue and gold. Classic gold swags ornament the side of the box. The inscription, "The Bicentennial Inauguration, January 20, 1989," appears in gold inside the cover.