



Artifacts on display at the U.S. Diplomacy Center's Preview Exhibit

Glass Chalice,

PROBABLY LATE 19TH–EARLY 20TH

CENTURIES, CZECH

GLASS, ENAMEL

Gift of John Crockett

The crowds in Prague boisterously welcomed General Dwight D. Eisenhower during his six

hour, post-World War II visit in October 1945. While there, he received many gifts from the Lord Mayor of Prague, including this vase of fine Czech Moser glass. While the General's staff packed up other gifts, for unknown reasons they left this piece at the U.S. Embassy Prague. Ambassadors Steinhardt, Briggs and Jacobs, U.S. envoys to Czechoslovakia, humorously referred to the glass as "Ike's Chalice."

Diplomat's Hat (Bicorne),

LATE 19TH CENTURY, FRENCH

FELT, SILK, FEATHERS, LEATHER, GOLD BROCADE, THREAD, GOLD THREAD, DYE

Gift of Pierre de Ferry de Fontnouvelle

Count Charles de Ferry de Fontnouvelle (1877–1956) wore this hat with an elaborate uniform after 1902 when he entered the French Foreign Service. As French Consul general in New York from 1931 to 1940, he no longer used it. Although many nations required diplomats to appear in uniforms on state occasions, the U.S. has generally frowned on the practice for American diplomats. In 1937 American diplomats ceased wearing uniforms upon the orders of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Special U.S. Passport, H.C. Jewell,

1871 (FACSIMILE), UNITED STATES

PAPER, BOARD, INK, GLUE (original)

Gift of Paul A. Yates

H.C. Jewell, an officer of the U.S. Treasury Department, received the original version of this passport in 1871. Notations at the top right and left corners indicate he conducted his affairs in France. Since its founding, the U.S. government issued special passports (also called "official" passports) to prominent officials like Jewell. Special passports were different from diplomatic passports, which were distinguished for diplomats to use during and after World War I.

Banner, Sports America,

U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE,

1980S – 1990S

NYLON, PLASTIC LAMINATE, THREAD, WOOD

Collections of the U.S. Diplomacy Center,

transfer from the International Information Programs Bureau

What might Cal Ripken's baseball mitt, Nancy Kwan's skates and this banner have in common? They call to mind the international goodwill kindled by U.S. public diplomacy sports programs.

“Sports America” here refers to exchanges of athletes and coaches that the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) (1953–1999) sponsored throughout the world over several decades until 1994. This banner was printed for overseas use since “USIS” stands for U.S. Information Service, the name USIA used overseas.

Hand Cranked Sewing Machine,

2004, UNITED STATES

METAL, PAINT, PLASTIC

Collections of the U.S. Diplomacy Center,

transfer from the U.S. Agency for International Development

In 2004, USAID’s Shared Futures program distributed 6,950 sewing machines, similar to this one, and 115,000 education kits to Islamic communities in Asia and Africa. Teaching sewing, computer and English language skills, the Shared Futures program aimed to create a positive understanding of the U.S. among vulnerable populations. The dedicated support of non-governmental organizations in Shared Futures countries also fostered positive international communication.