



CULTURE with Deby Blum

My Third Leg: Woodrow Wilson's Walking Sticks

The Woodrow Wilson House on Washington's Embassy Row is exhibiting an extraordinarily unique collection of canes owned by the 28th President of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson. Famous for advocating the League of Nations, for leading the United States during World War I, and for being the only president with a PhD, Wilson and his canes served as fashion model and, later on, as inspiration for thousands of disabled war veterans.



Woodrow Wilson House

Two of President Wilson's folk art canes.

The new exhibition showcases 30 of Wilson's 50 prized walking sticks, or "third legs" as he called them. Many were received as gifts. These pieces depict highlights of Wilson's life at Princeton University, his two terms as President, and his struggles with his disability following a stroke in 1919. Noteworthy among the pieces are the elegant fashion accessories, incredibly detailed American folk art, and historically significant presentation pieces, such as President Andrew Jackson's famous hickory stick, and a walking stick made from a Confederate gunboat.

The Woodrow Wilson House was President and Mrs. Wilson's residence after they lived in The White House. His wife Edith bequeathed the property to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which operates the historic house as a museum. Following interior and exterior restorations, Wilson House was recognized by the White House Millennium Project as a *Save America's Treasures* site.

The exhibition continues through Aug. 15. You can use the website to sign up for a regularly scheduled hourly tour geared to your particular Wilson interest. The museum is closed on Mondays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Woodrow Wilson House: 202-387-4062,
www.WoodrowWilsonhouse.org

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