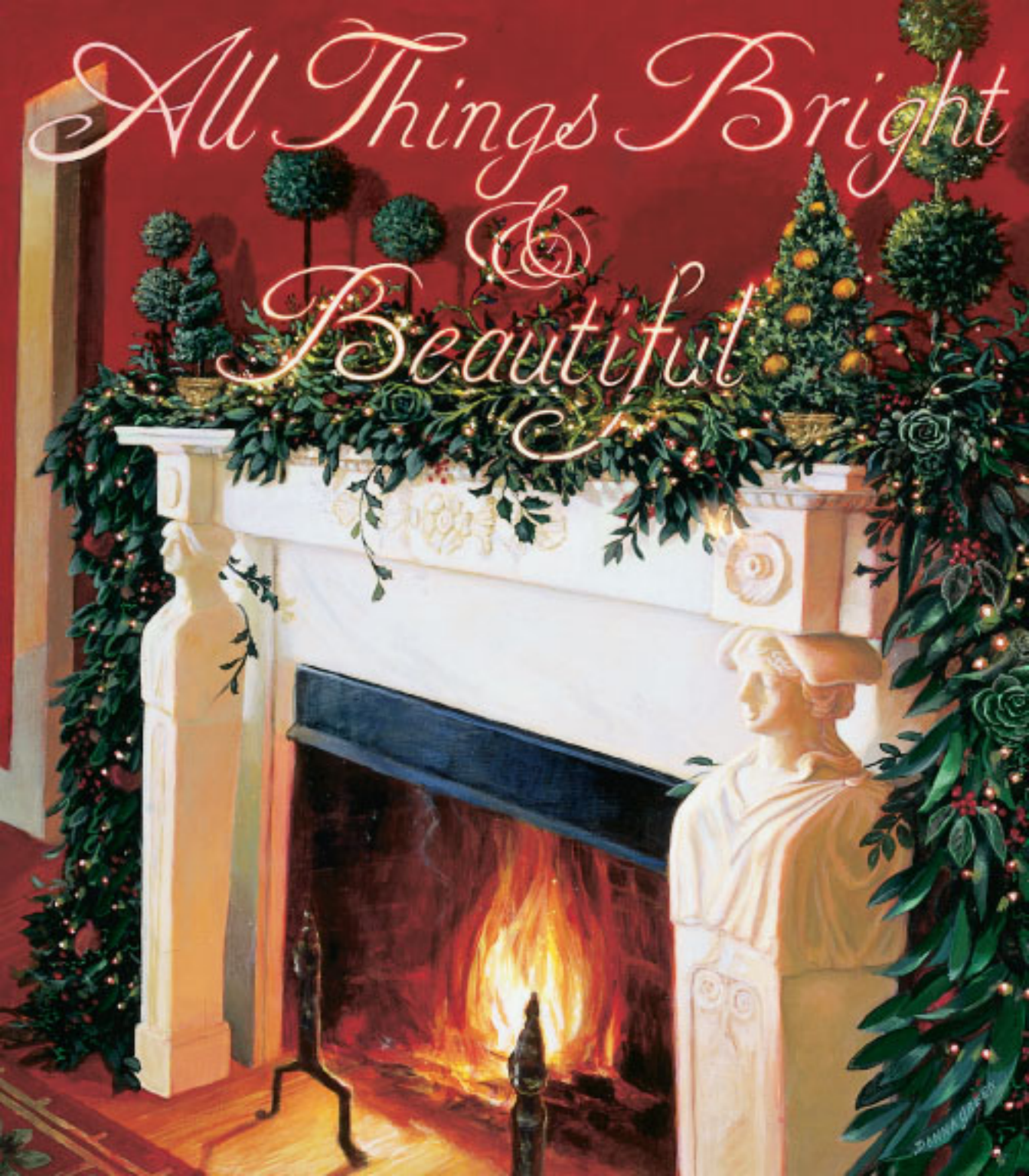


All Things Bright  
&  
Beautiful



DAVID J. GARDNER



Holidays at  
The  
White House  
2005



Welcome to a celebration of All Things Bright and Beautiful at the White House!

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small;  
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.\**

This year's theme has been chosen to highlight the beauty to be found in nature. Our emphasis for this holiday season is on some of the many ways that plants, trees, fruit and flowers can be the stars of holiday decorating.

The members of the White House Executive Residence staff and floral designers from across the country have worked tirelessly and creatively to make the White House reflect the wonders of nature's bounty. Our thanks go to all whose deft hands and willing hearts have helped to transform many lovely ideas into reality.

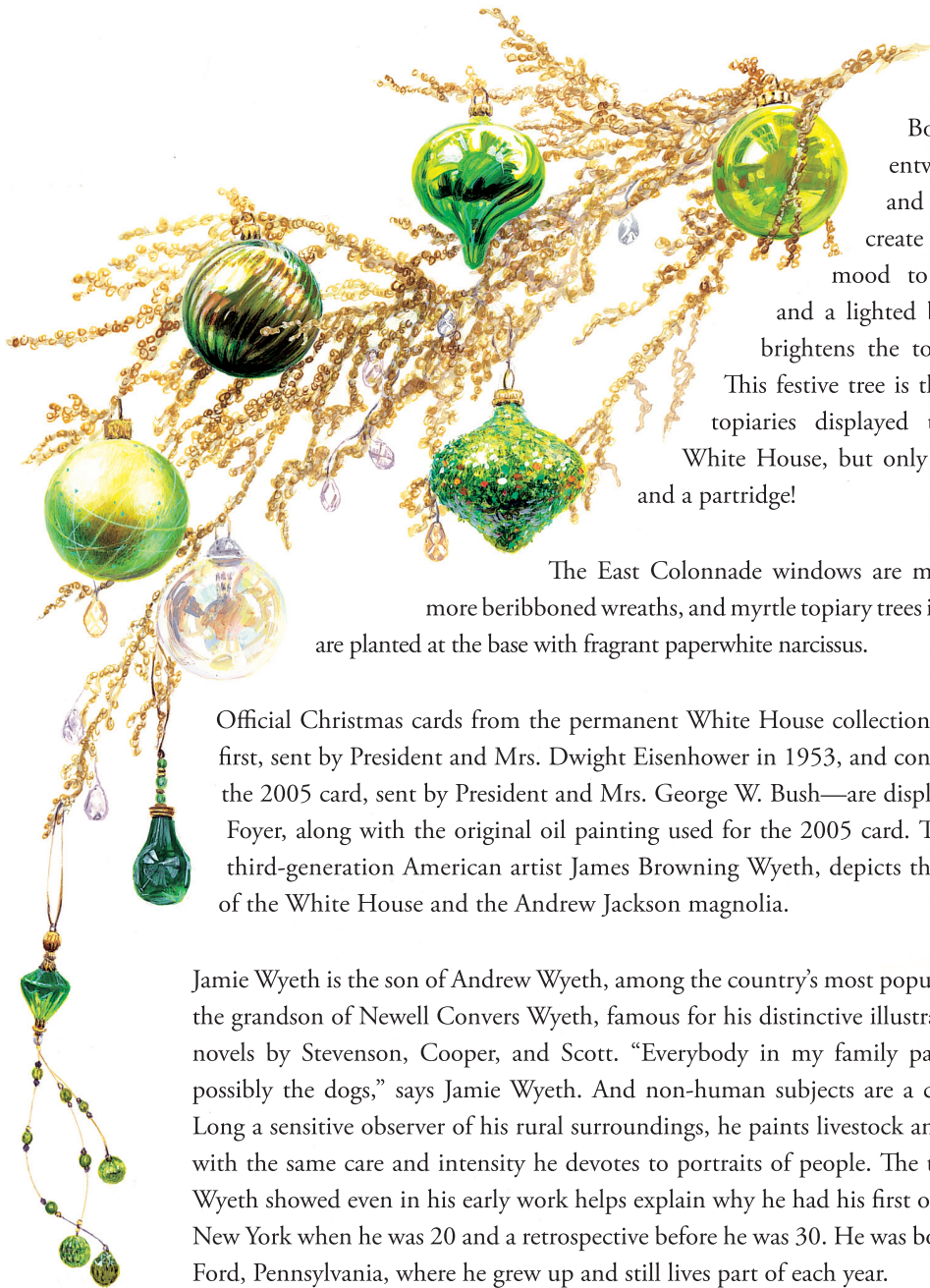
We hope your own holiday season is made brighter by your coming to be part of ours!

*Yvonne*

*Laura Bush*



*\*Words: Cecil F. Alexander, Hymns for Little Children, 1848. Music: "Royal Oak," 17th Century English melody.*



## EAST WING

Boxwood wreaths entwined with lime and gold ribbons create a holiday mood to welcome you, and a lighted bay topiary tree brightens the top of the stairs. This festive tree is the first of many topiaries displayed throughout the White House, but only two have pears and a partridge!

The East Colonnade windows are made merry with more beribboned wreaths, and myrtle topiary trees in the Colonnade are planted at the base with fragrant paperwhite narcissus.

Official Christmas cards from the permanent White House collection—including the first, sent by President and Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower in 1953, and continuing through the 2005 card, sent by President and Mrs. George W. Bush—are displayed in the East Foyer, along with the original oil painting used for the 2005 card. The painting, by third-generation American artist James Browning Wyeth, depicts the South Portico of the White House and the Andrew Jackson magnolia.

Jamie Wyeth is the son of Andrew Wyeth, among the country's most popular painters, and the grandson of Newell Convers Wyeth, famous for his distinctive illustrations for classic novels by Stevenson, Cooper, and Scott. "Everybody in my family paints—excluding possibly the dogs," says Jamie Wyeth. And non-human subjects are a common theme. Long a sensitive observer of his rural surroundings, he paints livestock and other animals with the same care and intensity he devotes to portraits of people. The technical facility Wyeth showed even in his early work helps explain why he had his first one-man show in New York when he was 20 and a retrospective before he was 30. He was born near Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, where he grew up and still lives part of each year.



On the easel is an original oil painting by Donna Green, who has graciously provided the marvelous illustrations for this holiday booklet. She represents the fourth generation of artists in her family and is a descendant of John Fredrick Spencer, noted lithographer for the first greeting card company in the country and designer of many buildings on the Boston Freedom Trail. Ms. Green has illustrated and/or written twelve books, including *The Velveteen Rabbit*; *To My Daughter, With Love*; and *To My Son, With Love*. She is also the founder of the Magical Moon Foundation, which provides assistance and encouragement for children with cancer.

### LOWER CROSS HALL

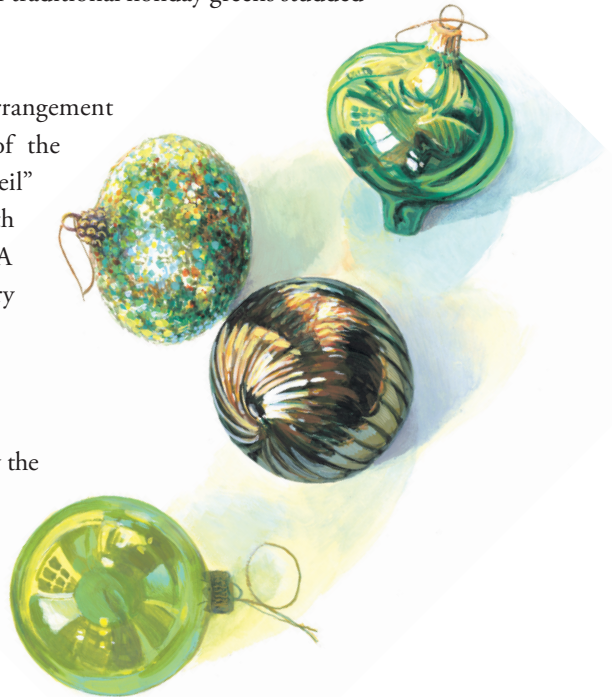
The fragrance of paperwhites fills the Lower Cross Hall of the Executive Residence. Official portraits of former first ladies grace the walls, interspersed with myrtle topiary trees. The delightful animal topiaries on the pier tables are made of moss and ivy.

A mass of luscious orange-sherbet-hued Rilona amaryllis highlights the center table of the Library, which contains a permanent collection of books principally by American authors on American subjects. The mantel is draped with a thick garland of traditional holiday greens studded with green pears.

Across the corridor in the Vermeil Room, the center arrangement is of white tulips in a magnificent bowl, part of the extensive White House collection of vermeil. “Vermeil” is the term for silver which has been plated with gold, a process developed in 17<sup>th</sup> century France. A wonderful garland of lemons and lemon greenery ornaments the mantel.

### EAST ROOM

The mirrors and chandeliers of the East Room magnify the sparkle and color of many things bright and beautiful. Splendid Christmas trees decorated with crystal and amber garlands, lime green balls, tiny white lights, and bright pink roses flank the traditional



crèche that has been displayed in the East Room during the holidays for more than thirty years. Made in Italy in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the figures representing the Christmas story are made of terra cotta and carved wood.

Gold and lime ribbons decorate the window wreaths and the garlands filled with lights and crystal accents that add glitter throughout the room. On each mantel is a crystal candelabra, with a topiary of pink roses in a vermeil cache-pot on either side. The focal point of the room is the splendid buffet table, dressed for the season in lime-green taffeta with a matching overlay lined in brilliant pink. Three silver pedestals sport collars of vivid green pears and are filled with spectacular pink French tulips.

### GREEN ROOM

The Green Room is alive with color so rich you can almost taste it! Gleaming urns are filled with greenery, limes and pineapples; hot pink amaryllis add to the inviting display; and on the table is a generous bowl of limes.







## BLUE ROOM

Glorious white lilies, crystal spheres and light-catching garlands accent this year's official White House Christmas tree. The 18-foot Fraser fir was presented to President and Mrs. Bush by Earl, Betsy, Buddy and Meg Deal from the Smokey Holler Tree Farm in Laurel Springs, North Carolina. The Deals won this honor by being named the 2005 National Grand Champion Growers by the National Christmas Tree Association.

## RED ROOM

Atop a small round table in the warm and inviting Red Room is a cranberry tree, a traditional favorite, and a lush boxwood garland adorns the mantel. A splendid arrangement of white tulips and red berries completes the lovely picture.

## STATE DINING ROOM

In this gracious room, site of so many elegant dinners given by presidents and first ladies throughout our country's history, we continue the theme of holiday decorations from nature that are pleasing both to the eye and to the tastebuds. A lime-green taffeta tablecloth with a matching overlay lined in vivid orange covers the





grand buffet table, in the middle of which is a magnificent floral centerpiece of orange tulips. On each end in large silver bowls are imposing topiaries, each five feet tall, made of alternating layers of lemon leaves and tangerines.

Draping the famous portrait of Abraham Lincoln and the marble fireplace is a boxwood garland intertwined with amber crystals, amber glass balls, and white and gold lights. On the mantel are vermeil containers, echoing the vermeil sconces and chandelier, filled with orange French tulips. Carved into the marble below the mantel are the inspiring words written by John Adams to his wife and designated by Franklin Roosevelt as the White House Prayer:

*"I pray Heaven to bestow the best blessings on this house  
and all that shall hereafter inhabit it.  
May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."*

The irresistible treat of our holiday decor is always the one-of-a-kind gingerbread White House. The White House chefs combine weeks of work, pounds of chocolate, mountains of sugar and countless sheets of gingerbread to create an edible masterpiece. Each year's rendition is different. Thaddeus DuBois, the pastry chef, has designed for 2005 a confection that depicts with great detail and accuracy the north side of the White House as it looks today. Using elegant piping of icing to emphasize the architectural elements, Chef DuBois and his team have produced a lovely and tempting replica of this cherished building.



## CROSS HALL AND GRAND FOYER

Splendid holiday trees of white azaleas in the niches contrast with the pink and orange French tulips on the Cross Hall pier tables. Garlands with silver and gold crystals and amber glass balls frame the doorways.

In the Foyer, lime and gold ribbons accent the garlands of the Grand Staircase; and directly opposite, a final feast for the eyes decorates the large pier table. The handsome gilded bronze French clock was bought in 1817 by James Madison. The seated figure is of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom.

On each side of the clock, a profusion of pink and orange French tulips bloom in vermeil containers from the White House collection, while from above the mirror cascades a bountiful garland of boxwood, apples, pomegranates and pears.

We are glad you came to share the joys of the White House at its holiday best. During this season, may we all resolve to see what is beautiful in nature and to brighten the holidays for someone especially in need of kindness.





## THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center is located inside the north end of the Department of Commerce Building, between 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Streets on Pennsylvania Avenue. The address is 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest. The Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. You will find interesting exhibits, tourist information, and helpful Park Rangers to answer your questions.

During the holiday season, examples of this year's White House decorations will be on display at the Visitor Center.



## IN APPRECIATION

The White House is grateful to illustrator and author Donna Green for creating the artwork for this holiday booklet.







HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE 2005