

**NEW EXHIBITION AT THE MORGAN EXPLORES THE  
BRILLIANCE OF WINSTON CHURCHILL'S  
WRITINGS AND SPEECHES**

*SHOW INCLUDES LETTERS, CORRESPONDENCE, EDITED TYPESCRIPTS OF  
CHURCHILL'S FAMOUS SPEECHES, ARTIFACTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND  
ORIGINAL SOUND RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS*

***Churchill: The Power of Words***  
**June 8 – September 23, 2012**

**\*\*Press Preview: Thursday, June 7, 10 a.m. until noon\*\***  
RSVP: (212) 590-0393, media@themorgan.org

**New York, NY, March 27, 2012**—Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965) is considered by many historians to be among the finest orators and writers of the twentieth century. His speeches galvanized Great Britain at its darkest hour during World War II, and his letters to President Franklin D. Roosevelt were instrumental in building support for the war effort from the United States, the country of Churchill's mother's birth. Awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953 for his contribution to the written and spoken word, Churchill became an icon of the post-war age, an internationally recognized leader admired throughout the free world.



Winston Churchill, 1941  
© Estate of Yousuf Karsh

*Churchill: The Power of Words*, on view from June 8 through September 23, 2012 at The Morgan Library & Museum, brings to life the man behind the words through some sixty-five documents, artifacts, and recordings, ranging from edited typescripts of his speeches to his Nobel Medal and Citation to excerpts from his broadcasts made during the London blitz. Items in the exhibition are on loan from the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, as well as from Churchill's house at Chartwell in Kent, which is administered by Britain's National Trust.

The exhibition is designed by Martello Media with a contemporary audience in mind. It includes a compelling audio-visual space where visitors may listen to Churchill's major speeches, as well as an interactive timeline with touch screens that explores the context of Churchill's broadcasts and writings with related images.

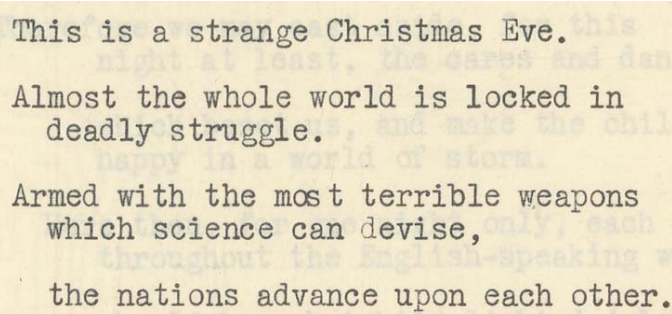
"Few modern statesmen have approached Sir Winston Churchill's skill with the written and spoken word," said William M. Griswold, director of The Morgan Library & Museum. "He made his name as a writer, he funded his political career with his pen, and he carefully crafted his words to serve as tools for international diplomacy and as patriotic symbols for a nation at war. This exhibition shows why words matter, and how they can make a difference for the better, and it is therefore particularly appropriate that the Morgan, with its extraordinary literary collections, should host this exhibition."

Allen Packwood, director of the Churchill Archives Centre, said: "The incredible collections of The Morgan Library & Museum represent the literary, artistic and cultural tradition that informed the writings of Winston Churchill, and the world he fought to preserve. There can be no better venue for this exhibition."

### **The Power of Words**

"He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." —Edward R. Murrow

The physical and intellectual heart of the exhibition is Churchill's own voice, as recorded in some of the broadcasts that were received in the United States, and as set out on the page in his own annotated speaking notes. The exhibition highlights a number of the speeches that he made between October 1938, when Hitler began to dismember Czechoslovakia, and December 1941, when Pearl Harbor brought the United States fully into World War II.



This is a strange Christmas Eve.  
Almost the whole world is locked in  
deadly struggle.  
Armed with the most terrible weapons  
which science can devise,  
the nations advance upon each other.

Speech notes for Christmas Eve broadcast from the White House, December 24, 1941  
Courtesy of the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge, and the Estate of Winston S. Churchill; CHAR 9/153/4

Churchill's broadcast to the United States on October 16, 1938 was made from the political wilderness, as he no longer held high political office in Britain, but is a powerful articulation of the need for the United States to become more engaged in Europe and to play a role in containing Hitler. It is also a clear statement of the power of words and ideas: "They [the dictators] are afraid of words and thoughts: words spoken abroad, thoughts stirring at home –

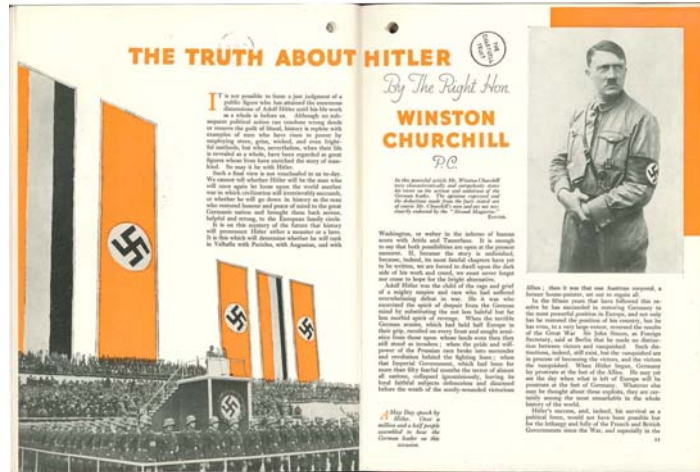
all the more powerful because forbidden – terrify them. A little mouse of thought appears in the room, and even the mightiest potentates are thrown into panic.”

Churchill became Prime Minister on May 10, 1940, the very day that Hitler launched his *blitzkrieg* offensive against France and the Low Countries.

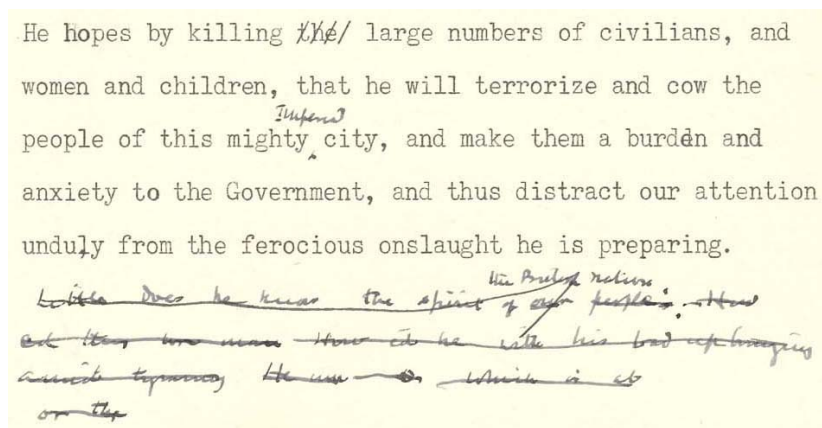
Within weeks, France had fallen, and Britain was facing the possibility of invasion. Churchill’s speeches during the aerial Battle of Britain and the German bombing campaign known as the ‘blitz,’ were composed and delivered at a time of extreme national emergency. Yet Churchill’s words were carefully chosen to deliver several messages simultaneously: maintaining British morale, while also sending a message of hope to occupied Europe, a message of defiance to the enemy, and an appeal for help to President Roosevelt and the people of the United States.

Churchill’s speech of September 11, 1940, is a dramatic example, and reaches across the years to another, more recent September 11. His response to the blitz bombing of London, which had begun two days earlier, was to invoke British history in order to send a personal

message of defiance to Hitler, stating, “It ranks with the days when the Spanish Armada was approaching the Channel” and, “He [Hitler] hopes by killing large numbers of civilians, and women and children, that he will terrorize and cow the people of this mighty Imperial city, and make them a burden and anxiety to the Government, and thus distract our attention



Final page of *The Truth about Hitler* from *Strand* magazine, 1935  
 Courtesy of the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge, and the Estate of Winston S. Churchill; CHAR 8/518A/34



Heavily annotated typescript for broadcast by Churchill, September 11, 1940  
 Courtesy of the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge, and the Estate of Winston S. Churchill; CHAR 9/176A/40

unduly from the ferocious onslaught he is preparing. Little does he know the spirit of the British Nation.”

The documents on view provide a unique insight into the development of these great speeches, from the first heavily annotated typescripts to the final speaking notes, set out in a blank verse format that enabled Churchill to achieve the memorable rhythm, emphasis, and phrasing of his speeches and broadcasts. Churchill’s typed speeches served as a prompt-copy for his performance, and in these documents one can see vividly his mind at work.

### **The Making of the Man**



Churchill as a young officer, c1895  
Churchill Additional Papers, WCHL 4/41  
Courtesy of the Churchill Family

How did Churchill’s power with words develop? His school records show that he was far from a model pupil. But the early death of his father, and the sudden need to make a name and an income, led him to pick up his pen while serving as an officer in the British army.

The exhibition features some of Churchill’s early letters and writings. In 1897 he managed to get himself attached to the Malakand Field Force fighting against the Pathan people in what is now Pakistan on the Afghan border. A letter to his mother, written after his return, reveals his yearning for a mention in military dispatches: “I am more ambitious for a reputation for personal courage than of anything else in the world. A young man should worship a young man’s ideals.”

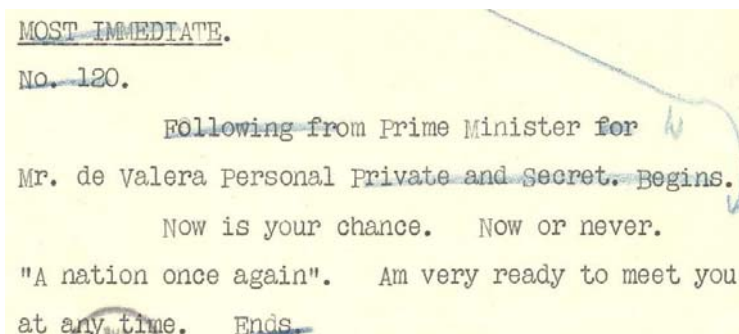
One of the few handwritten pages that survive from Churchill’s draft of his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, is on view. Written one hundred and fifteen years ago, and published in 1898, his remarks about the challenges of fighting in the hills of Afghanistan resonate to this day.

Progressing through the exhibition, the visitor is able to see Churchill’s writing grow in breadth and confidence. Churchill not only made history, he wrote history, and in 1953 he was rewarded with the Nobel Prize in Literature. The Nobel Medal and Citation are a fitting centerpiece to the exhibition, on loan from the National Trust, Chartwell, and definitive recognition that this man of action was also always a man of words.

## The Man behind the Myth

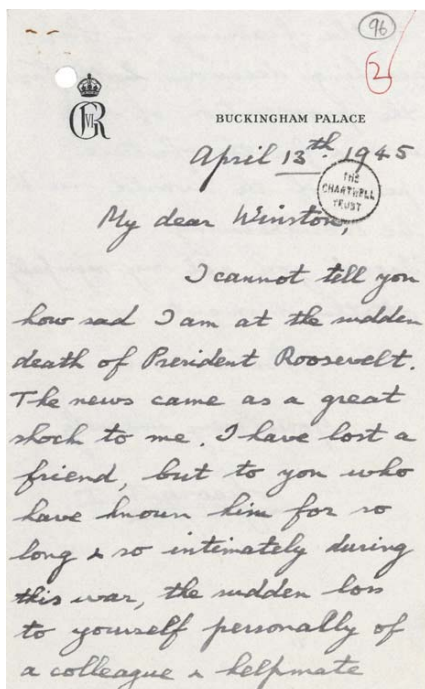
Churchill's public writings and speeches are powerfully juxtaposed with some of his personal and official correspondence. While resolute in public, his telegram to Roosevelt's key adviser Harry Hopkins, written in August 1941, sees him voicing his fears over lack of greater

American involvement in the war: "...there has been a wave of depression through Cabinet and other informed circles here about President's many assurances about no commitments and no closer to war etc." Churchill's immediate response to Pearl Harbor was to fire off a telegram to Irish Prime Minister Eamon de Valera, offering, "Now is your chance. Now or Never. 'A Nation once again'."



MOST IMMEDIATE.  
No. 120.  
Following from Prime Minister for  
Mr. de Valera Personal Private and Secret. Begins.  
Now is your chance. Now or never.  
"A nation once again". Am very ready to meet you  
at any time. Ends

Telegram from Churchill to Irish Prime Minister Eamon De Valera, December 8, 1941  
Courtesy of the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge, and the Estate of Winston S. Churchill; CHAR 20/46/41



BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1945  
My dear Winston,  
I cannot tell you how sad I am at the sudden death of President Roosevelt. The news came as a great shock to me. I have lost a friend, but to you who have known him for so long & so intimately during this war, the sudden loss to yourself personally of a colleague & helpmate

Handwritten letter from King George VI to Churchill on the death of Roosevelt, April 13, 1945  
Courtesy of the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge; CHAR 20/199/96  
© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

By opening up the Churchill dispatch box we gain some insights into the personalities behind the politics; Roosevelt's telegram to Churchill on D-Day, or King George VI's handwritten message to Churchill about Roosevelt's death, serve to remind us that these were real people wrestling with enormous, unprecedented challenges.

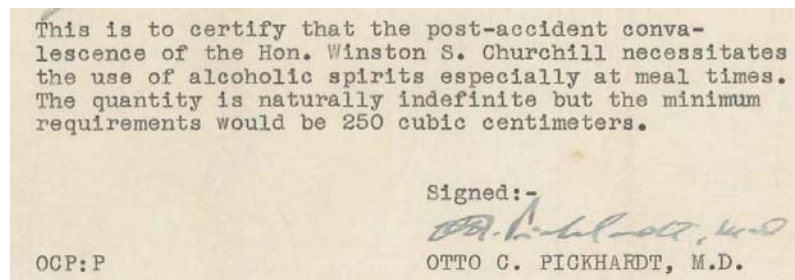
On a lighter note, Churchill's letter to the Duke of Devonshire upon receiving the gift of a living lion in 1943, reveals his mischievous side, showing that, even at times of great stress, words and wit could be used to enliven events.

## A New York Homecoming

Half American by birth—his mother, Jennie Jerome, who became Lady Randolph Churchill, was born in Brooklyn, New York—Churchill became an Honorary United States Citizen just before his death. He was a lifelong

observer of American affairs, and New York was both the first (1895) and last (1961) American city he visited. Churchill's first experience of Manhattan came in November 1895, just short of his twenty-first birthday, and en route to observe military action in Cuba. He was well looked after by his mother's friends and relatives, including New York politician and orator Bourke Cockran. In a letter to his mother, featured in the exhibition, Churchill wrote: "What an extraordinary people the Americans are! Their hospitality is a revelation to me and they make you feel at home and at ease in a way that I have never before experienced. On the other hand their press and their currency impress me very unfavourably."

While New York was often a place to relax, there were incidents. In December 1931 he made the very British mistake of looking the wrong way while crossing Fifth Avenue and was hit by an



Letter from Dr. Otto Pickhardt approving Churchill's use of alcohol, January 26, 1932  
Courtesy of the Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge; CHAR 1/400A/46

automobile. The collision occurred at Fifth Avenue and 76th Street, at a time when traffic was still two-way on Fifth. For Churchill the accident meant a hospital stay, a lecture tour postponed, and a long recovery. Yet he turned it to his advantage, writing some newspaper articles on what it was like to be run down, and securing a doctor's prescription, on view in the exhibition, for alcohol—for medicinal purposes—at the height of prohibition!

In March 1946, Churchill came to New York fresh from having delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Fulton, Missouri. It is now largely forgotten just how controversial that speech was, criticizing the Soviet Union, with whom the United States and Britain were still allied, so soon after the end of the Second World War. Churchill was forced to defend his remarks in the address he gave at the Waldorf Astoria, and found himself on the receiving end of both a ticker tape parade and some protest demonstrations.

Ultimately, however, Churchill was and is feted in New York and in the United States. He was the first foreign national to be accorded US Citizenship by Act of Congress (though Lafayette had gained his Citizenship as a result of its award by several States, ironically for fighting the British). The exhibition will feature Churchill's grant of Citizenship, signed by President Kennedy in April 1963, and the accompanying passport, which Churchill was not able to use before his death in January 1965, but which is finally making its triumphant homecoming.

## THE EXHIBITION

*Churchill: The Power of Words* includes the following primary components:

- A display of approximately sixty-five key documents and artefacts, with particular focus on his own writings and the ways in which he used the power of words in his political, literary, and personal life to underpin his career, to engage with the United States, and to mobilize international opinion against fascism in the 1930s and 1940s, and communism in the 1940s and 1950s.
- An audio-visual space at the center of the gallery, allowing visitors to listen to a number of Churchill's famous broadcasts, drawn from the important period of 1938-46, and to hear audio tie-ins to some of the original speech drafts and notes on display. The sound will be complemented by images from the period, and with the text of notable passages flashed onto the screens to reinforce the audio message.
- An interactive timeline, which will run on two touch screens, and feature all the documents appearing in the gallery reproduced in full, along with related images and extra contextual information. This element of the exhibition will allow visitors to explore the show's written content in a much deeper and more detailed manner.

## DISCOVERCHURCHILL.ORG

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Morgan and the Churchill Archives Centre have launched [DiscoverChurchill.org](http://DiscoverChurchill.org), a website created to specifically generate interest in Churchill among a younger audience and educators. Designed by MetaLake, LLC, [DiscoverChurchill.org](http://DiscoverChurchill.org) features a modern design and media-rich content, emphasizing Churchill's contemporary relevance through the power of his words.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### LECTURE

#### **We Shall Not Fail: The Inspiring Leadership of Winston Churchill**

*With Celia Sandys*

Friday, June 8, 6:30pm

Celia Sandys, internationally acclaimed author, television presenter, and granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, will provide insight into Churchill's extraordinary leadership skills and his fascinating political and personal life. This lecture, part of the The Tina Santi Flaherty - Winston Churchill Literary Series, is presented in partnership with Hunter College/The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute and The Writing Center, and The Churchill Archives Centre.

**Free;** Advanced reservations: 212.685.0008, ext 560, or [tickets@themorgan.org](mailto:tickets@themorgan.org).

### **CHURCHILL ON FILM**

To coincide with the exhibition, the Morgan will screen two dramas and one documentary that explore both Churchill's public and private life.

#### ***The Gathering Storm***

Friday, June 15, 7pm

(2002, 96 minutes)

Director: Richard Loncraine

Based on Churchill's memoirs about his life leading up to World War II, this biographical drama won two Golden Globes and stars a stellar cast. Albert Finney plays Winston Churchill, who struggles to establish his political presence in the House of Commons. With Vanessa Redgrave as his wife Clementine, and also featuring Derek Jacobi, Jim Broadbent, and Ronnie Barker.

**Free**

#### ***Winston Churchill: Walking with Destiny***

Friday, July 6, 7pm

(2011, 101 min)

Director: Richard Tank

This compelling documentary film highlights Churchill's earlier political years, focusing on the period just prior to his ascent to prime minister, through the end of 1941 when America entered World War II. It examines why Winston Churchill's legacy continues to be relevant in the twenty-first Century and explores why his leadership remains inspirational to current day political leaders and diplomats. Narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley and with commentary by historian John Lukacs, and Churchill's official biographer Sir Martin Gilbert, among others.

**Free**

#### ***Young Winston***

Friday, July 27, 7pm

(1972, 157 minutes)

Director: Richard Attenborough

This historical drama is an account of the early life of Winston Churchill (Simon Ward), including his childhood years, his time as a war correspondent in Africa, and culminating with his election to Parliament at the age of twenty-six. Based on Churchill's book *My Early Life: A Roving Commission*, it also stars Robert Shaw (Lord Randolph Churchill), John Mills (Lord Kitchener), Anthony Hopkins (David Lloyd George), and Anne Bancroft (Churchill's mother).

**Free**

### **GALLERY TALK**

#### **Churchill: The Power of Words**

Friday, June 22, 7pm

Declan Kiely, Robert H. Taylor curator and head of the Department of Literary and Historical Manuscripts, will lead an informal tour of the exhibition.

**Free**



## RELATED PROGRAMMING

- Bloomsbury Publishing Plc will be launching the comprehensive online collection of the Churchill Papers of nearly a million pages. On June 7, in recognition of this important exhibition, Bloomsbury will make available a selection of the Churchill documents free of charge as part of its launch. See: [www.churchillarchive.com](http://www.churchillarchive.com)
- Tina Santi Flaherty will sponsor the Winston Churchill Literary Series, the first of which will be held at the Morgan on Friday, June 8, to coincide with the opening of the exhibition. The Hon. Celia Sandys, granddaughter of Churchill, will discuss his leadership style in a talk entitled, "We shall not fail." The series will continue at Hunter College.
- The Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, New York, will host a one-day seminar/symposium on the topic of the close and complex relationship between Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- In conjunction with the exhibition opening, author Sir Martin Gilbert will publish an edition of Churchill's writings titled *Churchill: The Power of Words* (Da Capo Press).

## ORGANIZATION AND SPONSORSHIP

The exhibition is organized by the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, in conjunction with Chartwell, Churchill's house in Kent, which is administered by Britain's National Trust.

The exhibition is curated by Allen Packwood, director of the Churchill Archives Centre, and by Declan Kiely, Robert H. Taylor curator and head of the Department of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at The Morgan Library & Museum.

This exhibition is made possible by a major gift from Dr. Anthony H. Wild and Anna Wild.

Generous support is provided by The Charina Endowment Fund, Tina Santi Flaherty, The Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States, and The J. M. Kaplan Fund.

Additional assistance is provided by The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation; Robert Bradford and Barbara Taylor Bradford OBE; Castle Leslie Estate; Douglas N. Daft and Delphine Daft; Estate of Yousuf Karsh; National Trust, Chartwell; Sherri Parker Lee; Kenneth W. Rendell; Timothy N. Wallach; and Laura and Adrian Weller.

Thanks are due to the Churchill Family; Curtis Brown Ltd, London, on behalf of the Estate of Sir Winston Churchill; Heritage Lottery Fund; Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust; Dr. Andrew Roberts; The Hon. Edwina Sandys MBE; and Harold Burson.



The programs of The Morgan Library & Museum are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

### **The Morgan Library & Museum**

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

### **General Information**

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405

212.685.0008

[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

**Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station**

### **Hours**

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### **Admission**

\$15 for adults; \$10 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.