

The Lynden Pindling Exhibit: The Man, The Dream, The Moment

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ABSTRACT

The Sir Lynden O. Pindling Room at the Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre of The College of The Bahamas contains an exhibit of over 260 items, including personal effects, gifts, gowns, photographs, speeches and publications. The items included in this special exhibit space are resources that scholars, students and the public may use to research the legacy of the former prime minister and, by extension, the history of The Bahamas.

INTRODUCTION

On August 26, 2013 at the Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre of the College of The Bahamas, the Sir Lynden O. Pindling Room was formally opened. The collection comprises over 260 items including personal effects, family and political photographs, gifts received from world leaders, gowns, documents and publications.

According to Hufbauer, presidential libraries in the United States are spaces that provide “nodal points for the negotiation of who we are as a people and where we are going, politically and culturally” (Prasch, 2013). The Pindling Room, much like the presidential libraries, provides not only a memorial but a facility for answering “questions of race, gender, national identity, and even national destiny throughout history” (Prasch, 2013). This special exhibit space is a resource that scholars, students and the public may use to research the

legacy of the former prime minister and, by extension, the history of The Bahamas.



Figure 1. Present at the ribbon cutting from left are: Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Philip Davis and Mrs. Davis; Mr. Obie Pindling, Mrs. Michelle Pindling-Sands, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie; Sir Lynden's grandchildren Danielle and Grace Johnson; Dame Marguerite Pindling, Sir Lynden's wife, and Executive Vice President, The College of The Bahamas, Dr. Earla Carey-Baines. At the rear are Mr. Leslie Pindling; Mrs. Monique Pindling-Johnson and College Council Chairman Mr. Alfred Sears. (The College of The Bahamas, 2013)

The Pindling Room exhibits Sir Lynden's life under the theme “The Man, The Dream

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and The Moment.” Visitors can discern through photographs his family life, his political life, and his time as a respected political leader. A simple search of the College of The Bahamas online public access catalogue shows that the library holds 26 related items; however, a simple search on Google Scholar™ doubles this number and numerous results can be found on the World Wide Web.

The Man

Lynden Pindling was born March 22, 1930 to Arnold and Viola Pindling. He studied at the Bahamas Government High School, and received a law degree from King’s College, University of London, in 1952. Pindling was called to the British bar in 1953 and returned home shortly thereafter to practise law.



Figure 2. Family Portrait: Leslie, Monique, Obie, Lynden Oscar, Marguerite and Michelle, c1978.

Lynden Pindling and Marguerite McKenzie were wedded on May 5, 1956. The happy couple had four children: Leslie, Monique, Obie and Lynden Oscar Jr. Photographs of Sir Lynden’s family and pre-election

moments drape the walls in the first section of the exhibit. Personal effects such as a hair-brush, slipper, wig, lodge memorabilia and plaques are housed in display showcases. Publications such as *The Vision of Sir Lynden Pindling in his Own Words: Letters and Speeches, 1948-1997* (Beardsley-Roker, 2000) and *Pindling: The Life and Times of the First Prime Minister of The Bahamas* (Craton, 2002) are also displayed in this area.

The Dream

In 1967, Pindling was elected to Parliament as the first black premier of The Bahamas, and so began the dream. The country’s founding father, known as the “Black Moses” (Strachan, 2000; Cooper, 2014) guided The Bahamas to Independence in 1973. In 1983, as Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Pindling was knighted by the Queen and became The Right Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling (Craton, 2002). Sir Lynden was successfully re-elected five times, navigating the Bahamas through years of economic and social development. This section of the exhibit displays photos of electoral campaigns, meetings with world leaders, speeches and other political memorabilia.



Figure 3. The exhibit.

The Moment

Throughout his tenure as statesman, Sir Lynden oversaw notable moments, including the opening of major establishments and political accomplishments. This section of the exhibit also contains the desk of the former Prime Minister, his personal typewriter, monographs, copies of his speeches and awards. Visitors can view gowns worn by Lady Pindling and gifts received from world leaders.



Figure 4. Sir Lynden's desk in the Pindling Exhibit

Sir Lynden Pindling passed away on August 26, 2000.

The Sir Lynden Pindling Room is located on the first floor of the Harry C. Moore Library, Oakes Field Campus, The College of The Bahamas.

Bibliographic records for print and digital recordings are available on COBWEB, the library's online public access catalogue which is freely accessible on the Internet at <http://bahamas-voyager-linux.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/vwebv/searchBasic>.

A digital exhibit of the Sir Lynden Pindling room may be viewed at <http://cob-bs.libguides.com/HCML>.

For further information concerning the exhibit or to schedule tours, please contact the Special Collections Librarian by e-mail: specialcollections@cob.edu.bs

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