# THE EISENHOWER SILVER THE STIEFF ROSE PATTERN

General Dwight D. & Mamie Eisenhower used Stieff Rose when the General was President of Columbia University. These letters show a short correspondence between The Stieff Company and the Generals staff at Columbia concerning several orders for Stieff Silver... April- July 1949.

These scans were made from thermal paper copies provided by the Stieff family, from the papers of Charles C. Stieff II.

The conversation appears to have started earlier... this April 5 1949 letter addresses an earlier phone call. The letter is to Charles C. Stieff II. It would appear that he has suggested an additional sale of demitasse spoons.

Billing is to Columbia University

ANNEL S. LYNY

KMeC/us

Dear Mr. Stieff:

As I told you, Mrs. Elsenhower was delighted this merning with the news that the silver would be shipped immediately and probably arrive bafore her departure for Augusta. I told her of the addition of the desitance species to the order and she thinks it is a good idea to here them.

After talking to the Purchasing Department here, I think it best that you bill the silverware to "Ins President's Nouse, Columida University" and address to no. If pessible, will you do this immediately?

Thank you for your phone call this marning and your news; I deeply appresiate your prospiners.

Sincersly,

Assistant to the President

Mr. Charles Bileff The Shieff Company Vyman Park Driverny Baltimore 11, Maryland

A historical note.Columbia University President, Gen.Dwight Eisenhower had fallen ill in early March 1949, and his Doctor, Gen. Snyder called it "acute gastroenteritis" (others called it a mild heart attack) but it was mostly covered up because Ike was considering a run for President of the United States and did not want to give the impression that he was an ill man. He spent several weeks in Key West out of the public eye with his doctor. Then on April 12 they moved to Augusta GA, where Ike could play golf and been seen as being in good health. Mamie joined him in Augusta. Rumors started that Eisenhower might not return to Columbia... where there was a budget crisis under way... and (Eisenhower, was out of state for several months) But in the meantime... Mamie Eisenhower was buying more and more Stieff sterling silver. *Interesting hub???* 

Just 6 days later, the silver has arrived. Mamie is delighted with the silver shipment. But now wants more of it.. and fast. There is a party coming up and needs the silver.

#### April 11, 1949

TIEFF, CHARLES

0

KHOC I B.D

Lilver

#### Dear Mr. Stieff:

The silver arrived in fine shape, and Mrs. Hisenhover was quite delighted with it. However, in discussing the first University affair at which it will be used--a diamer in honor of the recipients of Henorary Degrees here---it quickly developed that the two desses quantity would be imadegante. Gap you add another dosen of each item to the original order, plus a dosen serving spoons and half a dosen serving forks?

As with the previous shipment, they should be addressed to Mrs. Bright D. Elsenhover, 60 Morningside Drive, New York 27, Hew York.

Sincerely,

N & Comm Kevin McGann Assistant to the President

4/1/49

Mr. Charles C. Stieff The Stieff Company Vyman Park Briveway Baltimers 11, Maryland

Kevin McCann met Eisenhower in 1946, and served on his staff in europe, Washington DC and at Columbia. In 1951 he became President of Defiance College, Defiance OH. In 1955 he served as Special Assistant to the President. In 1957 he returned to Defiance College

4-12-49 Gideon Stieff, President of The Stieff Company responds, of course they can provide more silver.From this point forward, the letters are addressed to Gideon, not Charles.

The Stieff Company Goldsmiths Silversmiths WYMAN PARK DRIVEWAY Baltimore II, Maryland STIEFF COMPAN April 12, 1949. Columbia University City of New York New York 27, N. Y. Attention: Mr. Kevin McCann Assistant to the President Gentlemen: I have your letter of April 12th addressed to my son and I am happy to say that we are able to take care of the additional order and it will leave here tomorrow addressed as the previous shipment to Hrs. Theight Eisenhower, 60 Morningside Brive, New York 27, New York. Yours No Preside TYS: VT

Note that STIEFF COMPANY is on the right edge of the letters written by Stieff. This to aid in filing letters when placed in file folders. A letter laying on the left side, head to the left (the proper way to file) would be easy to find with the company name on the edge.

More silver arrived in good order. Now Columbia University



wants silver chests to store it in.

1 france

KMcC/ws. April 20, 1949

#### Dear Mr. Stieffs

The second shipment of silver arrived the day following your visit have and, I think, everything is in perfort order. I do with that the bill is such to before the first of the north. It should be addressed to Commullisenbower, have at Columbia University, or attention.

Again that is for your firsts prospiness in filling the two orders. Wrs. Electherer was very pleased at the quickness with which the first shipsent arrived and I know she has teld the General himself about it.

Sincorely,

Tovin Holian Assistant to the Prosident

Mr. G. S. Sthoff The Sthoff Company Vynan Park Drivenny Baltinere 31, Horyland

4-20-49

Stieff does not have the type of chest that Columbia needs!

Baltimore II, Maryland

STIEFF COMPANY

Silversmiths \* \* Goldsmith

April 22, 1949

Mr. Kevin McCann, Asst. to the Pres. Columbia University New York 27, New York

Dear Mr. McCann:

I am certainly happy to know that the second shipment of silver arrived and is satisfactory. I am having the bill sent before the 1st of the month, as per your instructions, addressed to General Eisenhower, Columbia University, to your attention.

Unfortunately, we do not have any chests such as you describe and, as a matter of fact, I have never seen any chests of this type. Under the circumstances, I regret that I cannot tell you where you might obtain one. Our chest maker specializes in the type chest which is the kind we sent with the first order. However, inasmuch as there evidently is one made such as you describe, I feel sure that if you will inquire among some of the department stores or jewelry stores in New York City, you will not have any difficulty in securing one. If you do not get any results from your inquiries, let me hear from you again and I shall be glad to go into the matter further with you the matter further with you, Tours very truly, THE STREFF COMPANY Q. N. Stieff President ONSELLR P. S. We are enclosing statement in this letter as we thought you wished this as soon as possible. Fric. Only retraductions approved by the Destruction Jura Restoration

Note the mark of Colonial Williamsburg on the bottom of this letter. It was not on the other letters. Colonial Williamsburg had used an mark prior that did not have the oval around it, nor the wording Williamsburg.

Another internal memo within Columbia University.

June 1, 1969

MICHO to Mr. McCana

from C. G. Long

Re Flat Silver - 60 Morningelde Drive

Another addition to flat silver pieces received are:

36 Fish Entres 3 Scupe Ledles 3 Gravy Ledles

() 4 P. ) Stgned

e.c. Miller of Building & Grounds Dept.

I do not understand how these internal memos at Columbia University got into the possession of The Stieff Company.

And even MORE Stieff silver for the Eisenhower's table.

CCC:ab

June 22, 1949

Dear Mr. Stieffs

I an currently serving a brief period filling in for the General's personal assistant, who is now on a well-carned vecation. About 1 July I'll return to Milton and take up the summer assignment in an industry which Harvard believes to be beneficial as indestrination for its Service students. We hope that your annual trip to New England will include the opportunity to pick up the long-standing rain check you have.

Heamshile, Mrs. Misenhover has asked if I would determine from you the questation for twalve sets of salt and pepper shakers (both shakers-not solt dishes) in the table size. I queried as to whether these were "individual" and was told "table". Also, we presumed that sterling would be your only stock. I hope that is descriptive enough.

If there should be more than one pattern, design or other factor, could you have scannes just send us the information without your huthernay with the details.

Again, best repards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Irals the Majore

6/2 2/49

Mr. G. H. Stieff The Stieff Company Symm Park Driveray Enlineers 21, Haryland



de

The Streff Company

Silversmiths \* \* Goldsmiths wywan Palls Driveway Baltimore II, Maryland

June 24, 1949

C. Craig Cannon, Major, C. E. Office of General Eisenhower Columbia University New York City, New York

Dear Major:

(7.NS : 1.1.R

It was swell to hear from you this morning and to know that you are a little nearer Baltimore, anyhow.

I hope that, while you are in New York, you might run down here and spend a day with me. I would love to have you stay at my home overnight. I am keeping bachelor's quarters while my family is in Rhode Island. I expect to join them on the 30th of June, after which I will return to Baltimore on the 7th of July.

Regarding the salts and peppers for Mrs. Eisenhower, the price of these is \$20.00 a pair. They are the #12 which you will see illustrated on the enclosed sheet. This, I am sure, is the type that she wishes.

Unfortunately, we do not have any in stock right now but I can get her a dozen sets within a week after the order is received.

If there is any other information you need, let me hear from you.

Please give my regards to the General and, looking forward to seeing you spmetime shortly, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

G. N. Stieff

The Stieff family have maintained summer residences in Rhode Island for generations.

Major C. Craig Cannon was responsible for maintaining Gen. Eisenhower's offices during WWII. He would later become Colonel, and was appointed Supreme Commander of NATO in 1952.

## PAGE TWO

Sterling Silver in 1949 was subject to a LUXURY TAX of 20% This is the tax that is one of the spaces in Monopoly, wedged in between Park Place and Boardwalk.

> C. Craig Cannon, Major, C. E. Page #2

• •	June 24, 1949	
•	P. S. It is necessary to add 20% Federal Tax to the price of the shakers, of course.	
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### Another internal memo at Columbia University

July 8, 1949

Mane to Mr. K. McCann from C. G. Lent

an addition to our Stieff sterling silver has been received:

3 lemon forks 12 pairs of salts & pepper shaker624 pcs.)

Lad signed (), 0 July 28, 1949 "emo to Major Schulz from C. G. Lent Please return to 60 Morningside the following pleces of flat silver which was sent to the office September11, 1948 and within a few days, I shall send you an equal amount, in another pattern and in plated ware: . 3 serving spoons 6 dinner mives 6 luncheon knives 6 dinner forks 6 luncheon forks 6 dessert spoons 1 6 fruit spoons 6 teaspoons C.el. hu Returned silver July m. macking



Juno 28, 1949

#### Dear Mr. Stieff:

Thanks for your prompt reply to my query. Mrs. Elsenhower has made an equally prompt decision that she would like to have twelve sets or pairs of the Ho. 12 calt and peppers. She asked that I make sure particularly that the salts will have larger diameter holes since she seems to be in great fear that there may be some misunderstanding and double peppers or open salts might be furnished.

Since I will be leaving here the end of this week and returning to Boston, will you send the bill to Mr. Lovin Housan, Assistant to the President, at 535 West 116th Street. If you wish, the order can also be sent to him, or sent directly to Mrs. Sigenhower at 60 Morningside Drive.

In view of my departure, I won't be able to take advantage of your thoughtful invitation to go down to Bultimore, but I do hope that I can get together with you one of these days, and mest certainly I hope that you will got that long-ensited and often postponed opportunity to meet the General and learn personally of his gratitude for the many nice things you have done.

With warm personal regard,

Mr. G. H. Dtieff The Billeff Company Vynin Park Driverny Baltimuro 11, Maryland Sincerely,

C. Graig Ganness Major, C. E.

This is the end of the Eisenhower series of letters concerning the silver at Columbia University. More letters follow below.

The Eisenhower's and the Stieff's would become friends. Gideon would attend parties at the White House, exchange letters and when his grandson first Charles C. Stieff III was born, Mamie would send a hand written note to the family. That note now hangs on the wall of Charles C. Stieff III's home.

From time to time the Eisenhower's would need a special gift for a dignitary and a military helicopter would be dispatched to Baltimore, to land on the lawn of The Stieff Company to pick up the item... with someone running the special sterling silver item out to the waiting pilot.

Below is a letter to Gideon Stieff, inviting him to a "stag night" at the White House. I like that Ike calls the occasion informal, but he would be in Black Tie, but business suits would be entirely appropriate. I guess times have changed.

#### DDE

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

May 12, 1955

#### Dear Mr. Stieff:

I wonder if it would be convenient for you to come to an informal stag dinner on the evening of Tuesday, May thirty-first. I hope to gather together a small group, and I should like very much for you to attend if it is possible for you to do so.

Because of the informality of the occasion, I suggest that we meet at the White House about half past seven, have a reasonably early dinner, and devote the evening While I am hopeful that you can to a general chat. attend, I realize that you already may have engagements which would interfere. If so, I assure you of my complete understanding.

I shall probably wear a black tie, but business suit will be entirely appropriate.

With best wishes,

Sincerely, Durght Blace have

P.S. As a personal favor to me, would you keep this reasonably confidential until after the event?

Mr. Gideon N. Stieff Wyman Park Driveway Baltimore 11, Maryland

This next letter is from President Eisenhower to Gideon Stieff thanking him for the a special birthday gift that Gideon Stieff had made for him.

Letters from Eisenhower were always very formal.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

October 12, 1960

#### Dear Mr. Stieff:

The little silver fly that you sent to me for my birthday ought to be a good omen for many leisurely, happy hours in the streams in the future. I deeply appreciate your thought of me -- and I am delighted to have such an original gift.

I understand that making such things is a hobby of yours -- and a most interesting one it must be.

With many thanks and warm regard,

Sincerely,

Dag worken her

Mr. Gideon N. Stieff Wyman Park Driveway and Keswick Road Baltimore 11, Maryland

This letter was written in the last few months of Eisenhower's presidency. John F. Kennedy would be elected President within a month of this letter.