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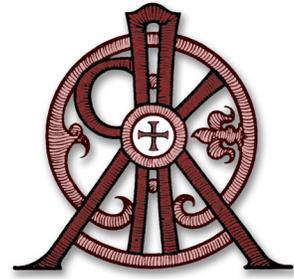
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Permanent Things



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CONGRESSMAN MIKE PENCE



Russell Kirk's values and ideas continue to be an inspiration and influence for today's conservative government officials. Congressman Mike Pence is one such official who publicly asserts his dedication to Kirk's thinking. As a matter of fact, Congressman Pence lists two of Kirk's books (*The Conservative Mind* and *The Politics of Prudence*) as being among his favorite books (as noted on his Facebook page). On several occasions, Congressman Pence has included quotations from Kirk's writing in his speeches.

In 2007, Pence invited Mrs. Kirk to speak at a House of Representatives Republican Study Committee meeting. She

presented the members with copies of *The Conservative Mind*, the book that *The New York Times* said, "gave conservatism its name...and portrayed a conservative heritage waiting to be rediscovered."

Congressman Pence is viewed by many as a conservative leader in current American politics and a possible future presidential candidate. Presently, Pence is serving his fifth term as Congressman for the 6th District of Indiana. In the 109th Congress (2005-2006), Congressman Pence served as Chairman of the largest caucus within the House of Representatives – the House Republican Study Committee. During his term as Chairman of this group, which seeks to advance conservative social and economic issues within congress, membership grew to 110 House Republicans.

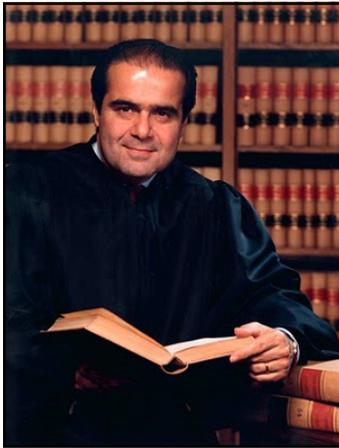
Speaking at the 2007 CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) Ronald Reagan Banquet,

Congressman Pence delivered a speech entitled "Redeeming the Dream" in which some of his remarks were directly quoted from a lecture given by Russell Kirk in 1991 for the Heritage Foundation:

"The late Russell Kirk offered advice for this rising generation. 'Redeem the time,' he said. 'Redeem the dream - - in ways mundane as well as ways spiritual. 'Begin by brightening the corner where you are. By improving...yourself, and helping your neighbor. 'You will not need to be rich or famous to take your part in redeeming the time: what you need for that task is moral imagination joined to right reason.'" Pence then concluded his remarks with this thought: "Moral imagination joined to right reason." What a concise definition of conservatism. And the perfect guideline for success in things great and small."

~ by Kristina Persenaire

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA



In the summer of 2003, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was invited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the publication of Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind* at the White House. Although he was unable to attend, Justice Scalia sent Mrs. Kirk a letter expressing his appreciation for Kirk's influence on his life and thought. The following is an excerpt from this letter:

Dear Mrs. Kirk:

In paying tribute to Dr. Kirk, I acknowledge my indebtedness to the man who first opened my mind to conservative thought. That occurred when I was in high school, working at a summer job that involved a lot of sitting-and-waiting, during which I read the very book whose publication date is marked today. For many years after that I was nourished by his other books, and by the scholarly journals *The University Bookman* and *Modern Age* that he edited. I once enjoyed the pleasure of visiting both of you—in connection, I believe, with a seminar sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute—at your famous Piety Hill home.

No one has had a greater role in the formation of American conservative thought. And no more courteous (indeed, courtly) a gentleman, nor one more devoted to the United States of America, could be imagined. I rejoice in the well deserved honor conferred on him today.

FORMER WILBUR FELLOW KARL VON HABSBURG

Karl von Habsburg studied at the Kirk Center as a Wilbur Fellow in 1984, concentrating his research on American politics and elections. During his time there, he also attended the Michigan Republican Convention, at which Ronald Reagan was nominated for re-election to the presidency.

Also known as Archduke Karl von Habsburg, he is the son of Otto von Habsburg and a direct descendent of the House of Habsburg, which provided rulers of the Holy Roman Empire from the 15th century through the 18th century.

Shortly after his return to Austria, von Habsburg was elected to the European Parliament, where he served for ten years. In the



Photo taken at Czech Senate Conference: Annette Kirk (left), Czech translator, Karl von Habsburg (center right), and Marco Respinti.

year 2000, Annette Kirk traveled to Prague for a ceremony in the Czech Parliament celebrating the translation of Russell Kirk's book *The Conservative Mind* into the Czech language. At that event, Karl von Habsburg gave a

tribute to Russell Kirk, emphasizing his value for Europeans.

FORMER WILBUR FELLOW MARCO RESPINTI



I first met Dr. Russell Kirk in 1989 when he lectured in Italy on the fundamental differences between the French Revolution and the American

War of Independence. I was very young at the time and much influenced by the historical and media bias that held that there was essentially no difference between the totalitarianism of Jacobin France and the emergent American nation. Thus, I found what Dr. Kirk had to say very enlightening.

My time with Dr. Kirk in Mecosta opened new windows of opportunity with his dramatically different approach and understanding of these historical events.

As a Wilbur Fellow in 1990, 1992, and 1996, I had the chance to study the American Founding and to gain a deeper understanding of the development of the American tradition of thought and politics, and the rich legacy of American Conservatism.

These ideas of Kirk were expressed in *The Roots of American Order*, a book I translated and published in 1996 for Mondadori, a major Italian publishing house. This work was the beginning of a great adventure, which stemmed directly from the precious months I spent in Mecosta. At Piety Hill I daily discovered treasure after treasure in Dr. Kirk's library and archives, and learned much from his almost infinite knowledge as well as through friendships with the well informed and studious fellows who were also in residence.

I subsequently made a career out of all this knowledge: as a journalist,

essayist, translator, and lecturer. I continue to explore that long and rather complex history of American Conservatism and its ramifications in the European context.

At this point in my career, I am considered by some generous Italian commentators to be an "authority" on American Conservatism – or even as an "expert on America." Amen to that, as Kirk was fond of saying. I think that your servant has at least learnt his lesson from a master who spent his life in wholehearted dedication to tradition, high-culture, and his country.

Kirk's traditions are successfully continued in Italy through the *Centro Studi Russell Kirk* which works constantly for the same cultural renewal of the western Christian tradition that Kirk held in such high esteem. *Deo volente*, as Kirk loved to quote, *labor proficit*.

OTHER FORMER WILBUR FELLOWS

Dr. Rett Ludwikowski: Director of the Comparative and International Law Institute at the Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC.

Dr. Marina Kizima: Professor of World Literature and Culture at Moscow Institute of International Relations, University of Moscow.

Dr. John White: Professor of Philosophy at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

Dr. Ivan Pongracic: Formerly, Director of the Budget of the People's Republic of Croatia; currently, Professor of Economics at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Dr. Michael Jordan: Chairman and Professor of English at Hillsdale College, Michigan.

Dr. Wesley McDonald: Professor of Political Science at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Marjorie Haney Schafer: Freelance writer

Dr. Ryan Streeter: Senior Fellow, Legatum Institute, London, England.

Dr. Eleanor Courtemanche: Professor of English at University of Illinois, Urbana.

Dr. Justin Stagl: Professor of Sociology at University of Salzburg, Austria.

Dr. Calvin Beisner: National Spokesman, Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.

Dr. Lee Cheek: Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science at Athens State University in Athens, Alabama.

Dr. Mihail Neamtu: Romanian historian of ideas, author of *The Grammar of Orthodoxy: Tradition after Modernity*.

Dr. Thomas Bertonneau: Professor of English at SUNY Oswego, NY.

Dr. Maxwell Goss: Commercial litigation lawyer at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, L.L.P. in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Vladimir Zolotykh: Professor of history, Udmurt State University, Russia.

Dr. Enrico Graziani: Professor of Political Philosophy at University Urbaniani, Rome, Italy.

Wilbur Fellows: Please keep the Kirk Center updated as to your whereabouts and activities. We would like to know: 1) current address, 2) email address, 3) work/profession, 4) name of spouse and children, 5) any additional information. Please send this update to the Editor at info@kirkcenter.org.

**THE RUSSELL
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NEWSLETTER**

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RECENT VISITING SCHOLARS

Lucien Ellington
is Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's Wachman Center and UC Foundation Professor of Education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He came to do research on Kirk's ideas on education.

Christian Machek
is a graduate student at the University of Vienna and is working on a dissertation on political theory that references Russell Kirk's ideas about Edmund Burke.

Harald Bergbauer
is assistant professor at the Munich School of Political Science and at the University of Armed Forces Munich. He is currently working on a doctoral dissertation on Russell Kirk's interpretation of American conservatism and Kirk's relevance for European conservatives.

Lee Edwards
is the Distinguished Historian of the Heritage Foundation and author of 20 books. Edwards came to the RKC to do research

for a forthcoming book on Russell Kirk's influence on the American conservative movement.

John Rodden
is in residence at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author and editor of eight books, including *Every Intellectual's Big Brother: George Orwell's Literary Siblings*, which has an interview with Russell Kirk discussing Orwell. Rodden was at the Center to do research for articles on Russell Kirk's literary imagination.



Stratford Caldecott is the Editor of *Second Spring*, a cultural quarterly (www.secondspring.co.uk). He lives and works in Oxford, England. "Strat," a long-time friend of the Kirks, gave a lively lecture on Chesterton at a recent Kirk Center Seminar.

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