



World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series

Bretton Woods Monetary Conference,
July 1-22, 1944

NUMBER 061
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED: JULY 2008

January 2016



WORLD BANK GROUP





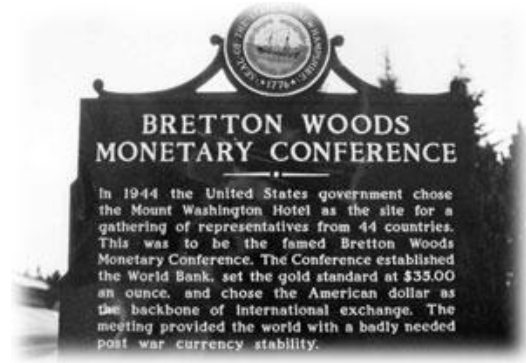
The World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series contains exhibits originally published on the Archives' external website beginning in 2002. When the Archives' website was transferred to a new platform in 2015, it was decided that older exhibits would be converted to pdf format and made available as a series on the World Bank's external database, [Documents & Reports](#).

These exhibits, authored by World Bank archivists, highlight key events, personalities, and publications in the history of the World Bank. They also bring attention to some of the more fascinating archival records contained in the Archives' holdings.

To view current exhibits, visit the [Exhibits](#) page on the Archives' website.

Bretton Woods Monetary Conference, July 1-22, 1944

In July 1944, representatives from 44 nations met at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire for the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference. The United States government selected the Mount Washington Hotel as the site of the now famous Bretton Woods Conference for various reasons: its remoteness offered seclusion from outside interference; the White Mountains scenery was spectacular; and war-time security was more easily managed. The Mount Washington Hotel was closed for business in 1930 and completely refurbished before the conference.



Historic plaque with the inscription commemorating the Bretton Woods Conference, July 1-22, 1944

“...a prodigious amount of work was done during the three weeks of the Conference. Many persons were assigned to both Bank and Fund committees, which met around the clock, and in addition to committee meetings, there were plenary sessions, where microphones were whisked from speaker to speaker by Boy Scouts...” recalls Shirley Boskey (International Bank Notes, July 1956)



The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., addresses the delegates to the Conference, July 8, 1944



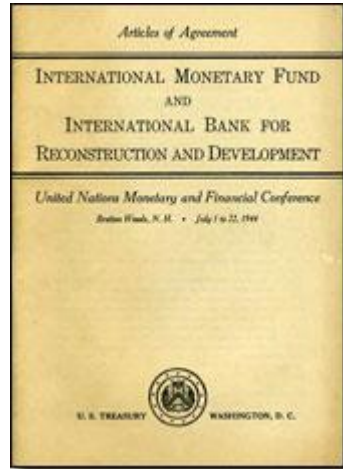
Lord Keynes addressing the Conference meeting, July 1944



U.S. Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson addresses representatives of 28 nations gathered to sign the Bretton Woods Monetary Agreement, December 27, 1945



More than a year later, representatives of 28 nations gathered at the State Department in Washington, D.C. to sign the Bretton Woods Monetary Agreements preliminary agreed upon at the Bretton Woods Conference.



Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund and IBRD, July 1944



"Bretton Woods Recalled" by Shirley Boskey, International Bank Notes, July 1957

Fred Vinson, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, said at the time of the formal signing of the Bretton Woods Agreements: *"History is being written today as we execute these documents and breathe the breath of life into the International*



Delegates in front of the Mount Washington Hotel, July 2, 1944



An informal gathering of the attendees of the Conference, July 1944

Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. We can be thankful that the history we are now writing is not another chapter in



the almost endless chronicle of war and strife. Ours is a mission of peace – not just lip service to the ideals of peace – but action, concrete action, designed to establish the economic foundations of peace on the bed rock of genuine international cooperation.

"If these two great international institutions are to achieve the mission which the world has so hopefully entrusted to their care, it will require the wholehearted and concerted cooperation of each of the member countries and their people"

(Treasury Department, Press Release, December 27, 1945)