

RICHARD NORTON SMITH

Richard Norton Smith is a nationally recognized authority on the American presidency and a familiar face to viewers of C-Span, as well as *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, where he appears regularly as part of the show's round table of historians. Born in Leominster, Massachusetts in 1953, Smith graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1975 with a degree in government. Following graduation he worked as a White House intern and as a free lance writer for *The Washington Post*. In 1977, Mr. Smith became a speech writer for Massachusetts Senator Edward Brooke.

Two years later he went to work for Senator Bob Dole. He collaborated with the Doles on their joint autobiography, *Unlimited Partners* (1988; revised 1996). More recently he assisted Senator Dole on his 1998 book of political humor, *Laughing (Almost) All the Way to the White House*, and a sequel, *Great Presidential Wit*, published early in 2001.

Perhaps best-known as a historian and biographer, Mr. Smith is currently at work on a life of Nelson A. Rockefeller based on extensive original research and interviews with Rockefeller associates. Smith's first major book, *Thomas E. Dewey and His Times*, was a finalist for the 1983 Pulitzer Prize. He has also written *An Uncommon Man: The Triumph of Herbert Hoover* (1984), *The Harvard Century: The Making of a University to a Nation* (1986) and *Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation* (1993). In June 1997, Houghton Mifflin published Mr. Smith's *The Colonel: The Life and Legend of Robert R. McCormick*, which received the prestigious Goldsmith Prize awarded by Harvard's John F. Kennedy School, and has been described by Hilton Kramer as "the best book ever written about the press." Between 1987 and 2001, Mr. Smith served as Director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, Iowa; the Dwight D. Eisenhower Center in Abilene, Kansas; the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and the Reagan Center for Public Affairs in Simi Valley, California; the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor, Michigan respectively.

In October, 2003 he was appointed the first Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, a four-building complex in Springfield, Illinois scheduled to open in 2004.