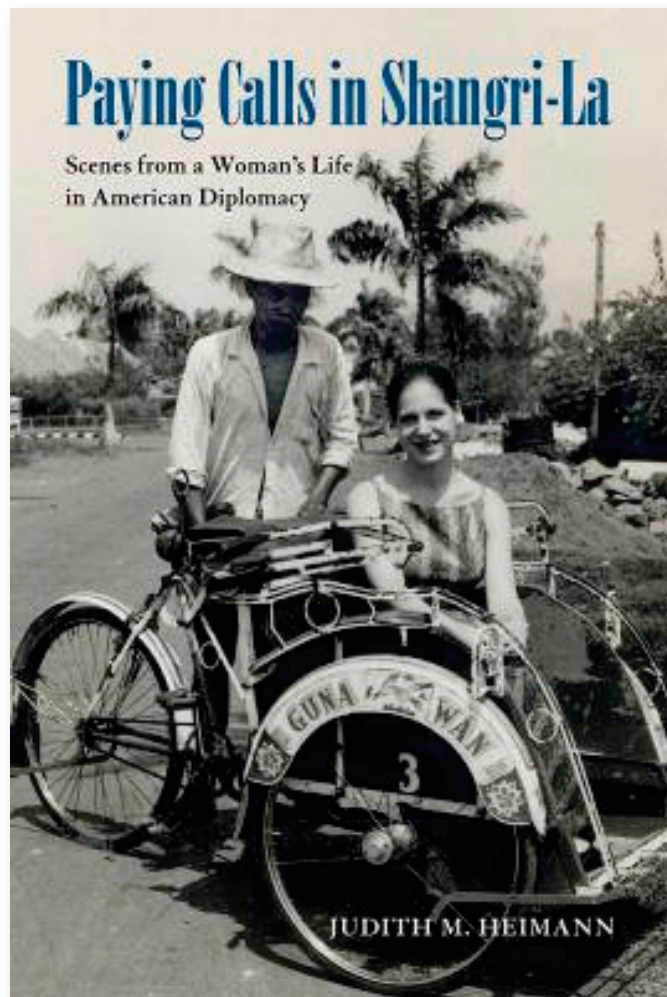


Paying Calls in Shangri-La

Scenes from a Woman's Life in American Diplomacy

JUDITH M. HEIMANN



"A marvelous view of a profession where the unexpected is the rule. This is real, sometimes funny, sometimes tragic, but always lively."

Baron Frans van Daele, chief of staff to the King of the Belgians and former Belgian ambassador to the United States

"This is a wonderful memoir about Foreign Service life abroad and the author's transition from Foreign Service wife to Foreign Service officer. She demonstrates how, by being out and about in the host country, you can sometimes be in the right place at the right time. For example, she shows how, with the wit and language to take advantage of a banal museum opening, it was possible to learn Soviet plans for East Germany from a firsthand source the day after the Wall fell."

Phyllis Oakley, first Department of State spokeswoman and an early tandem diplomat

Judith M. Heimann entered the diplomatic life in 1958 to join her husband, John, in Jakarta, Indonesia, at his American Embassy post. This, her first time out of the United States, would set her on a path across the continents as she mastered the fine points of diplomatic culture. She did so first as a spouse, then as a diplomat herself, thus becoming part of one of the Foreign Service's first tandem couples. Heimann's lively recollections of her life in Africa, Asia, and Europe show us that when it comes to reconciling our government's requirements with the other

government's wants, shuttle diplomacy, Skype, and email cannot match on-the-ground interaction. The ability to gauge and finesse gesture, tone of voice, and unspoken assumptions became her stock-in-trade as she navigated, time and again, remarkably delicate situations. This insightful and witty memoir gives us a behind-the-scenes look at a rarely explored experience: that of one of the very first married female diplomats, who played an unsung but significant role in some of the important international events of the past fifty years. To those who know something of today's world of diplomacy, *Paying Calls in Shangri-La* will be an enlightening tour through the way it used to be—and for aspiring Foreign Service officers and students, it will be an inspiration.

Judith M. Heimann has spent most of her life involved with American diplomacy. She has written widely on Southeast Asia and the Pacific. She is the author of *The Most Offending Soul Alive* and *The Airmen and the Headhunters*, and coauthor of the award-winning PBS documentary based on the latter.

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